



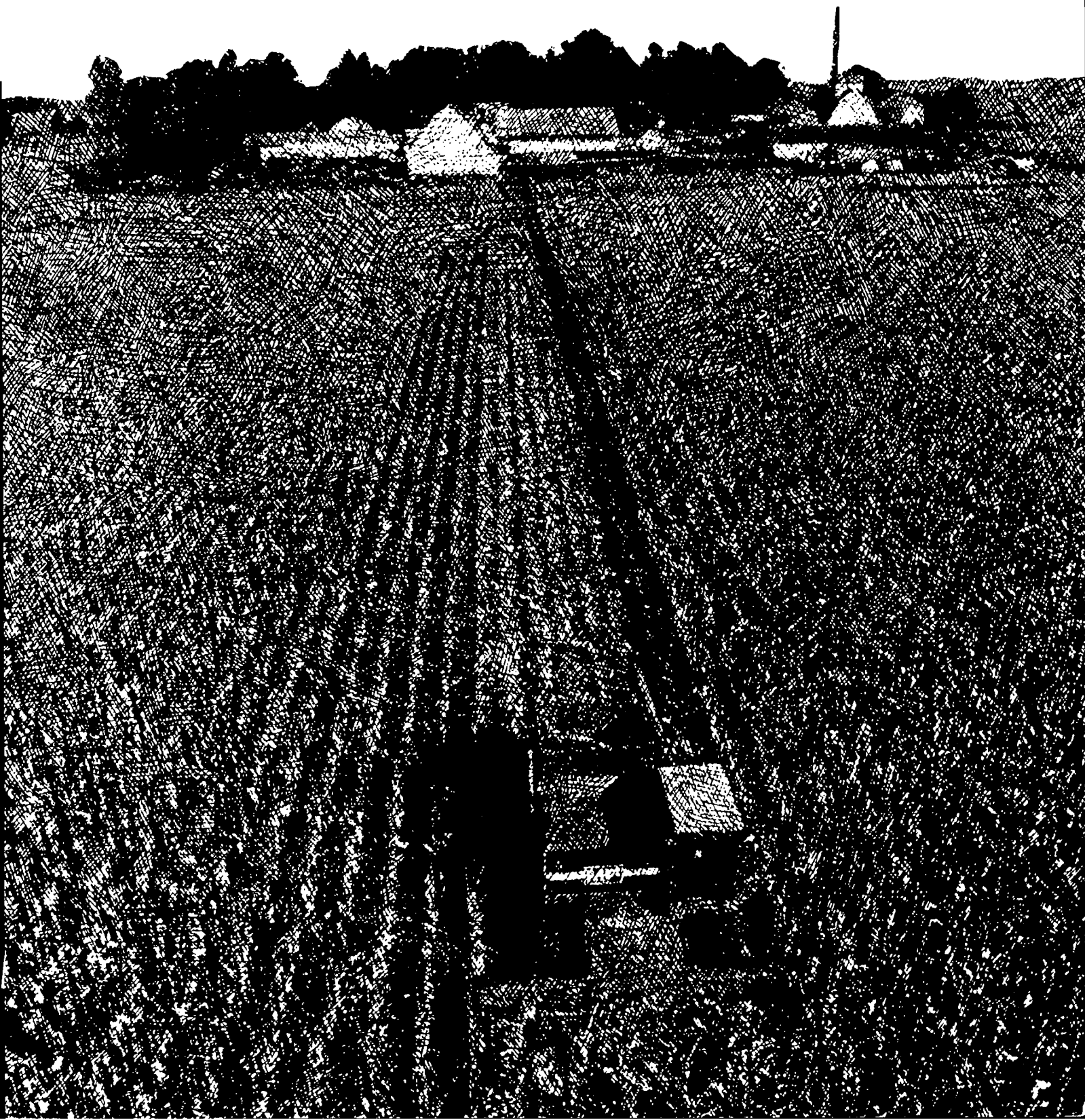
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Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985

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ABSTRACT

The Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198) establishes a comprehensive framework within which the Secretary of Agriculture will administer agriculture and food programs from 1986 through 1990. This report describes the act's provisions for dairy, wool and mohair, wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, peanuts, soybeans, and sugar (including income and price supports, disaster payments, and acreage reductions); other general commodity provisions; trade; conservation; research, extension, and teaching; food stamps; and marketings. These provisions are compared with earlier legislation.

Keywords: Program commodities, loan levels, target prices, cropland reduction, grain reserves, conservation, credit, food aid, agricultural trade, food stamps, agricultural research.

