



May 13, 2008

2008 Farm Bill Conference Report Major Specialty Crop Provisions (5-year bill, 5-year funding levels)

Specialty Crop Block Grants

Significantly increases mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Administered by the State Department's of Agriculture the program allows maximum flexibility and can be used for marketing, nutrition, research or other competitiveness building programs. **Funding Levels:** FY08 \$10 million; FY09 \$49 million; FY10 \$55 million; FY11 \$55 million; FY12 \$55 million. **Total = \$224 million**

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Expands the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Snack Program to all 50 states, with an emphasis on low-income school districts. **Funding Levels:** FY08 \$40 million; FY09 \$65 million; FY10 \$101 million; FY11 \$150 million; FY12 \$150 million with adjustment for Consumer Price Index (CPI). **Total = \$506 million**

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Establishes a specialty crop research program. Funds are to be awarded as competitive grants with a required funding match. **Funding Levels:** FY08 \$30 million; FY09 \$50 million; FY10 \$50 million; FY11 \$50 million; FY12 \$50 million. **Total = \$230 million**

Pest and Disease Prevention Programs

Creates a new Pest and Disease Program focused on combating invasive pests and diseases. The program will be a joint effort between USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the State Departments of Agriculture. **Funding Levels:** FY09 \$12 million; FY10 \$45 million; FY11 \$50 million; FY 12 \$50 million. **Total = \$157 million**

Market Access Program (MAP)

Continues funding for the Market Access Program at the current level of \$200 million per year. **Total = \$1 billion**

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)

Expands the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program (TASC), an important program designed to assist U.S. producers in identifying and removing non-tariff trade barriers. **Funding**

*Phone 703-442-8850
Toll-free 800- 781-4443
Fax 703-790-0845*

Web site www.usapple.org

8233 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200 ★ Vienna, VA 22182-3816 USA

Levels: FY08 \$4 million; FY09 \$7 million; FY10 \$8 million; FY11 \$9 million; FY12 \$9 million. **Total = \$37 million.**

Tree Assistance Program

For the first time, mandatory funding will be available for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), which assists orchardists with tree removal and replacement costs in the event of a natural disaster. **Funding Levels:** Producers can qualify for up to \$100,000 per year for qualifying losses.

Clean Plant Network

Creates and funds a new Clean Plant Network with the express purpose of diagnosing and eliminating plant pathogens during propagation. **Funding Levels:** FY09 \$5 million; FY10 \$5 million; FY11 \$5 million; FY12 \$5 million. **Total = \$20 million**

USDA Section 32 purchases

Increases the minimum purchase levels for fruits, vegetables, and nuts (currently \$200 million per year) and expands USDA's ability to purchase value-added fruit, vegetable and nut products: **Funding Levels:** FY08 \$390 million; FY09 \$393 million; FY10 \$399 million; FY11 \$403 million; FY12 \$406 million. **Minimum Purchase Level Increase Total = \$991 million**