

Farm Bill 2018:

Will We Get What We Deserve?

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Not Just the Farm Bill

No Reliable Crystal Ball Available
But, *Economist's Predictions have
such a Good Track Record*

Factors that will drive the Farm Bill process and Outcome

White House View of Agriculture and its Programs

- Influencers; Heritage, Cato, Etc.
- Issues; Immigration, Trade, Regulations, Budgets, etc.

Is Agriculture the Beneficiary of
Benign Neglect?

Lack of Interest or Knowledge?

Political Appointments so far Follow the Existing Trajectory

- Secretary
- Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation
- Etc.
- Comparison with other Departments and Agencies

Environment for The Farm Bill

- Low Farm Incomes
- Budget Constraints (New Tax Bill Deficit)
- Other More Pressing Priorities for Congress

Capture the Baseline

- Will the Aggies Stick Together?
- Impact of an Attack on SNAP

Some Conservation Program Issues

Conservation and Crop Insurance

The Arguments – Link Them or Not

Expanding the CRP

- Expensive – Budget Constraint
- Supply Control?
- *“Targeting Acres that Should Not be Farmed”*

Technical Assistance Dollars

- National Trend of Service Reduction
- Where is The Champion?

The Big Hurdle for Conservation

- Public Goods are Out of Favor
- No Apparent Threat
- Intergenerational Transfer

**What Needs to
Be Done?**



Our Earth