

On June 20, 2013, U.S. Congressman [Marlin Stutzman](#), a fourth-generation farmer, and 61 other Republicans voted against the so-called Farm Bill. [For more than a year](#), Congressman Stutzman has been calling for an end to the unholy alliance of food stamps and farm policy that prevents honest debate on these separate issues.

In fact, eighty percent of the nearly trillion dollar spending bill funds food stamps. Although Congressman Stutzman was glad to see the bill eliminate direct payments to farmers (a policy he's called for since his first days in office), there's more work to be done.

In order to have a serious conversation about farm and food policy, Rep. Stutzman [introduced amendments](#) to separate the bill into a real, farm-only Farm Bill and a separate food stamp bill. Despite the fact that the amendments were ruled out of order, support for splitting the farm bill continues to grow:

- “Conservatives for some time have supported smart reforms to farm policy— separating the food stamp program (into a nutrition bill) from farm programs.” *The Wall Street Journal* editorial, [“The Farm Bill Revolt,”](#) June 20, 2013.
- “The best salvage operation now would be splitting off the farm and food stamps packages and dealing with each separately so there are fewer hostages and power centers.” *The Wall Street Journal* editorial, [“Food Stamps Second Chance,”](#) June 21, 2013.
- “Other than the fact that farmers grow food, it doesn't make sense to have food stamps and related welfare programs lumped in with, for example, dairy subsidies. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, Indiana Republican and a fourth-generation farmer, tried unsuccessfully to sever the two components into separate bills, where each could get the legislative scrutiny it deserves.” *The Washington Times* editorial, [“Farm Bill Logjam,”](#) June 21, 2013.
- “The better option is to split the bill in two and then make real fixes to farm programs and food stamps. If that happens, Republicans in the House may not need to go begging for a single Democratic vote. That would save taxpayers money and help save John Boehner's job as speaker.” Stephen Moore, *The Wall Street Journal*, [“Farm Bill Hams and Heroes,”](#) June 21, 2013.
- “Here's an opportunity for Congress to do something revolutionary: Break up the farm bill. Debate and vote on food stamp policy and farm policy as entirely separate matters. . . Take these issues separately. . . Break up the farm bill.” *Chicago Tribune* editorial, [“Farm Bill Smackdown,”](#) June 24, 2013. Reprinted in [The Deseret News](#), [The South Bend Tribune](#), [The State Journal-Register](#), [The Yakima Herald](#), and others.

- “For decades the farm bill comes up and passes almost without debate, despite the fact that it’s taking us in the wrong direction . . . I think conservatives need to stick to their guns here and split this policy out. Let’s talk about the food-stamps program separately. Let’s talk about a free-market farm policy.” Jim DeMint, Heritage Foundation President. Katrina Trinko, *National Review*, “[The Farm Bill Falls](#),” June 21, 2013.
- “So perhaps the program should be separated and the food stamp part be moved into the child nutrition programs with school lunch and school breakfast and the women, infants, and children’s program.” Mark Dunlea, Executive Director of the Hunger Action Network of New York. Dave Lucas, *WAMC Northeast Public Radio*, “[Time to Split Food Stamps From Farm Bill?](#)” June 25, 2013.
- “[T]he Rules Committee unilaterally shut down the best avenue for reform, an amendment offered by Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN) that would have allowed for separate consideration of agriculture and nutrition programs.” Dan Holler, Heritage Action, “[Conservatives Must Reject False Choice on Farm Bill](#),” June 20, 2013.
- “The estimated cost of the bill ‘is too big and would have passed welfare policy on the backs of farmers,’ said Marlin Stutzman, Republican of Indiana, who voted against the bill.” Charles Abbott, *Reuters*, “[House Deals Shock Defeat to Republican Farm Bill](#),” June 20, 2013.
- “‘While it might have been called a ‘farm bill,’ the American people understand that it was anything but,’ said Representative Marlin Stutzman, Republican of Indiana, who was elected in 2010 with Tea Party support. ‘This trillion-dollar spending bill is too big and would have passed welfare policy on the backs of farmers.’” Ron Nixon, *The New York Times*, “[House Rejects Farm Bill as Food Stamp Cuts Prove Divisive](#),” June 20, 2013.
- “Maybe the 195-234 defeat of the Farm Bill will be a wake-up call for real reform that would deal with agricultural issues and food and nutrition issues separately and on their own merits.” Fran Smith, *The Competitive Enterprise Institute Blog*, “[Time for Splitting the Farm Bill?](#)” June 24, 2013.
- “An amendment written by Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) and backed by conservative groups would have split the food stamp spending from the farm subsidies.” Erik Wasson, *The Hill*, “[Fiscal Group Enraged by Limits on House Farm Bill Amendments](#),” June 19, 2013.

- “A pair of amendments proposed by a congressional tea party favorite would cut food-stamp funding from the 2013 farm bill. . . Food-stamp funding is tied to farm subsidies for no reason other than classic ‘log-rolling’ policy passage, said Andrew Moylan, senior fellow from the non-profit think-tank R Street.” Giuseppe Macri, *The Daily Caller*, “[Amendments Would Take Food-Stamp Funding Out of Farm Bill](#),” June 19, 2013.