Looking Ahead to the 2012 Reauthorization of the Farm Bill

Office of U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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The Legislative Process

- Bill is Drafted and Introduced
- Referred to Appropriate Committee
- Committee Action (Hearings, Mark-Ups and Reporting to Senate)
- Placed on Senate Calendar and Brought to the Floor
- Open for Debate and Amendments
- Call for a Vote – Yay or Nay?
- Bill is Sent to the House for a Vote
- If different, it is sent back to the Senate or a Conference Committee is arranged
- Once passed both Chambers it is sent to the President to be signed or vetoed
The 112th Congress will likely consider reauthorization of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 ("Farm Bill")

Farm Bill governs federal farm and food policy and undergoes review and renewal approximately every five years.

Both Chambers held hearings in 2010 to discuss how the 2008 Bill has impacted farmers and other interested parties.

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Casey will play an integral role in the development of the 2012 Farm Bill.
Senator Casey’s Priorities for the 2012 Farm Bill

Covering Specialty Crop Growers

- Cosponsor of the Specialty Crops Competition Act
- Specialty Crops inclusion in 2008 Farm Bill
- Ensure continued success in 2012 Farm Bill
Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Improving the Health of America’s Children and Families
- SNAP
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
Senator Casey's Priorities

Helping Farmers Conserve the Land

- Protecting our natural resources
- Encouraging farmers to remain stewards of the land
- Farmland Protection Program
Helping Farmers
Manage Risk

- Through affordable and flexible crop insurance policies
- Coverage for whole-farm rather than on a field-by-field basis
- Maintain strong safety net for America’s farmers
Fairness for Dairy Farmers

- Vital sector of Pennsylvania’s Agriculture industry
- Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program
- Continued support to keep our dairy farmers sustainable and financially secure.
“The Farm Bill is essential to ensuring that Americans have food security, and that agricultural producers can continue to feed us, clothe us, provide us with environmental benefits and fuel our future. The 2008 Farm Bill made historic investments in nutrition, conservation, fruit and vegetable production and renewable energy, while maintaining a strong safety net for America’s farms...As we move forward toward passing the next Farm Bill, I hope we can again ensure that we have a safe, stable, secure supply of food, fiber and fuel from American farmers.”
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