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The Delta Council
Review

Vol. 10, Issue No. 1 THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL March 2014

2014 Farm Bill: Less spending, More Flexibility

Delta Council Lauds Cochran

By Gibb Steele, President
Bowen Flowers, Chairman,
Farm Policy Committee

The 2014 Farm Bill passage and enactment is another example of **Senator Cochran's** ability to bring consensus to a long-awaited compromise measure. Some of the highlights of the bill that should be noted are as follows:

• Lowest safety net, in relation to cost-of-production in past 40 years.

• Despite a drastic reduction in federal income protection for crop production, the bill extends

- More choices to a farmer
- More flexibility for planting decisions
- Opportunity to update or re-allocate crop base reflecting more recent planting history
- Opportunity to update crop program yields.

• Arbitrary limits on eligibility for program benefits are set at reasonable levels.

• Means testing is adjusted, but remains at reasonable levels.

• Food safety inspection of catfish, both domestic and imported, is mandated with a defined timeline for implementation.

• Price-loss crop insurance is enhanced and consequently, becomes more attractive to Southern agricultural crops.

In summary, we believe that considering the current Washington environment, Senator **Cochran** and other key Conference leaders crafted the most farmer-friendly bill that could be passed by the Congress at this time. In the coming days, Delta Council will publish a summary on our website (www.deltacouncil.org) and we will distribute copies of this summary to all farmers and allied agricultural businesses on our membership data base.

US Senator Thad Cochran

USDA: Net Farm Income Forecast For 2014

• Net farm income is forecast to be $95.8 billion in 2014, down 26.6 percent from 2013.

• Net cash income is forecast at $101.9 billion, down almost 22 percent from the 2013 forecast.

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Highway 465-Steele Bayou

Bridge Receives Approval

A State highway bridge in Issaquena-Warren County that serves as the only major access to North Warren County-South Eagle Lake area was determined to be threatened for closure by the State Department of Transportation due to rapidly-deteriorating structural deficiencies.

"This bridge is located only a short distance downstream from the Steele Bayou structure, which evacuates rainfall runoff for more than 4,000 square miles in the Mississippi Delta, and area eqivalent to the state of Delaware. The turbidity of the discharge from Steele Bayou has contributed to scouring around the bridge structures over the past 25 years, and is currently causing the Mississippi Department of Transportation to consider closing the bridge," stated **Walton Gresham**, the

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