

## FARM BILL BUDGET VISUALIZER: CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Each Farm Bill program in the Visualizer is coded based on its strength of relationship to a series of categories. Categories include issues such as “public health” or “food security.” The [“Methods”](#) page describes coding methods. Following are the coding scheme and definitions used.

### CATEGORIES

The following categories were coded according to the methods we’ve described elsewhere. We note that many of these categories overlap, particularly when the issues are defined broadly. While recognizing the strength of broad definitions, here we took a narrower approach in order to create meaningful distinctions between categories.

#### CODING SCHEME

**PRIMARY (1):** Category is a central or primary goal of the Farm bill program. *Example: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) is “primary” in the “Food Security” category.*

**SECONDARY (2):** Category is not the top priority of the program, but is a significant aim nonetheless. *Example: public health is not the explicit goal of the Farmers Market Promotion Program. However, promoting farmers markets can improve public health, so this program is coded as “secondary” for public health.*

Some programs are applicable to numerous categories. If the program materials specifically highlight an issue as a program priority, it will be coded as “secondary.” *Example: the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) supports research on any number of topics, but because issues such as nutrition are highlighted as program priorities, these are coded as “secondary.”*

**PARTLY (3):** Category is a tertiary goal of the program. *Example: the main farm subsidies programs (Direct Payment and Counter-Cyclical programs) mandate conservation compliance, although conservation is not the primary or secondary goal of the programs. Thus, these programs receive a “3” under the category of “Conservation”.*

Some programs, such as research funding or conservation support, are applicable to numerous categories or types of crops. Unless the issue or type of crop is specifically highlighted in the program materials, those programs are coded as “partly” related.

**NO (4):** These programs are unrelated to the selected categories. *Example: the Tree Assistance program would receive a “4” under the domain of “Obesity.”*

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Program is aimed at improving or promoting public health, including human disease prevention or treatment, improving nutrition, preventing obesity, improving food safety, and addressing environmental health threats, including those related to food production methods.

Multiple categories are considered contributory to the overarching category of *Public Health*. All programs that received a “1” or “2” in the categories of Community Food Security, Food Safety, Food Security, Fruit and Vegetable Access, International Food Security, Nutrition, Obesity or Sustainable Agriculture received at least a “3” in the category of Public Health.

All programs that received a “1” for Conservation or Sustainable Agriculture were coded as 2 for *public health*, in recognition of the environmental health benefits of such efforts.

Food security programs that increase access to food but do not specifically focus on healthy foods received a “2” for *public health*, because they can reduce health effects of related stress and undernutrition, and because usually consumers *can* use these programs to access healthy foods.

International food security programs providing emergency food in crisis situations received a 1 for *public health*.

**ACCESS TO FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:** Program promotes or supports consumer access to fruits and vegetables, including improvements to affordability and geographic accessibility.

*This category is a subset of “fruits and vegetables.”*

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in “*Access to Fruits and Vegetables*” received at least a “3” in: Fruits and Vegetables, Nutrition, and Public Health.

**FRUIT/VEGETABLE:** Program addresses fruit and/or vegetable production, distribution, and/or consumption. Includes programs directly related to these goals, as well as support for conservation programs, marketing, research, and education, to the extent that these programs support fruit and vegetables. Note: some “fruit and vegetable” programs primarily support producers, but do not have direct implications for health or access, as might be assumed.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in “*Access to Fruits and Vegetables*” received at least a “3” in *Fruits and Vegetables*.

**NUTRITION:** Program is aimed at promoting nutrition, including support for research, education, and extension, as well as programs promoting production, access, distribution, and marketing of “healthy” foods. We distinguish the “Nutrition” category from “Food Security” in that Nutrition focuses on the healthfulness of food, and not only on calories. (While there is no broadly agreed-upon definition of healthy foods, for the purposes of this Visualizer, we include in this coding programs focused on fruits and vegetables, low fat dairy, and whole grain products.)

Programs that received a “1” or “2” in the category of *Nutrition* received at least a “3” in the category of Public Health.

Programs that received a “1” or “2” in “*Access to Fruits and Vegetables*” received at least a “3” in *Nutrition*.

**OBESITY:** Program is aimed at reducing or preventing obesity. Includes funds for research, education, food marketing, and distribution.

