

Commodity Titles

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There are number of commodities: peanuts, sugar, tobacco, milk, and wool and mohair, which have unique government programs and are covered in separate titles of the Farm Bill. Several common issues underlie the papers that follow.

First, in recent farm bills there have been strong efforts to eliminate or drastically change these programs. The wool and mohair program was actually scheduled for phaseout by 1996, but a series of ad hoc temporary programs have been passed to support the industry. The dairy price support program was to be terminated in 1999, but was extended for 2000 and 2001.

Second, unlike “program crop” policy, producer benefits of these five commodities have come largely from consumers rather than taxpayers through provisions such as supply control, import quotas and tariffs, and price discrimination.