

Contact: Stephanie Pruitt Communications Director 800.647.CORN (2676) stephanie@texascorn.org

For Immediate Release

Texas Corn Producers releases farm bill overview

LUBBOCK, Texas (February 18, 2014) – With the Agriculture Act of 2014 signed into law, Texas farmers should now start looking ahead at the impact the new legislation could have on their farms. <u>Texas Corn Producers</u> has developed a <u>brief overview</u> of the decisions ahead for farmers across the state.

"Though there will likely be differences in our interpretation and the final regulations," David Gibson, executive director for TCP, said, "this is a preliminary guide for farmers to begin educating themselves on the farm program decisions they will face this coming year."

The information provided is based on the organization's reading of the Agriculture Act of 2014, discussions with Ag Committee staff, and the assistance of the <u>Ag and Food Policy Center at Texas</u> <u>A&M University</u>.

Farmers can use the <u>Farm Bill Overview</u> document to review some of the critical changes in the new farm bill, including the new farm programs Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO). It outlines how the programs can provide assistance to farmers when their farms face hardships.

TCP expects it will take several months for the USDA – Farm Service Agency to interpret and implement the new farm bill, thus farm program sign up will likely not occur until this summer – at the earliest.

The organization has also worked with AFPC to develop an online decision aid tool that will be available to farmers once the USDA-FSA rules are in place. Upon the release of this tool, TCP will host a number of educational sessions across the state to help farmers become familiar with how they can use the tool to determine the best option for their farm.

The overview document can be accessed <u>HERE</u>. For the latest information on the implementation of the farm bill, visit TCP's website <u>www.TexasCorn.org</u>.

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The Texas Corn Producers serve the state's corn farmers through two organizations, the Texas Corn Producers Board and the Corn Producers Association of Texas. TCPB is a statewide board funded by a voluntary checkoff program. Checkoff funds are used for research, education and promotion to further the corn industry in Texas, and to create better marketing opportunities for farmers. CPAT is the advocacy arm of Texas corn producer representation on both state and national levels. CPAT's mission is to build a strong organizational support system for corn that will represent the interests and concerns of farmers from all regions of Texas. For more information, visit <u>www.TexasCorn.org</u>.