

Agriculture

Mississippi's farmers and producers are the backbone of our states most important industry: agriculture. From sweet potatoes to cotton, North Mississippi farmers work hard every day to provide the products on which we all depend. I am committed to helping create a sustainable, affordable, and abundant agricultural industry. I was proud to help overturn the President's veto and pass the 2008 Farm Bill which includes many important provisions, such as loan guarantee programs and farm subsidy updates. I look forward to continuing to fight for Mississippi's agriculture community.

In addition, currently I am the only member of the Mississippi delegation serving on the House Agriculture Committee and I am proud to serve on two subcommittees: Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry and Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.

Agriculture Legislation

2008 Farm Bill:

I recently helped to override the President's veto of the 2008 Farm Bill which included many important provisions for Mississippi's farmers:

Ensuring Food Security

Nutrition programs increased by \$10.361 billion with appropriate benefit increases that are indexed to the cost of living
Vital assistance to food banks increased by \$1.25 billion
New funding boosts organic agriculture, fruit and vegetable programs, and local food networks
Country-of-origin labeling for meat and produce made mandatory

Promoting Homegrown Renewable Energy

Provides \$1 billion to fund programs that will help the renewable energy industry
Invest in new technologies that use a variety of sources beyond feed grains.
Corn ethanol tax credit reduced and redirected to incentives for cellulosic ethanol
Creates a loan guarantee program and a program to encourage and develop production of dedicated energy crops
Bioenergy research increased and renewable energy programs expanded

Reforming Farm Programs

Farm program safety net extended and modernized, with an updated adjusted gross income means test for commodity programs

Farm and conservation program transparency increased, with direct attribution of payments and the ending of practices that result in multiple payment eligibility
Crop insurance reformed to prevent windfall reimbursements to crop insurance companies
Budgeted standing disaster assistance program for crops stricken by catastrophic natural disasters such as drought and flood

Protecting the Environment

Conservation program spending increased by \$7.9 billion
Doubles funding for the Farm Protection Program to protect agricultural lands from urban and suburban development pressure
Increases funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program to enhance and protect our natural resources
Continues funding for Grassland Reserve and Wetlands Reserve programs
Creates an Open Fields Program to encourage public access to private land for hunting and fishing as well as a Chesapeake Bay program to help restore and protect the Bay watershed