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**DRAFT FARM BILL NUTRITION TITLE
SECTION BY SECTION**

Subtitle A—Food Stamp Program

Sec. 411. Encouragement of payment of child support.

Encourages collection of child support by changing current child support deduction to an income exclusion.

Sec. 412. Simplified definition of income.

Allows states to conform food stamp income rules with those of TANF cash assistance or Medicaid.

Sec. 413. Increase in benefits to households with children.

Increases the standard deduction for families of four to six people and adjusts deduction for inflation. The net effect is to increase benefits to families with children.

Sec. 414. Simplified determination of housing costs.

Simplifies the determination of housing costs by clarifying that any on-going payment to the bank or landlord is counted as a shelter expense, regardless of whether or not it is folded into the regular shelter payment.

Sec. 415. Simplified utility allowance.

Simplifies the shelter deduction by encouraging states to offer participants a standard utility allowance.

Sec. 416. Simplified procedure for determination of earned income.

Allows states to more simply convert weekly and bi-weekly income into monthly income. This is accomplished in a cost neutral way by reducing the earned income deduction.

Sec. 417. Simplified definition of resources.

Allows states to conform to TANF asset rules.

Sec. 418. Alternative issuance systems in disasters.

Directs USDA to find ways to issue Food Stamp assistance (including cash payments) to disaster victims when electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cannot be used.

Sec. 419. State option to reduce reporting requirements.

Extends semi-annual reporting option to all households. Current law allows for this only when the participant has earnings.

Sec. 420. Benefits for adults without dependents.

Allows able-bodied adults without dependents to participate in the Food Stamp Program for 6 out of 24 months, rather than the current 3 out of 36 months. Allows supervised 20-hour job search to count toward the work requirement.

Sec. 421. Preservation of access to electronic benefits.

Prohibits cutting off benefits for participants who save them for up to 6 months, rather than the current 3-month limit.

Sec. 422. Cost neutrality for electronic benefit transfer systems.

Eliminates federal cost-neutrality rules for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems.

Sec. 423. Alternative procedures for residents of certain group facilities.

Gives states the option of creating a standard benefit for people, such as certain disabled individuals, who live in group living arrangements.

Sec. 424. Availability of food stamp program applications on the Internet.

Directs all states with electronic sites to post food stamp program applications on the Internet in all of the different languages a given state already makes available.

Sec. 425. Simplified determinations of continuing eligibility.

Conforms to recertification rules in Medicaid, S-CHIP, and SSI where cases are considered eligible until the state determines they are ineligible or a person has failed to cooperate in a review of eligibility.

Sec. 426. Clearinghouse for successful nutrition education efforts.

Requires that USDA compile successful state nutrition education programs designed for use in the food stamp and other nutrition assistance programs. Directs USDA to post information about the programs on the Web site and publicize availability of the Website.

Sec. 427. Transitional food stamps for families moving from welfare.

Extends food stamp transitional benefits from 3 to 6 months and adjusts for loss of TANF income.

Sec. 428. Reform of quality control system.

Eases an overly punitive quality control system that measures the degree to which states make erroneous eligibility and benefit decisions and incorporates a downward adjustment of payment error rate for enrolling working families and immigrants. Modifies procedures for selection of states to be

sanctioned and for calculation of sanction amounts, and retains enhanced funding for states with the lowest error rates.

Sec. 429. Improvement of calculation of State performance measures.

Changes the date for USDA announcement of state payment error rates from April to June 30.

Sec. 430. High performance bonus payments to States.

Provides bonus payments to the ten best and/or improved states across these measures: compliance with certain deadlines, percentage of negative eligibility decisions that are made in error, and enrollment of working households with children.

Sec. 431. Employment and training program.

Eliminates the requirement that 80% of food stamp employment and training funds be designated for able-bodied adults without dependents and 20% be available for all others. Retains a small amount of money specifically for the former group.

Sec. 432. Reauthorization of food stamp program and food distribution program on Indian reservations.

Reauthorizes the Food Stamp and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Programs.

Sec. 433. Coordination of program information efforts.

Make consistent reimbursement rules regarding the use of TANF funds to provide program information materials about Medicaid, child care, and the earned income tax credit.

Sec. 434. Expanded grant authority.

Makes clear that USDA can enter into grants and cooperative agreements when program waivers are requested.

Sec. 435. Access and outreach pilot programs.

Provides funding for competitive grants to carry out pilot programs that foster access and outreach in the Food Stamp Program.

Sec. 436. Consolidated block grants and administrative funds.

Consolidates the American Samoa and the index-inflated Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program block grants and allows Puerto Rico to spend up to \$6 million of their grant to upgrade and modernize the electronic data processing system.

Sec. 437. Assistance for community food projects.

Reauthorizes the Community Food Projects.

Sec. 438. Availability of commodities for the emergency food assistance program.

Reauthorizes The Emergency Food Assistance Program and provides increased funding. Earmarks fund to enable processing, storage and distribution of donated commodities.

Sec. 439. Innovative programs for addressing common community problems.

Allows USDA to enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization that would serve as a repository of information, and develop and recommend innovative programs to address community problems like food insecurity, loss of farms, and rural poverty.

Sec. 440. Report on use of electronic benefit transfer systems.

Directs USDA to submit a report on what is known about fraud and problems related to EBT. Requests information on remedies being taken to address fraud and other problems.

Sec. 441. Vitamin and mineral supplements.

Makes permissible, the use of food stamp dollars to purchase vitamin/mineral supplements and requests a study to characterize related-health, economic, and other effects.

Subtitle B—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 451. Reauthorization of commodity programs.

Reauthorizes the Commodity Distribution Program, the Commodity Food Distribution Program, and the Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects. Redistributes administrative and food dollars within the Commodity Food Distribution Program to ensure food distribution is maximized.

Sec. 452. Restoration of benefits to legal immigrants.

Restores food stamp benefits to all children made ineligible by welfare reform. Lifts the seven year cap on eligibility for refugees and asylees. Restores benefits to disabled individuals who enter the United States after August 22, 1996. Establishes a reasonable work requirement (16 rather than 40 quarters) for legal aliens made ineligible by welfare reform.

Sec. 453. Fruit and vegetable pilot program.

Directs USDA to carry out a pilot program through which fresh fruits and vegetables will be distributed, free-of-charge, to schoolchildren.

Sec. 454. Congressional Hunger Fellowship

Establishes the Congressional Hunger Fellows Program to develop and train future leaders of the United States to pursue careers in humanitarian service.