



# MGA

Midwestern Governors Association



Policy Objectives and  
Recommendations for  
the Farm Bill

2007

## Midwestern Governors Association

The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together top state leaders to work cooperatively on significant public policy issues in the Midwest. The purpose of the MGA is to foster regional development, facilitate interstate cooperation, improve intergovernmental relationships, and provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences on subjects of general importance to the people of the Midwestern states.

### THE MIDWESTERN GOVERNORS ARE:

Chair

**Tim Pawlenty**

Minnesota

Past Chair, 2005

**Rod Blagojevich**

Illinois

**Matt Blunt**

Missouri

**Chet Culver**

Iowa

**Mitch Daniels**

Indiana

**Jim Doyle**

Wisconsin

**Jennifer Granholm**

Michigan

**Dave Heineman**

Nebraska

Past Chair, 2004

**John Hoeven**

North Dakota

**M. Michael Rounds**

South Dakota

**Kathleen Sebelius**

Kansas

**Ted Strickland**

Ohio



The Midwestern Governors Association is pleased to present the following policy objectives and recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill.

My fellow governors, together with their top agricultural policy advisers, developed this document to outline our priorities for our region's agricultural industry. Agriculture plays an important role throughout our nation, and all Americans have a stake in future U.S. agricultural policy. Across the Midwest, agricultural and livestock production and processing are the most important industries in many rural communities.

These policy objectives and recommendations on the 2007 Farm Bill were developed as a starting point to be used in developing and informing the debate as we begin to shape future U.S. agricultural policy. As governors, we play a critical role in implementing federal agricultural, conservation and forestry policy and look forward to positive legislation that will ensure and guide the development of this vital industry.

The governors of the Midwestern Governors Association look forward to working with Congress in accomplishing this goal.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor of Minnesota, and  
Chair, Midwestern Governors Association



---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

I.	Renewable Energy and the Bio-Economy.....	4
II.	Commodities.....	6
III.	Credit.....	8
IV.	Risk Management.....	8
V.	Conservation and the Environment.....	9
VI.	Forestry.....	10
VII.	Agricultural Security.....	13
VIII.	Rural Development.....	14
IX.	Livestock.....	15
X.	Research.....	17
XI.	Trade and Marketing.....	18
XII.	Invasive Species.....	19
XIII.	Food Safety and Nutrition.....	20

---

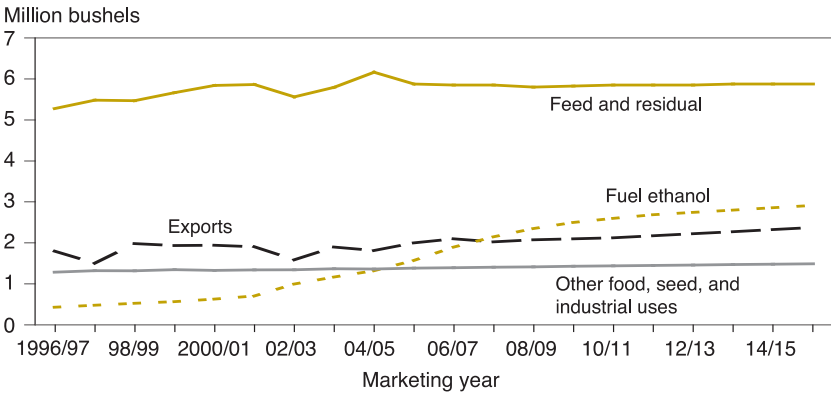
## I. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE BIO-ECONOMY

America is deeply dependent on ample, reliable sources of energy. The Midwest is a key source for renewable energy now and will be in the future. Therefore, the MGA supports aggressive and proactive policies that diminish U.S. reliance on foreign sources of energy.

As energy prices have escalated and our energy needs continue to grow, we must focus on conserving, developing and expanding domestic sources of energy that are both clean and affordable. Therefore, the promotion and development of renewable energy, while protecting our natural resources, should be a new priority embedded within federal farm policy.

American agriculture has the ability to move us closer to our goal of curtailing our dependence on foreign oil and developing domestic sources of energy. While great strides have been made to utilize agriculture and natural resources as sources of renewable energy, additional efforts must take place to develop and enhance these resources.