Programs that received a “1” or “2” in the category of *Obesity* received at least a “3” in the category of Public Health.

**FOOD SECURITY:** Program addresses domestic or international food security, including anti-hunger programs and programs designed to improve access to and affordability of food, particularly for low-income populations. Includes funds for related research, education, and extension.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in *Food Security* received at least a “3” in the category of Public Health.

All programs that received at least a “1” or “2” in Community Food Security, Fruit and Vegetable Access, and International Food Security received at least a “3” in *Food Security*.

*Food security* programs that increase access to food but do not specifically focus on healthy foods received a “2” for public health, because they can reduce health effects of related stress and undernutrition, and because usually consumers *can* use these programs to access healthy foods.

**COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY:** Indicates whether the program involves community food security, [defined as](#) “building strong, sustainable, local and regional food systems that ensure access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food to all people at all times...[as well as programs that] seek to develop self-reliance among all communities in obtaining their food and create a system of growing, manufacturing, processing, making available, and selling food that is regionally based and grounded in the principles of justice, democracy, and sustainability.” Includes both direct community food security programs, and related funds for research, education, marketing, distribution, etc.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in *Community Food Security* received at least a “3” in the categories of Public Health and Food Security.

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY:** Program addresses international food security, including anti-hunger programs and programs designed to improve access to and affordability of food, particularly for low-income populations. Includes funds for research, education, marketing, distribution.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in *International Food Security* received at least a “3” in the category of Food Security.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** Program addresses sustainable agricultural practices, [defined](#) in the 1990 Farm Bill, as an “integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term—

- (A) satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- (B) enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends;
- (C) make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- (D) sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- (E) enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.”

We include in the category funds directly targeting sustainable production, as well as support for marketing, research, education, and distribution of sustainably produced products. Programs that provide support for many types of agriculture received 2s and 3s for sustainable agriculture, depending on the extent to which sustainability was noted in program materials.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” for *sustainable agriculture* received at least a “3” for conservation.

**CONSERVATION:** Program addresses environmental conservation, [defined as](#) helping to “reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters”. Includes support directly targeting conservation activities, as well as programs that advance conservation goals, such as conservation-focused research, education or extension services.

All programs that received a “1” or “2” for sustainable agriculture received at least a “3” for *conservation*.

**LOCAL/REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION:** Program is aimed at local and regional food production. Includes support directly targeting local/regional food production, as well as funds for related production, marketing, distribution, research, and extension.

**COMMODITY GRAINS:** Program contributes to supporting commodity crop production (corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, wheat, rice, cotton, soybeans, oilseeds, and peanuts). Includes both support targeted to such production, and provisions for related research, marketing, distribution, loans, insurance, etc. “Feed Grains” is a subset of the Commodity Crop category, created in order to present separately information relevant to Industrial Food Animal Production (IFAP).

All programs that received a “1” or “2” in Feed Grains received at least a “3” for *Commodity Grains*.

**FEED GRAINS:** Program contributes to supporting commodity crop production (corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, wheat, rice, cotton, soybeans, oilseeds, and peanuts), and crops are not specifically diverted to biofuels or other non-feed grain products. Includes both support targeted to such production, and provisions for related research, marketing, distribution, loans, insurance, etc.

**\*\*In addition to direct support for industrial food animal production (IFAP), the Farm Bill provides substantial support to IFAP through financial assistance for *feed grain production*. We recommend checking off the IFAP and Feed Grain tabs together to obtain a fuller picture of Farm Bill support for IFAP.**

*Feed Grains* is a subset of Commodity Grains, so all programs that received a “1” or “2” in Feed Grains received at least a “3” for Commodity Grains.

**INDUSTRIAL FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION (IFAP):** Program contributes to supporting IFAP including production of meat, eggs, and dairy products. Includes direct support to IFAP producers, as well as support for marketing, research, slaughter, distribution, food safety, and IFAP-targeted support for conservation programs. For all programs targeted to meat/eggs/dairy, we presumed that most support went to industrial production models, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

**\*\*In addition to direct support for *IFAP* production, the Farm Bill provides substantial support to IFAP through financial assistance for feed grain production. We recommend checking off the IFAP and Feed Grain tabs together to obtain a fuller picture of Farm Bill support for IFAP. These areas are complementary; any overlaps indicate that the program directly supports both grains and IFAP.**

**BIOFUELS:** Program promotes production, distribution, research, or education for fuels derived from biomass (ethanol, biodiesel, etc.) The Farm Bill supports biofuel production from commodity grains and other products, so there is no necessary relationship between the biofuels and commodity grain categories.

