



Policy Plate: What Would a “Healthy Food” Bill Look Like?

Posted by Don Carr in 2012 Farm Bill, Policy Plate on April 30, 2012

Environmental Working Group President Ken Cook and senior food and agriculture analyst Kari Hamerschlag [penned an op-ed in](#) Sunday’s San Francisco Chronicle:

If you believe the government ought to play an aggressive role in the nation’s economic life, admit it: You’re a liberal. But you’re probably not as liberal as the average Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Thanks to their generosity with your tax dollars, the government has shelled out a quarter of a trillion dollars since 1995 in federal farm subsidies to grain and cotton farmers and landowners. (Go to farm.ewg.org for a list of every recipient and the amount each received.)

Right now, the farm subsidy lobby and its friends on Capitol Hill are on track to write a costly, ill-conceived new chapter to this unhappy history of bankrolling industrial commodity crops. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Instead, we can invest in healthier eating and a cleaner environment. In the bargain, we can help keep 20 million kids from going hungry, give a huge boost to California agriculture, save taxpayers money and support family farmers.

What would a “healthy food” bill look like?

Read here what a healthy food bill [would look like](#).

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Table Scraps

- The Washington Post editorial board [weighed in](#) on the Senate farm bill over the weekend, saying: “federal crop insurance overprotects, to put it mildly.”
- The Land Stewardship Project [had tough words](#) about the Senate farm bill’s anemic conservation title.

- The Tampa Bay, Fla. Fox TV affiliate [looked at how badly broken](#) federal farm and food policy has become.
- Respected Cato Institute trade policy analyst Sallie James [voiced concern](#) about the glaring lack of transparency in government -subsidized crop insurance.
- Web developer and farm bill advocate Marjorie Roswell has built an [online farm bill primer](#).

Tweet of the day:

[@NWFCarol](#) crazy stat about [#obesity](#): [#Cars](#) are burning nearly a bn gallons of [#gasoline](#) more a year than if passengers weighed what they did in 1960

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