

~~Strikethrough print~~ represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

RESOLUTION FARM POLICY

Delta Council continues to support a CCC non-recourse loan and minimum loan floor, income protection features, and a marketing loan. The merits of loan extension provisions of previous farm law should be evaluated, in order to determine whether this feature should be restored to enhance more orderly marketing opportunities for producers. Acreage bases and program yields should continue to be allowed as currently calculated for the purpose of administering farm policy, which associates farm program eligibility with historical cropping patterns.

Delta Council continues to emphasize the importance of domestic farm policy to the economy and society of rural America. In the Mississippi Delta alone, there are more than 41,000 high-paying jobs and \$447 million in federal taxes paid to the U.S. Treasury each year. Additionally, Delta agriculture accounts for \$562 million in local tax revenues throughout Delta counties, which is crucial to the local capacity to support roads, bridges, law enforcement, fire protection, school buses, and other local services. Farm programs and international trade policy should be administered in a fashion which allows agriculture to obtain its income from the marketplace; however, during those periods when traditional market forces do not respond to supply and demand signals, or when global economic conditions, dysfunctional international trade, and/or the manipulation of foreign exchange rates cause disruption in U.S. farm income, domestic farm policy should engage the necessary provisions for farm income protection.

At any time when the threat of raw cotton imports or the actual import of raw cotton is not essential to provide an adequate supply of available stocks to domestic textile mills, USDA should take steps to make certain that domestic market prices are not arbitrarily aggravated by a policy which allows imports to damage farm income.

Delta Council supports the full implementation of the ~~2002~~ **2008** Farm Bill and opposes efforts to dilute or modify its effectiveness through limitations on eligibility for farm program benefits. ~~The 2002 law has resulted in restoring a strong farm economy to rural America and Delta Council implores the Congress to carefully examine the success of the current farm law, as the foundation for the 2008 legislation when enacted.~~

Delta Council opposes any use of USDA rulemaking authority to alter or further restrict the eligibility for farm program participation beyond the very significant reform which was outlined in the 2008 farm bill.

