

California Gets Short Shrift in the Farm Bill

Despite being home to 12 percent of the nation's population and generating 12 percent of the country's agricultural output, the state receives less than 5 percent of farm bill expenditures. In some areas, such as conservation, California receives just 2.5 percent of national farm bill funding. The available funding falls substantially short of meeting the state's significant agriculture-related environmental challenges, with 66 percent of eligible farmers (more than 4,000 of them) being turned away in 2009 for cost-share funding to implement practices that would improve the state's water, soil and air quality.

Major Farm Bill Program Spending US and California 2008-2010 (in millions)

	Nutrition Programs	Crop Insurance	Commodity Subsidies	Conservation Programs	Research	Disaster Subsidies
2008						
US	\$38,578	\$6,788	\$6,209	\$4,724	\$1,921	\$2,064
CA	\$3,652	\$191	\$256	\$105	\$132	\$87
% total	9.5%	2.8%	4.1%	2.2%	6.9%	4.2%
2009						
US	\$50,656	\$5,193	\$7,776	\$4,947	\$2,104	\$246
CA	\$4,805	\$170	\$402	\$138	\$132	\$32
% total	9.5%	3.3%	5.2%	2.8%	6.3%	13%
2010						
US	\$59,152	\$8,062	\$5,966	\$5,527	\$1,769	\$2,535
CA	\$5,642	\$195	\$185	\$135	\$108	\$60
% total	9.5%	2.4%	3.1%	2.4%	6.1%	2.4%
2008-2010						
US	\$148,386	\$20,043	\$19,951	\$15,198	\$5,794	\$4,845
CA	\$14,099	\$556	\$843	\$378	\$372	\$179
% total	9.5%	2.8%	4.2%	2.5%	6.4%	3.7%

Source: EWG Farm Subsidy Database, NRCS, FSA and USDA