**FOOD SAFETY:** Program is aimed at improving food safety. Includes related programs in research, education, and food safety-related provisions affecting food production/processing/distribution.

Programs which received a “1” or “2” in the category of *Food Safety* received at least a “3” in the category of Public Health.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH:** Program is aimed at increasing the development of rural areas. This category includes programs focused specifically on rural health and those focused on improving the social and economic fabric in rural areas. It does not include programs that may have the “side effect” of benefiting such areas, such as those that provide various forms of support to farms. It also excludes programs that benefit “health” but that are not focused on rural issues.

**NEW AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS:** This category includes programs aimed at increasing the number of, or assistance to, first-time and/or socially disadvantaged farmers (these categories are typically defined within the programs). While new and socially

disadvantaged farmers may be especially likely to benefit from technical assistance and credit programs, these are not included here. Sustainable agriculture is also not included, despite the interest of proponents in advancing support for new and socially disadvantaged farmers.

To see the joint effects of such programs, please view them all together.

**RESEARCH:** Program provides research funding. This category does not include programs that support educational institutions generally, even if research may be included in their mandates.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** This category covers programs that support cooperative extension services— that is, services by which “land-grant institutions ‘extend’ their resources, solving public needs with college or university resources through non-formal, non-credit programs.” It also includes other programs providing technical assistance to farmers, even if the programs are implemented outside of cooperative extension programs.

**CONSUMER EDUCATION:** Program promotes the education of consumers in the areas of health and nutrition.

**HIGHER EDUCATION:** Program supports post-secondary education activities and institutions. Includes programs supporting research likely to be conducted at such institutions.

## DEFINITIONS – GENERAL

**PROGRAM:** Indicates Farm Bill program/budget item

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM:** Provides a link to USDA or other authoritative source for additional information. [click on program square to hold textbox, then click on “find out more about this program” within textbox.]

**FY 2009 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES:** Indicates actual fiscal year 2009 expenditures, in \$ millions (rounded to the nearest million; programs between \$0 and \$499,999 appear as \$0)

**FY 2010 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES:** Indicates actual fiscal year 2010 expenditures, in \$ millions (rounded to the nearest million; programs between \$0 and \$499,999 appear as \$0)

**FY2011 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:** Indicates estimated USDA expenditures for fiscal year 2011, in \$ millions (rounded to the nearest million; programs between \$0 and \$499,999 appear as \$0)

**FY2012 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES:** Indicates USDA budgeted expenditures for fiscal year 2012, in \$ millions (rounded to the nearest million; programs between \$0 and \$499,999 appear as \$0)

**TITLE:** Indicates Farm Bill Title, such as **Title I, Commodities.**

**AGENCY:** Indicates primary USDA agency responsible for overseeing program. Note that some programs are overseen jointly by more than one agency. In these cases, there are separate listings for the program for each agency

**AUTHORIZATION:** Indicates authorization type (mandatory vs. discretionary.) In mandatory authorization, the Farm Bill itself obligates a set amount of spending. By contrast, spending on discretionary programs must be legislated annually in Congressional appropriations committees. Thus, mandatory funding is considered more secure than discretionary. A few programs are listed twice, because they have both mandatory and discretionary expenses.

**PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS WITH ENDANGERED FUNDING:** Indicates programs that have “primary” or “secondary” relationship to public health, and that have no [baseline](#) in the 2012 Farm Bill. As noted in the [document](#), there are 37 unfunded or early-expiring provisions from the 2008 Farm Bill.

**PUBLIC LAW CITATION:** Indicates the Public Law citation. Because the Farm Bill and USDA budget frequently use different language, in many cases we had to make inferences about proper citations. If you, the user, detect errors, please share your observations with us: [rneff@jhsph.edu](mailto:rneff@jhsph.edu).