

NFACT: Florida

Animal and Plant Health

1. Pest and Disease exclusion top priority for state and federal agencies charged with task.
2. Create federal funding for pest and disease exclusion and eradication not tied to annual appropriation process.
3. Development of rapid diagnostic tests.
4. Develop methods to ensure microbiological safety of all food products.
5. Evaluate microbiological resistance factors.
6. Develop methods for effective antimicrobial drug use in agriculture.
7. Interagency cooperation to avoid duplication and provide efficiencies.
8. Increased penalties for smuggling of agricultural products.
9. Change the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) to minimize adverse impacts on agriculture (Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999).
10. Increased opportunity for registration of chemicals for minor crops.
11. Strengthen U.S.D.A. system preventing the introduction of exotic pests and diseases.
12. Establishment of a \$50 million, no contingency account for emergency plant pest response activities.
13. Increase funding to strengthen U.S.D.A.'s pest and disease exclusion and detection capabilities.
14. Provide APHIS full access to AQI funds; allow the appropriation of AQI funds by Congress for other than APHIS activities to expire when FAIR act expires in 2002.
15. Scientifically supported food safety standards.
16. Measures to provide for safety of genetically modified products.
17. Provide incentives and indemnification to dairy producers who voluntarily remove animals infected with Johne's disease through development of biosecurity management plans.
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Conservation

1. Major Farm Bill Focus: Commitment to helping farmers and ranchers stay on land.
2. Expansion of federal Farmland Protection Program to \$500 million annually.
3. Passage of Conservation Security Program to pay producers for environmental stewardship based on expected benefit.
4. Reauthorize the following programs:
 - Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) @ 250,000 acres/year
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Farmland Protection Program (FPP)
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
 - Conservation Security Program
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)

- Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)
4. Farm Bill address watershed and water issues.
 5. Broaden post restoration used of property under CRP to include use of cattle for control of invasive plant species.
 5. Expand conservation practices for marginal pasture lands to include wetlands restoration as well as riparian buffers.
 6. Revise limitations cap for CRP.
 7. Waive the limitations cap under CRP for government entities.
 8. Broaden EQIP criteria to include use of best management practices to help address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for water bodies.
 9. Develop flexible guidelines for EQIP that encourage landowner participation and more flexibility regarding range of nutrients approved for application.
 10. Raise the annual one and five year EQIP caps on cost share and incentive payments.
 11. Evaluate the EQIP process for the selection of watersheds, regions, or conservation priority areas and distribution of funds.
 12. Provide flexibility in EQIP for funds to address water quality issues at concentrated animal feeding operations.
 13. Increase funding level for FPP.
 14. Increase Florida share of RC&D funding.
 15. Allow for contracting of technical assistance under RC&D's when demand exceeds program staff capacity.
 16. Increase Florida share of FIP funds.
 17. Provide for using FIP program as tax credit or direct payment.
 18. Expand conservation program funding.
 19. Expand use of "green box" concept for greater public benefit and provide resource based assistance.
 20. Establish state funding levels based on urban growth, water quality, and proportional dollar value of agricultural production.
 21. Provide greater flexibility, eg. PL 83-566.
 22. Use resource and need based formula for increased technical support to applicants.
 23. Provide for carryover of unused funds from one fiscal year to next with cap on total length of time allowed.
 24. Provide payment of "up-front" costs instead of reimbursement.
 25. Allow blending and flexibility in NRCS programs without penalty.
 26. Change limitation on gross income of applicant to net income.
 27. Change definition of commodities to include fruit crops, vegetable crops, specialty crops (e.g. ornamentals, sod), livestock, poultry, and aquaculture.
 28. Establish a \$50 million, 3 year pilot program in Florida for the Conservation Security Act.
 29. Provide improve coordination and cooperation among federal agencies dealing with the restoring, conserving, and protecting the environment.
 30. Change PL 83-566 to allow:
 - 100 percent funding for flood control instead of 50 percent cost share.
 - Increase acreage cap from 250,000 to 500,000 acres.

