

Growthology

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Cato's Downsizinggovernment.org

DC is filled with hot air about controlling spending, but the think tank CATO takes that mission seriously. Here is the main text from the page of the Dept. of Agriculture:

All agricultural and rural subsidies in the Department of Agriculture's budget should be abolished to save taxpayers \$25 billion annually. In addition, agricultural trade barriers should be repealed. Current agricultural and rural policies are economically and environmentally damaging, and they create unfair transfers of wealth.

The department's food subsidy activities—food stamps, school lunches, and WIC—are properly local and private functions. They should be devolved to the states, with each state determining appropriate policies for its own residents. Such reforms would save federal taxpayers \$79 billion annually. Some states may decide to fund food subsidies on their own, but competition between the states would likely result in smaller, more innovative programs.

Forest Service subsidies to state governments and private businesses should be ended. Congress should also explore options to transfer the national forests to the states or to new independent trusts that would be self-funded from forest-related receipts.

The table shows that these reforms would eliminate more than 90 percent of the USDA's budget, saving federal taxpayers \$108 billion annually, or about \$923 per U.S. household. Under the proposal, the USDA would retain responsibility for animal and plant health inspections, food safety, grain and packing inspections, and conservation activities.

Check out downsizinggovernment.org.

The site is an impressive piece of work, on substance and style. Makes me wonder what other government related websites have you seen with such an efficient, informative, and clean design?

Posted by Tim Kane at 09:34 AM in [Policy](#) | [Permalink](#)

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