

# Food Policy Overview

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Traditionally, the key policy issues for the agricultural and food sector have focused on prices and quantities. However, increased information about food and its contribution to health, news and publicity over food safety, and major changes in social reforms that affect food programs have led to greater awareness about the importance of food policies for traditional agricultural interests. The government faces important decisions about the extent to which the farm bill should ensure consumers an abundant, safe and nutritious supply of food at reasonable prices. New production and distribution technologies, increases in international trade for food, and increased consumer demand for food quality and diversity are challenges for the development of effective food policies and programs.