



# Farm Bill 2008

Updates and Information Regarding  
USDA Rural Development



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# **“Date of Enactment”**

**June 18, 2008**

This is the date by which reports,  
studies and other required deadlines  
are based.



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# Farm Bill Implementation

- “.....Although the Administration has had significant policy differences with the Congress over the wisdom of many of the provisions in the new Farm Bill, it is now the law of the land. We have each taken an oath to faithfully execute the law, and so it is now time to end the debate, roll up our sleeves, and get to work implementing the new legislation.....” Secretary Ed Schafer 5/23/08
- Teams are working to expedite rulemaking by:
  - Reviewing provisions
  - Proposing action plans for implementing provisions
- Process will be open and transparent



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# Farm Bill 2008

July 1, 2008

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM

#1053-001

Delegations of Authority

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/directives/doc/SM1053-001.htm>



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# Farm Bill 2008

- Two titles affect Rural Development:
  - Title VI** – Traditional provisions, including Broadband, Community Programs, Business Programs - **\$150 Million** Mandatory Funding
  - Title IX** – Energy provisions - **\$905 Million** Mandatory Funding (to be administered by RD)



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# What are we doing?

- **Water/ Environmental backlog funds**
  - August 15<sup>th</sup> release date - \$357 Million
  - Funds will be used for projects in 46 states and Puerto Rico
- **Rural Definition (within 6 months)**
  - Rural Definition Taskforce is working through the language and developing recommendations for implementation of the rural definition provisions.



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# What are we doing? (cont'd)

- Broadband Final Rule (within 6 months)
- Study on Rural Electric Power Generation
  - Report sent to Congress August 25, 2008.
- Tribal College Matching Fund Requirements
  - Notification sent August 6, 2008

# How Do You Get Information?



<http://www.usda.gov>



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