# Farm Bill DA

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#### House will pass the Farm Bill extension before the August recess

Abbott, 7/27/12 – (Charles, Reuters, “House Speaker Pledges Action on Drought Aid,” http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/26/us-usa-agriculture-idINBRE86O1T520120726)

Two-thirds of the continental United States was under moderate to exceptional drought with 40 percent of U.S. counties declared agricultural disaster areas. While crop insurance will aid many growers, livestock producers with drought-stunted pastures face skyrocketing feed prices.

The Obama administration has opened environmentally fragile land, normally off-limits, for haying and grazing but can do little else. Programs that allowed the Agriculture Department to share the cost of livestock feed or to help fruit, vegetable and tree farmers expired at the end of 2011.

"I do believe the House will address the livestock disaster program that unfortunately in the last farm bill was only authorized for four years," said Boehner, who directs legislation in the House.

Boehner said Republican leaders were working with the Agriculture Committee "on an appropriate path forward." A press aide for House Agriculture Committee chairman Frank Lucas said there was no decision on a legislative vehicle.

The House may vote on "programs related to disaster assistance under the expiring farm bill legislation" at the middle or end of next week, said Eric Cantor, the No 2 Republican in the House, in setting the agenda for floor action. The House will recess until Sept 10 at the end of next week.

While a stand-alone disaster bill was possible, some farm lobbyists say disaster aid could be wrapped into a one-year extension of the 2008 farm law, which expires on September 30. There is little chance for Congress to agree on a new law by then.

"I think it's going to be an extension bill with disaster relief as a fig leaf to move it forward," said Ferd Hoefner of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, a small-farm advocacy group.

The head of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Democrat Debbie Stabenow, said a disaster bill from the House could become a vehicle for writing a final House-Senate version of the farm bill.

Pol cap key - Obama is pushing for the extension – key to providing sufficient drought relief

Gire, 7/26/12 (Amanda, Aurora Advertiser, “Agriculture Secretary Pushes U.S. House to Take Action,” http://www.auroraadvertiser.net/news/x1582828326/Agriculture-Secretary-pushes-U-S-House-to-take-action

The farm bill made it through the Senate in June and has made it through the House’s agriculture committee, but the bill isn’t scheduled to vote at this time. “Each day that goes by, we run the risk of tying it into a bigger discussion on tax policy and budget cuts,” Vilsack said. The farm bill passed by the Senate reauthorizes several critical agriculture assistance programs that expired in 2011. The programs provide crucial resources to producers facing losses from weather-related events, including the current drought. “If Congress doesn’t act, USDA will remain limited in our means to help drought-stricken producers,” Vilsack said. “That’s why President Obama and I continue to call on Congress to take steps to ensure that USDA has the tools it needs to help farm families during the drought. Disaster assistance for producers is also one of many reasons why we need swift action by Congress to pass a Food, Farm and Jobs bill this year.”

#### INSERT SPECIFIC LINK

#### **U.S. drought is already affecting and causing tensions around the globe**

Murphy. 7/27/12 (Dan, Christian Science Monitor, “U.S. Drought Already Rippling Out Into the World,” <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Backchannels/2012/0727/US-drought-already-rippling-out-into-the-world>

Much of America's grain belt is gripped in one of the worst [droughts in 50 years](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Latest-News-Wires/2012/0719/Worst-drought-in-50-years-could-last-through-October), and grain prices are already surging.

While [that's bad news for America's farmers](http://www.csmonitor.com/%20http%3A//www.csmonitor.com/Business/2012/0727/US-drought-Gasoline-prices-rise-as-corn-stalks-shrivel), the real danger is the effect that will have in poor countries, where even small shifts in prices can have a big impact on the living standards of hundreds of millions of people from [Central America](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Central%2BAmerica) to [Egypt](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Egypt) (the biggest wheat importer in the world) and right across to [Indonesia](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Indonesia) and [China](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/China).

The US is the world's largest wheat and corn exporter, and its third largest exporter of soybeans. This is less of a case of the beat of a butterfly's wings causing a storm on the other side of the globe then a storm here causing a catastrophe elsewhere. With the northern hemisphere summer less than half over, and no relief in sight for the US drought, the impact of rising food prices globally is set to become a big story in the months ahead.

Globalization has its upsides, but it also means that a peddler in [Mexico City](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Mexico%2BCity) or a factory worker in [Mumbai](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Mumbai) is more vulnerable than ever to the whims of North American weather and agricultural policies in the developed world.

Already some places are grappling with the issue. Take Indonesia, where soybeans are used to make tofu, the staple protein for the country's poor. There, soybean prices have risen 33 percent in the past month, and are already causing tensions. Yesterday, there were clashes in [Jakarta](http://www.csmonitor.com/tags/topic/Jakarta) and other major cities in markets as a coalition of tofu producers [sought to enforce a national production strike](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/indonesian-tempeh-tofu-producers-rampage-shuts-down-sales/532725) protesting against a 5 percent soybean import duty.

#### Rapid rise in food prices sparks widespread political unrest – mathematical signals prove

Keim ’11 – (Brandon, Wired, “Food Prices Could Hit Tipping Point for Global Unrest,”)

When food shortages and rising prices drive people to desperation, social unrest soon follows. It’s as true today as it was in 18th-century France. According to a new analysis of food prices and unrest, the 2008 global food riots and ongoing Arab Spring may be a preview of what’s coming.

“When you have food prices peak, you have all these riots. But look under the peaks, at the background trend. That’s increasing quite rapidly, too,” said Yaneer Bar-Yam, president of the New England Complex Systems Institute. “In one to two years, the background trend runs into the place where all hell breaks loose.”

Bar-Yam and his colleagues are hunters of mathematical signals in social data: [market trends](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/03/market-panic-signs/) and [economic patterns](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/11/economics-of-network-collapse/), [ethnic violence](http://necsi.edu/research/ethnicviolence/highlight/), [Hollywood movies](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/04/networked-movies/). In their latest expedition, [described Aug. 11 in the prepublication online arXiv](http://arxiv.org/abs/1108.2455), they focus on [the 2008 food riots](https://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/18/world/americas/18iht-18food.12122763.html) and the Arab Spring, both of which followed year-long surges in basic food prices.

The researchers are hardly the first to portray food problems as a spark that inflames social inequality and stokes individual desperation, unleashing and amplifying impulses of rebellion. The [role of food prices in triggering the Arab Spring](https://www.npr.org/2011/01/30/133331809/rising-food-prices-can-topple-governments-too) has been widely described. Their innovation is a pair of price points on the [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s food price index](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/): about 215 in current prices, or 190 when corrected for inflation.

