



# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Federal Spending Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON AG APPROPRIATIONS

- ♦ John McCain has often been in the distinct minority in opposing passage of the annual USDA budget bill.
- ♦ John McCain was one of seven senators to vote against the agriculture spending bill in 2001 and one of only eight senators to vote no on the 2000 bill.
- ♦ John McCain was one of three senators to vote against funding USDA for FY 96.

*Source: Congressional Quarterly*

John McCain voted against funding the USDA which provides programs for farmers, rural development, nutrition titles and the Food & Drug Administration in the following fiscal years:

**2002** HR 2330 11/15/01, Roll call 339;  
HR 2330, 10/25/01, Roll call 315

**2001** HR 4461, 10/18/00, Roll call 277;  
HR 4461, 7/20/00, Roll call 225

**2000** HR 1906, 10/13/99, Roll call 323

**1996** HR 1976, 9/20/95, Roll call 450

**1995** HR 4554, 7/20/94, Roll call 216



### 2005-2006 Agricultural Ratings for John McCain

National Farmers Union — **Zero**

American Farm Bureau Federation — **35%**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report: Commodities

### JOHN MCCAIN ON WHEAT & FEED GRAINS

- ◆ Top wheat states: Kansas, North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.  
*Source: www.smallgrains.org*
- ◆ In 2005, the wheat industry generated 198,370 jobs nationwide.
- ◆ Positive impact on the U.S. economy was \$20.6 billion.  
*Source: Texas A&M Univ., Dec. 2006*



- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted against continuing the Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve.  
*Source: S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 12*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted to modify the acreage reduction requirements for wheat and feed grains triggered by carry-over stocks.  
*Source: S2830, 7/20/90, Roll call 163*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted to continue the 1985 Farm Bill formula for loan and purchase authority on wheat and feed grains eliminating the floor on loan rates.  
*Source: S 2830, 7/24/90, Roll call 167*

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## US SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

- ★ McCain voted **against** veterans' health care in favor of continuing tax breaks for the wealthy. HR 4297, 2/13/06, Roll call 15
- ★ McCain voted **against** funding outpatient and inpatient healthcare and treatment for veterans. HR 4939, Akaka amendment, 4/26/06, Roll call 98
- ★ McCain voted **against** increased funding to the TRICARE program to allow better health care access for the National Guard and Reserves and their families. S Con Res 23, 3/25/03, Roll call 81



Photo Credit: Deb Kozikowski

- ★ McCain voted **against** increasing the Department of Veteran Affairs funding as proposed by the Independent Budget; and voted **against** decreasing the deficit using unreconciled tax cuts. S Con Res 23, 3/21/03, Roll call 74
- ★ McCain voted to **kill** amendment requiring the Secretary of Defense to transfer \$400 million to the Veterans Administration. S 936, 7/10/97, Roll call 168
- ★ McCain voted **against** increasing veterans' benefits by \$74 million in 1996 by reducing special tax breaks. S Con Res 13, 5/25/95, Roll call 226
- ★ McCain voted **against** compensation for WWII veterans and survivors of veterans who participated in U.S. nuclear tests or in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki and suffer from radiation exposure. HR 1811, 4/25/88, Roll call 109

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS RATED JOHN MCCAIN 20%\*  
THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION RATED HIM 18%\*  
IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA GRADE: D\*  
\*2006 MOST RECENT RATINGS PUBLISHED





# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON TRADE



American farmers lose close to \$1.24 billion annually in exports because of the embargo against Cuba and up to \$3.6 billion more in related economic output.

Source: Texas A&M Univ., Jan. 2002

In 1988 and 1989, 3.6 billion board feet of unprocessed timber were exported from Washington and Oregon, about 80 percent of the national total.

Source: AP 8/21/90

- ◆ John McCain *voted against* an amendment to the 2002 Farm Bill to encourage financing agricultural trade with Cuba.

*S 1731, 12/18/01, Roll call 375*

- ◆ John McCain *voted against* an amendment to a tariffs bill prohibiting the export of unprocessed timber from federally owned lands.

