

Sweet Facts



June 4, 2013

New Report Details Negative Economic Impact of Current Sugar Program on American Consumers, Jobs and Growth

A new report, "[Economic Effects of the Sugar Program Since the 2008 Farm Bill & Policy Implications for the 2013 Farm Bill](#)," details how changes made to the sugar program in the 2008 farm bill have negatively impacted the U.S. economy and destabilized the U.S. sugar market.

Report highlights include:

- **Market instability and fluctuating U.S. sugar prices** – which rose to record high levels between 2008 and 2011 – are direct results of changes to the sugar program in the 2008 farm bill.
- **U.S. sugar prices have averaged 46 cents per pound since the 2008 farm bill compared to 28 cents under the 2002 farm bill. The increase in price has cost consumers an average of \$3.7 billion annually and led to declining employment in U.S. sugar-using food and beverage industries.** Nearly 127,000 jobs were lost in that sector of the U.S. economy between 1997 and 2011.
- The report's author, Tom Earley, Vice President of Agralytica says: "**Changes to the sugar program in the 2008 farm bill made a bad program even worse and have destabilized the U.S. sugar market. Those changes are to blame for both the shortages and high prices we have experienced over the past four years, as well as the current surplus that could force USDA, and ultimately taxpayers, to spend up to \$250 million to purchase excess sugar and sell it to fuel-ethanol plants at a loss this year and next.**"

Click [here](#) to read the full paper.

Congress can fix a program that hurts U.S. consumers, taxpayers, food manufacturers and their workers with simple reforms to the Farm Bill.

We Urge Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Bipartisan Sugar Reform Act (H.R. 693/S. 345) Now and Support Efforts to Reform the Sugar Program in the 2013 Farm Bill!

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 Our objective is to reform the federal government's intrusive, inefficient, restrictive and outdated sugar program – a decades-old subsidy that has repeatedly failed to provide adequate supplies of sugar to the U.S. market.