



# Agricultural Act of 2014



## Regional Conservation Partnership Program: Targeting Policy for Increased Outcomes

Jeremy Peters  
Director of Federal Policy

May 8, 2014



# Agricultural Act of 2014

- **American Farmland Trust priorities included:**
  - Protecting farmland conservation funding
  - Targeting resources for greater conservation outcomes
  - Reforming crop insurance by relinking conservation compliance and including national sodsaver



# Agricultural Act of 2014

## Key Farm Bill Themes:

### ■ Budget Reduction

- Overall savings of \$23 Billion, \$4 Billion from conservation

### ■ Risk Management Based Safety Net

- Reinvests substantially in crop insurance, reforms for conservation compliance

### ■ Streamlining, Effectiveness, Efficiency

- Consolidates and focuses programs to improve outcomes, administration



# Agricultural Act of 2014

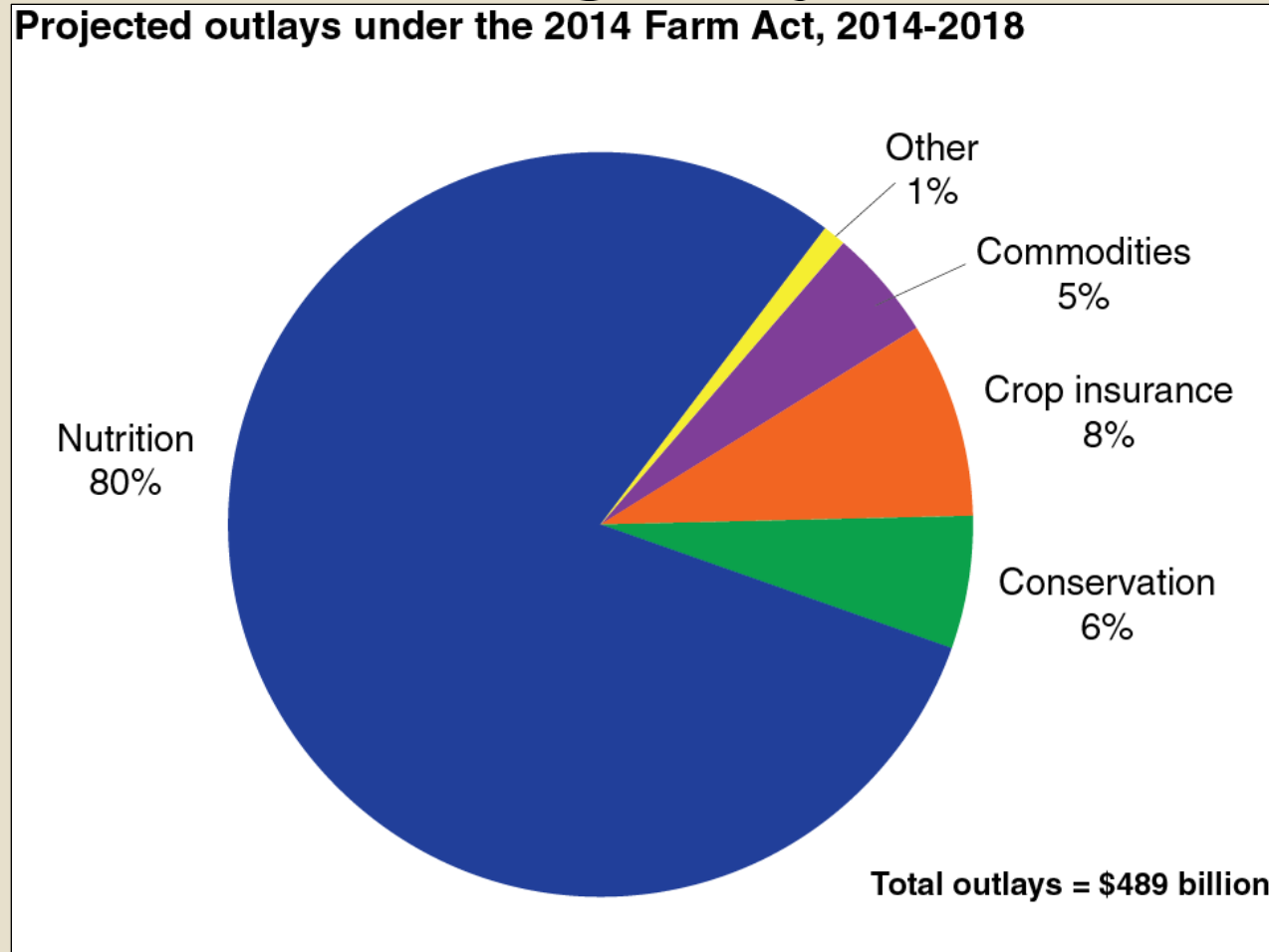
## ■ Importance of Partnerships

- Difficult reauthorization process underscored need for coalitions
- Conservation groups agreed on consolidation framework and protecting funding
- Agriculture, Crop Insurance and Conservation agreed on terms to support conservation compliance and oppose crop insurance AGI