It’s at those points where, on a graph of food prices and social unrest between 2004 and 2011, unrest breaks out. But whereas they were crossed by price jumps in 2008, Bar-Yam and colleagues calculate that the underlying, steady trend — driven primarily by commodity speculation, agricultural crop-to-fuel conversion and rising prices of fertilizer and oil — crosses those points between 2012 and 2013.

“Once we get there, the peaks aren’t the problem anymore. Instead it’s the trend. And that’s harder to correct,” said Bar-Yam. At that point, widespread political unrest and instability can be expected, even in countries less troubled than those in North Africa and the Middle East.

“When the ability of the political system to provide security for the population breaks down, popular support disappears. Conditions of widespread threat to security are particularly present when food is inaccessible to the population at large,” write Bar-Yam and colleagues in arXiv. “All support for the system and allowance for its failings are lost. The loss of support occurs even if the political system is not directly responsible for the food security failure, as is the case if the primary responsibility lies in the global food supply system.”

The analysis comes with caveats, one of which is the possibility that it’s the dynamics of spiking prices, rather than a particular price level, that unleashes unrest. But according to Bar-Yam, even the underlying trends are rising at an extremely fast pace. “If things change slowly rather than rapidly, there would be a different response,” he said. “If it was going to happen over a period of 10 to 20 years, we’d be talking about something else. But the circumstance we’re talking about is one of changes in a year or two.”

#### Leads to resource wars and World War III

Calvin, ’98 - Theoretical Neurophysiologist, University of Washington, (William, ATLANTIC MONTHLY, January, The Great Climate Flip-Flop, Vol 281, No. 1, 1998, p. 47)

The population-crash scenario is surely the most appalling. Plummeting crop yields would cause some powerful countries to try to take over their neighbors or distant lands -- if only because their armies, unpaid and lacking food, would go marauding, both at home and across the borders. The better-organized countries would attempt to use their armies, before they fell apart entirely, to take over countries with significant remaining resources, driving out or starving their inhabitants if not using modern weapons to accomplish the same end: eliminating competitors for the remaining food. This would be a worldwide problem -- and could lead to a Third World War -- but Europe's vulnerability is particularly easy to analyze. The last abrupt cooling, the Younger Dryas, drastically altered Europe's climate as far east as Ukraine. Present-day Europe has more than 650 million people. It has excellent soils, and largely grows its own food. It could no longer do so if it lost the extra warming from the North Atlantic.

## Uniqueness

#### Farm bill extension will pass – rare but growing bipartisan support

**The Hill 7-19** (http://thehill.com/homenews/house/238927-house-republicans-pressure-gop-leaders-for-farm-bill-vote. Mike Lillis - 07/19/12. “GOP pressures Boehner on farm bill.” The Hill.)

More than three dozen House Republicans — including a member of the GOP leadership — have joined Democrats to press Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) to bring the farm bill to the floor this month. Behind Reps. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.), the bipartisan group of lawmakers says reauthorizing the bill, which expires Sept. 30, is necessary to ensure the nation's farmers "can continue to provide an abundant, affordable and safe food supply." They're also emphasizing the importance of food stamps in the down economy and arguing the bill’s farm subsidies will stimulate the economy. "Agriculture supports nearly 16 million jobs nationwide and over 45 million people are helped each year by the nutrition programs in the farm bill," the lawmakers wrote to Boehner, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (Md.). "We have a tremendous opportunity to set the course of farm and nutrition policy for another five years while continuing to maintain and support these jobs nationwide." The letter was signed by 24 Democrats and 38 Republicans, including Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), who is a member of GOP leadership as vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference. McMorris Rodgers was recently named presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney’s liaison to the House. Of the 38 Republicans on the letter, 16 are freshman members who were elected in the wave election of 2010. Their support is notable because opposition from that bloc of lawmakers has often made GOP leaders reluctant to bring legislation to the floor. In a rare show of bipartisanship, the Senate last month approved its version of the farm bill, and the House Agriculture Committee passed a separate proposal with a strong 35-11 vote last week. But, in a scenario reminiscent of the transportation bill debate, House GOP leaders are wary of bringing the bill to the floor for fear that more conservative members will revolt over the spending levels. A wild card in the debate is Boehner's historic distaste for farm subsidies. The Ohio Republican voted against the 2002 and 2008 farm bills, saying the subsidies distort free markets. Boehner's office deflected questions about the farm bill on Thursday, noting that Cantor's office sets the House schedule. "We appreciate the hard work of the chairman and the Ag Committee and will be discussing the committee's product with our members in the weeks ahead," Cantor's office told The Hill. Meanwhile, rural House members are warning that time is of the essence. "The message from our constituents and rural America is clear: we need a farm bill now," the lawmakers wrote. "We ask that you make this legislation a priority of the House as it is critically important to rural and urban Americans alike."

#### Farm bill extension will pass – growing bipartisan push – Ag Committee outcome proves

**Crawford 7-24** (Congressman Rick Crawford. "Vote Needed on House Farm Bill." Paragould Daily Press: Serving Greene County, Arkansas Opinion. N.p., july 24, 2012. Web. 26 July 2012. <http://www.paragoulddailypress.com/articles/2012/07/24/opinion/doc500dacfb3cf4d791500994.txt>.)

In a matter of weeks many current farm bill policies will expire. To protect farm families and Arkansas’s rural economy, Congress must work to complete a 2012 Farm Bill. This week I joined a bipartisan group of House members urging leadership to vote on the House Farm Bill before current legislation expires. For the better part of the last year the House Agriculture Committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft a fiscally responsible Farm Bill that will work for farm families across the country. Last week, Democrats and Republicans on the Agriculture Committee joined together to pass the Farm Bill out of committee. At a time when many Americans have lost faith in the ability of Congress to accomplish great things, the House Agriculture Committee is an example of what can be done when partisan politics are put aside in favor of sound policy. Now is the time for House leadership to acknowledge the role farm families play in our nation’s economy. The success story of Arkansas and American agriculture can continue if Congress acts to pass sound policies. The House Agriculture Committee has done its work and this week a bipartisan group of lawmakers are calling on our leaders to make time on the floor of the House to consider this legislation. We need a Farm Bill that has been debated, conferenced, and ultimately passed into law, before the current bill expires. As our economy works to recover, it is essential that Congress gives small businesses certainty in challenging economic times. Agriculture supports nearly 16 million jobs nationwide and thousands in Arkansas. Over 45 million people are helped each year by the nutrition programs in the Farm Bill. We have a tremendous opportunity to set the course of farm and nutrition policy for another five years while continuing to maintain and support these jobs nationwide. The message from my constituents and rural America is clear: we need a Farm Bill now. It is essential that Congress vote on a Farm Bill before the August District Work Period so that the House will have the opportunity to work its will. The Farm Bill needs to be a priority of the House as it is critically important to rural and urban Americans alike. ADVERTISEMENT I am hopeful the bill will then move to the House floor for final passage. Passing this bill will ensure that American farm families can continue producing the safest, most reliable and abundant supply of food on the planet.