### USDA's Baseline Projections suggest that corn use by ethanol producers will grow much faster than corn use by other industries

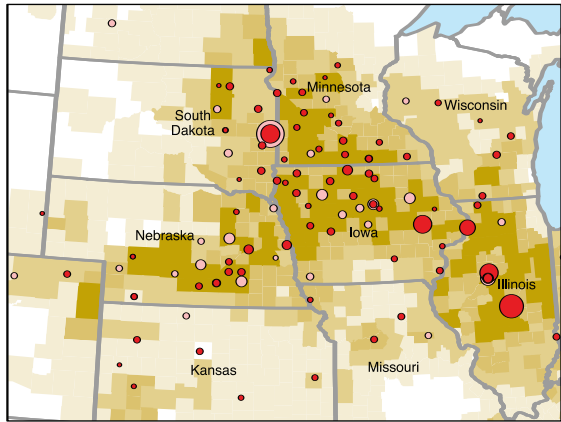
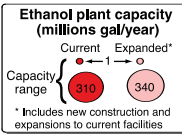
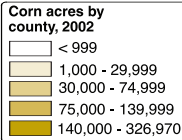
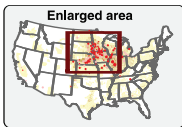


Note: Feed and residual corn use is calculated by subtracting the other three categories plus ending stocks from total supply. Thus, the term "residual" refers to a statistical residual.  
Source: *USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections to 2015*.

## The Midwestern governors support:

- The U.S. Congress embracing the concept of a nationwide Renewable Energy Standard such as 25 percent of our energy being derived from renewable sources by the year 2025.
- A national focus on new and emerging technologies that will pave the way for widespread and commercially-viable systems (production, distribution and usage) encompassing:
  - ◆ Cellulosic ethanol (grasses and forest products);
  - ◆ Biodiesel;
  - ◆ Hydrogen via ethanol and/or wind connection;
  - ◆ Electricity via wind and digestion technologies; and
  - ◆ Bio-refining for bio-based products with Congress providing adequate and corresponding funding for research and incentives.
- The improvement of nationally and internationally accepted standards for the production and use of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.
- Increased support of energy conservation in agricultural programs.
- Expanded funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation Bioenergy Program, with project funding focused on the next generation of renewable energy projects.
- The U.S. Congress directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to explore provisions within existing and new conservation programs, consistent with their objectives that promote managed biomass harvest on lands enrolled in conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program. Furthermore, the USDA should explore ways to properly manage biomass removal from lands under active agricultural production to ensure proper residue and nutrient management.
- The U.S. Congress closely examines federal regulations to ensure they are not inadvertently stifling renewable energy production.

**The U.S. ethanol sector is adding over 2 billion gallons to its capacity**



Sources: 2002 Census of Agriculture; Renewable Fuels Association and other industry sources.

## II. COMMODITIES

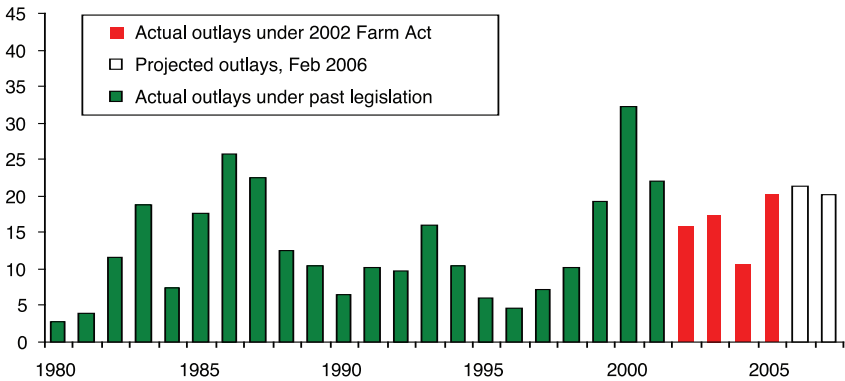
The commodity title of the 2002 Farm Bill accomplished several of its intended objectives, especially in terms of building a stronger economic safety net against market downturns. In other words, the structure of the commodity title functioned as its authors intended: to deliver supplemental payments to program crop growers when prices dipped below set levels, primarily via loan deficiency and countercyclical payments.

In the early years of the 2002 Farm Bill, market prices were relatively high, and led to commodity title costs that were significantly lower than expected outlays (approximately \$17.62 billion from 2002-2004). However, when market prices started downward in recent years, government outlays increased significantly.

For those producers who grow program crops, the commodity title of the 2002 Farm Bill is very popular. We recognize that most program crop growers would support the same principles and funding levels being extended into the next Farm Bill. While the Midwestern governors are cognizant of the popularity of the current commodity title, we encourage Congress to re-examine all provisions of the commodity title.



## Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) net outlays\*



\* The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is a Federally owned and operated corporation within the U.S. Department of Agriculture created to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations. All money transactions for agricultural price and income support and related programs are handled through the CCC.

