

EAT HEALTHY AMERICA ACT OF 2007

Conservation programs provided through the Farm Bill help provide farmers and ranchers with the support they need to help protect and conserve land.

A new bill, the EAT Healthy Act of 2007, introduced by Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA-18), which addresses the concerns of specialty crops farmers, would expand and adequately fund the stewardship programs and incentives that farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners depend upon to manage their land in a manner that protects our nation's wildlife and environmental values.

Key conservation provisions in this bill include:

Promote Strategic Conservation

This bill would ensure that Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) coordinate with state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies. This would produce meaningful, strategically-directed results for high priority wildlife and habitats.

Expand Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Expand WHIP to \$300 million annually while increasing the proportion of funding dedicated to long-term cost-share agreements.

Enhance Grasslands Reserve Program

Increase land eligible for this program to 10 million acres and establishes a Grasslands Reserve Enhancement Program.

Expand Wetlands Reserve Program

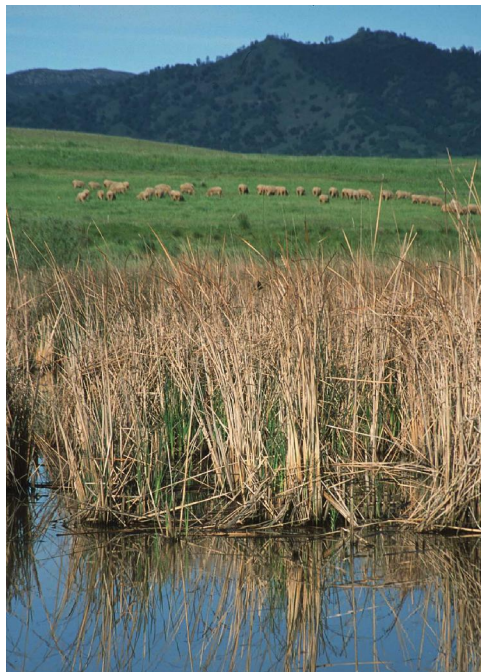
Expand important wetland protections to 5 million acres and make riparian areas that are critically important in the arid regions of our nation eligible for enrollment.

Proactive Predator Control

Incorporate proactive predator deterrence measures into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Aiding farmers in practices such as livestock carcass removal helps ranchers and farmers by reducing the conflict between threatened predators, like wolves and grizzlies, and livestock.

Cooperative Conservation Education

Create an education assistance program, which offers loan assistance to agricultural sciences graduates in exchange for their commitment of service to NRCS, and thereby increasing vital conservation technical assistance resources.



Land afflicted by erosion, rivers and streams harmed by farm-related pollution, and wetlands and grasslands converted to agricultural fields are all being restored through incentives provided in Farm Bill conservation programs. These programs are key to sound environmental management and protection of farms, ranches, and forests, which provide essential habitat for our nation's wildlife. Good agricultural policy can help us head off environmental problems before they become a crisis.