- Provide for upgrade and rehabilitation cost sharing for projects near their end of life expectancy.
 - Expand 20 percent benefit to watershed to rural areas, not only agriculture.
31. Subsidize costs of environmental requirements on agriculture.
 32. Forestry recognized as agricultural crop.
 33. Multiple use management of all public lands.
 34. Provide funding for reforestation on private lands.
 35. Place forestry programs in the Farm Bill conservation title on an equivalent basis with wildlife habitat.
 36. Provide incentives for private forest owners to undertake good forest and conservation management practices.
 37. Farm Bill authorize cost sharing mechanism for pre-positioning of wildfire resources in states.

International and Domestic Marketing

1. Farm Bill: Should set priority for U.S. producer access to domestic markets before allowing import access under trade agreements.
2. Farm Policy: Support consumption of least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
3. Trade policy should take into account the needs of commodities that are sensitive to imports.
4. Provide a price based “safeguard” mechanism specific to import sensitive fruits and vegetables to prevent income declines from increased imports.
5. Development of production, volume, or price trigger regulations to deal with on a rapid and timely basis imports of perishable commodities.
6. Provide a mechanism to cushion currency devaluation on market access concessions.
7. Country of origin labeling.
8. Increase barriers to illegal importation of fruits and vegetables into U.S. (Plant Protection Act HR 1504).
9. Sugar:
 - Inventory Management Program
 - Stop smuggled stuffed molasses imports.
10. Increase Market Access Program (MAP) funding.
11. Continue to support Foreign Market Development Program.
12. Continue tariffs on imported citrus and citrus products.
13. Eliminate non-tariff barriers blocking exports of U.S. products, e.g. citrus.
14. No further U.S. tariff reductions without additional trading partner reductions.
15. Closely scrutinize retail chain mergers and their impact on grower – shippers.
16. Reorganize, revise, and modernize U.S.D.A. produce inspection service to restore integrity and industry support.
17. U.S.D.A. undertake promotion campaign to the public of five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
18. U.S.D.A. expand its nutrition and feeding programs to include more fruits and vegetables.

19. Develop new economic and marketing programs to assist under served farmers to capitalize on direct marketing opportunities.
20. Strengthen National Bargaining Law and Agricultural Fair Practices Act.

Research and Education

1. Revise formula for distribution of research (experiment station) and extension funds to states to take into account gross agricultural value.
2. Eliminate special interest funding, e.g. “pork”, in distribution of funds to states.
3. Increased funding for agricultural research.
4. Develop and implement a coordinated research initiative for the fruit and vegetable industry.
5. Increased focus on specialty crops and labor productivity.
6. Food safety and food handler education for all responsible individuals handling food products in food chain.
7. Advanced research in risk analysis, risk assessment, and risk management.

Risk Management

1. Prohibition of fruit and vegetable plantings on subsidized or contract acreage should continue.
2. Policy establishing adequate supplies of farm labor.
3. Expand crop insurance to cover more crops (e.g. trees and vines).
4. Establish cost of production protection crop insurance program.
5. Provide same levels of coverage under crop insurance for all commodities, not only program supported ones.
6. Provide more flexibility in crop insurance programs on access, either publicly supported or private.
7. Increase payment limit cap.
8. Continue support of program commodity crops through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).
9. Milk:
 - Raise dairy price support to reflect true cost of dairy farming operations.
 - 2001 Milk Production Growth Management and Deficiency Payment Program to manage inventories.
 - Limit imports of Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC), casein, and casein derivatives.
 - Strengthen standards in production of natural cheese through prohibition of usage of MPC, casein products, and other inferior ingredients.
10. Peanuts:
 - Continue peanut program.
 - Increase quota support price.
 - Freeze import quota at 1998 levels for peanuts and peanut products.
 - U.S. Customs to identify and regulate incoming peanut products.
 - No Free Trade Zones for importation of peanuts.
11. Establish short and long term countercyclical payment program for beekeepers.
12. Create tax deferred Farm and Ranch Risk Management accounts.
13. Regulatory reform.

14. Continue FAIR Act provisions with:

- Removal of payment limitations
- Fixed AMTA payment.
- Maintain current acreage base and yield.
- Additional enrollment in CRP Program.
- Uncap cotton loan rate with 55 cent minimum loan.
- Program must meet WTO requirements.
- Use FSA delivery system, not crop insurance.
- Support 21st Century Commission counter-cyclical concept.