## Top of Agenda

#### Top of agenda – bipartisan push to pass Farm Bill extension before the August recess

**Farm Futures 7-20** ("House Members Push for Farm Bill." Farm Futures. N.p., jul 20, 2012. Web. <http://farmfutures.com/story.aspx/house-members-push-farm-bill-floor-vote-17/61686>.)

As crops shrivel in the field and the deadline for the 2008 Farm Bill nears, there's concern on Capitol Hill that farmers may be facing next year with nothing more than an extension of the current bill. While the U.S. Senate has passed its version of the 2012 Farm Bill, the House has only gotten as far as pushing a finished bill out of its Ag Committee. This week a group of 62 representatives are pushing for more. In a letter sent to Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., urging them to bring the farm bill to the House floor for a vote before August. Led by Reps. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and Peter Welch, D-Vt., the bipartisan letter was signed by 62, all asking that the bill be taken up for consideration. STALLED: The House version of the farm bill is ready to go to the floor, but House leadership hasnt moved the measure forward. A bipartisan call for action went out this week.. Signed by 38 Republicans and 24 Democrats, the letter is the latest move to get something going in the House on the farm bill. In the letter, the group asks for action ahead of the August District Work Period "so that the House will have the opportunity to work its will. We ask that you make the legislation a priority of the House as it is critically important to rural and urban Americans alike." The House bill, which brings with it significant cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, an end to direct payments to farmers and other cost cuts, also ramps up crop insurance beyond what was included in the Senate version. And the House bill includes a new program to protect the dairy industry. Getting the bill to the House floor is a key move, because once passed a significant House-Senate conference committee negotiation will be needed to hammer out a final bill.

#### Top of agenda – bipartisan push to move on Farm Bill extension immediately

**AP 7-19** (Boston.com - Jul 19, 2012. Noem, Democratic colleague, urge farm bill. https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&gl=us&tbm=nws&q=farm+bill#q=farm+bill&hl=en&safe=active&gl=us&tbm=nws&psj=1&ei=P48RUMaACoGg8gTy4IHoDQ&start=120&sa=N&bav=on.2,or.r\_gc.r\_pw.r\_qf.,cf.osb&fp=d692fc1d4cc711ce&biw=1339&bih=678.)

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and a Democratic colleague have gathered more than 50 signatures from both parties urging House leaders to bring the farm bill to the floor. Noem and Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont in their letter are urging their parties' House leaders to bring the farm bill up before the August recess. They say that the House Agriculture Committee has done its work and ask that the legislation be debated, conferenced and passed into law before the current bill expires. Noem says passage is critical to ranchers who depend on livestock disaster programs that expired last year. She says the farm bill would also be retroactive so ranchers could report losses incurred this year and still receive assistance

## Obama Pushing

#### **Obama is pushing Farm Bill disaster extension**

The Huffington Post, 7/18/12 (“Administration Seeks Drought Help from Congress,” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20120718/us-obama-drought/)

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration called on Congress Wednesday to assist farmers suffering from the worst drought in 25 years. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said three-fifths of the U.S. land mass and much of the country's corn and soybean crops have been affected by the lack of rain.

Vilsack met with President Barack Obama Wednesday to discuss a response to the disaster. Vilsack said farmers need Congress to pass a five-year $500 billion farm and nutrition bill that is awaiting action in the House of Representatives or at least approve additional disaster programs or provide more flexibility in the availability of credit.

## Solves Drought

#### **Farm Bill extension key to relieving massive drought**

Fox, 7/27/12 (Lauren, US News and World Report, Congress Floats One-year Farm Bill Extension, http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/07/27/congress-floats-one-year-farm-bill-extension

To keep the peace, members of the House are mulling over a one-year extension of the current farm bill, which expires September 30, with added aid to go to livestock and fruit and vegetable farmers struck by the devastating Midwest drought that has caused plants to wilt and farmers to sell off large numbers of cattle they can no longer afford to feed.

Roughly 40 percent of the country's counties have been deemed agricultural disaster areas and there's no government relief in sight.

The 2008 farm bill authorized livestock disaster relief for only four years, and the money likewise has dried up.

"I do believe the House will address the livestock disaster program that in the last farm bill was only authorized for four years," Boehner said Thursday. But he stayed away from specifics.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, an Oklahoma Republican, was working to drum up support for a one-year extension of the current legislation Thursday, hoping to get something passed before legislators return home for the August recess, many to face constituents sweating out the results.

The Senate passed its own cost-cutting version of the farm bill with bipartisan report back in June. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat, signaled this week she'd be open to negotiating with House leaders, but warned against procrastinating on the legislation.

#### **Farm Bill extension key to solving the drought – livestock program funding**

Martin, 7/26/12 (Brent, Nebraska Network, Stalled Farm Bill Could Hold Up Drought Disaster Relief for Farmers, http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2012/07/26/stalled-farm-bill-could-hold-up-drought-disaster-relief-for-farmers/

A stalled Farm Bill could hold the key to helping Nebraska farmers and ranchers offset losses due to the lingering drought.

Sen. Ben Nelson harshly criticized Republican leaders in the House of Representatives for failing to bring the Farm Bill to the House floor for debate during his conference call with Nebraska reporters this week. The House Agriculture Committee approved the bill on an overwhelming and bi-partisan vote.

Nelson, a Democrat, pointed out disaster assistance that could be used to help farmers and livestock producers offset losses expired last year.

“So, right now there’s a lack of disaster aid to help Nebraska’s ranchers recover from what they’re losing to these fires and even the drought, because the House of Representatives hasn’t passed its Farm Bill,” Nelson stated.

Nelson accused House Republicans of being more interested in sending political messages than in passing needed legislation.

“It’s an easy case to make,” according to Nelson. “Nebraska needs this Farm Bill now and the House needs to stop playing political games while our state is burning,”

Though Sen. Mike Johanns declined to be critical of his fellow Republicans in the House, he acknowledged that Congress needs to re-authorize agricultural disaster relief programs.

“We need to get that fixed,” Johanns told Nebraska reporters during his conference call. “I’m ready to do whatever work is necessary on the Senate side. We need the House to take action on that. There isn’t any reason why that can’t be done.”

Johanns said that if the House won’t act on the bill, perhaps there is another route that can be pursued.

“One way of doing this would be to simply make sure through a separate piece of legislation or amendment, something of that nature, make sure that those programs are funded so when people need that assistance, the funding is available,” Johanns said.