*HR 1594, 4/24/90, Roll call 59*



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American Farm Bureau Federation — **35%**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report: Commodities

More than half of U.S. sugar production comes from sugar beets.

U.S. farmers produce 33 million tons of sugar beets on 1.6 million acres.

The Red River Valley is the fastest-growing sugar beet-producing region.

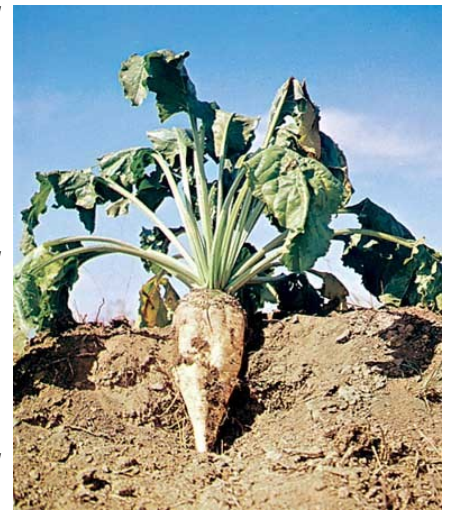
*Source: USDA/ERS, Feb. 2005*

- ◆ John McCain *voted against sugar beet growers* when he voted to phase out the price support loan for sugar and to lower the loan rates for beet and cane sugar crops between 2003-2005.  
*Source: S 1731, 12/12/01, Roll call 364*

- ◆ John McCain *voted against sugar beet growers* when he voted to prohibit any funds to implement the sugar program.  
*Source: HR 4461, 7/20/00, Roll call 219*

- ◆ John McCain *voted against sugar beet growers* when he voted to support a spending bill that would prohibit USDA from using funds for loans and price supports for sugar producers. *Source: S 1233, 8/4/99, Roll call 254*

- ◆ John McCain *voted against sugar beet growers* when he voted for an amendment to the 1996 Farm Bill to strike provisions on the sugar price support program from the bill. *Source: S 1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 16*



JOHN MCCAIN ON SUGAR

### 2005-2006 Agricultural Ratings for John McCain

Supported the interests of the  
National Farmers Union — **Zero**

Supported the interests of the  
American Farm Bureau Federation — **35%**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

### JOHN MCCAIN ON SCHOOL NUTRITION

National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs provide over 40 million balanced meals to children each school day, 26 million of those meals provided at no or reduced cost to children from low income families. *Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service*

Funding cuts by Congress of \$1.4 billion to the federal school nutrition programs from 1981 - 1983 resulted in 3.7 million children dropping out of the program. *Source: School Nutrition Association and USDA*

The federal government provides \$2.77 to cover costs of preparing a nutritionally balanced school lunch. The actual cost to prepare lunch is \$2.92. Nationally, school nutrition programs are losing \$4.5 million each school day. *Source: School Nutrition Association, 2008*

- ◆ John McCain voted against outreach efforts and start-up grants for state school breakfast programs for low-income children.  
*S 1033, 7/24/97, Roll call 200*
- ◆ John McCain voted to cut \$1 million in grants to school districts for food service equipment.  
*HR 7, 9/12/85, Roll call 278*
- ◆ John McCain voted against reauthorization of child nutrition programs through FY 1988. *HR 7, 5/1/84, Roll call 94*
- ◆ John McCain voted against making available federally owned farm commodities not obligated to other programs and funds for processing, transportation and distribution to emergency food organizations.  
*HR 1590, 6/16/83, Roll call 189*



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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

USDA Rural Development is the primary funder of housing, infrastructure, and economic and community development in rural America. With an \$86 billion portfolio of loans, annual distribution amounts to nearly \$16 billion in grants, loans, and loan guarantees. USDA Rural Development provides funding for clinics and hospitals, schools, fire stations, water and sewer systems, assisted living centers, homes, and businesses.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

- ◆ John McCain *voted against* killing an amendment to prohibit funding of the seven regional offices of the Rural Development Administration after April 1, 1994. *HR 2493, 7/27/93, Roll call 213*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against* providing \$1 billion for Farmers Home Administration guarantees of restructured farm loans by private lenders, restricted to farmers with debt-to-asset ratios of at least 75 percent. *HR 1189, 2/28/85, Roll call 20*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against* adjusting rates to Rural Electrification Administration borrowers by a variable formula, to relieve REA of required repayment of long-term Treasury notes, and make other revisions in terms of REA loans. *HR 3050, 3/1/84, Roll call 31*

