

Editorial Support for FARM 21

The New York Times

New York Times: *An Even Better Farm Bill*

May 28, 2007

“...with so much at stake — energy, conservation, rural development, the health of smaller farms and fair trade — and with the administration and influential centrists demanding reform, the full House and Senate should pay attention [to FARM 21] even if the committees do not.”

The Washington Post

Washington Post: *Farm Sense – Can Congress write a farm bill without wasteful subsidies?*

May 20, 2007

“Mr. Lugar and his allies in the House are on a sensible track, and it is critical that their ideas get a fair hearing. The farm bill can be a vehicle for investing heavily in important priorities such as rural conservation or food stamps for low-income Americans, without depleting the federal bank account or violating the Democrats' responsible pay-go budget rules -- but only if Congress is willing to make agriculture spending more rational. If the House Agriculture Committee does not move in that direction, the full House should.”

StarTribune

Minneapolis Star Tribune: *Finally, a chance to reform farm subsidies*

May 21, 2007

“For as long as anyone can remember, fair-minded reformers in Washington have been trying to wean American farmers from government subsidies, design a more sensible rural safety net and let market signals, rather than federal regulations, guide the nation's food supply.

“Last week a big, bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced a remarkable bill to do just that. It even saves money for taxpayers and speeds up the development of renewable biofuels. The Food & Agriculture Risk Management Act (FARM 21) is a radical break from past farm policy, and it sidesteps the normal process for writing agriculture legislation. But it points farm policy in exactly the right direction, and if it doesn't exert some influence on the big farm bill that Congress will write this summer, then the process will be a failure.

“...this bill addresses so many urgent national priorities -- energy and resource conservation, deficit reduction, a fair and orderly international trade policy -- that no one on Capitol Hill can afford to ignore it.

The Atlanta Journal- Constitution

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: *Cultivate reform in farm program*

May 16, 2007

“In the next few weeks, lawmakers are expected to start writing legislation covering farm policy and related expenditures of \$70 billion or more for the coming six years. They should begin by considering ideas proposed last week by Reps. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and others.

“Foremost is a plan to shift farmers from dependence on support from taxpayers toward reliance on special saving accounts. ...The process sounds cumbersome, but something like it is needed to reform farm policy. Financial risk must be transferred from taxpayers to farmers, where it belongs. Among industries in the United States, only agriculture enjoys such a generous taxpayer-provided cushion.

“No doubt the powerful farm lobby will dig in to protect its spot at the public trough. Congress should resist the temptation to give in to the squeals of protest.”

Wisconsin State Journal: *Seize chance to end subsidies*
Monday, June 4, 2007

"FARM-21 proposes a radical departure that benefits farmers, taxpayers, consumers and international trade. ... risk management accounts would help bring U.S. farm policy in compliance with global trade agreements, which are hurt by subsidies. That would help lead the world toward freer trade, benefiting U.S. exports.

"...it's time for American farmers to produce for market demands, not to collect a subsidy check. It's time for Congress to incorporate the principles of FARM-21 in this year's farm bill."

The Philadelphia Inquirer

The Philadelphia Inquirer: *Cultivating saner policy*
May 31, 2007

"What's different this year is the diverse coalition of politicians, farmers, taxpayer groups, environmentalists, and international nongovernmental groups jointly demanding changes to traditional farm subsidies. Ninety percent of farm-subsidy payments are channeled to growers of just five crops: wheat, rice, corn, soybeans and cotton.

"...Sen. Richard Lugar (R., Ind.) and Reps. Ron Kind (D., Wisc.) and Jeff Flake (R., Ariz.) offer a sensible subsidy overhaul. Their bills replace four major subsidy programs with a "risk-management account" controlled by individuals to guard against steep price fluctuations. Farmers also could buy federally subsidized crop insurance.

"This country needs better farm policy - to provide a farmer safety net, to protect the land, to rectify international trade inequity, to feed the poor. Congress should nurture the good seeds that have been planted."

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Seattle Post Intelligencer: *Living Food – Time for a change*
May 20, 2007

"In a refreshing example of much-needed suburban interest in farm policy...the Food & Agriculture Risk Management for the 21st Century Act...hits key themes that must emerge in a new farm bill: better support for domestic and international anti-hunger programs, more encouragement for organics, encouragement of farmers markets and new emphasis on fruit and vegetable growers.

"It is just that type of political dynamic that makes it possible to hope for a farm bill that benefits the whole country, not a few wealthy growers and agribusinesses...The FARM 21 concepts are a good start toward sustainable farming, food and trade."