

RESOLUTION
FARM POLICY

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

Bold text represents text which has been added or modified.

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 continue to be re-evaluated, in order to determine whether this feature should be restored to enhance more orderly marketing opportunities for producers. Farm Service Agency acreage bases and program yields should continue to be maintained as a part of the official USDA record of historic and contemporary cropland base. The imposition of arbitrary limitations on farm program benefits should not be applied to the marketing loan. Any such limitations can have a negative impact on the forfeiture of commodities to the Commodity Credit Corporation of USDA, causing burdensome stocks hanging over market prices.

Delta Council continues to emphasize the importance of domestic farm policy to the economy and society of rural America. In the Mississippi Delta alone, agriculture provides more than 49,000 jobs and \$305 million in federal taxes paid to the U.S. Treasury each year. Additionally, Delta agriculture accounts for \$173 million *in State taxes* and an estimated 30% of the local tax revenues ~~base~~ throughout *counties in Northwest Mississippi* ~~the Mississippi Delta counties~~, which is crucial to our ~~local~~ capacity to maintain *local* road, bridge, law enforcement, fire protection, schools ~~budgets~~, and other basic local and State 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, U.S. domestic farm policy should engage *the existing* features which provide farm income protection.

We oppose efforts to dilute or modify the effectiveness of domestic farm policy through further limitations or means-testing of eligibility for farm program benefits. Delta Council opposes any use of statutes or USDA rulemaking authority to alter or further restrict the eligibility for farm program participation. 2014 Farm Bill provisions restricting eligibility based on lineal family descent should be eliminated in future Farm Bills, due to the fracture it has caused in the longstanding business operating structure of farming enterprises.

Delta Council applauds the efforts by USDA, the Administration and the Congress in seeking a response to implement a cottonseed cost-sharing program for cotton producers during the 2016 fiscal year. Further, Delta Council ~~encourages~~ **praises** the Congress ~~to take~~ **for taking** the necessary steps to establish a long-term cottonseed and lint policy **in the FY'2017 Supplemental Appropriations measure**, which allows ~~cottonseed~~ **a cottonseed/lint provision** to be included **in current farm law** as a covered commodity. ~~in future farm law.~~

~~U.S. agriculture policy which provides safety net income protection for cottonseed, similar to that of other oilseeds, food grain and rice is clearly needed.~~

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
November 10, 2017