Source: USDA, CCC Budget, February 2006.

## The Midwestern governors support:

- Maintaining the existing basic structure of the commodity support system (direct payments, loan rates and countercyclical payments), but recognize that incremental shifts and corresponding payment reductions may be necessary due to World Trade Organization commitments and/or new priorities in areas such as renewable energy, conservation and/or rural development.
- Maintaining existing planting flexibility. Furthermore, Congress should eliminate penalties for producers who choose to plant fruit and vegetables on program acres. While we recognize the sensitivity of equity and competitiveness, Midwestern fruit and vegetable growers are growing products for canning markets that do not directly compete with fresh produce markets.
- Funding state partnership grants to promote specialty crops.
- Extending Milk Income Loss Contract payments.
- Efforts in Congress to closely examine the findings and recommendations of the Payment Limits Commission, which was authorized within the 2002 Farm Bill. Furthermore, Congress should examine reforming the three-entity rule by tracking all payments by Social Security number.

---

### III. CREDIT

---

The barriers to entry in agriculture are substantial and can serve as a deterrent to young people interested in such a career. Because the average age of principal farm operators is 55, it is important to give adequate support to the next generation of farmers. This support will help the United States maintain its competitive edge in agricultural production and to ensure the industry's successful transition to the next generation.

Agriculture requires a credit industry of highly trained management professionals to serve its needs in an increasingly competitive environment. Rising input costs such as fuel and fertilizer, coupled with uncertainties surrounding commodity support programs and subsequent decision making by the WTO, could increase the risk associated with agricultural lending. Access to credit will be the fuel that drives the industry's future and will continue to determine its viability.

#### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Expanding young and beginning farmer and rancher loan programs. Congress should re-examine all Farm Service Agency loan programs to ensure that they meet the needs of young and beginning farmers and ranchers, and that certain eligibility restrictions do not arbitrarily disqualify applicants.
- Expanding agricultural bonds and loan limits.
- Examining linked deposit loan programs to ensure applicability to present-day market conditions.

---

### IV. RISK MANAGEMENT

---

While the commodity title has been successful in delivering payments to producers when market prices turn downward, it has become apparent that commodity programs do not offer needed assistance when farmers and ranchers are subject to weather-related disasters. While many farmers and ranchers have expanded their use of risk management tools, such as traditional crop insurance and contracting, there is a need to offer additional tools.

#### **The Midwestern governors support:**

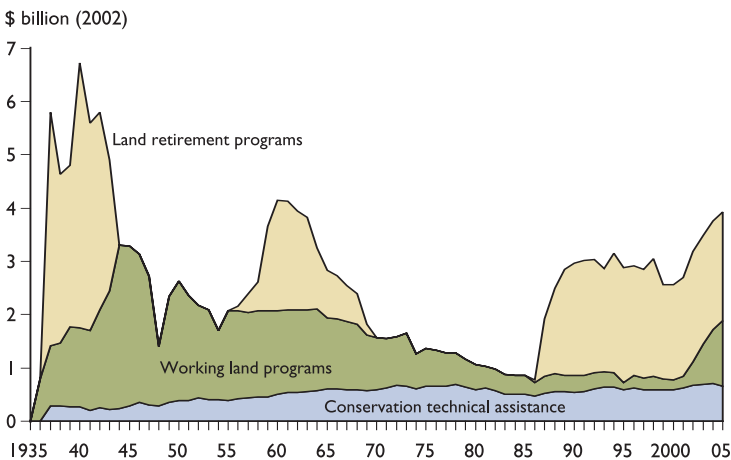
- Authorizing and implementing a permanent and predictable disaster assistance program, with well-constructed eligibility criteria, within the Farm Bill.

- Continuing the practice of updating average per-acre yields.
- Authorizing tax-deferred farm and ranch savings accounts.
- Expanding the availability of revenue-based, whole-farm insurance products, which would apply to all types of farms and ranches. Particular emphasis should be placed on improving livestock-related revenue insurance products.
- Expanding requirements for farmers and ranchers to purchase insurance products in order to be eligible for other types of government support such as disaster assistance.
- Expanding programs and exploring new opportunities aimed at educating farmers and ranchers about risk management strategies.

## V. CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The MGA recognizes that the conservation of soil, water and wildlife resources provide important public benefits for millions of people, both rural and urban residents, throughout the region. The states represented in the MGA are dedicated to protecting and improving the quality and quantity of the water in the Great Lakes and the region's inland waterway system, while maintaining the economic vitality of the agricultural landscapes within their boundaries.

