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### Wisconsin Ag News Headlines

#### Rep. Kind Calls for Reauthorization of Farm Bill in 2011

Wisconsin Ag Connection - 12/02/2010

A Wisconsin congressman is among a group of farm-state lawmakers to urge the House Ag Committee to move forward with the reauthorization of the farm bill in 2011. Rep. Ron Kind co-wrote a letter to Committee Chairman Collin Peterson and Ranking Member Frank Lucas this week. The memo stated that the costs of delaying action on the reauthorization of the farm bill have a direct impact on our deficits and cannot be ignored.

"Every serious study of how to reduce the deficit includes proposals to save billions of dollars from agricultural subsidies," the letter stated. "The Center for American Progress 'A Thousand Cuts' report laid out a series of options that would reduce direct subsidies between 50-percent to 75-percent, saving taxpayers \$7-\$11 billion by 2015. The CATO Institute's 'Downsizing Government' project calls for an annual \$30 billion cut in farm programs. The Brookings Institute's Bill Galston and New America Foundation's Maya MacGuineas cut farm subsidies as part of their 'The Future is Now' plan."

Kind feels we cannot wait to reauthorize the farm bill because it is essential to getting the nation's deficit under control.

"We must reform the wasteful subsidies going to very few but large agribusinesses," Kind said. "They are not fair to the American taxpayer and not fair to family farmers."

The La Crosse Democrat also said the ongoing Brazilian cotton dispute, in which America provides millions in assistance to Brazilian agribusiness, the widespread recognition of inefficient and wasteful spending within American farm programs, as well as the affect this spending has on the deficit are other issues facing the agriculture community.

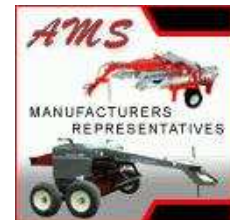
The letter continued to say that the subsidies are outdated and no longer providing a meaningful safety net for many of our farmers, as they were designed to do during the Great Depression.

Kind says without reform, Americans will continue to fund 'wasteful farm subsidies.'

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