

## Colorado needs a Farm Bill now

Written by Leland Swenson, State Executive Director, Colorado Farm Service Agency

---

This fall, Congress has an important opportunity to create jobs and grow the economy by passing a long-term, comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill. The Farm Bill impacts every American every day by providing a wide range of programs that strengthen our nation.

The Farm Bill is crucial to maintaining a strong agriculture sector and an abundant food supply that benefits all Americans. Over the past two years, producers have faced a multitude of disasters—from drought, to flooding, to blizzards.

These events demonstrate how important the safety net is to keeping producers going strong. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the Farm Service Agency was able to provide \$280.5 million in disaster assistance in Colorado using Farm Bill programs.

A new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill will continue a strong crop insurance program, reauthorize the now-expired disaster assistance programs and provide retroactive assistance for livestock producers. By reforming the safety net to eliminate the direct payment program—which pays producers whether or not they are in need of assistance—the Bill will save billions of dollars in the next decade.

*To read the full article, call us about subscribing to our e-Edition. 970-854-2811*

Holyoke Enterprise November 21, 2013