

Subject: Farmers Need Economic Stimulus Plan – A New Farm Bill

Story Summary: The recent economic slump has been a dose of harsh reality to many Americans, but U.S. farmers have been struggling with a poor farm economy for years. As Congress debates the best way to stimulate the economy, farmers hope their continuing battle to earn a living isn't overlooked.

TRT: 1:42

Suggested Lead: What would you do if you earned the same money as folks in your field did 50 years ago? Probably quit. That's the choice facing many U.S. farmers, but instead of a new job they are looking for a new Farm Bill. Johnna Miller reports.

Suggested Supers: Southampton County, Virginia
@ :02

Marvin Everett
Virginia Farmer
@ :09

Bob Stallman
American Farm Bureau President
@ :48

M.L. Everett
Virginia Farmer
@ 1:25

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:35

Farmers Need a New Farm Bill
Johnna Miller Reporting
November 20, 2001

Farmers in cotton field by tractor	VO/ It's been a bountiful crop year on the Everett farm. Possibly the best cotton crop these three generations have ever seen. So everything should be rosy, right?
Marvin Everett Virginia Farmer	SOT/ You know, you can have a good crop year, the yields are high, but if your prices remain depressed you still have problems paying your bills.
Tractor driving thru cotton field	VO/ And that's an all too common problem for farmers nationwide. If it sounds like an empty complaint, consider this...
Very wide shot of tractor in field	SOT/ I started out in the '50s raising cotton when we used to pick it by hand and the price today remains basically the same or lower.
Farmer in tractor cab	VO/ So while the nation faces the recent economic downturn, U.S. farmers can't help but echo the thoughts of American Farm Bureau president Bob Stallman.
Bob Stallman American Farm Bureau President	SOT/ In agriculture we've been experiencing a downturn already. We've already been there. Even while the economy was booming in this country, we were facing economic problems on the farm.
Congress	VO/

Cotton boll in foreground; farmers behind	And as lawmakers scramble to pass an economic stimulus package, farmers hope their continued concerns aren't put on the back burner.
Wide shot of cotton harvesting Close up of cotton being harvested	SOT/ Probably the best economic stimulus for agriculture at this point would be to get a Farm Bill passed. /// That way we would have certainty for our business decisions. They would know what a safety net would be. They'd know what kind of parameters they're looking at as far as federal programs that affect markets.
Shot of father and son	VO/ That would bring reassurance to fathers hopeful for children who want to be the next generation of farmers.
M.L. Everett Virginia Farmer	SOT/ The one thing he's got going for himself is he just loves farming and that love for what you do keeps you going through the bad times.
Cotton harvester from behind	VO/ Farmers are looking to Congress to help put those bad times behind them. In southeastern Virginia, I'm Johnna Miller.