Johanns acknowledged the stalemate over the Farm Bill has put federal agriculture disaster aid in limbo.

“There are livestock programs that would help with the drought that were not funded for this year,” according to Johanns. “So, here we have this historic drought, we’re likely to have livestock losses, have had livestock losses already, and we’ve got to somehow figure out where that funding comes from.”

Nelson said Nebraskans are tough, but they could use some help.

“We’ll get through these fires and drought one way or another, but clearly it would certainly be a lot easier with those protections from the Farm Bill.”

## U.S. Agriculture Key

#### U.S. agriculture is key globally – we produce much of the world’s grain

Pappas, 7/25/12 (Stephanie, LiveScience, “Ongoing Dought Hits Crops Hard,” <http://www.livescience.com/21845-ongoing-drought-crop-prices.html>)

Sixty-three percent of the area of the lower 48 U.S. states is in [moderate to exceptional drought](http://www.livescience.com/21681-drought-us-disaster.html), Cullen said, but the weather and agriculture story is really a global one. Low rainfall in Australia, a late, weak monsoon in India, heat waves in Europe and a La Niña drought in Brazil have all impacted growing seasons, she said.

U.S. agriculture is important globally, because America produces much of the world's grain. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States produced 10 billion of the world's 23 billion bushels of corn in 2000. The U.S. produces 13 percent of the world's wheat and more than 50 percent of its soybeans. A combination of factors has led to what climatologists and meteorologists call a "flash drought" in much of the United States, including the agricultural center of the Corn Belt, Cullen said. [[Worst Droughts in U.S. History](http://www.livescience.com/21844-worst-droughts-in-u-s-history.html)]

La Niña, a climate pattern that pushes storm tracks north, set up this southern drought with dry conditions, Cullen said. Oppressively hot conditions in June and July followed, breaking records and sealing the deal for drought.

"Large portions of the Corn Belt need at least a foot of rain to effectively end the drought," Cullen said.

## **Senate Passed Farm Bill Extension**

#### **Senate has already passed the Farm Bill disaster extension**

Abrams, 7/22/12 (Jim, Republican House Leaders Wary of Divisive Farm Bill Postal Service Showdowns Before Election, http://www.newser.com/article/da062oq00/republican-house-leaders-wary-of-divisive-farm-bill-postal-service-showdowns-before-election.html)

The Senate passed its version of the farm bill last month, a five-year, $500 billion package that makes fundamental changes to federal safety net programs, including eliminating direct payments to farmers who don't plant anything. It also reauthorizes an expired livestock disaster assistance program. Lucas' committee, by a strong bipartisan vote, has approved similar legislation. The House bill would cut $35 billion from the deficit over 10 years, compared with $23 billion in the Senate bill.

## Disaster Extension Distinct From Farm Bill

#### Short-term disaster extension is distinct – the House Farm bill has been side-tracked because of GOP opposition

Abbott, 7/27/12 – (Charles, Reuters, “House Speaker Pledges Action on Drought Aid,” http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/26/us-usa-agriculture-idINBRE86O1T520120726)

"If the House intends to send us a bill that will be used to negotiate the farm bill during August, I am open to that approach," said Stabenow. She said a short-term extension of current law is a bad idea.

The House may vote on "programs related to disaster assistance under the expiring farm bill legislation" at the middle or end of next week, said Eric Cantor, the No 2 Republican in the House, in setting the agenda for floor action. The House will recess until Sept 10 at the end of next week.

Cantor declined to say when the House would vote on a new five-year farm law that would cost nearly $500 billion, most of it for food stamps for the poor. Republican leaders have side-tracked the House farm bill, which has so much opposition it probably would be defeated if put to a vote.

Steny Hoyer, the assistant Democratic leader in the House, said "Republicans could not get their act together," so they were sitting on the farm bill. Some Tea Party-influenced Republicans want deeper cuts in the farm bill, which proposes the deepest cut in food stamps since the 1990s.

Lawmakers resorted to six short-term extensions of farm law before the 2008 law was completed, one year later than intended.

Major farm groups prefer passage of a five-year farm bill this year rather than an extension of the current law. Pressure for budget cuts are expected to increase in the new year.

## AT Food Stamp Opposition

#### Farm Bill extension avoids the fight over food stamps

Abbott, 7/27/12 – (Charles, Reuters, “House Speaker Pledges Action on Drought Aid,” http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/26/us-usa-agriculture-idINBRE86O1T520120726)

An extension would wipe out reforms approved by the Senate in farm subsidies and crop insurance, but avert a fight over cutting food stamps while unemployment rates are high. One of the major reforms in the House and Senate farm bills is elimination of the $5 billion a year "direct payment" subsidy paid to cotton, grain and soybeans growers regardless of need.

## **Impacts**

###  Biofuels/Oil Dependence

#### High corn prices collapses ethanol markets

**Charles 7/19**

(Daniel, Writer for NHPR, “As Drought Kills Corn, Farmers Fight Over Ethanol”, http://www.nhpr.org/post/drought-kills-corn-farmers-fight-over-ethanol//HH)

There are two reasons. The first is the drought that's killing corn and soybean fields across the Midwest, sending feed prices are soaring and fraying the nerves of livestock producers, who are wondering whether they'll even manage to stay in business. The second reason is ethanol. Farmers who raise America's cattle, hogs, and chickens never appreciated Washington's infatuation with biofuels — especially ethanol that's produced from corn. After all, when the government nudges more corn toward ethanol factories, it means that there's less available for animals. Last year, in fact, 40 percent of the country's corn harvest went to ethanol production. In good years, when corn is plentiful and prices stay low, no one complains too much. In bad years, though .... well, this morning, a coalition of groups representing America's livestock and chicken farmers delivered an angry attack on the "Renewable Fuel Standard," which requires gasoline companies to buy a minimum amount of ethanol — 13 billion gallons this year — and blend it into gasoline supplies. The groups released a new study that argues that this ethanol mandate does very little good: It increases the cost of gasoline and makes the country no less dependent on energy imports. Even worse, the meat producers say, it creates unfair competition for corn. The mandate forces gasoline companies to buy billions of gallons of ethanol that they don't even want, driving corn prices through the ceiling and potentially forcing livestock producers into bankruptcy. Of course, corn farmers see nothing at all wrong with soaring prices and a guaranteed market for their harvest. Gary Niemeyer, president of the National Corn Growers Association immediately came to the defense of ethanol mandates. "Now is not the time for changes. It's working," he wrote in a statement to the press. "Now more than ever, U.S. agriculture needs to pull together." The Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the renewable fuel program, could step in and reduce the amount of ethanol that gasoline companies are required to blend into fuel this year. But Wallace Tyner, an expert on ethanol markets at Purdue University, says that's extremely unlikely, and wouldn't have much effect anyway. Gasoline companies are well on their way to fulfilling their requirements for 2012 already. The real battle, he says, will be fought over ethanol production next year. If the drought continues, and corn prices rise even more, gasoline companies won't want to buy that expensive ethanol, and livestock producers will be fighting for their survival. And the EPA will face intense pressures to cut the safety net for ethanol producers. It is expected to announce its ethanol requirements for 2013 in November.

