2014 Farm Bill

- $23 Billion saved
- $16 Billion from Commodity title
- Eliminate Direct Payments
- Significant Expansion of Crop Insurance
- Crop Insurance Title included new provisions for cotton, rice, specialty crops, and conservation compliance
Today

1. How did conservation compliance come to pass?

2. What lessons can we learn from debate over conservation compliance in 2014 Farm Bill?

3. What is the political coalition of the future for the federal crop insurance program?
Timeline of the 2014 Farm Bill

- May 2011: Senate’s 1st Hearing on Farm Bill
- Nov 2011: Joint Select Committee for Deficit Reduction “Super Committee”
- June 2012: Senate Passage of 2012 Farm Bill
- April 2012: Senate Cmte Markup of 2012 Farm Bill, House Cmte Markup of 2012 Farm Bill
- Jan 2013: 1-year extension of most Farm Bill Programs
- May 2013: Senate Cmte Markup of 2013 Farm Bill, House Cmte Markup of 2013 Farm Bill
- June 2013: Senate Passage of 2013 Farm Bill
- July 2013: House Passage of 2013 Farm Bill (No nutrition title)
- Jan 2014: House Passes Conference Report, Senate Passes Conference Report
- Feb 7, 2014: President Obama Signs Farm Bill into law.
2012 Senate Floor Votes

- Coburn-Durbin: 750K AGI test
  - ✔ Passed 66-33 (60 vote threshold)
- Thune: 750K AGI test with study as a trigger
  - ✖ Failed 44-55 (60 vote threshold)
- Gillibrand: SNAP with $2 billion crop insurance offset
  - ✖ Failed 33-66
- Feinstein: insurance for food-safety
  - ✔ Passed 76-23
- Merkley: crop insurance for organics
  - ✔ Passed 63-36
- Chambliss: proto-conservation compliance
  - ✔ Passed 52-47
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New Compliance Coalition

- May 6th, 2013 – Coalition of 31 farm, conservation, and crop insurance groups support conservation compliance under certain conditions AND in return for opposing amendments that would weaken crop insurance.

- Signers included:
  - American Farm Bureau
  - National Farmers Union
  - American Soybean Association
  - National Corn Growers Association
  - Cotton Council
  - USA Rice
  - Southern Peanut Council
  - American Association of Crop Insurers (AACI)
  - Crop Insurance Reinsurance Bureau (CIRB)
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - Pheasants Forever
  - National Wildlife Federation
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - World Wildlife Fund
Crop Insurance Participation & Conservation Compliance

* Includes all insurance plans and delivery types except pasture, rangeland, and forest.
** Does not include subsidies associated with CAT or Group Risk policies.
2013 Senate Floor Votes

- Gillibrand: Increase SNAP with cuts to Crop Insurance
  - Failed 26-70
- Coburn-Durbin: 750K AGI test
  - Passed 59-33
- Feinstein/Coburn: elimination of tobacco premium subsidy
  - Failed 44-52
- Hagan: $50 million for Crop Insurance Fraud Fund
  - Passed 94-0
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More groups weigh in...

- October 11, 2013 – a revised farm and conservation coalition urges House members to reject AGI amendment.

- October 29th, 2013 - 278 Groups write to support compliance and sod saver.
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For the future...

- Was this a marriage of political convenience or of enlightened self interest?
  - Clearly enlightened self-interest provide a more durable, long-term coalition...

- Will crop insurance maintain its exulted political status?

- What policies or changes are needed to bring a broader coalition, including conservation groups, to
Thank you.

Questions?