

Ranching and the Farm Bill

Opportunities for improvements

Ted Toombs

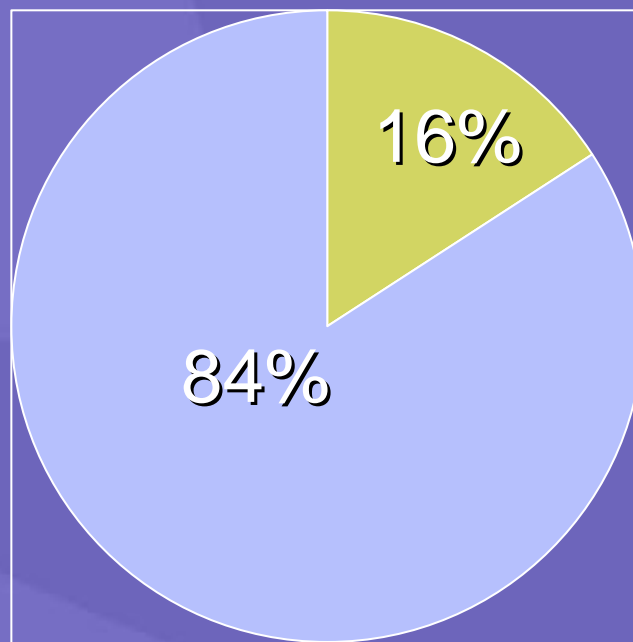
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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

Majority of Stewards Rejected

2003 Total Applications



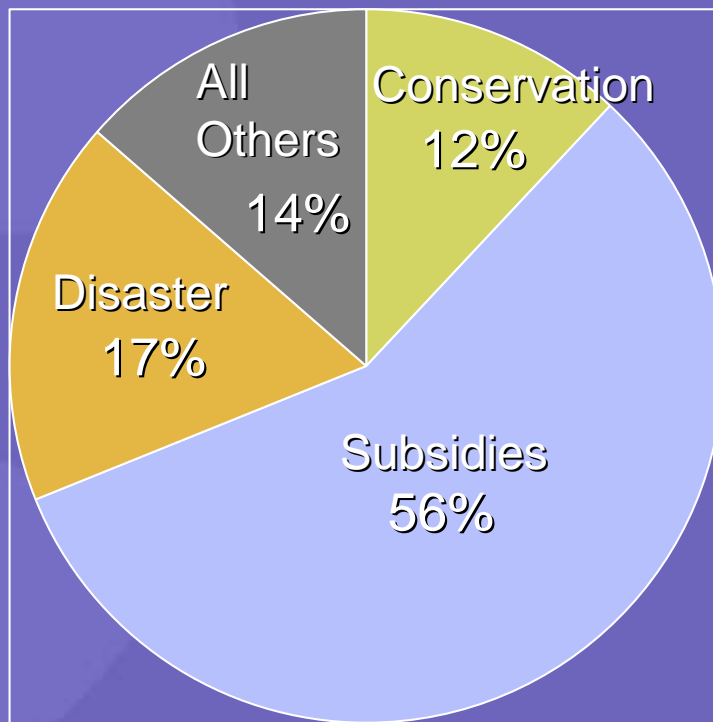
■ Funded ■ Unfunded

Source: NRCS, 2003

Why? Limited Funds for Conservation

- 12% of farm spending is for environmental stewardship

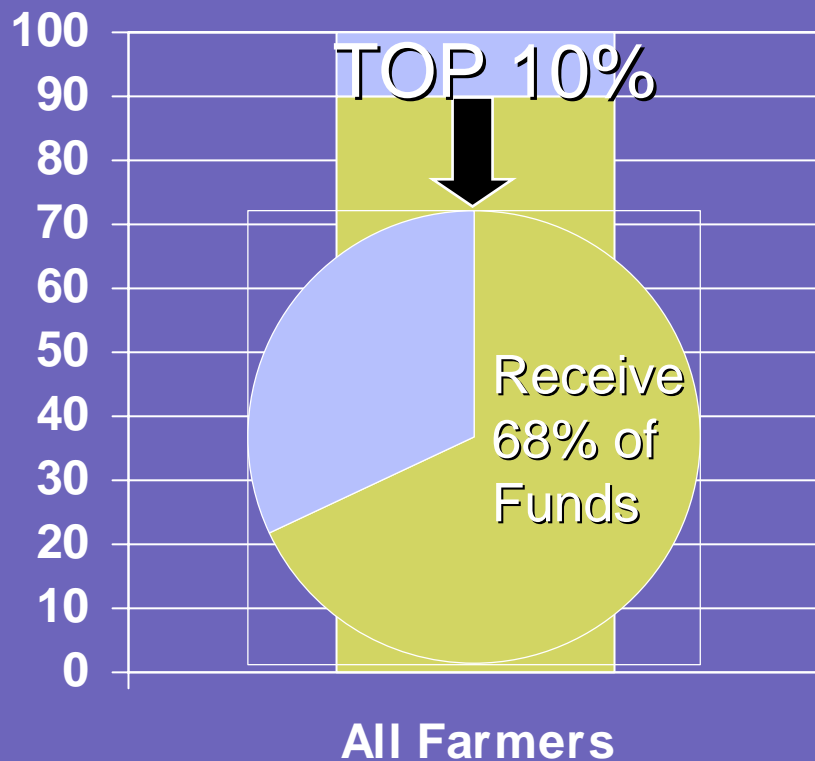
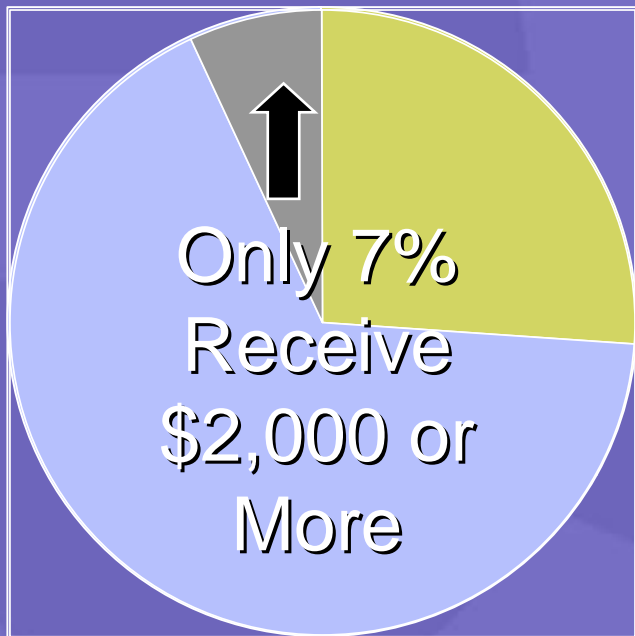
2003 USDA Spending



