



## OBAMA VS. MCCAIN ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ISSUES

ISSUE	OBAMA	MCCAIN
<p><b>SUPPORTING FAMILY-OWNED FARMS</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Supported The 2008 Farm Bill And Supported Programs That Help Farmers In Illinois And America.</b> Barack Obama supported the 2008 Farm Bill and believes in a strong safety net and making disaster assistance permanent. In 2006, Obama supported legislation that would have reversed \$2 billion in cuts for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs including conservation, rural development, and nutrition programs vitally important to our rural communities. He also supported legislation to fully fund programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill.</p> <p><b>Obama Supported Increasing Agricultural Aid, Including Disaster And Flood Relief.</b> Obama cosponsored the Emergency Farm Relief Act of 2006 to make grants to state agriculture departments for direct economic loss payments to eligible small businesses. Obama has worked with Sen. Durbin on drought relief.</p> <p><b>Obama Has Received Awards and Endorsements from Major Agriculture Groups.</b> Obama was awarded the National Farmers Union Golden Triangle Award for his work in the U.S. Senate, and was endorsed by the American Corn Growers Association for President.</p>	<p><b>McCain Opposed The 2008 Farm Bill.</b> McCain opposed the recently passed five-year farm bill and said that if he were President, he would have vetoed it, just as President Bush did.</p> <p><b>McCain Has A Record Of Opposing Programs To Help America’s Farmers And Ranchers.</b> Commenting on McCain’s record of opposing farm programs, the National Farmers Union’s president said, “I don’t think you would find too many people in American agriculture and ranching who would agree with Sen. McCain’s position on farming issues.”</p> <p><b>McCain’s Extreme Position Of Opposition To All Agricultural Subsidies Has Been Criticized By A Fellow Republican Senator.</b> McCain said, “I don’t support agricultural subsidies no matter where they are.” Fellow Republican Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa said, “I would not advise him to take that position.”</p> <p><b>McCain Has Repeatedly Opposed More Disaster Assistance For Farmers And Ranchers.</b> McCain opposes permanent disaster assistance to help farmers during difficult times and has repeatedly voted against increases in disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers.</p>
<p><b>REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR FAMILIES AND INCREASING ACCESS TO RURAL HEALTH CARE</b></p>	<p><b>Obama Will Increase Access To Health Care In Rural Areas.</b> As president, Obama will increase access to health care in rural areas by investing in health information technology and TeleMedicine programs that make it possible for doctors to treat their patients in remote areas. In addition, he will attract providers to rural America by creating a loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who work in underserved rural areas.</p> <p><b>Obama’s Health Care Plan Would Cover All Americans And Save You Money.</b> Obama’s health care plan lowers health care costs by \$2500 for families and “begins by covering every American. If you already have health insurance, you will have it after this plan becomes law. No one will be turned away because of a preexisting condition or illness.”</p>	<p><b>McCain’s Plan Would Tax Health Benefits For The First Time, Increasing Working Families’ Taxes by \$3.6 Trillion.</b> McCain’s elimination of payroll deductions on health care benefits would raise working families’ taxes by \$3.6 trillion.</p> <p><b>McCain’s Health Care Plan Would Do Almost Nothing To Increase Coverage Of The Uninsured.</b> As the Washington Post noted, McCain rejected calls for universal health care, and according to the Tax Policy Center, he would do almost nothing to reduce the number of uninsured.</p> <p><b>McCain Voted Against Reducing Bush’s Tax Cut For The Wealthy To Increase Funding For Rural Health And Admitted His Rural Health Plan Doesn’t “Sound Too Serious.”</b> McCain voted against increasing rural health care providers’ Medicare reimbursements through a reduction in tax cuts for the wealthiest. He even admitted his rural health care plan doesn’t “sound too serious.”</p>

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<b>PREVENTING THE CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION OF FARMS</b>	<p><b>Obama Supported Capping Subsidies To Megafarms And Is A Longtime Advocate For Family Farms.</b> Obama supports efforts to ensure that our farm programs are targeted appropriately and will help farmers get fair access to markets, control over their production decisions, and transparency in prices. Obama supported capping subsidies for farms and voted to create the Illinois Family Farmer Support Act.</p>	<p><b>McCain Has Repeatedly Opposed Policies That Would Help Family Farms Stay In Business.</b> McCain voted against the packer ban, against capping farm subsidies, against capping funding for CAFO's and against country of origin labeling, policies which would help family farms avoid corporate consolidation.</p>
<b>STANDING UP FOR RURAL AMERICA</b>	<p><b>Obama Has Supported Funding For Diverse Development Programs For Rural Communities.</b> Obama supported funding for Illinois communities through the Rural Community Empowerment Program, which includes the establishment of rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, Illinois AgriFIRST and other federal programs that maintain and build upon rural communities' assets. In the U.S. Senate, Obama repeatedly voted to fund important agriculture, conservation and rural development programs.</p>	<p><b>McCain Opposed Millions In Energy Grants And Loans For Agriculture And Rural Small Business.</b> McCain opposed millions in grants and loans for renewable energy efficiency systems and renewable energy for agriculture and rural small business.</p>
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	<p><b>Obama: New Energy for America.</b> Obama's energy plan will require at least 60 billion gallons of fuel to come from advanced biofuels by 2030. Obama will establish a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 10 percent of U.S. electricity consumption is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2012. And he will invest \$150 billion over the next 10 years in our green energy sector, creating up to five million new jobs in the process – jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced.</p> <p><b>Obama Supported Investments In Renewable Energy.</b> Obama strongly supports increasing the use of clean, home-grown renewable energy such as wind, solar and biofuels and establishing the Renewable Fuel Standard.</p> <p><b>Obama Supported Extending Renewable Energy Production Credit.</b> Obama voted for an amendment to extend the renewable energy production tax credit and clean renewable energy bonds programs for four years.</p> <p><b>A Long Record of Support for Advanced Biofuels.</b> Thanks to a law Barack Obama championed, gas stations are now eligible for tax credits for installing E85 ethanol refueling pumps.</p>	<p><b>McCain Repeatedly Voted Against Renewable Fuel Mandates And Said Ethanol "Has Absolutely...No Value Whatsoever."</b> McCain has repeatedly voted against ethanol and renewable fuel mandates and once said ethanol "has absolutely, under no circumstances, any value whatsoever."</p> <p><b>McCain Opposed Legislation Than Included An Extension Of The Renewable Energy Production Credit.</b> McCain voted against a measure that included an extension of the renewable energy production credit, and included funding for biomass cellulosic fuels, cellulosic biomass ethanol conversion assistance, and other renewable energy programs.</p> <p><b>McCain's Energy Plan Doesn't Include Biofuels.</b> As Ethanol Producer Magazine noted, "McCain's energy plan doesn't include biofuels." In addition, the Annenberg Public Policy Center's FactCheck.org noted that McCain's "energy plan doesn't specify any new federal spending for renewable energy and says only that he'd 'rationalize' existing tax credits to provide incentives."</p>
<b>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING</b>	<p><b>Obama Supports Country Of Origin Labeling Requirements.</b> Obama supports immediate implementation of the Country of Origin Labeling Law.</p>	<p><b>McCain Repeatedly Voted Against Country Of Origin Labeling.</b> McCain repeatedly voted against measures that would have required country of origin labeling for meat products.</p>