

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Operations, Oversight, and Credit Subcommittee, released the following statement as the House Ag Committee works this week to finalize its farm bill proposal:

"Agriculture is one of the few bright spots in our nation's economy. Farmers today not only provide food security, they enhance economic opportunity in rural America, increase our energy independence, and strengthen national security.

"For the good of all Americans, it is critical that sound public policies help create the conditions for continued agricultural prosperity and innovation. While respecting the federal government's severe budgetary constraints, we need a new farm bill that provides adequate protection options for farmers, helps young and beginning farmers, and embraces new market opportunities domestically and internationally."

A long-time advocate of agricultural entrepreneurship, Fortenberry will support initiatives that provide new incentives for beginning farmers and farmers markets, and protect lands that have never been tilled for conservation purposes. He will also call for more robust payment limitation considerations.

The House Agriculture Committee is scheduled to markup the Farm Bill on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at 10:00 AM in room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building. The markup will be broadcast live [here](#) .

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