**USDA expenditures on major agricultural conservation programs, 1935-2005**



Source: Prepared by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA's Office of Budget and Program Analysis and other sources of historical data.

## The Midwestern governors support:

- Preserving a strong and stably funded conservation title. Conservation programs for priority-working-lands should be mandatory spending via the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Since many interested applicants are rejected due to over-subscription of conservation programs, increased funding is warranted.
- Continuing efforts that focus on conservation programs that promote agricultural production and environmental protection. These efforts should focus on addressing priority environmental concerns while improving active farmer and rancher income. Priority-working-lands programs should continue the concepts imbedded within current programs such as:
  - ◆ Conservation Security Program (CSP),
  - ◆ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP),
  - ◆ Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP),
  - ◆ Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP),
  - ◆ Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP),
  - ◆ Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP).
- Continuing the commitment to EQIP to cost-share projects that assist producers in addressing regulatory and compliance-related challenges. Furthermore, working lands conservation programs that mutually benefit priority resource concerns and livestock producers should remain a focus of Congress and the USDA. In particular, EQIP should continue to maintain a livestock focus, with targeted priority cost-share practices such as fencing and feedlot improvement. Furthermore, programs such as the CSP and GRP should be examined to provide future benefits to livestock producers.
- Implementing recommendations identified by the Government Accountability Office report “USDA Should Improve Its Process for Allocating Funds to States for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.”
- Reauthorizing and refining targeted land retirement programs such as the CRP and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). We encourage Congress to work with the USDA to better target new lands into the program that provide high-priority benefits such as water quality and wetland improvements. We support a 40-million-acre cap on CRP and enrollment of up to 250,000 acres per year in WRP.
- Developing additional state and federal partnerships for land retirement

programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), that address specific resource needs within specific watersheds.

- Providing states with a reasonable level of flexibility in implementation of conservation programs to meet local and regional environmental challenges. In particular, states need greater flexibility to implement programs such as CSP, CRP and EQIP.
- Improving funding and coordination of technical support to ensure that maximum environmental benefits are achieved. Congress should examine streamlining the funding delivery of conservation technical assistance, conservation operations, and mandatory program technical assistance. The USDA should better partner with state agencies, conservation districts and qualified conservation organizations to aid with the development of conservation plans, field inspections and project designs to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce the workload of USDA personnel. Furthermore, we encourage Congress and the USDA to promote agreements and provide block grants to address specific state conservation needs.

*The Midwestern governors also recommend that the Farm Bill:*

- Promote whole-farm conservation management by maintaining conservation programs and practices that keep farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on the land.
- Ensure conservation compliance measures are maintained and enforced.
- Maintain conservation priorities toward water quality, soil erosion and wildlife habitat.
- Explore and encourage bio-energy and product initiatives that are mutually beneficial to environmental priorities.
- Define roles and responsibilities (administrative vs. technical for example) between the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

---

## VI. FORESTRY

---

In the Midwest, the economic and social health of our rural communities, as well as the quality of our life for adjacent urban-suburban dwellers, is connected to the vitality and maintenance of our forests. When managed properly, our forests provide society with a broad variety of benefits, including

clean drinking water, clean air, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, timber products, biomass for renewable energy and aesthetic qualities.

Government- and privately owned forests in the Midwest are at risk, primarily due to forest fragmentation, population growth, invasive species, and economic pressures influencing traditional wood and pulp markets. Furthermore, oak stands are declining at an alarming rate and could be virtually nonexistent by the end of this century.

The support and development of new technologies, such as utilizing forest biomass for cellulosic, ethanol and biomass-based liquid fuels (biodiesel) would not only improve our forests' health and reduce wildfire danger, but would also diminish our dependence on foreign sources of energy and provide an additional revenue stream for the pulp industry and related forest industries.

### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Congress examining how the USDA can better assist private owners of forestland via complementary provisions within the conservation and forest titles. Traditional agricultural conservation programs such as EQIP and WHIP should be examined to see how they could be mutually beneficial to forest health. We also encourage state foresters and state conservationists, working together through the state technical committees, to improve opportunities for forestry in the conservation programs.
- Continuing efforts that ensure forests of all ownerships are protected from the ravages of wildfire and destructive organisms. Development in fire-prone areas and the increasing rate of the introduction and spread of invasive species are escalating the loss of forest values.
- Focusing USDA efforts on maintaining blocks of working and managed forestlands. Conservation easements have been an effective tool.
- Providing adequate technical assistance to private forest landowners to develop long-term management plans. The USDA should primarily look to state foresters who may use new partnerships, collaboration and innovative approaches to deliver these services.
- Maintaining initiatives such as the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, which ties program delivery to selected watersheds, making it one of the most effective methods of ensuring landscape-scale results.
- Utilizing targeted implementation of programs and technical assistance by encouraging states to set priorities in concert with federal priority

guidance. Although flexibility in program delivery is important for targeting actions to state-specific issues, states should be held accountable and asked to show performance measures and results.