#### Biofuels are key to solves oil dependence and competitiveness

**Targeted News Service 7/25**

(Targeted News Service; “Agriculture and Energy Departments Announce New Investments to Drive Innovations in Biofuels and Biobased Products” <http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2012-07-26&val=311745&cat=material>//HH)

WASHINGTON, July 25 -- The U.S. D**epartment of** A**griculture issued the following news release:** As part of the Obama Administration's all-of-the-above strategy to enhance U.S. energy security, reduce America's reliance on imported oil and leverage our domestic energy supply, while also supporting rural economies, **the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Energy today** announceda **$41 million** investment **in 13 projects** that will drive more efficient biofuels production and feedstock improvements. "If we want to develop affordable alternatives for oil and gasoline that will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we need investments like these projects to spur innovation in bioenergy," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "By producing energy more efficiently and sustainably, we can create rural jobs, boost rural economies and help U.S. farmers, ranchers and foresters prosper." "As part of President Obama's all-of-the-above strategy to deploy every available source of American energy, we continue to strive for more efficient, cost-competitive technologies to produce U.S. energy," said Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The investments announced today are helping to accelerate innovation across America's growing biofuels industry, which will help to reduce our dependence on imported oil and support job creation across rural America." New Biomass Research and Development Initiative Investments Through the joint Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI), USDA and the Energy Department are working to develop economically and environmentally sustainable sources of renewable biomass and increase the availability of renewable fuels and biobased products. The five projects announced today will help to diversify the nation's energy portfolio and replace the need for gasoline and diesel in vehicles**.**

### Ag Industry Exports/Collapse

#### Drought is increasing export and shipping costs – and will only get worse

**Commercial Appeal 7/20**

(Commercial Appeal, “U.S. says drought worsening across nation”http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/jul/20/us-says-drought-worsening-across-nation//HH)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The drought that has settled over more than half of the continental United States this summer is the most widespread in more than half a century. And it is likely to grow worse. The latest outlook released by the National Weather Service on Thursday forecast increasingly dry conditions over much of the nation's breadbasket, a development that could lead to higher food prices and shipping costs as well as reduced revenues in areas that count on summer tourism. About the only relief in sight was tropical activity in the Gulf of Mexico and the Southeast that could bring rain to parts of the South. The unsettling prospects come at a time of growing uncertainty for the country's economy. With evidence mounting of a slowdown in the recovery from the recession, this new blow from Mother Nature is particularly ill-timed. Some farmers are watching their cash crops burn to the point of no return. Others have been cutting their corn early to use for feed, a much less profitable venture. "It really is a crisis. I don't think we've ever seen anything like this in my lifetime," said Gov. Pat Quinn of Illinois, after touring ravaged farms in the southern part of the state. The government has declared one-third of the nation's counties — 1,297 of them across 29 states — federal disaster areas as a result of the drought, which will allow farmers to apply for low-interest loans to get them through the disappointing growing season**. "**It's got the potential to be the worst drought we've ever had **in** Arkansas," said Butch Calhoun, the state's secretary of agriculture. "It's going to be very detrimental to our economy." What is particularly striking about this dry spell is its breadth. Fifty-five percent of the continental United States — from California to Arkansas, Texas to North Dakota — is under moderate to extreme drought, according to the government, the largest such area since December 1956. An analysis released Thursday by the U.S. Drought Monitor showed that 88 percent of corn and 87 percent of soybean crops in the country were in drought-stricken regions, a 10 percent jump from a week before. Corn and soybean prices reached record highs **Thursday, with corn closing just over $8.07 a bushel and soybeans trading as high as $17.49. "**We're expecting significant reductions in production potential yield, potential for corn and soybeans in particular**,"** said Brad Rippey, a meteorologist with the Agriculture Department. The impact of this drought has extended beyond farming. In Missouri, the **torrid c**onditions have sparked forest fires that resemble the types of wildfires seen in the West. **Already, 117 wildfires have burned in Missouri's Mark Twain National Forest, a record-setting pace. Conditions have been so dry that there was a report of hay in a barn combusting on its own. Meanwhile,** water levels are falling in town reservoirs as well as major waterways like the Mississippi and Ohio rivers**.** Barge and towboat operators have been reducing the size of their loads because of the low water**, said Ann McCulloch, a spokeswoman for the American Waterways Operators. This means shippi**ng operators, who transport a variety of goods from crops to gravel, have had to take more trips, increasing transportation costs that could be passed on to consumers.

Drought increasing ag export costs

Glendale 7/19

(Gloria, Writer for TCSM; “Historic US drought: potential global impact for food and water needs”, http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/historic-us-drought-potential-global-impact-food-and-water-needs//HH)

As the historic drought now searing more than 60 percent of the US drags on, the impact could soon be sweeping across the country and beyond. After the obvious push on food prices, drought experts say the cascading chain of secondary societal effects will range from higher utility prices and industry costs in the developed world to population displacements and potential political unrest in less developed regions. “The US will see food prices go up, possibly we will see some items disappear from grocery shelves,” says Frank Galgano, chair of the Department of Geography and the Environment at Villanova University in Philadelphia, and an expert on environmental change and security. SEE ALSO: Beating the summer heat “You will start to see more foreclosures in the farm belt as farmers and ranchers can’t pay their bills,” he says. “Those guys mortgage themselves to the hilt for their seeds and equipment, and if the crop doesn’t come in they are in trouble.”

### World Economy

**Drought affects all sector of the economy**

Glendale 7/19

(Gloria, Writer for TCSM; “Historic US drought: potential global impact for food and water needs”, http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/historic-us-drought-potential-global-impact-food-and-water-needs//HH)

On a global level, Professor Galgano points out that the US is the breadbasket for the world. The United Nations estimates that global food demand has risen 21 percent over the past decade. In the past month alone, the price of corn has risen 34 percent as a result of the US crop losses. “We supply food to other parts of the world,” he says, noting that this allows many countries in arid areas such as Africa and the Mideast to use more fresh water for other civic needs. “This includes drinking water, so if food becomes more expensive and shorter in supply, water stress in those areas becomes more aggressive.” “The governments must take more water for agriculture and less for civic needs. That is the global effect of drought in the US,” he says. While many are quick to link this current drought system to long-term climate change, scientists at the heart of drought research suggest it is, at minimum, a wake-up call. “Drought eventually can hit all sectors of the economy**,” points out Brian Fuchs of the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln**. Drought is a part of the planet’s natural history, he says, pointing to tree rings that document devastating droughts in prehistoric times that displaced entire populations. Droughts will always be with us, he notes. High-profile events such as the drought now covering more than 1,000 US counties highlight the need for better monitoring, preparedness, and mitigation, says Chad McNutt, of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) in Boulder, Colo. “There is a gap in how states are dealing with water supply issues, and they are all learning in real-time how to deal with them,” he says, pointing to such anecdotes as a Texas town that connected a fire truck pumping machine to a fire hydrant to supply field and drinking water.

