



## Support Grassley-Dorgan Farm Program Reform Amendment

**Overview:** The Dorgan-Grassley amendment caps farm commodity program payments at \$250,000 a year. The present program has no effective cap and concentrates payments to the largest producers, subsidizing their expansion at the expense of family farms. The amendment closes loopholes that allow some farms to collect seven figure government checks each year, and reduces incentives to overproduce, overbid land prices and overtax natural resources.

Effective payment limitations are a fiscally responsible and equitable way to help solve the budget pressures that keep nutrition, conservation, and rural development under-funded in the underlying bill. The proposal closely mirrors the Grassley-Dorgan amendment to the 2002 Farm Bill which passed the Senate by a vote of 66-31.

**Reform—Ensuring Honest Payment Limitations and Stopping Rampant Abuse:** The Dorgan-Grassley amendment improves farm program equity, thwarts fraud and abuse, and enhances economic opportunities for small, mid-size and beginning farmers. The amendment adopts the major reform provisions recommended by the Government Accountability Office and leading reform proponents. The amendment reduces commodity expenditures by \$1.15 billion.

### **New and Additional Investments** *(note – provisional, based on preliminary scores)*

- ▶ **Fighting Hunger:** The amendment invests nearly \$770 million into the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Food Stamp Program, including the Dependent Care Deduction, transitional work incentives, and employment, training, and job retention.
- ▶ **Saving Farmland and Ranchland:** The amendment invests nearly \$100 million into the Farmland Protection Program and the Grasslands Reserve Program to help protect precious natural resources for future generations.
- ▶ **Creating Opportunity for the New Farmers:** The amendment invests \$80 million into the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program and Individual Development Account Program to reverse the aging of American agriculture by helping new farmers get started.
- ▶ **Advancing Equity for Black Farmers:** The amendment invests an additional \$100 million to fund settlements with black farmers who suffered discrimination by USDA and are successful claimants in the *Pigford* class action case.
- ▶ **Spurring New Rural Businesses:** The amendment invests \$40 million in the Rural Micro-enterprise Assistance Program to create new jobs and new wealth in Rural America through a proven method that has shown great success.
- ▶ **Supporting Healthy, Local Food Systems:** The amendment invests nearly \$70 million to improve farmer access to local markets and consumer access to healthy food through the Farmers Market Promotion Program, Organic Certification Cost-Share, and Community Food Grants.

Visit American Farmland Trust's Farm and Food Policy Campaign Web site ([www.farmland.org/farmpolicy](http://www.farmland.org/farmpolicy)) for more information on how we're working to strengthen the future of American agriculture and ensure fresh, healthy, local food for generations to come.