# Agricultural Act of 2014

## ■ Farm Bill Funding Projections:



Source: USDA ERS



# Agricultural Act of 2014

- **Agricultural Act of 2014 makes important conservation changes:**
  - Consolidates and strengthens conservation programs with \$57 billion in funding
  - 23 conservation programs down to 13
- **Conservation Program Funding:**

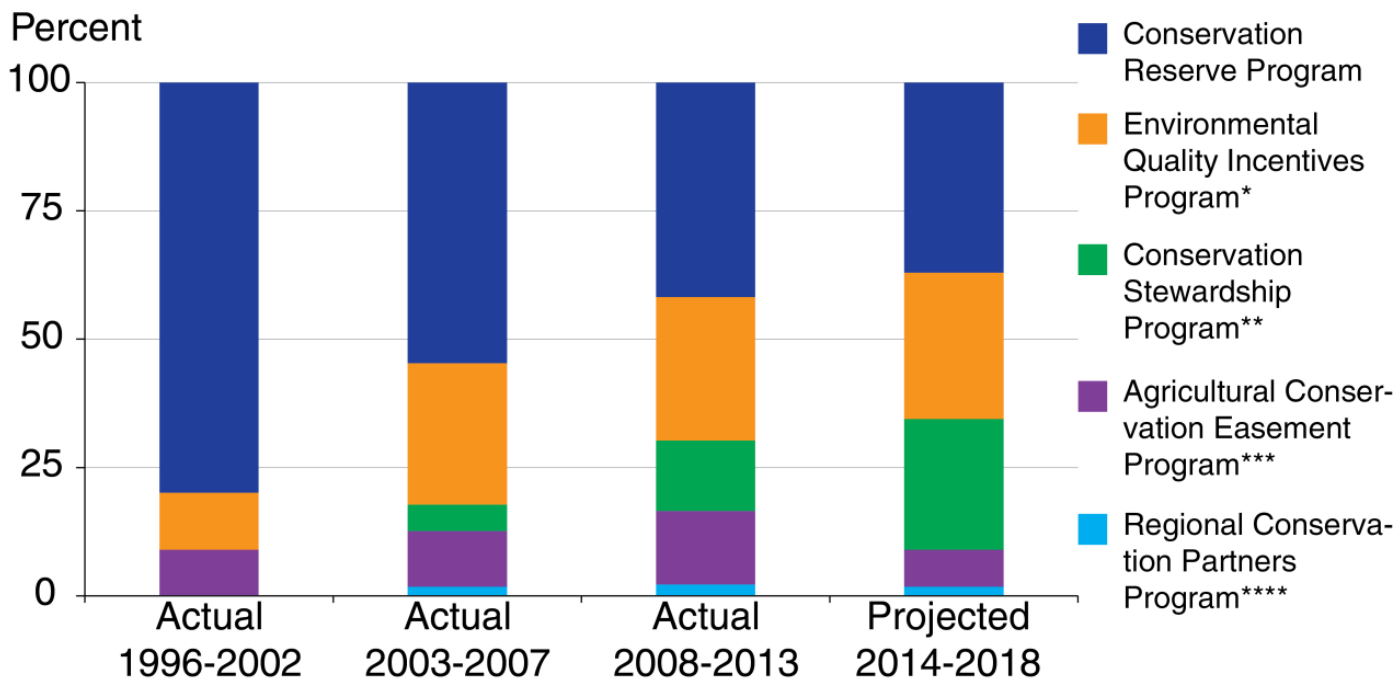
Easements	Stewardship	Financial	Retirement	Targeting
ACEP \$2 billion	CSP 10 M acres annually	EQIP \$8 billion	CRP 24 M acres	RCPP \$1 billion



# Agricultural Act of 2014

- **Trend: increased emphasis on working lands conservation:**

Share of conservation spending by major programs and predecessors in the 2014 and previous farm acts



Source: USDA ERS



# Agricultural Act of 2014

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Over \$1 billion for targeted conservation
- Allocates 7% from ACEP, CSP, EQIP, HFRP
- Consolidates four programs (Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Ag Water Enhancement, Cooperative Conservation Partnership)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$235.94 Million	\$255.19 Million	\$260.44 Million	\$263.94 Million	\$253.44 Million





# Agricultural Act of 2014

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Increases transparency and accountability by selecting projects through a competitive, merit-based process
- Leverages partner resources to achieve outcome-based conservation on a variety of eligible lands
- Significant factor within the competitive process will be the funds brought to the table to leverage Federal funds



# Agricultural Act of 2014

## What's next for conservation?

### ■ **USDA Implementation**

- Continued partnership and coordination with USDA to ensure programs are delivered effectively
- Continued need to protect funding in annual appropriations

### ■ **Next Farm Bill?**

- Making programs defensible for an increasingly skeptical public
- Stronger partnerships to support farm and food policy



# Agricultural Act of 2014



**Questions?**

**[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)**