- Incorporating the utilization of forest biomass for energy (cellulosic ethanol, bio-diesel) into the Farm Bill in order to spur development of the necessary infrastructure.
- Examining how the federal government could use credits or other economic pathways to encourage the private sector economy to invest in the ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, and carbon sequestration for example) provided by private landowners.

---

## VII. AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

---

The United States has over a million farms that cover more than 1 billion acres. In the Midwest alone, agriculture employs 15 percent of the workforce and contributes billions of dollars to the region's economy. The region's agriculture and food system is an extensive, open, interconnected, diverse and complex structure. This structure is vulnerable to disease, pests or poisonous agents that occur naturally or are delivered by acts of terrorism.

Depending on the agent, an act of agro-terrorism or other agricultural emergency could have a widespread ripple effect throughout the nation's economy, affecting not only farmers and those dependent on the farm community but also our transportation network, international trade and food supply industries. Food safety is the joint responsibility of federal, state and local governments and the private sector, with each playing an integral role in detecting, deterring and responding to threats to agriculture; however, in the case of an agriculture emergency, state and local officials would be the first responders.

### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Strengthening collaboration between USDA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as well as asking Congress to require these agencies to report on how they will cooperate on both federal and state levels.
- Encouraging Congress and the executive branch to recognize food and agriculture as a critical infrastructure that, if disrupted, impacts every sector of the U.S. economy. Congress, DHS, and USDA must provide the tools and resources that state and local governments, and the private

sector, need to adequately address preparedness for a catastrophic disaster in this vital infrastructure through planning and the development of adequate response measures.

- Requiring intergovernmental and interstate cooperation in planning and preparedness efforts.
- Using multi-state organizations in responding to emergencies and encourage funding of the Midwest Multi-State Partnership.
- Funding for veterinarian positions in state, public health, emergency management and National Guard departments.

---

## VIII. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

---

According to information recently published by the USDA, non-metropolitan populations grew by more than 10 percent in the last decade. Forty-nine million Americans reside in non-metro areas. Since 2000, 78 percent of agriculture-dependent counties lost population. The primary reason for this drastic population decline is the lack of quality job opportunities in rural areas.

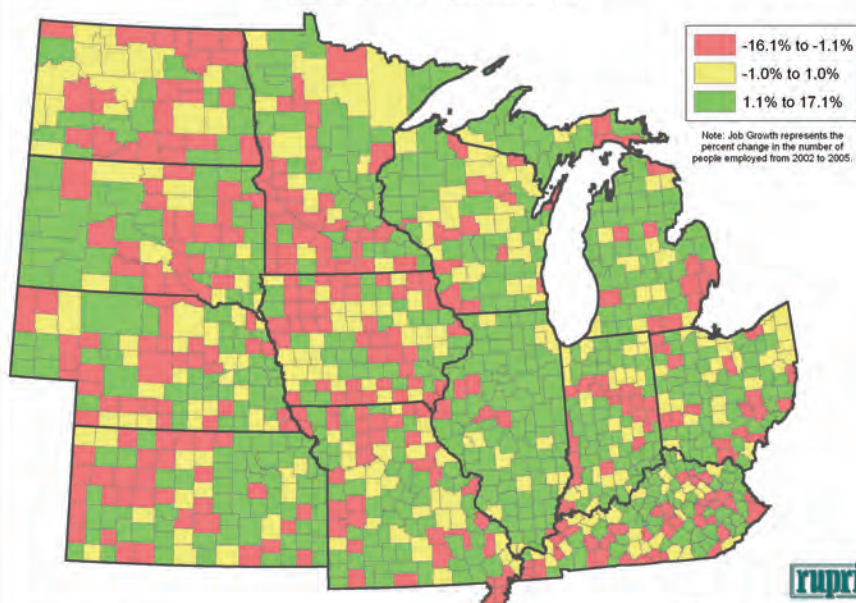
If quality jobs are to be created, there must be adequate support for building rural infrastructure and fostering value-added business opportunities, such as bio-energy production, which provide an avenue for rural revitalization and job opportunities for local residents.

### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Making the improvement of rural infrastructure and quality of life a top priority of Congress. USDA rural development programs designed to provide needed water, wastewater, energy and communications infrastructure improvements have been highly effective and should be continued. Equally important is the USDA's focus on housing and expansion of telecommunications services.
- Extending the Value-Added Producer Grant Program and the Value-Added Development Act for American Agriculture.
- Reforming 1031 tax exchange laws to allow proceeds from real property sales to be invested in an agribusiness enterprise. The change could be an effective tool in providing value-added entities with needed capital investment.



## Job Growth 2002 - 2005 Midwestern Governors Association Member States

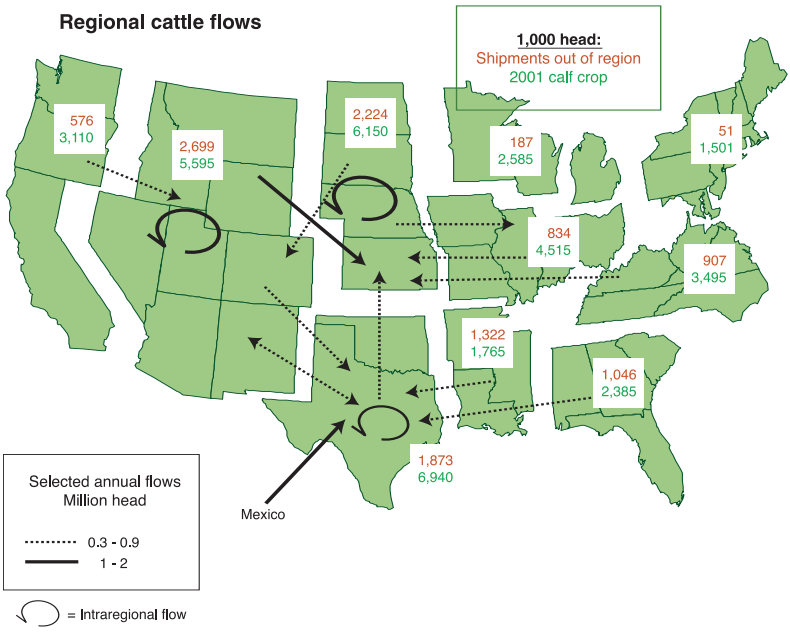


## IX. LIVESTOCK

Animal agriculture is a major economic driver in Midwestern states. It accounts for billions of dollars in economic activity in the Midwest. Livestock is the original value-added agriculture and is a primary market for Midwestern crops and forages. Accordingly, Congress should examine ways to sustain and grow a healthy and vibrant livestock sector within the Midwest.

### The Midwestern governors support:

- Continuing efforts to build a uniform and understandable animal identification system that promotes the protection of animal health across the nation and provides opportunities for market-driven incentives. If the primary responsibility for these efforts is to reside with the states, Congress should provide adequate funding support.
- Implementing value-added labeling. Considering the controversial nature of implementing mandatory country-of-origin labeling, Congress should examine ways to promote and provide incentives to livestock producers



Source: State certificate data (generally 2001) compiled by Economic Research Service, USDA.

and partnered processors to add value to their products via accredited certification. Improved marketing opportunities will arise from improved certification programs. One potential strategy would be for Congress to provide partnership grants for states to work with their local livestock and processing sectors. An example of this type of effort could be modeled after the South Dakota Certified Beef Program.

- Expanding interstate marketing opportunities. One opportunity for Congress to address this would be to repeal policies that preclude federally approved, state-inspected meat and poultry products from being marketed between states.
- Increasing and dedicating funding for disease surveillance, eradication, indemnity and disposal. Livestock disease outbreaks can be catastrophic to individual producers. It is apparent that Midwestern livestock producers will continue to confront a variety of issues such as avian influenza, bovine tuberculosis, porcine pseudo-rabies and Johnes disease in dairy herds. Therefore, it is critical that Congress provide the USDA with adequate funds to test and remove animals from herds and provide producers with reasonable indemnity payments. Furthermore, it is critical that Congress provides adequate funding to control diseases in wild animal populations, which many times infect domestic livestock. Lastly,

further efforts are needed to promote proper on-farm disposal/composting of animals in normal and emergency scenarios.

- Promoting all efforts toward improving price discovery for producers. Congress should consider mandatory price reporting, reliable and accurate voluntary price reporting, and/or state price reporting efforts.
- Reauthorizing provisions that provide contract producers the right to discuss the terms of their contracts with legal advisers, lenders, accountants, landlords, and/or family members. Congress should consider expanding this section to provide contract producers the right to arbitrate and/or mediate any disagreements with the other contracted party.

---

## X. RESEARCH

---

Agricultural-related research has been one pillar in the success story of American agriculture over the last century. Due to targeted and applied research, the American farmer and rancher has enjoyed remarkable advances in plant genetics, mechanization, animal health, and less intensive farming techniques, all of which have benefited consumers worldwide.

