



# FARM BILL FAST FACTS

## Rural Development Mission Area

October 2002

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### **WATER PROGRAMS**

- Provides approximately \$700 million in grants and loans for a one-time reduction in the backlog of applications pending on May 13, 2002, for loans and grants for water and waste disposal and emergency community water assistance.
- Reauthorizes, with no funding, the emergency community water assistance grant program and adds imminent decline in water quality and quantity as an eligible program purpose.
- Authorizes, with no funding, the Rural Water Circuit Rider Program to provide technical assistance for daily operations of rural water and waste water systems.
- Authorizes, with no funding, water and waste facility grants for Native American tribes.
- Reauthorizes, with no funding, grants for water systems for rural and native villages in Alaska.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grants to nonprofits to capitalize a revolving fund to finance predevelopment costs and facility improvements for water and waste disposal facilities.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grants to nonprofit organizations to capitalize a revolving fund to finance homeowners' water well systems.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grant assistance to communities under 2,500 in population to prepare feasibility or environmental studies for environmental projects.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- Provides nearly \$2 billion for direct loans and loan guarantees, through 2007, to improve the access to broadband telecommunications services in communities with less than 20,000 residents.
- Provides \$1 billion, through 2006, for local television service to households in non-served and underserved rural areas.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grants for radio transmitters to increase coverage in rural areas of NOAA's all-hazards weather radio broadcast system.
- Authorizes, with no funding, loans to expand or improve 911 access and integrated emergency communication systems in rural areas.

### **RURAL BUSINESS**

- Provides \$44 million in grants and \$280 million in debt guarantees for a new Rural Business Investment Program to assist companies that will make equity investments in rural businesses.
- Provides for a simplified application for business and industry loans of less than \$400,000.
- Allows for business and industry loans and guarantees for more types of renewable energy systems, such as wind energy system and anaerobic digesters.



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### **RURAL BUSINESS (contd.)**

- Authorizes \$115 million in funding authority through 2007 for a new grant, loan, and loan guarantee program to assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in buying renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements.
- Expands authority to make loans to cooperatives and for cooperative stock purchases.

### **VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE**

- Provides approximately \$33 million annually in grants through 2006 for valued-added agricultural product marketing development grants.
- Provides \$3 to 6 million annually in grants through 2004 for a new Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program to provide technical assistance, business, and market planning for valued-added businesses.
- Authorizes, with no funding, the training of farmworkers in new technologies for higher value crops.
- Enhances the Rural Business and Industry Loan Program for value-added producers, firms and cooperatives.

### **RURAL ENHANCEMENT**

- Provides \$10 million annually in grants through 2007 for a Rural Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel Training Program.
- Authorizes, with no funding, Community Facilities grants to Tribal colleges and universities.
- Requires at least 10 percent of Community Facilities funds to be reserved for child care until April 1 of each fiscal year.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grants to improve infrastructure, service, and business development in rural areas that have an out-migration of greater than 5 percent.
- Authorizes, with no funding, grants for Rural Development to pay the federal share of the cost of establishing and operating a national rural telework institute.
- Authorizes, with no funding, a historic barn preservation program.

### **GENERAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Provides \$95 million in grants for a Rural Strategic Investment Program to fund regional strategic plans and infrastructure development. Establishes a National Board on Rural America to oversee the program. Also provides funds for a Conference on Rural America.
- Revises the definition of rural areas for business, water, and community facilities programs.
- Authorizes, with no funding, a National Rural Development Partnership program.
- Authorizes, with no funding, a Northern Great Plains Regional Authority to plan and fund development strategies in a 5 state area - Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.