

Farm Safety Net Policy

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Over the past six decades the federal government has employed a wide variety of policy instruments with the intent of satisfying various policy objectives. This section of 10 papers addresses some of the options Congress has at its disposal for developing a farm safety net. Each is discussed in the policy options and consequences context. One of the papers deals with the impacts of completely eliminating all farm safety net policy instruments. Eight papers detail the alternative farm safety net instruments that have been used or could potentially be used alone or in some combination, including:

- fixed AMTA payments,
- commodity loans,
- whole farm counter-cyclical payments,
- crop and disaster insurance,
- supply management,
- stocks management,
- farmer savings accounts, and
- supplemental (ad hoc) income payments.

All of these instruments except farmer savings accounts have been utilized in the past at one time or another. The last paper in the set discusses issues related to targeting farm program benefits.