#### **Economic decline triggers nuclear war**

Harris and Burrows 9 (Mathew, PhD European History at Cambridge, counselor in the National Intelligence Council (NIC) and Jennifer, member of the NIC’s Long Range Analysis Unit “Revisiting the Future: Geopolitical Effects of the Financial Crisis” <http://www.ciaonet.org/journals/twq/v32i2/f_0016178_13952.pdf>, AM)

Increased Potential for Global Conflict Of course, the report encompasses more than economics and indeed believes the future is likely to be the result of a number of intersecting and interlocking forces. With so many possible permutations of outcomes, each with ample Revisiting the Future opportunity for unintended consequences, there is a growing sense of insecurity. Even so, history may be more instructive than ever. While we continue to believe that the Great Depression is not likely to be repeated, the lessons to be drawn from that period include the harmful effects on fledgling democracies and multiethnic societies (think Central Europe in 1920s and 1930s) and on the sustainability of multilateral institutions (think League of Nations in the same period). There is no reason to think that this would not be true in the twenty-first as much as in the twentieth century. For that reason, the ways in which the potential for greater conflict could grow would seem to be even more apt in a constantly volatile economic environment as they would be if change would be steadier. In surveying those risks, the report stressed the likelihood that terrorism and nonproliferation will remain priorities even as resource issues move up on the international agenda. Terrorism’s appeal will decline if economic growth continues in the Middle East and youth unemployment is reduced. For those terrorist groups that remain active in 2025, however, the diffusion of technologies and scientific knowledge will place some of the world’s most dangerous capabilities within their reach. Terrorist groups in 2025 will likely be a combination of descendants of long established groups\_inheriting organizational structures, command and control processes, and training procedures necessary to conduct sophisticated attacks\_and newly emergent collections of the angry and disenfranchised that become self-radicalized, particularly in the absence of economic outlets that would become narrower in an economic downturn. The most dangerous casualty of any economically-induced drawdown of U.S. military presence would almost certainly be the Middle East. Although Iran’s acquisition of nuclear weapons is not inevitable, worries about a nuclear-armed Iran could lead states in the region to develop new security arrangements with external powers, acquire additional weapons, and consider pursuing their own nuclear ambitions. It is not clear that the type of stable deterrent relationship that existed between the great powers for most of the Cold War would emerge naturally in the Middle East with a nuclear Iran. Episodes of low intensity conflict and terrorism taking place under a nuclear umbrella could lead to an **unintended escalation** and broader conflict if clear red lines between those states involved are not well established. The close proximity of potential nuclear rivals combined with underdeveloped surveillance capabilities and mobile dual-capable Iranian missile systems also will produce inherent difficulties in achieving reliable indications and warning of an impending nuclear attack. The lack of strategic depth in neighboring states like Israel, short warning and missile flight times, and uncertainty of Iranian intentions may place more focus on preemption rather than defense, potentially leading to **escalating** **crises**. 36 Types of conflict that the world continues to experience, such as over resources, could reemerge, particularly if protectionism grows and there is a resort to neo-mercantilist practices. Perceptions of renewed energy scarcity will drive countries to take actions to assure their future access to energy supplies. In the worst case, this could result in interstate conflicts if government leaders deem assured access to energy resources, for example, to be essential for maintaining domestic stability and the survival of their regime. Even actions short of war, however, will have important geopolitical implications. Maritime security concerns are providing a rationale for naval buildups and modernization efforts, such as China’s and India’s development of blue water naval capabilities. If the fiscal stimulus focus for these countries indeed turns inward, one of the most obvious funding targets may be military. Buildup of regional naval capabilities could lead to increased tensions, rivalries, and counterbalancing moves, but it also will create opportunities for multinational cooperation in protecting critical sea lanes. With water also becoming scarcer in Asia and the Middle East, cooperation to manage changing water resources is likely to be increasingly difficult both within and between states in a more dog-eat-dog world.

### Chinese Economy

#### High food prices collapse Chinese economic growth

**Carlson 7/26**

(Benjamin, Writer for Global Post; “US agricultural exports become costly amid drought”, http://www.salon.com/2012/07/26/us\_agricultural\_exports\_to\_china\_become\_costly\_in\_times\_of\_drought\_salpart//HH)

HONG KONG, China — As the world’s largest importer of American agricultural products, China stands to get walloped by the drought that is ravaging US croplands. With the worst dry spell in 50 years threatening to kill corn and soybean crops across a wide swath of the Midwest, driving food prices to record highs, Chinese officials are bracing for a shock that could complicate plans to revive the economy this year. In 2011, China imported $20 billion worth of soybeans, corn, cotton and hides from US farmers, surpassing Canada for the first time. China is particularly dependent on soybeans, which have become a crucial feed crop for the country’s massive pig farms. As more Chinese can afford to eat meat more regularly, pork consumption has skyrocketed. More than half of the world’s pork is now produced and consumed within China. Corn imports are also important, with China purchasing more from the US than any country but Japan. Next year, it is expected to buy 5 million tons of American corn. But analysts don’t expect the prices to come down anytime soon. A bullish run on soybean futures has driven up the cost to $15.29 per bushel for November delivery. Corn also reached a new high last week. All this constrains Beijing’s ability to fix its economy. If rising food prices boost inflation, the government would have less room to increase the money supply and fuel growth — a key concern given that the economy has been slowing all year. Already, analysts are predicting that ordinary Chinese could feel some sticker shock when they go to the butcher. Zhang Zhiwei at Nomura says that the “sharp rise of global agricultural prices will likely push up pork prices in China,” according to the Financial Times. Food processors, including one of the largest instant-noodle manufacturers, are bracing for lower margins due to increased costs. Still, a few factors make analysts hopeful that China, despite its reliance on US imports, will survive the drought relatively unscathed. First, though China buys a lot of US agricultural products, it is nearly self-sufficient in terms of basic food staples, such as rice and wheat. This is no accident: famine and food shortages have repeatedly led to unrest throughout China’s history, not least in the disastrous Great Leap Forward that killed roughly 20 million between 1958 and 1961. As a result, the government has deliberately sought to cultivate domestic food supplies, and minimize dependence on the global market.

