



ENERGY TITLE ISSUE BRIEF

The eight energy programs in the energy title are currently helping to create additional revenue streams for farmers and spur rural economic development. At a time when economic realities provide incentives for rural residents to move into cities, farm bill energy programs are keeping high-skilled jobs in rural America.

Hurdles

The 2008 Farm Bill contains 37 programs without baseline funding beyond 2012, eight of which are energy programs. This means that they will expire if they are not renewed before September 30th, 2012. This issue has become more complicated following the passage of the 2012 House Agriculture Appropriations bill, which significantly cut funding from the energy title.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

REAP provides grants and loan guarantees for energy efficiency and renewable energy of all sorts. It also includes support for feasibility studies and energy technical assistance. In the House-passed appropriations bill, REAP funding was zeroed out. After an amendment by Rep. Kaptur during the Appropriations committee markup and an amendment by Rep. Fortenberry on the floor of the House, REAP funding now totals \$2.3 million. The amendments stipulate that funds will be transferred from the Office of the Chief Information Officer. \$2.3 million is largely symbolic and is only a fraction of the president's request.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

BCAP is the first-ever energy crop program to help encourage farmers to grow sustainable energy crops such as switchgrass. It reimburses producers for up to 75 percent of the cost for crop producers growing energy crops dedicated to cellulosic ethanol. The House-passed appropriations bill completely zeroed out BCAP funding.

Biorefinery Assistance

Biorefinery Assistance provides grants and loan guarantees to help build advanced biorefineries and is critical to jumpstarting advanced biofuels production. The House-passed appropriations bill removed all discretionary funding for the program.

Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels provides incentives for the next generation biofuel production. The House-passed appropriations bill cuts funding levels to \$55 million.

Biomass Research and Development

Biomass Research and Development provides new investments for biomass fuel and power research and development to improve bioenergy.

Repowering Assistance

Repowering Assistance is a new program that assists boilers at biofuels plants to burn energy crops instead of coal, cutting pollution and creating new markets for energy crops.

Biobased Markets Program

Biobased Markets Program continues the federal preference for procurement of biobased products and the biobased products labeling program.

Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

The Biodiesel Fuel Education Program provides education and outreach on biodiesel use.