Despite all the past success stories, production agriculture research must remain a priority for Congress and the land-grant university system.

### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Directing agricultural research dollars primarily to “applied” research efforts, with outcomes that directly benefit the American producer and consumer. Public spending needs to demonstrate public benefit.
- Fostering coordination and cooperation on research requests and earmarks among the Midwestern states’ congressional delegations.
- Encouraging research to focus on the following areas:
  - ◆ Bioenergy and products;
  - ◆ Livestock issues (disease treatment and eradication nutrition efforts/rations of dried distillers grains);
  - ◆ Nutrient management; and
  - ◆ Conservation practice performance.

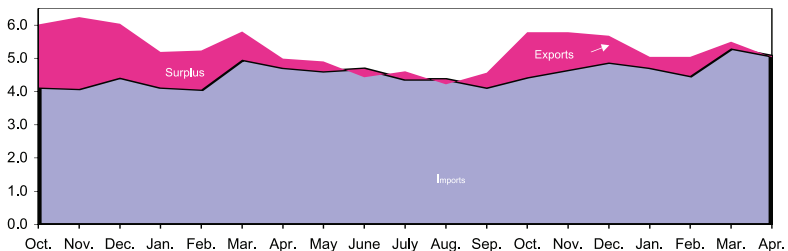
## XI. TRADE AND MARKETING

Approximately 96 percent of the world's population lives outside the borders of the United States, and forecasts indicate that number will continue to grow. At the same time, domestic agricultural production has outpaced and will continue to outpace domestic population growth. Furthermore, despite the projected increase in the domestic use of bulk commodities for renewable energy production, international export markets will continue to be a critical component of farm income. Therefore, it is imperative that American farmers and ranchers look outside our borders to sell food and agricultural products.

### The Midwestern governors support:

- Amending the U.S. Warehouse Act to clarify that states are not preempted in their authority to regulate grain merchandising. Twenty-nine states currently have regulatory authority to provide grain producers with assurances of being able to market and sell grain to licensed, bonded and/or insured buyers. This is the foundation of our regulatory safety net, which assures our grain producers of a financially solvent marketplace to merchandise their grain.
- Completing WTO negotiations and reauthorization of the Trade Promotion Authority.
- Increasing resources and promoting value-added export opportunities. Value-added food exports have grown from about 37 percent of total agricultural exports in 1985 to more than 62 percent in 2005.
- Increasing funding for the Targeted Assistance for Specialty Crops program in the range of \$10 million annually. The value of these crops now accounts for 50 percent of all U.S. farm crop cash receipts.

Monthly U.S. agricultural trade, fiscal years 2004 and 2005  
Billion dollars



Sources: Economic Research Service, USDA and Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

- Maintaining or increasing funding for the Foreign Market Development Program and the Market Access Program. Developing export markets for U.S. agricultural products is a very complex and long process. Resources are needed to ensure this process is successful.
- Maintaining the Export Enhancement Program and the Dairy Export Incentive Program until such time as the WTO negotiations require modifications or elimination.
- Providing adequate resources to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the USDA to conduct negotiations, maintain markets and assist exporters.
- Maintaining support for existing U.S. food aid programs (PL 480 and Section 416 donations) and considering some appropriate amount of aid being made in the form of cash when transportation and other delivery logistics of U.S. commodities are not practical.

---

## XII. INVASIVE SPECIES

---

In order for the United States to adequately safeguard our nation's agricultural sector against exotic and invasive species, a comprehensive plan must be developed to address an offshore pest information system, effective exclusion mechanisms, and a strong and rapid response to established populations.

### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Making USDA grants to states in order to manage and control invasive species.
- Creating a dedicated funding source, with fee-based contributions from the private shipping sector (importers, merchandisers, etc.), to detect and manage invasive species transported to the United States via transportation activities. This fund should be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and appropriated by Congress for only animal and plant exotic pest control.
- Continuing USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) effort to control populations of invasive species that result from river transportation.
- Expanding and funding the offshore pest information system to include all major U.S. trading partners.
- Fostering cooperation between DHS-Customs and Border Protection, USDA-APHIS and state departments of agriculture on invasive exclusion

efforts. Exclusion of invasive species must be a higher priority with all units of government, especially DHS. We recommend increasing the current 2 percent inspection rate for cargo by at least five times.

- Funding states to increase their non-port of entry or final destination cargo inspection efforts.
- Reassigning invasive species cargo inspection responsibilities to USDA-APHIS.
- Improving cooperative eradication and management efforts for existing invasive species. Additional funding is needed for both detection (monitoring and survey) and response. Furthermore, states should not be expected to provide cost-sharing access emergency funds through the CCC.