#### China economic decline causes global depression, Taiwanese invasion, and backsliding into authoritarianism

**Lewis 7 –** Director of the Economic Research Council – [Dan, “The Nightmare of a Chinese Economic Collapse,” World Finance, 4-19-07, http://www.worldfinance.com/news/137/ARTICLE/1144/2007-04-19.html] // LDK

According to Professor David B. Smith, one of the City’s most accurate and respected economists in recent years, potentially far more serious though is the impact that Chinese monetary policy could have on many Western nations such as the UK. Quite simply, China’s undervalued currency has enabled Western governments to maintain artificially strong currencies, reduce inflation and keep interest rates lower than they might otherwise be. We should therefore be very worried about how vulnerable Western economic growth is to an upward revaluation of the Chinese yen. Should that revaluation happen to appease China’s rural poor, at a stroke, the dollar, sterling and the euro would quickly depreciate, rates in those currencies would have to rise substantially and the yield on government bonds would follow suit. This would add greatly to the debt servicing cost of budget deficits in the USA, the UK and much of Euro land. A reduction in demand for imported Chinese goods would quickly entail a decline in China’s economic growth rate. That is alarming. It has been calculated that to keep China’s society stable – ie to manage the transition from a rural to an urban society without devastating unemployment - the minimum growth rate is 7.2 percent. Anything less than that and unemployment will rise and the massive shift in population from the country to the cities becomes unsustainable. This is when real discontent with communist party rule becomes vocal and hard to ignore. It doesn’t end there. That will at best bring a global recession. The crucial point is that communist authoritarian states have at least had some success in keeping a lid on ethnic tensions – so far. But when multi-ethnic communist countries fall apart from economic stress and the implosion of central power, history suggests that they don’t become successful democracies overnight. Far from it. There’s a very real chance that China might go the way of Yugoloslavia or the Soviet Union – chaos, civil unrest and internecine war. In the very worst case scenario, a Chinese government might seek to maintain national cohesion by going to war with Taiwan – whom America is pledged to defend. Today, people are looking at Chang’s book again. Contrary to popular belief, foreign investment has actually deferred political reform in the world’s oldest nation. China today is now far further from democracy than at any time since the Tianneman Square massacres in 1989. Chang’s pessimistic forecast for China was probably wrong. But my fear is there is at least a chance he was just early.

###  Food Prices

#### **Even small blips in food prices kill at least 1 billion people**

Tampa Tribune, **’96 (January 1)**

On a global scale, food supplies - measured by stockpiles of grain - are not abundant. In 1995, world production failed to meet demand for the third consecutive year, said Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. As a result, grain stockpiles fell from an average of 17 percent of annual consumption in 1994-1995 to 13 percent at the end of the 1995-1996 season, he said. That's troubling, Pinstrup-Andersen noted, since 13 percent is well below the 17 percent the United Nations considers essential to provide a margin of safety in world food security. During the food crisis of the early 1970s, world grain stocks were at 15 percent. "Even if they are merely blips, higher international prices can hurt poor countries that import a significant portion of their food," he said. "Rising prices can also quickly put food out of reach of the 1.1 billion people in the developing world who live on a dollar a day or less." He also said many people in low-income countries already spend more than half of their income on food.

#### Rising food prices leads to global contagion and extinction

Hume ’08 (Stephen, Vancouver Sun, “World Food Crisis Threatens Rich Nations (That’s Us), Too,” <http://miami.indymedia.org/news/2008/04/10852.php>)

In Rome, Reuters reported Jacques Diouf, head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Oganization, warning that with 37 countries already in crisis, each day brings greater risk of global famine. "I'm surprised that I have not been summoned to the UN Security Council," Diouf said. "Naturally people won't be sitting dying of starvation, they will react." India's finance minister was more direct. "It is becoming starker by the day," Palaniappan Chidambaram said. "Unless we act fast for a global consensus on the price spiral, the social unrest induced by food prices in several countries will conflagrate into a global contagion, leaving no country -- developed or otherwise -- unscathed."

### Water Shortage

#### Rise in global food prices leads to water shortages

Glendale 7/19

(Gloria, Writer for TCSM; “Historic US drought: potential global impact for food and water needs”, http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/historic-us-drought-potential-global-impact-food-and-water-needs//HH)

On a global level, Professor Galgano points out that the US is the breadbasket for the world. The United Nations estimates that global food demand has risen 21 percent over the past decade. In the past month alone, the price of corn has risen 34 percent as a result of the US crop losses. “We supply food to other parts of the world,” he says, noting that this allows many countries in arid areas such as Africa and the Mideast to use more fresh water for other civic needs. “This includes drinking water, so if food becomes more expensive and shorter in supply, water stress in those areas becomes more aggressive.” “The governments must take more water for agriculture and less for civic needs. That is the global effect of drought in the US,” he says. While many are quick to link this current drought system to long-term climate change, scientists at the heart of drought research suggest it is, at minimum, a wake-up call. “Drought eventually can hit all sectors of the economy**,” points out Brian Fuchs of the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln**. Drought is a part of the planet’s natural history, he says, pointing to tree rings that document devastating droughts in prehistoric times that displaced entire populations. Droughts will always be with us, he notes. High-profile events such as the drought now covering more than 1,000 US counties highlight the need for better monitoring, preparedness, and mitigation, says Chad McNutt, of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) in Boulder, Colo. “There is a gap in how states are dealing with water supply issues, and they are all learning in real-time how to deal with them,” he says, pointing to such anecdotes as a Texas town that connected a fire truck pumping machine to a fire hydrant to supply field and drinking water.

####  Water wars lead to 60,000 nuclear warheads being released

Weiner, ’90 - Professor Princeton (The Next 100 Years, p. 270)

If we do not destroy ourselves with the A-bomb and the H-bomb, then we may destroy ourselves with the C-bomb, the Change Bomb. And in a world as interlinked as ours, one explosion may lead to the other. Already in the Middle East, tram North Africa to the Persian Gulf and from the Nile to the Euphrates, tensions over dwindling water supplies and rising populations are reaching what many experts describe as a flashpoint A climate shift in that single battle-scarred nexus might trigger international tensions that will unleash some at the 60.000 nuclear warheads the world has stockpiled since Trinity.

