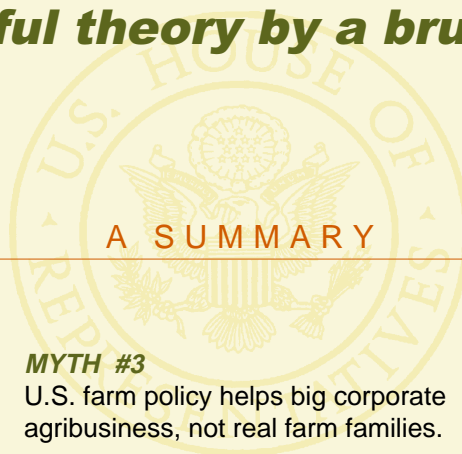


"There is nothing more horrible than the murder of beautiful theory by a brutal gang of facts."

~ LaRoche foucauld



MYTH #1

U.S. farm policy bilks taxpayers and busts the budget.

FACT #1

U.S. farm policy costs pennies per meal and accounts for little more than one-half of 1% of the U.S. Budget. In fact, the 2002 Farm Bill costs less than the 1996 Farm Bill with emergency assistance.

MYTH #2

The 2002 Farm Bill depresses farm prices and increases food prices.

FACT #2

American consumers enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world for 10.9% of income – less than consumers in any other country. In any case, the 2002 Farm Bill cannot depress farm prices and increase food prices at the same time.

MYTH #3

U.S. farm policy helps big corporate agribusiness, not real farm families.

FACT #3

Big corporate agribusiness actually opposes U.S. farm policy. U.S. farm policy does help all American farm families because all farm families feel the sting of a world market that is not free or fair.

MYTH #4

U.S. farm policy is nothing but corporate welfare benefiting only those receiving direct help.

FACT #4

U.S. farm policy is important to national security, ensuring a safe, abundant, and affordable domestic food supply, and vital to a strong rural and urban economy, with the food and fiber industry creating 25 million jobs, producing \$3.5 trillion in output, and accounting for 15% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

MYTH #5

U.S. farm policy interferes with free markets and free trade.

FACT #5

U.S. farm policy fully complies with U.S. trade agreements. And, with foreign tariffs on agricultural goods more than 5 times higher than U.S. tariffs, U.S. farm policy helps level the playing field so our farmers can compete in a world market that is not free or fair.

MYTH #6

The 2002 Farm Bill shortchanges conservation.

FACT #6

The 2002 Farm Bill provides over \$39 billion for conservation – the highest level of funding in history for programs that prevent soil erosion, preserve and restore wetlands, clean the air and water, and enhance wildlife.

MYTH #7

All special interests critical of U.S. farm policy just want good public policy.

FACT #7

Many special interests critical of U.S. farm policy cross the ideological divide but share a common denominator: agendas that the vast majority of Americans reject.



President Bush signed the Farm Bill on May 13, 2002, providing a strong safety net for America's farmers and ranchers and restoring fiscal responsibility to U.S. farm policy.