---

### XIII. FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

---

The United States enjoys one of the safest and most abundant food supplies in the world, thanks to the combined efforts of food regulatory agencies, academic institutions and the food industry itself. However, the food safety chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Continued collaboration and increasing efficiency between federal and state governments are vital to ensuring nutritionally sound and safe foods for future consumers. State agencies are typically the first-responders for food emergencies, and, with federal partnership, they can be the most effective in responding quickly and effectively to accidental or intentional food-related emergencies.

#### **The Midwestern governors support:**

- Developing a central national repository for laboratory and epidemiological data gathered by states and the federal government so that information is disseminated to all participants of the food system, from producers to consumers, as well as to regulatory agencies.
- Establishing consistent and clear federal labeling laws while protecting the right of states to effectively enforce state food laws that may be beyond the federal government's abilities to execute.
- Revising the food safety system based on the risk or the hazard associated with a product or in the method with which it is processed, and using the most modern technologies available to determine risks and hazards.
- Establishing an ongoing mechanism for collaboration between federal and

state agencies to identify goals, roles and responsibilities related to food nutrition and safety.

- Developing uniform food standards, laboratory methods and accreditation that more closely match international standards.
- Providing adequate funds to support state and local regulatory agencies in enforcing the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; the Meat Products Inspection Act; the Poultry Products Inspection Act; the Environmental Protection Act; and any other federal laws that are enforced by state agencies.
- Developing, in partnership with states, a coordinated educational and training campaign related to food nutrition and safety.

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

*The Midwestern governors gratefully acknowledge the efforts of those individuals who contributed to the preparation of this document. We especially thank the members of the MGA Farm Bill Working Group for the time and expertise they devoted to this project. Minnesota Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Perry Aasness served as the chair for this group.*

### ILLINOIS

Mr. Chuck Hartke  
Director, Department of Agriculture

Ms. Kim Janssen  
Policy Senior Advisor, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Tom Jennings  
Chief of Staff, Department of Agriculture

Ms. Debbie Bruce  
Program Support Administrator, Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Gretchen Tucka  
Federal Liaison, Department of Natural Resources

### INDIANA

Ms. Beth Bechdol  
Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture

### IOWA

Mr. Lyle Asell  
Special Assistant for Agriculture and the Environment,  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Mr. John Pederson  
Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor

Ms. Liz Christiansen  
Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

### KANSAS

Mr. Adrian Polansky  
Kansas Secretary of Agriculture

Carole Jordon  
Legislative and Policy Liaison, Department of Agriculture

### MICHIGAN

Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark  
Legislative Liaison



## **MINNESOTA**

Mr. Perry Aasness  
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Joe Martin  
Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agriculture

## **MISSOURI**

Mr. Daniel Engemann  
Special Assistant, Department of Agriculture

Mr. Chris Klenklen  
Program Administrator, Department of Agriculture

## **NEBRASKA**

Mr. John Erickson  
Policy Advisor, Governor's Policy Research Office

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Mr. Bill Goetz  
Chief of Staff, Governor's Office

Mr. Lance Gaebe  
Agriculture Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

## **OHIO**

Mr. Luke Miller  
Wildlife Biology Program Administrator,  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Cory Noonan  
Legislative Liaison, Department of Agriculture

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mr. Bill Even  
Deputy Secretary, State Energy Development

Mr. Jason Glodt  
Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

## **WISCONSIN**

Ms. Judy Ziewacz  
Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Mr. Bill Smith  
Deputy Secretary, Department of Natural Resources



To learn more about the Midwestern Governors Association and its position on the reauthorization of the farm bill please contact:

Jesse Heier  
Hall of States  
444 N. Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
P: 202.624.5460  
F: 202.624.5452  
Email: [jheier@midwesterngovernors.org](mailto:jheier@midwesterngovernors.org)  
[www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org)



The Midwestern Governors Association receives secretariat services from the Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments. For more information, contact Ilene Grossman at the CSG Midwest office:

Ilene K. Grossman  
CSG Midwest  
701 East 22nd Street, Suite 110  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
P: 630.925.1922  
F: 630.925.1930  
Email: [igrossman@csg.org](mailto:igrossman@csg.org)  
[www.csgmidwest.org](http://www.csgmidwest.org)



**MGA**



Midwestern Governors Association

Midwestern Governors Association  
Hall of States  
444 N. Capitol Street, NW – Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20001  
P: 202.624.5460 • F: 202.624.5452  
[www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org)