Source: EWG, 2003

Most Farmers and Ranchers Are Ineligible for Subsidies

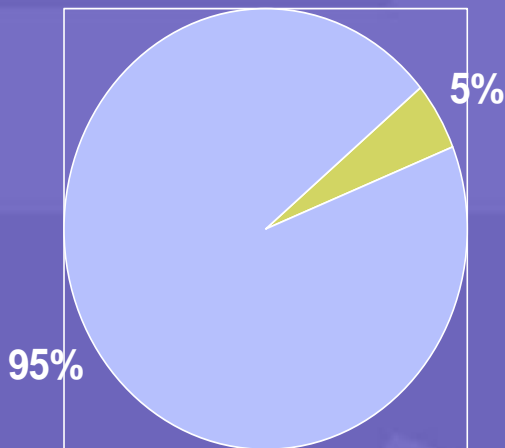
Farmers Eligible for Subsidies



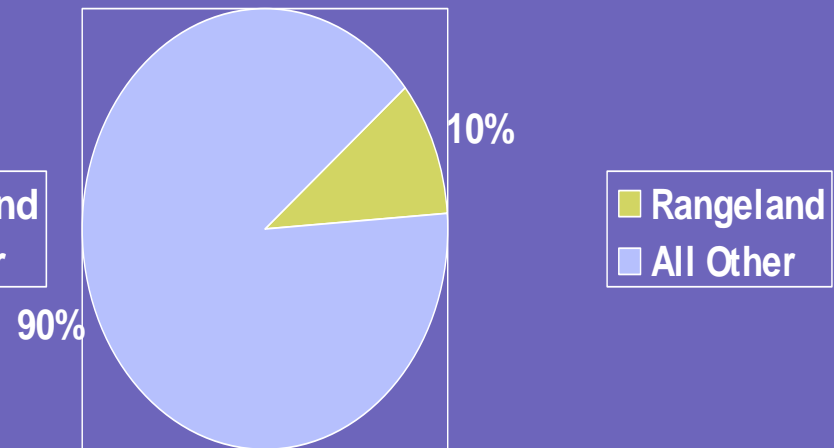
■ Eligible □ Ineligible

Rangeland Receives Small Share of Conservation Funds

EQIP



CSP



FY 2003 Numbers

Public Benefits From Well-Managed Rangelands

- Open Space
- Wildlife habitat
- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Carbon sequestration
- Restoration of ecosystem functions



Farm Bill Opportunities to Aid Ranchers

- Rewarding and promoting good rangeland stewardship
- Keeping ranchland as ranchland
- Restoring grasslands
- Promoting cooperative conservation
- Technical assistance
- New markets/rural development

What Kind of Farm Bill Do You Want?

Rancher Voices Need to be Heard

HOW?

- 1) Agree on key reforms
- 2) Sign on to letter with key reforms
- 3) Urge members of Congress to support key reforms and “Marker Bills”

Marker Bill Strategy

- 1) Find sponsors to introduce Bill highlighting important aspects of Farm Bill
- 2) Find co-sponsors to support them

What's Happening NOW?

- 1) Re-write of Pombo (HR 6193) “Eat Healthy America Act” by Cardoza (CA)
- 2) Re-write of Kind (WI) “Healthy Farms, Fuels and Foods Act” (HR 6064)
- 3) Senate companion to Cardoza by Stabenow (MI)

Next Steps in Congress

- 1) Introduce and co-sponsor marker bills
- 2) Discuss key provisions with Ag. Committee
- 3) Draft amendments and vote on them

What We Ask of You

- 1) Quivira Coalition Board supports key reforms in sign-on letter
- 2) Quivira members agree to support key reforms in letter
- 3) Members agree to help outreach to media and members of congress

Questions?