



Congressman Schrader's 2014 Farm Bill Accomplishments

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

- \$745 million over 10 years
 - Designates \$125 million for citrus disease research through Fiscal Year 2018.
- SCRI is a competitive grant program that funds specialty crop research and extension projects conducted by federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State agricultural experiment stations, and individuals.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

- Provides \$270 million in mandatory funding for the program and explicitly permits multi-state projects for the first time. This is a \$38 million increase over the \$232 million included in the 2008 Farm Bill.
- The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program provides grants annually to assist State Departments of Agriculture in enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops).

Organic Research and Extension Initiative

- Funded at \$20 million annually for a total of \$100 million over the five-year authorization, which will help fund land grant institutions and other government-funded research programs for improving organic farm practices and developing new seed varieties for organic farming.

Organic Check-Off

- Gives organic producers and processors the opportunity to institute an industry-funded USDA research and promotion program.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

- Funded at \$11.5 million annually for a total of \$57.5 million over the five-year authorization. This is a \$34.5 million increase over the \$22 million included in the 2008 Farm Bill.

- This program helps new organic farmers defray the costs associated with becoming certified.

Organic Data Initiative

- Funded at \$5 million, which is the same level mandated in the previous Farm Bill.
- Provides for the collection and distribution of market data about organic agriculture in the United States, such as imports and exports, wholesale prices, and consumer trends.

National Organic Program

- Authorizes funding up to \$15 million annually to enforce organic standards. This is an \$8 million annual increase from the \$7 million annual authorization in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Forest Roads

- A provision was included that helps preserve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 38-year policy of managing silviculture using state-derived Best Management Practices under the Clean Water Act
 - The language permanently bars permits and citizen suits for forest roads and silviculture activities under the EPA's stormwater program.
 - The language prevents citizen lawsuits which challenge compliance with any EPA measures that apply to forest roads or silviculture activities.

Biobased Markets Program/Forest Products

- Important changes were made to USDA's biobased program which will increase market opportunities for forest products.
- H.R. 979 – The Forest Product Fairness Act, which Congressman Schrader is the lead Democratic cosponsor of, was included in the 2014 Farm Bill, along with language encouraging innovation in the growing, harvesting, transporting and manufacturing of forest products.

Christmas Tree Check Off Program

- The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is required, within 60 days of passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, to lift the administrative stay imposed by the rule establishing an industry-funded promotion, research and information program for fresh cut Christmas trees.