



# Congressional Briefing on the 2007 Farm Bill

William C. Velasquez Institute invites you to a Briefing on the Impact of the  
2007 Farm Bill on the Latino Community

**Wednesday, May 2, 2007**  
**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**HC-6 Capitol Building**

## Speakers

**Antonio Gonzalez, President of William C. Velasquez Institute**  
**Rudy Arredondo, President of National Latinos and Ranchers Trade Association**  
**Lorette Picciano, Executive Director of Rural Coalition**  
**Bruce Goldstein, Executive Director of Farmworker Justice**  
**Stacy Dean, Director Food Assistance Policy, Center on Budget Policy and Priorities**  
**Jennifer Ng'andu, Senior Health Policy Analyst, National Council of La Raza**  
**Juan Marinez, Assistant to the Director of Michigan State University Extension**  
**Quinten Robinson, Policy Advisor, Rural Coalition**

### Topics:

- *Impact of agricultural policy on Latino ranchers, farmers and other socially disadvantaged producers*
- *Challenges and opportunities for immigrant farmers, ranchers and other socially disadvantaged producers*
- *The detrimental impact of trade distorting commodity subsidies on developing countries in Latin America and Africa*
- *The health and safety of farmworkers in the workplace*
- *The health and nutrition needs of the Latino Community*
- *The role that the Farm Bill can play in reducing hunger and improving the health and nutrition of Latinos*

Latino farmers and ranchers are the fastest growing sector of agricultural owners and operators in the nation, increasing by over 40,000 from 1992 – 2002. But 90 percent of Latino farmers and ranchers do not benefit from the commodity program payments, which consume half of all farm spending. Commodity subsidies also distort trade and displace farmers and ranchers in developing countries in Africa and Latin America.

As a growing sector within agriculture, Latino and other socially disadvantaged farmers need new programs to help them catch up with other farmers who have had access to more benefits and services, as well as policy and programs that will hold USDA accountable for providing equitable access to programs. Latino farm workers also need relief from unfair wages and unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, including exposure to inappropriately used pesticides.

Federal agriculture programs and policies have an impact on the health and nutrition of Latinos. Nearly one in five Latinos faces food insecurity each year, compromising their health and well-being. Providing Latinos access to affordable, nutritious foods and assistance is a high priority in the 2007 Farm Bill debate.

William C. Velasquez Institute thanks U.S. Representative Joe Baca for his support in making this event possible  
For further information please contact Albert Jacquez at [asj@sswdc.com](mailto:asj@sswdc.com) or (703) 447-7113