#### Collapsing global water supply causes extinction – massive global warming, loss of biodiversity

**Marlow, ‘01 -** National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and IFG Committee on the Globalization of Water (Maude, Spring, “BLUE GOLD: The Global Water Crisis and the Commodification of the World's Water Supply,” http://www.ratical.org/co-globalize/BlueGold.pdf)

Perhaps the most devastating analysis of the global water crisis comes from hydrological engineer Michal Kravèík and his team of scientists at the Slovakia non-governmental organization (NGO) People and Water. Kravèík, who has a distinguished career with the Slovak Academy of Sciences, has studied the effect of urbanization, industrial agriculture, deforestation, dam construction, and infrastructure and paving on water systems in Slovakia and surrounding countries and has come up with an alarming finding. Destroying water's natural habitat not only creates a supply crisis for people and animals, it also dramatically diminishes the amount of available fresh water on the planet. Kravèík describes the hydrologic cycle of a drop of water. It must first evaporate from a plant, earth surface, swamp, river, lake or the sea, then fall back down to earth as precipitation. If the drop of water falls back onto a forest, lake, blade of grass, meadow or field, it cooperates with nature to return to the hydrologic cycle. "Right of domicile of a drop is one of the basic rights, a more serious right than human rights," says Kravèík. However, if the earth's surface is paved over, denuded of forests and meadows, and drained of natural springs and creeks, the drop will not form part of river basins and continental watersheds, where it is needed by people and animals, but head out to sea, where it will be stored. It is like rain falling onto a huge roof, or umbrella; everything underneath stays dry and the water runs off to the perimeter. The consequent reduction in continental water basins results in reduced water evaporation from the earth's surface, and becomes a net loss, while the seas begin to rise. In Slovakia, the scientists found, for every 1 percent of roofing, paving, car parks and highways constructed, water supplies decrease in volume by more than 100 billion meters per year. Kravèík issues a dire warning about the growing number of what he calls the earth's "hot stains"—places already drained of water. The "drying out" of the earth will cause massive global warming, with the attendant extremes in weather: drought, decreased protection from the atmosphere, increased solar radiation, decreased biodiversity, melting of the polar icecaps, submersion of vast territories, massive continental desertification and, eventually, "global collapse."

## Aff Answers

#### Won’t pass – Tea Party and political climate

Laws, 7/24/12 (Forrest Delta Farm Press, “What Are We Waiting For on the Next Farm Bill. Christmas?” http://deltafarmpress.com/blog/what-are-we-waiting-next-farm-bill-christmas

A group of congressmen have written House Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor urging them to schedule a vote on H.R. 6083, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012. That's the official name of the farm bill the House Agriculture Committee reported out by a vote of 35-11 a few days ago.

While half of the nation's corn and soybean crops are burning up from the worst drought conditions in 25 years, and cotton and rice farmers are facing a reduced harvest and low price prospects, House leaders appear to be stalling, trying to avoid a floor vote on the legislation that some say would pit Republican "traditionalists" against Tea Party members.

[Rep. Lucas vows to do all he can to complete farm bill](http://deltafarmpress.com/government/rep-lucas-vows-do-all-he-can-complete-farm-bill-0)

[House leadership lambasted for farm bill intransigence](http://deltafarmpress.com/government/house-leadership-lambasted-farm-bill-intransigence-0)

Democratic members of the Agriculture Committee, including the committee's ranking member and former chairman, Collin Peterson, have ridiculed Boehner and Cantor, noting that they had time to schedule yet another vote -- the 33rd -- on the repeal of the Affordable Health Care Act, but won't take time to debate legislation that could make the difference for the nation's farmers when they begin counting their receipts this fall.

Some have said the vote is not important, that Congress can simply vote to extend the 2008 farm bill before it's scheduled expiration on Sept. 30. The facts are that some important disaster assistance programs have already expired and won't be renewed until a new farm bill passes or Congress votes to reauthorize funding for them. The chances of Congress doing the latter in the current political climate are nil.

#### Won’t pass – Congress rarely meets deadlines with farm legislation

Associated Press, 7/13/12 (CBS News, “Experts Say Farm Bill Push Might Be Futile,” http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245\_162-57472025/experts-say-farm-bill-push-might-be-futile-effort/

Ed Schafer, the former North Dakota governor who served as U.S. agriculture secretary near the end of the George W. Bush administration, said Congress has rarely met deadlines for farm legislation. He doesn't see it happening this time.

"I don't think they've ever done a farm bill in Congress at the appropriate time," Schafer said. "I suspect that this year, in an election year especially, we won't see a farm bill."

Dwight Aakre, a farm management specialist with the NDSU Extension Service, said the approval of a bill Thursday by the House Agriculture Committee surprised him, but he still believes that meeting the September deadline is a "big hurdle." Either way, he doesn't understand the urgency.

#### No urgency - farmers don’t need to know about the Bill to plan for next year

Associated Press, 7/13/12 (CBS News, “Experts Say Farm Bill Push Might Be Futile,” http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245\_162-57472025/experts-say-farm-bill-push-might-be-futile-effort/

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"Nothing really changes for producers," Aakre said. "There is way too much made of the idea that farmers need to know what the farm bill is in order to plan for next year. That's just not true."

#### Won’t pass - Extension will get tied up with the rest of the Farm Bill

Abbott, 7/27/12 (Charles, “Drought Bill May Carry Mammoth Farm Bill into Law,” http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/Drought-bill-may-carry-mammoth-farm-bill-into-law--163965486.html?ref=486)

A comparatively low-priced disaster bill for livestock producers hit by the worst drought since 1956 may be the ticket to passage for a $500 billion farm bill now in limbo in Congress.

Republican leaders in the House of Representatives scheduled a potential vote for next week on disaster relief. Farm and environmental lobbyists said the vote could create a path to enacting the farm bill, although there was no agreement among House Republicans on the scope of the legislation.

#### Extension won’t pass as stand-alone bill – Republicans want subsidy reform

Abbott, 7/27/12 (Charles, Reuters, “Drought Bill May Carry Mammoth Farm Bill into Law,” http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/Drought-bill-may-carry-mammoth-farm-bill-into-law--163965486.html?ref=486)

While a stand-alone disaster bill was possible, some farm lobbyists said disaster aid could be wrapped into a one-year extension of the 2008 farm law, which expires on Sept. 30.

In either case, it could open the door for a House-Senate compromise on farm subsidy reform and enactment of a long-term bill this year, said lobbyists.

Senate Agriculture Committee chairwoman Debbie Stabenow said she was willing to make a legislative sprint to complete a farm bill in the coming weeks. The Senate has passed a bill to cut spending by $23 billion and replace almost all traditional farm subsidies with a new approach that protects farmer revenue against poor yields and low prices.

"If the House intends to send us a bill that will be used to negotiate the Farm Bill during August, I am open to that approach," said Stabenow. She said a short-term extension of current law is a bad idea that would wipe out farm reform.