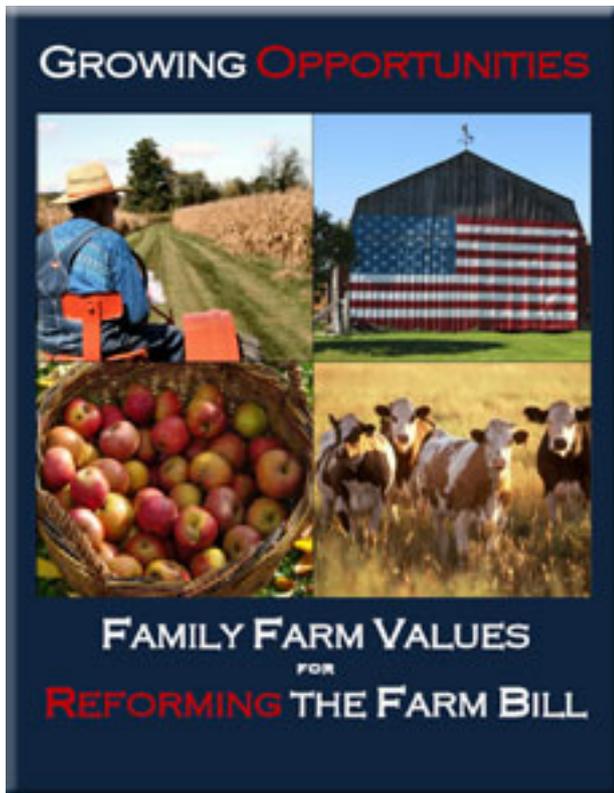


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Agriculture is a critical part of Oregon's economy. From beef to nurseries to berries, family farmers and ranchers are feeding Americans and millions of people around the world. At the same time, farmers are facing new and increasing pressures from urban sprawl, climate change, rising costs and shrinking water resources. Congressman Blumenauer believes we must not miss the opportunity presented by the 2012 Farm Bill reauthorization to craft policies that are good for farmers, the environment, local communities, and the world. He has outlined proposed reforms to national agricultural policy in "[Growing Opportunities: Family Farm Values for Reforming the Farm Bill](#)."

[Promoting Healthy Food and Farms](#) : Across America, there is an epidemic of hunger and poor nutrition. Many families can't afford to put healthy foods on their tables. Congressman Blumenauer believes that increasing the availability of healthy and fresh foods in schools, hospitals, and underserved communities is critical to improving the overall health and food

security of the United States. Doing so will also boost the demand for farm products and provide accessible, consistent markets for farmers.

[Reforming Farm Subsidies](#) : Current Farm Bill direct payment programs provide little help to most American farmers and ranchers, particularly those in Oregon who typically grow food (such as berry, grape, hazelnut, and pear growers) and not commodities. These subsidies should be redirected to benefit Oregon farmers who grow these "specialty crops," or who utilize the Farm Bill's conservation, marketing, and research programs.

[Protecting Farmland and the Environment](#) : The United States loses more than 1 million acres of farmland every year. Much of the best farmland, which is close to growing cities, is lost to development and sprawl. The pressure of sprawl is forcing farmers off their land, depriving us all of the benefits of near-by sustainable agriculture, local food productions and a host of environmental benefits.

