

**Where is the Farm Bill: Will Congress pass a farm bill this year? What are the issues?
Fran Boyd, Meyers and Associates**

After failing to reauthorize the Farm Bill in 2012, which led to a short term extension as part of the Fiscal Cliff Deal, Congress is once again taken up legislation with the aim of passing it before current authorization expires at the end of September.

Fran Boyd of Meyers and Associates and former official in the United States Department of Agriculture gave a detailed overview of both the politics and policy issues surrounding the 2013 Farm Bill that may impact its chance at being reauthorized and signed into law. Fran noted that given the current direction of the Senate, which passed its version in the beginning of June, and the House, he was “happy to say that Congress was on track to do that (reauthorize the Farm Bill).”

Before getting into the meat of the Farm Bill, Fran took a few minutes to explain the makeup of the Farm Bill and how a significant percentage of the bill’s funding is directed at nutrition elements including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). He then went into a discussion on a number of the 17 titles contained within the Farm Bill, including the titles on commodities and nutrition, pointing out some of the major differences between the current House and Senate versions.

Finally, he answered a number of questions relating to Conservation Reserve Program, Country of Origin Labeling and the King Amendment.