### 2005-2006 Agricultural Ratings for John McCain

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American Farm Bureau Federation — **35%**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

If all the cattle, swine and poultry waste across the USA was converted to electricity, the resulting energy could produce 80 percent of America's current electric power needs *Source: Texas Tech Today, 2/20/08*

134 ethanol plants in 26 states produce more than 7 million gallons annually  
*Source: Renewable Fuels Association*

- ◆ John McCain voted against appropriating millions of dollars to encourage and develop renewable energy. *S Con Res 83, 3/14/06, Roll call 42*
- ◆ John McCain cast the deciding vote to cut the renewable energy and energy efficiency program for farmers from \$23 million to \$3 million. *S 1932, 12/21/05, Roll call 363*
- ◆ John McCain voted against tax incentives for companies working to convert poultry waste into electricity. *S 1429, 7/30/99, Roll call 246*
- ◆ John McCain voted against extending subsidies for alcohol fuels including ethanol. *S 949, 6/27/97, Roll call 155*
- ◆ John McCain voted to ban the EPA from requiring that 15 percent of reformulated gasoline come from ethanol. *HR 4624, 8/3/94, Roll call 255*



### *Energy Ratings for John McCain*

2005-2006 Campaign for America's Future — **17%**

2002 American Coalition for Ethanol — **Zero**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report: Commodities

- ◆ Georgia is the leading U.S. peanut producer followed by Texas.
- ◆ Harvested acreage has decreased from 2.1 million acres in 1991 to 1.4 million acres in 2004.
- ◆ U.S. peanut production declined to \$834 million in 2004.  
*Source: UC/Davis, Feb. 2006*



- ◆ John McCain *voted against peanut farmers* in the FY 97 spending bill when he voted against killing an amendment limiting non-recourse loans for peanut farmers to \$125,000.  
*Source: HR 3603, 7/24/96, Roll call 234*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against peanut farmers* when he voted against killing an amendment to the 1996 Farm Bill reducing peanut price supports from \$678 to \$475 by 2000 and eliminating quotas after 2000.  
*Source: S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 13*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against peanut farmers* when he voted against killing an amendment to the 1990 Farm Bill to eliminate the peanut price support system.  
*Source: S2830, 7/25/90, Roll call 173*

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JOHN MCCAIN ON PEANUTS



# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## New Hampshire Dairy Report

40,000,000 gallons of milk are produced annually in New Hampshire

Source: NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Feb. 2007

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers when he voted to strike the dairy provision from the 2002 Farm Bill and instead make direct fixed payments to producers equal to 31.5 cents per hundred pounds of milk produced annually.*

Source: S1731, 2/13/02, Roll call 29

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers when he voted to strike the dairy provision and inserted language to require the Agriculture secretary to submit a study on federal dairy policy to Congress.*

Source: S 1731, 12/11/01, Roll call 362

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers when he voted against the Northeast Dairy Compact, in the 1996 Farm Bill, allowing the New England states to set up a dairy compact with authority to raise the minimum price that processors must pay producers.*

Source S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 10

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers when he voted against increasing dairy price supports from \$10.10 per hundredweight to \$11.10 and creating a voluntary supply management program.* Source: H J Res 157, 11/22/91, Roll call 266

### 2005-2006 Support Ratings for John McCain

Supported the interests of the National Farmers Union — 0 percent.

Supported the interests of the American Farm Bureau Federation — 35 percent.