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SUMMARY

The Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198) establishes a comprehensive framework within which the Secretary of Agriculture will administer agriculture and food programs from 1986 through 1990. Following is a brief outline of the act, first by topic, then by title.

Commodity Provisions

Loan programs--Minimum support levels specified for 1986; market-based formulas for 1987-90 with limited annual declines. Further cuts authorized for wheat and feed grains when needed to compete in world markets. Marketing loans and certificates required for cotton and rice.

Target prices--Minimum target prices frozen at 1985 levels in 1986-87 for wheat and feed grains, 1986 only for cotton and rice. Target minimums decline in following years.

Acreage reduction--Secretary may use acreage reduction, set-aside, or paid land diversion programs to reduce acreage planted to wheat, feed grains, cotton, and rice. Acreage reduction tied to level of carryover stocks.

Grain reserves--Continues farmer-owned reserve.

Export Provisions

Food aid--Continues and expands P.L. 480 and section 416 international food aid programs. Creates Food for Progress program.

Cargo preference--Exempts specific commercial exports from U.S. flag vessel requirements. Increases share of food aid shipments which must be carried on U.S. flag vessels.

Conservation Provisions

Creates "sodbuster," "swampbuster," and conservation reserve programs to help remove highly erodible land and wetland from crop production.

Other Provisions

Continues, revises, or expands credit, research, extension, and food stamp programs. Authorizes three new market promotion programs.

Programs by Title

Title I--Continues milk support price for 1986 at \$11.60 per hundredweight (cwt) with further declines in 1987-90. Requires milk production termination program for April 1, 1986-September 30, 1987. Amends Federal milk marketing orders.

Title II--Continues wool and mohair programs through 1990.

Titles III and IV--Continues price and income supports for wheat and feed grains. Authorizes Secretary to implement marketing loans, loan deficiency payments, target option program, and inventory reduction payments. Allows discretionary marketing quotas for wheat.

Title V--Continues cotton programs through crop year 1990. Requires marketing loans and certificates to make U.S. cotton more competitive in world markets. Allows optional loan deficiency and inventory reduction payments.

Title VI--Continues rice income and price-support programs. Requires marketing loans and certificates to make U.S. rice more competitive in world markets. Allows optional loan deficiency and inventory reduction payments.

Title VII--Continues two-tier peanut price-support program. Authorizes disaster payments for 1985-90 crops.

Title VIII--Continues soybean price-support program for 1986-90 crops. Authorizes marketing loans and disaster payments.

Title IX--Continues sugarcane and sugar beet price-support programs. Authorizes disaster payments for 1985-90 crops.

Title X--Establishes system for calculating crop and farm acreage bases and program yields. Amends honey program. Limits payments received under wheat, feed grain, Upland and extra long staple (ELS) cotton, and rice programs to \$50,000 per person per year; disaster payments to \$100,000 per person per year. Revises farmer-owned reserve program.

Title XI--Amends Public Law (P.L.) 480 to allow use of foreign currencies obtained through program to encourage development of private enterprise and enhance food security in developing countries through local food production. Creates Food for Progress program to help countries that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their food sectors. Expands type and volume of commodities donated under section 416. Creates Special Assistant to the President for Agricultural Trade and Food Aid. Establishes further programs to promote commercial agricultural exports. Changes cargo preference laws to exempt specific commercial program shipments and to increase the mandated percentage of food aid shipments which must be carried on U.S. flag vessels.

Title XII--Prohibits USDA program benefits to farmers who convert highly erodible land ("sodbusters") or wetlands ("swampbusters") to cropland. Authorizes a conservation reserve of 40 to 45 million acres by 1990.

Title XIII--Shifts funding for USDA credit programs from direct to guaranteed loans. Protects buyers of farm products from double payment. Assists farmers who are in financial difficulty or have lost farms in foreclosures.

Title XIV--Authorizes or continues research, extension, and teaching programs.

Title XV--Continues and amends Food Stamp Program through September 30, 1990. Extends Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program through September 30, 1987. Increases funding for Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program. Expands nutrition monitoring of needy.

Title XVI--Establishes mandatory promotion programs for beef and pork and an optional program for watermelons. Increases penalties for violations of marketing orders. Mandates development of new grain classification standards.

Title XVII--Establishes processing, inspection, and labeling requirements for poultry and meat imports. Establishes criteria for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees. Establishes a National Commission on Agricultural

Policy to study structure, procedures, and methods of formulating and administering U.S. agricultural policies. Authorizes programs in aquaculture research, assistance, and training. Requires study and pilot project on farmers' use of agricultural commodity futures and options markets. Requires establishment of animal welfare standards. Requires program to control grasshoppers and Mormon crickets.