

SEVEN SOMETHINGS FOR EVERYONE



When Oregonians and people of faith we applaud the accomplished individual while personally taking pride that we are our brothers and sisters keeper. In our community, in our church, in our state, in our world, no brother or sister, no neighbor or child goes hungry.

Inspired by our faith traditions' commands to care for poor and vulnerable people, we must support policies that feed and assist millions of people living in poverty in the United States and around the world, strengthen rural communities, and care for the land as God's creation.

Here are seven reasons, something for everyone, to pay attention to the Farm Bill:

1. One in five Oregonians is hungry. One in four Oregon children lives in poverty.

Reduce Oregon hunger by protecting SNAP (food stamps) from any funding cuts.

2. Our food pantries still welcome record numbers of neighbors but don't have enough food to feed them.

Food pantries are the first line of defense in the battle against hunger. They rely on The Emergency Food Assistance Program for funds to buy food. Protect cuts to TEFAP.

3. Oregonians living in farming communities are 25% more unemployed than urban residents.

Support innovative and alternative business development such as bioenergy, value-added production, and local food production, and innovative mechanisms to finance a small farmer's biggest expenses: land, capital and health care.

4. Three billion of the global family lives on less than \$2.50 a day.

Support our brothers and sisters overseas by funding programs that provide emergency and non-emergency international food aid for the hungry while improving the nutritional benefit of this food.

5. Rural communities and small towns are the backbone of the social and economic life of America.

Support our small and medium-sized farmers and ranchers who truly need assistance by reducing subsidies to larger growers and industrial agriculture.

6. "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good" (Gn 1:31). God's initial command to man was to care for his creation.

Support full funding for conservation initiatives that promote stewardship of the land and environmentally sound agriculture practices that foster healthy, productive and non-eroding soils, clean air and water, energy savings and wildlife habitat.

7. Food is necessary for life itself. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "the liberation from the yoke of hunger is the first concrete expression of the right to life..."

Fruits and vegetables are staples of our diets. The current structure of agricultural subsidies favors commodities -- corn, wheat, rice, cotton and soybeans -- and excludes fruits, vegetables and organic crops. Reduce subsidies to the large farms and industry that grow commodities.



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