

From the Office of
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12-POINT 'OMNIBUS FARM BILL' PROPOSED FOR COMPREHENSIVE FARM PROGRAM

Enactment of a comprehensive "Omnibus" farm bill covering many key phases of an effective over-all farm program is being urged by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Senator Humphrey revealed he had urged the comprehensive approach to new farm legislation at the opening executive session of the Senate's Agriculture Committee.

"Instead of a piecemeal approach that may tend to give more emphasis to one part of a farm program than another, it is time we take an over-all look at what is needed and present the Congress with an omnibus bill covering all the improvements presently necessary in our farm program," Senator Humphrey declared.

"All phases of our farm program are inter-related, each dependent upon others for effective results. For that reason, it seems to make good, practical sense to approach our agricultural problems broadly and in a comprehensive manner."

Senator Humphrey told the Senate Committee he hoped such a comprehensive "omnibus bill" could include:

1. Restoration of 90% support on basic commodities, but with a cut-off on any support loans on production valued in excess of \$25,000 from any one farm.
2. Inclusion of perishables such as beef, hogs, milk, chickens, and eggs under the same level of support as basics, but providing discretionary authority for use of a broader range of methods of support such as production payments, direct purchases geared to reflect price protection to farmers instead of letting the benefits go to processors, and loans or purchase agreements, either individually or in combination with each other.
3. Extension of mandatory price support protection to other feed grains at a feed value equivalent ratio to the support level for corn.
4. A Conservation Acreage Reserve Program on a voluntary sign-up basis, providing for a soil, water, and timber "bank" to encourage retiring land from crop production and building its future fertility by expanding grasslands, preserving more wetlands, and stimulating planting of brush and timber cover, with adequate protection against expanding commercial production of livestock and dairy products.
5. A comprehensive federal "yardstick" family farm credit program providing direct and guaranteed federal loans to meet all needs of family farmers unable to obtain such credit at reasonable rates from cooperative and other private sources.
6. Extending authority for and expanding the Agricultural Trade and Development Act for overseas disposition of agricultural surpluses.
7. A food stamp plan to stimulate domestic consumption among low-income families.
8. Specifically provide for administration of farm programs by farmer-elected committees at the community, county, and state levels.
9. Extend and expand special school lunch milk program, to include provisions for milk distribution among child-care centers, settlement houses, and other non-profit children's institutions and camps; extend authorization for brucellosis eradication indemnities; and fix by law formula for milk equivalent parity ratio for manufactured dairy products.

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10. Forest marketing guidance through authorizing price reporting on forest products and further research into forest products marketing problems.

11. Loan authorization to finance improved terminal marketing facilities for handling fresh produce, aimed at eliminating inefficiency costs now passed along to consumers.

12. Revitalizing crop insurance program by turning administration back to farmer-committees and expanding to more counties and more crops.

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