Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts				
Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
1981 Farm Act	The crop acreage base for a program crop in 1982-85 equaled the previous year's plantings of that crop for harvest, including acreage idled under annual programs and acreage prevented from plantings. At the discretion of the Secretary, base could be computed using plantings for harvest in the 2 preceding crop years.	Farm program payment yields established for 1982-85 reflected various combinations of program yields established under prior legislation, proven yields, and administratively determined yields. Payment yields for wheat and feed grains were the previous crop year's established yield for the farm, adjusted by the Secretary to provide a fair and equitable yield. In particular, proven yields based on actual production were allowed if higher than the established farm program yield. For cotton and rice, the program yields were based on the actual yield per harvested acre for the 3 preceding years, with adjustments for abnormal yields resulting from natural disasters or other conditions beyond the control of the producer.	Wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, and rice.	Deficiency payments for the 1982-85 crop years equaled the payment rate times the farm program acreage times the farm program payment yield. The payment rate was the difference between the target price and the higher of the national loan rate or the national weighted average market price for the first 5 months of the crop year. As implemented, the individual farm program acreage was the acreage planted on the farm for harvest within the permitted acreage base.
1985 Farm Act, as amended	The crop acreage base for crop years 1986-90 equaled the average of the acreage planted and considered planted to the crop for harvest on the farm during the 5 preceding crop years. For upland cotton and rice, years with no plantings could be omitted, except their crop bases could not exceed the average acreage planted	The farm program payment yield for crop years 1986-87 was the average program yield for crop years 1981-85, excluding the years with the highest and lowest yield. If no crop was produced or no program yield was established on the farm during any of	Wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, and rice.	Deficiency payments equaled the deficiency payment rate times the farm program yield times the payment acreage (the amount of land planted to the program commodity after meeting any acreage reduction program requirements). Except for 0/92 acres, payment

Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts–Continued

Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
1985 Farm Act, as amended–*continued*	and considered planted in the preceding 2 crop years. For program purposes, corn and grain sorghum bases were combined, as were barley and oats bases. Crop acreage bases were reduced by the acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program multiplied by (1) the farm's total base acreage divided by (2) the farm's total cropland acreage. Acreage considered planted included: 1) any reduced or diverted acreage under annual programs; 2) acreage producers could not plant due to natural disaster or other conditions beyond the control of the producer; 3) the difference between permitted acreage and acreage planted to the program crop, if such acreage was devoted to conserving uses or specified industrial or experimental nonprogram crops; and 4) any acreage on the farm which the Secretary determined was necessary to establish a fair and equitable crop base.	those 5 years, then the farm program yield was based on average program yields for similar farms in the area. Program payment yields for 1988-90 were then frozen at 1986-87 levels.		acreage was the acreage actually planted. Payment acreage could not exceed permitted acreage (the difference between the base acreage and the acres idled under the acreage reduction program and paid land diversion). Producers had the option of participating in acreage diversion programs (50/92 and 0/92 programs) in which they could underplant their permitted acres by more than 8 percent and still, under some conditions, receive deficiency payments on a portion of the underplanted acreage. Limited planting flexibility in 1989 allowed the planting of soybeans and sunflowers on a portion (10-25 percent) of program crop permitted acreage, with a loss of deficiency payments for acreage switched. A similar program in 1990 allowed soybean plantings on up to 25 percent of program crop permitted acreage.

Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts–Continued				
Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
1990 farm legislation, as amended	For wheat, corn, sorghum, oats, and barley, the crop acreage base equaled the average of the acreage planted and considered planted for harvest on the farm for the 5 preceding crop years. For program purposes, corn and grain sorghum bases were combined, as were barley and oats bases. For upland cotton and rice, the crop acreage base equaled the average of the acreage planted and considered planted for the 3 preceding crop years. However, if upland cotton and rice producers did not participate in the 1989 and 1990 programs, the crop acreage base for 1991 was the average of the acreage planted and considered planted for the 5 preceding crop years, excluding the years in which no crop was planted, but not greater than the average of the preceding 2 years. For those that did not participate in 1990 and 1991 programs, a similar calculation procedure was used for 1992 crop acreage bases. The sum of the crop acreage bases could not exceed the cropland on the farm, except where double cropping was practiced. Double cropping must have been practiced at	Program payment yields for 1991-95 were continued at 1990 levels.	Wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, and rice.	Generally, payment acres for a producer were the acres planted up to a producer's maximum payment acres. Maximum payment acres equaled a producer's base acreage less reduced or idled acres less normal flex acres (15 percent of the base). Producers were allowed to plant up to 25 percent of the crop acreage base to any commodity, except fruits and vegetables, potatoes, dry edible beans, peas, and lentils, without losing any of the crop's acreage base. The 1990 Budget Act reduced the acreage on which deficiency payments would be paid by 15 percent of the crop acreage base. This was called normal flex acreage (NFA). The remaining 10 percent was called optional flex acreage (OFA). Deficiency payments were reduced for OFA not planted to the program commodity. Producers had the option of under-planting their maximum payment acres by more than 8 percent and

Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts–Continued				
Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
1990 farm legislation, as amended—*continued*	least 3 of the 5 preceding crop years for which the base was calculated in order to be eligible for this exception.			receiving deficiency payments on a portion of the underplanted acres (0/92). Producers had to devote the underplanted acres to conservation uses or approved nonprogram crops. A minimum deficiency payment rate under this program was guaranteed to be no less than the projected deficiency payment rate. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 provided for budget savings by changing the 0/92 provisions to 0-85/92.
1996 Farm Act	Commodity base acreage was replaced with contract acreage that was generally fixed for 1996 through 2002 crop years. Contract acreage generally equaled the base acreage that would have existed for the 1996 crop year, and included land enrolled in acreage reduction programs for any of the crop years 1991 through 1995, land considered planted under program rules (certified acreage), and land that had been enrolled in the CRP with an associated crop acreage base.	Program payment yields for 1996-2002 at 1995 levels.	Wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, and rice.	Production flexibility contract (PFC) payments equaled the PFC payment rate times the PFC payment quantity. The payment rate depended on budget allocations specified in the legislation. The payment quantity was 85 percent of the farm's contract acreage multiplied by the farm's program yield. Production was not required to receive PFC payments.

Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts–Continued				
Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
1996 Farm Act—*continued*				Planting of fruits and vegetables (excluding mung beans, lentils, and dry peas) on contract acres was prohibited unless the producer or the farm had a history of planting fruits and vegetables, but payments were reduced acre-for-acre on such plantings. Double cropping of fruits and vegetables was permitted without loss of payments if there were a history of such double cropping in the region. Wild rice was added to the list of restricted crops in the 2000 Agricultural Appropriations Act.
2002 Farm Act, as amended	The 2002 Farm Act required eligible farmland owners to designate base acres that, along with program yields, determine direct and counter-cyclical payments. Farmland owners had to select one of five options for designating base acres on their farm, including the addition of soybeans and other oilseeds: 1) Set base acres equal to the contract acreage that would have been used to make 2002 PFC payments (PFC acreage).	Direct payment yields were the same as the payment yields that would have been used to make PFC payments under the 1996 Act. For soybeans and other oilseeds, direct payment yields are based on 1998-2001 production histories, adjusted to reflect 1981-85 yields. If landowners chose to update their farm's base acres to 1998-2001 plantings, they could also set	Wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, peanuts, and other oilseeds (sunflower seed, canola, rapeseed, safflower, mustard seed, flaxseed, crambe, and sesame).	Production of a specified commodity is not required in order to receive direct payments or counter-cyclical payments. Payment acres are equal to 85 percent of the base acres. Base acre planting restrictions for fruits, vegetables, and wild rice were continued.

Appendix table: Crop Acreage Bases and Program Payment Yields, 1981 Through 2002 Farm Acts–Continued

Farm legislation	**Crop acreage base**—A farm's crop-specific acreage eligible to enroll in commodity programs	**Program payment yield**—Crop-specific yield per acre established for a farm based on agricultural legislation and administrative rules	**Applicable commodities**	**Determination of payments**—The farm program payment yield combined with a portion of enrolled acreage is used to determine selected farm program payments.
2002 Farm Act, as amended — *continued*	2) Set base acres equal to PFC acreage, plus the average oilseed acreage planted in 1998-2001, up to the base acreage maximum (total area planted or prevented from planting to eligible crops in 1998-2001). 3) Set base acres equal to PFC acreage plus oilseeds, but with a PFC offset. This option allowed farmland owners to add the full amount of 1998-2001 average oilseed plantings but reduced base acres for PFC crops. 4) Set base acres equal to the average acreage planted and prevented from planting in 1998-2001. 5) Set base acres equal to PFC acreage, and add oilseed base by reducing PFC acreage. This option allowed farmland owners to add some, but not all 1998-2001 average oilseed plantings.	their counter-cyclical payment yields using one of the following methods: 1) Keep PFC yields as CCP yields. 2) Set CCP yields equal to the PFC yields plus 70 percent of the difference between the PFC and 1998-2001 average yields. 3) Set CCP yields equal to 93.5 percent of 1998-2001 average yields.		

Legislation sources: Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-98; December 22, 1981); Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198; December 23, 1985); Technical Corrections to Food Security Act of 1985 Amendments (P.L. 99-253; February 28, 1986); Food Security Improvements Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-260; March 20, 1986); Disaster Assistance Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-387; August 11, 1988); Disaster Assistance Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-82; August 14, 1989); Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act 1989 (P.L. 101-239; December 19, 1989); Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act 1990 (P.L. 101-508; November 5, 1990); Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-624; November 28, 1990); Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66; August 10, 1993); Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-127; April 4, 1996); Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171; May 13, 2002); and Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108-7, February 20, 2003).

Sources: Bowers et al and Johnson et al. (1981 Act); Glaser (1985 Act); Pollack and Lynch (1990 Act); Nelson and Schertz (1996 Act); and Young (2002 Act). USDA, *ASCS Commodity Fact Sheet*, various commodities and years.