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FACT CHECK:

The U.S. Sugar Program Needs Reform Now

The sugar lobby will have you believe that the sugar program is a 'no cost' program that is working for U.S. consumers, businesses and workers. In reality, the program is primarily only benefitting well-off farmers and sugar companies. Here are some more myths and facts about the sugar program.

MYTH: The sugar program helps sustain 142,000 American jobs and reform efforts threaten those jobs.

FACT: Based on U.S. Census data, the International Trade Commission stated in August 2011 that there are 18,000 jobs in sugar crop farming and processing in the entire United States. That's not very close to 142,000. By contrast, Census data show approximately 600,000 jobs in those segments of the food industry that purchase sugar. For an Agralytica white paper debunking the 142,000 jobs myth, please click [here](#).

MYTH: The sugar program does not need reform because it is working.

FACT: Working for whom? Not consumers and business owners who pay an extra \$3.5 billion a year because of artificially high U.S. sugar prices. Not the U.S. economy, which lost 125,000 jobs in sugar-using industries between 1997 and 2010.

MYTH: U.S. retail sugar prices are cheap compared to other countries.

FACT: This claim is based on an American Sugar Alliance chart with inaccurate numbers, which shows a 2011 U.S. retail sugar price of 58 cents per pound. However, there was not a single month in 2011 when the retail price was below 66 cents, and the average for the year was 68.3 cents, according to the Bureau of Labor statistics. The U.S. sugar price remains 50 percent higher than the world market price for refined sugar.

MYTH: Candy companies make enormous profits, so the sugar program can't be hurting them.

FACT: Due in large part to the high price of sugar, U.S. sugar-using companies continue to move offshore or go out of business altogether. In 2011, Yarnell Ice Cream in Arkansas closed after 80 years, blaming high sugar prices. Judson-Atkinson Candies in San Antonio, Texas halted domestic production because of high sugar costs.

For more myths and facts about the sugar program, click [here](#).

Congress – Reform Outdated Sugar Policies in the 2012 Farm Bill!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy in the 2012 Farm Bill at www.sugarreform.org.

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The Coalition for Sugar Reform is an alliance of consumers, food and beverage manufacturers, trade advocates, environmental groups, taxpayer watchdog organizations, responsible government advocates, think tanks and other interests. Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.