JOHN MCCAIN ON DAIRY

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## North Carolina Farm Bill Facts Report

### JOHN MCCAIN ON WHEAT & FEED GRAINS

- ◆ North Carolina wheat growers produced 25 million bushels in 2006.  
*Source: North Carolina Agricultural Statistics, 2007*
- ◆ North Carolina ranks 16th in U.S. wheat production.  
*Source: North Carolina Agricultural Statistics, 2007*
- ◆ In 2005, the wheat industry generated 198,370 jobs nationwide.  
*Source: Texas A&M Univ., Dec. 2006*



- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted against continuing the Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve.  
*Source: S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 12*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted to modify the acreage reduction requirements for wheat and feed grains triggered by carry-over stocks.  
*Source: S2830, 7/20/90, Roll call 163*
- ◆ John McCain *voted against wheat growers* when he voted to continue the 1985 Farm Bill formula for loan and purchase authority on wheat and feed grains eliminating the floor on loan rates.  
*Source: S 2830, 7/24/90, Roll call 167*

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## North Carolina Farm Bill Facts Report

North Carolina ranks 5th in U.S. peanut production.

North Carolina farmers produced 269 million pounds in 2006.

*Source: North Carolina Agricultural Statistics, 2007*



JOHN MCCAIN ON PEANUTS

- ♦ John McCain *voted against peanut farmers* in the FY 97 spending bill when he voted against killing an amendment limiting non-recourse loans for peanut farmers to \$125,000.  
*Source: HR 3603, 7/24/96, Roll call 234*
- ♦ John McCain *voted against peanut farmers* when he voted against killing an amendment to the 1996 Farm Bill reducing peanut price supports from \$678 to \$475 by 2000 and eliminating quotas after 2000.  
*Source: S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 13*
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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

### JOHN MCCAIN ON FOOD SAFETY

- ◆ 92 percent of consumers agree that imported foods should be labeled by their country of origin.
- ◆ Country-of-origin labeling, or COOL, federally mandated back in 2002 for nearly all food products, has been delayed until October 2008, with the exception of seafood. *Source: Consumer Reports, July 2007*
- ◆ John McCain voted against the Senate going on record in including no limits on funds policy aimed at implementing country-of-origin label requirements for meat or meat products. *HR 2673, 11/6/03, Roll call 443*
- ◆ John McCain voted not to block a federal regulation that would allow poultry chilled below 26 degrees Fahrenheit to be sold as "fresh." *HR 1976, 9/19/95, Roll call 444*
- ◆ John McCain voted against a Daschle amendment to allow USDA to require science-based hazard analysis and critical point control (HACCP) systems for meat and poultry inspections. *S 343, 7/12/95, Roll call 302*
- ◆ John McCain voted against requiring food labels to identify the country-of-origin of imported ingredients. *S 1420, 6/30/87, Roll call 169*



### 2005-2006 Agricultural Ratings for John McCain

National Farmers Union — **Zero**

American Farm Bureau Federation — **35%**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Firearms Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON GUNS

John McCain sponsored an amendment that outlaws the private sale of firearms at gun shows, unless the buyer agrees to a background registration check.

This legislation also has potential to end gun shows because every member of an organization sponsoring a gun show faces charges if the organization fails to notify each individual "person who attends the special firearms event of the requirements [under the Brady Law]."

For instance, if the person responsible for handing out "Brady pamphlets" took a bathroom break, event planners could be sent to prison. The McCain amendment passed by a vote of 53-46. *S 1805, 3/2/04, Roll call 25*

John McCain voted to subject pawn shop and repair shop transactions to the same registration and background check requirements as purchases from dealers. *S 254, 5/20/99, Roll call 133*

John McCain voted for the Hatch-Craig gun control amendment that imposes several 2nd Amendment restrictions. It would ban ANY private sale at a gun show that does not first go through a background check. The amendment, which passed 48-47, assigns one U.S. attorney in every district exclusively to harass gun owners. *S 254, 5/14/99, Roll call 118*



**Gun Owners of America Ratings for John McCain**  
2004-2006 — **F minus**  
2000-2002 — **C minus**

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

### JOHN MCCAIN AND THE FARM BILL

"I may surprise some people by saying what few presidential candidates would ever be willing to say out loud in farm country: I'd veto the farm bill -- a bloated expansion in federal spending that will do more harm than good."

