

International Summit on Ag and Food Transportation

Anne Simmons

House Agriculture Committee

December 2, 2008

Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

- Commodity title
 - Continued storage payments for cotton, with 10% reduction from CY06 level for 2008-2011 & 20% reduction from CY06 level for 2012
 - Continued storage payments for peanuts
 - Continuation of on-farm storage facility loan program for wheat and feed grains

Commodity Title:

– Fruit and vegetable planting pilot program:

- 9,000 acres in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin;
 - 1,000 acres in Iowa;
 - 34,000 acres in Minnesota; and
 - 4,000 acres in Ohio
-
- Acre for acre reduction in DCP base where producers utilize

Studies on transportation

- Section 6206 in rural development title:
 - Joint USDA/DOT study on truck/rail/barge
 - To examine:
 - Role in delivery of ag inputs, movement to market, delivery of biofuels & feedstocks for electricity generation, location of grain elevators/biofuel plants, manufacturing/rural development
 - Capacity, competition, reliability and cost
 - Investment + dispute resolution

Studies on transportation

Section 6206 continued:

- USDA's Ag Marketing Service has contracted with Washington State University
- Hoping to finish data collection & analysis by December
- Working level draft done by March/April
- Final policy-level review & clearance in June

Transportation studies continued

- Section 9002 in energy title - Biofuels Infrastructure Study:
 - Done jointly with DOE, EPA and DOT
 - Has been delegated to the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses in Office of Chief Economist
 - No starting date yet
 - Includes: assessment of needs + recommendations for meeting those needs and best ways to meet them, including funding
 - Builds on Sections 243 and 245 in EISA if available

Research Title

- Section 7137 – New Era Rural Technology Program – training for forestry and bioenergy areas – has authorization for appropriations
- Section 7207 - Ag Bioenergy Feedstock and & Energy Efficiency research & extension – authorization for appropriations

Research title continued

- Section 7311 – Specialty Crop Research Initiative
 - Has money available and already did one round of grants in FY08
- Section 7529 – Agriculture & Rural Transportation Research/Education
 - Authorization for appropriations
 - Research & education grants to address rural transportations & logistical needs of ag producers and related rural businesses

Energy Title

- Section 9003
 - Added loan guarantees to existing biorefinery grant program – NOFA & ANPRM in Federal Register on 11/19
 - Mandatory funding for guarantees for construction or retrofitting
 - Advanced biofuels only

Energy Title continued

- Section 9004 – Repowering Assistance
 - Fund to help install systems that use renewable biomass for heat/power at existing biofuel plants
- Section 9006 – Biodiesel Education Program
 - Continued program

Energy Title continued

- Section 9007 – Rural Energy for America Program
 - Energy efficiency & renewable energy development
 - Ag producers & rural small businesses
- Section 9011 – Biomass Crop Assistance Program
 - Two parts – Project areas to grow dedicated energy crops + payments for delivery of renewable biomass to conversion facilities

Horticulture & Organic Agriculture

- Section 10403 – Grant Program to Improve Movement of Specialty Crops
 - Authorization for appropriations
- Several other sections aimed at dealing with plant pest and health issues

Energy Independence & Security Act of 2007

- Several sections on infrastructure & transportation issues
- RFS2
- Biodiesel standards