

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Mrs. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Ayotte	Hagan	Pryor
Baldwin	Harkin	Reed
Begich	Heinrich	Reid
Bennet	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Boozman	Kaine	Schumer
Boxer	King	Shaheen
Brown	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cantwell	Landrieu	Tester
Cardin	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Carper	Levin	Udall (NM)
Casey	Manchin	Walsh
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	McCaskill	Warren
Donnelly	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—34

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Heller	Portman
Chambliss	Hoeben	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	
Flake	Moran	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Hatch

NOT VOTING—7

Blunt	Murkowski	Toomey
Cornyn	Nelson	
Graham	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 34, and one Senator voted "present."

The motion is agreed to.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to discuss the Agricultural Act of 2014, otherwise known as the farm bill.

I sincerely appreciate the Agriculture Committee chairwoman's and ranking member's work in moving the process forward.

I have made it a priority to keep Pennsylvania's agricultural industry and our rural economies strong to support Pennsylvanian families.

Agriculture is the Commonwealth's largest industry. Pennsylvania's farm gate value—that is cash receipts to growers—is about \$5.8 billion. Agribusiness in Pennsylvania is a \$46.4 billion industry. Seventeen and one-half percent of Pennsylvanians are employed in the food and fiber system. What does this mean?

It means that we must have a five-year farm bill.

The farm bill creates economic opportunities in our rural areas and sustains the consumers and businesses that rely on our rural economy.

This farm bill would reduce the deficit by approximately \$23 billion through the elimination of some subsidies, the consolidation of programs and producing greater efficiencies in program delivery.

Furthermore, dairy farmers deserve the best dairy program possible. The Senate bill contains many improvements that I support. Dairy is Pennsylvania's No. 1 agricultural sector. The dairy industry annually generates more than \$1.8 billion in on-farm cash receipts, which represent about 32 percent of Pennsylvania's total agricultural receipts.

There are so many other important items that come out of having a five-year farm bill.

I am especially thankful to the chairwoman and ranking member for inclusion of a provision to establish cooperative lending pilot projects to aid administration of microloans. These projects will help provide business planning support and financial management expertise to farmers to ensure their success in order to foster economic development in agriculture and sustain farm profitability.

Making risk management and crop insurance products work better for Pennsylvanians, especially small farmers, specialty crop farmers and organic farmers, is very important. Providing funding through risk management, conservation and agricultural marketing agencies to underserved states, the Agricultural Management Assistance, AMA, program helps to make the farm bill more equitable among regions. I genuinely appreciate the chairwoman's and ranking member's work to enhance the Agricultural Management Assistance program, including support for organic transition assistance. The improvements in this bill to crop insurance delivery are important.

We have worked to address the unique concerns of specialty crop farmers and beginning farmers, and we have

done so in a bipartisan way. Specialty crops are very important to Pennsylvanian agriculture. The Specialty Crops Research Initiative, SCRI, Specialty Crops Block Grant program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program all advance the specialty crops industry, playing a key role in ensuring that this important agricultural sector receives continued acknowledgement in the farm bill. These programs remain strong under this bill.

In addition, the Nation's organic industry has grown exponentially from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$29 billion in 2010, with an annual growth rate of 19 percent from 1997–2008. In 2008, Pennsylvania was ranked 6th in number of organic farms with 586 and 3rd in sales at \$212.7 million.

I also support the improvements in promotion programs within the farm bill.

Through research, we develop more efficient and effective farming methods. Research also helps producers maintain a competitive edge in the global market by fighting threatening diseases and pests.

I am pleased that the farm bill invests in relevant and targeted research and maintains the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service programs that work to eradicate the invasive species that threaten our nation's forests and farms.

The farm bill's forestry programs are essential for assisting forest landowners in managing threats and enhancing stewardship. I am pleased that the farm bill continues important forestry programs so that forest owners can continue to create new economic opportunities. I am also grateful to the chairwoman and ranking member for working with me to fix USDA's Biopreferred program to even the playing field for Pennsylvanian forestry products. Revenues from Pennsylvania's forest products industry exceed \$5.5 billion annually. Over 10 percent of the State's manufacturing workforce is involved in the forest products industry.

I am appreciative to the committee for the inclusion of my provision directing USDA to work with the Food and Drug Administration toward the development of a standard of identity for honey, a tool which will promote honesty and fair dealing and serve the interest of consumers and Pennsylvania's honey industry. The majority of our honey is imported, but because there is no standard, contaminated, low-quality honey continues to pass through customs and undercut our domestic product. Pennsylvania is a major player in the honey industry. Honey bee pollination can be directly attributed to the production of about \$60 million of agricultural produce in Pennsylvania annually.

I am committed to keeping Pennsylvania's rural communities strong and support rural development programs that provide access to capital for rural businesses to provide economic opportunities and create jobs. A