John McCain

*Op-ed, Chicago Tribune, May 20, 2008*



- ◆ John McCain was a "no show" when it came to voting on the 2007 Farm Bill.  
*HR 6124, 6/18/08, Roll call 151*
- ◆ John McCain voted against the conference report and final passage of the 2002 Farm Bill.  
*HR 2646, 5/8/02, Roll call 103; HR 2646, 2/13/02, Roll call 30*
- ◆ John McCain voted against the conference report of the 1996 Farm Bill.  
*HR 2854, 3/28/96, Roll call 57*
- ◆ John McCain voted against the 1985 Farm Bill.  
*HR 2100, 10/8/85, Roll call 31*

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

JOHN MCCAIN ON FAIR & COMPETITIVE MARKETS

- **Four beef packers buy 80% of all U.S. fed cattle.**
- **65% of hog producers have gone out of business in the past 10 years.**  
*Source: Concentration of Agricultural Markets, Univ. of Missouri, April 2007*
- **From 1993 to 2004, the number of cattle producers dropped 20%.**  
*Source: USDA/Economic Research Service, AER-818*



- John McCain voted against livestock producers when he voted against giving them the right to discuss their contracts with their attorney, banker, accountant and landlord.  
S 1731, 2/6/02, Roll call 16
- John McCain voted against livestock producers when he voted against prohibiting meat packers, not cooperatives or small packers, from owning, feeding or controlling livestock for more than 14 days before slaughter.  
S 1731, 12/13/01, Roll call 367
- John McCain voted against livestock producers when he voted against providing farmers with a choice of venue to resolve disputes associated with agriculture contracts.  
S 1731, 12/13/01, Roll call 366

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report

### JOHN MCCAIN ON DISASTER RELIEF

- John McCain voted **against** \$2.4 billion in emergency assistance to farmers with qualified income losses in 2001.  
*S 1731, 2/12/02, Roll call 25*
- John McCain voted **against** providing \$8.2 billion for the revised federal crop insurance program between 2000 and 2005.  
*HR 2559, 5/25/00, Roll call 115*
- John McCain voted **against** providing \$8.8 billion in emergency aid to farmers.  
*S 1233, 8/4/99, Roll call 256*
- John McCain voted **against** an amendment allowing corn farmers to plant soybeans without losing federal benefits.  
*HR 2118, 6/22/93, Roll call 161*
- John McCain voted **against** an amendment to provide \$1 billion in emergency aid for Midwest flooding by doubling to 42 cents on the dollar the amount farmers could collect for crop losses.  
*HR 2667, 8/4/93, Roll call 240*



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*John McCain voted against dairy farmers* when he voted to strike the dairy provision and inserting language to require the Agriculture secretary to submit a study on federal dairy policy to Congress.

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*John McCain voted against dairy farmers* when he voted against the Northeast Dairy Compact, in the 1996 Farm Bill, allowing the New England states to set up a dairy compact with authority to raise the minimum price that processors must pay producers.

*Source S1541, 2/7/96, Roll call 10*

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers* when he voted against increasing dairy price supports from \$10.10 per hundredweight to \$11.10 and creating a voluntary supply management program. *Source: H J Res 157, 11/22/91, Roll call 266*

*John McCain voted against dairy farmers* when he voted against a bill to authorize a paid diversion program for dairy producers and a producer-financed dairy promotion program. *Source: HR 4196, 11/9/83, Roll call 443*

### 2005-2006 Support Ratings for John McCain

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# RURALVOTES ON THE RECORD

## Farm Bill Facts Report: The Future

### JOHN MCCAIN ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

- ◆ The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the USDA's chief scientific research agency.
- ◆ ARS oversees 1,200 research projects within 22 national programs at 100 research locations.

Source: USDA/ARS, Jan. 2008



- ◆ McCain voted to strike \$50 million for construction and renovations at the National Animal Disease Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. HR 4775, 6/6/02, Roll call 138
- ◆ McCain voted to cut the budget for Agriculture Research Service buildings and facilities from \$38.7 million to \$25.7 million. HR 4554, 7/19/94, Roll call 211
- ◆ McCain voted against constructing the Agriculture Research Service's Salinity Research Laboratory in Riverside, CA. HR 5215, 10/7/86, Roll call 401
- ◆ McCain voted against the Agricultural Productivity Act to authorize \$10.5 million between 1985-1989 for research projects on organic farming. HR 2714, 1/26/84, Roll call 9

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