



NEWLY-PASSED FARM BILL WILL HELP 890,000 MORE TEXANS

With rising gas and food prices, families need help putting food on the table now more than ever. Nationally, the cost of groceries is up dramatically, especially staples like eggs (up 25% in the last year), milk (up 17%), cheese (up 15%), bread (up 12%), and rice (up 13%). Earlier this month, Congress passed the Farm Bill, expanding the Food Stamps, Emergency Food Assistance, School Meals, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable programs. This bill will help low-income Texans during these harder times.

Fast Facts

- **The Food Stamp Program helps 2.3 million Texans afford food. Over half are children.**
- **The *National Journal* recently listed the Food Stamp Program as one of government’s top-10 successes, calling it a “case study in effective government aid.”**
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program helps Texas’ 19 food banks provide meals and groceries to more than 2 million Texans a year.**
- **The school meal programs provide meals at low or no cost to kids from low-income families. 60% of Texas schoolchildren qualify for free or reduced-price meals.**

Farm Bill Good for Texas

Thanks to the Farm Bill, Texas will receive \$674 million in new money for nutrition assistance over the next nine years, according to the national Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Not only that, but nearly 900,000 more Texans will receive additional Food Stamp benefits in 2012.

“Congress should be commended for both improving these nutrition assistance programs and helping hundreds of thousands of additional needy Texans meet their basic needs,” said Celia Hagert, Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. “The Farm Bill has invested millions of additional dollars in nutrition programs, all without raising taxes or increasing the deficit.”

The increase in Food Stamp benefits will not only help low-income families put food on the table, it will provide a badly needed boost to the Texas economy. By generating business at local grocery stores, new Food Stamp benefits trigger labor and production demand, ultimately increasing household income and triggering additional spending. USDA estimates that every \$5 in Food Stamp benefits generates \$9.20 in local economic activity (USDA website, at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/business-case.htm>.)

To learn more about specific provisions of the Farm Bill, visit <http://www.cbpp.org/5-8-08fa.htm>.

