



July 16, 2013

The Financial Times: U.S. Farm Bill Gives Generous Subsidies to Agribusiness

A July 14 [story](#) in *The Financial Times* reports:

- *“The agriculture bill that was passed by Republicans last week doled out hundreds of millions of dollars in generous subsidies to the sugar industry and other businesses, even as it was hailed by many conservative US politicians as a model of fiscal discipline. ...*
- *“Advocates for reform in US sugar policy said the tweaks in permanent law contained in the legislation could cost taxpayers as much as \$250m by the end of next year because the legislation increased price supports, restricted the ability of the agriculture department to adjust import quotas and guaranteed a steady stream of subsidies by forcing the government to buy unused sugar and sell it to ethanol producers.”*

Just last week, USDA purchased \$44 million worth of excess sugar to mitigate the impact of anticipated federal sugar loan forfeitures later this summer, projected to range from \$110 million to \$320 million in taxpayer dollars, if these actions fail.

And the House voted to make this costly program permanent law? Enough is enough.

Only Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to U.S. sugar policy.

The Time for Sugar Program Reform is Now!

Learn more about the need to reform U.S. sugar policy 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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.