

Bill number	S. 305
Title	A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter.
Sponsor / Co-sponsors	Sponsored by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) Co-sponsors: Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
Description	Amends the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 to prohibit livestock packers from owning, controlling, or feeding livestock to such an extent that the producer no longer materially participates in the management of the operation, with exceptions for: (1) animals held for not more than seven days before slaughter; (2) certain cooperatives that own, control or feed livestock and provide such livestock for slaughter; (3) packers that are not required to report price and quantity information on each reporting day; or (4) packers that own one livestock processing plant.
Latest Development	1/16/2007 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
ACTION NEEDED	ENCOURAGE YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Background to S. 305: Meat packers use packer-owned livestock as a tool for exerting unfair market power over farmers and ranchers. This practice fosters industrial livestock production and freezes independent farmers out of the markets, lowering farm gate prices to farmers and ranchers while consumer food prices continue to rise. A ban on direct ownership of livestock by major meatpackers can address a significant percentage of the problem of captive supply which packers use to manipulate markets.

Bill number	S. 1017
Title	Captive Supply Reform Act
Sponsor / Co-sponsors	Sponsored by Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY) Co-sponsors: Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY), Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), Sen. John Tester (D-MN)
Description	Captive Supply Reform Act - Amends the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 respecting livestock producer-packer forward contracts to: (1) require the inclusion of fixed dollar amount base pricing and public bidding; (2) prohibit formula pricing; (3) limit individual contract size; and (4) exclude from the definition of "formula price" futures-based prices and base adjustments resulting from factors outside packer control.
Latest Development	3/28/2007 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
ACTION NEEDED	ENCOURAGE YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Background to S. 1017: Many packers require that producers negotiate formula contracts and marketing agreements in secret, giving individual packers a great deal of market information while leaving producers in the dark about market conditions. These formula contracts and agreements depress prices and shut small and independent producers out of markets. The Captive Supply Reform Act would require that packers offer contracts with a firm base price and offer them in an open public manner.

Bill number	S. 221
Title	Fair Contracts for Growers Act of 2007. A bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts .
Sponsor / Co-sponsors	Sponsored by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) Co-sponsors: Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI), Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Description	Fair Contracts for Growers Act of 2007 - Allows the use of arbitration to resolve a controversy as provided for under a livestock or poultry contract only if, after the controversy arises, both parties consent in writing. Directs the arbitrator to provide to the parties to the contract a written explanation of the factual and legal basis for an award.
Latest Development	1/9/2007 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
ACTION NEEDED	ENCOURAGE YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Background to S. 221: Farmers and ranchers should be able to exercise their full legal rights and choice of forum without having to bargain those rights away through mandatory arbitration clauses in order to gain access to markets for their products.

Bill number	S. 622
Title	Competitive and Fair Agricultural Markets Act of 2007. A bill to enhance fair and open competition in the production and sale of agricultural commodities.
Sponsor / Co-sponsors	Sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) Co-sponsors: Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI), Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Description	Competitive and Fair Agricultural Markets Act of 2007 - Amends the Agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1967 to define specified terms. Establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Office of Special Counsel for Competition Matters, which shall be headed by a Special Counsel for Competition Matters. States that the Office shall: (1) investigate and prosecute violations of this Act and the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921; (2) serve as a liaison between the Department and the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with respect to competition and trade practices in the food and agricultural sector; and (3) maintain a staff of attorneys and other appropriate professionals. Prohibits unfair or deceptive agricultural commerce acts or practices respecting: (1) crops; (2) producer associations; and (3) agricultural production and marketing contracts.

	<p>Sets forth agricultural and production contract and enforcement provisions.</p> <p>Amends the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 to eliminate the "slaughter" requirement from the definitions of "poultry grower," "poultry growing arrangement," and "live poultry dealer." States that the term "poultry grower" does not include an employee of such grower.</p> <p>Extends: (1) administrative enforcement authority to live poultry dealers; and (2) temporary injunction or restraining order authority to instances of poultry care. Increases the maximum civil penalty for violations by live poultry dealers.</p> <p>States that it shall be an unlawful practice to engage in an unfair or discriminatory practice or device or to control or manipulate prices regardless of whether the practice, device, or course of business causes a competitive injury or otherwise adversely effects competition, and regardless of any alleged business justification.</p>
Latest Development	2/15/2007 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
ACTION NEEDED	ENCOURAGE YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Background to S. 622: Current abuses contained in processor-drafted agricultural contracts allow for manipulation of the producer. The Competitive and Fair Agricultural Markets Act of 2007 can address this concern in a myriad of ways:

- Recent court rulings have complicated and weakened USDA's ability to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA). The bill would make it easier for producers to prove unfair actions by packers without the impractical burden of having to prove adverse affects on competition in the region or nation.
- Courts have found current undue preference legal standards in the Packers and Stockyards Act virtually impossible to enforce. The bill would strengthen the undue price preference provision to ensure that preferential pricing structures are justified only for real differences in product value or actual differences in acquisition and transaction costs.
- Currently, it is illegal for poultry integrators to engage in unfair or anti-competitive practices, but there is no enforcement section of the law to prosecute violations. The bill would provide for poultry enforcement, on a par with the livestock sector.
- Retaliation by processors against farmers and ranchers who try to market their services and products through legally-sanctioned bargaining associations is commonplace in some sectors. The bill would protect bargaining rights and prevent processor retaliation.
- Because of the dwindling number of regional buyers, farmers and ranchers have had to accept one-sided, take-it-of-leave-it contracts to stay in business. The bill would provide farmers and ranchers with the right to discuss the contract with family members, lawyers, and other producers. The legislation would also protect producers from having their contracts prematurely terminated after they have made a sizable capital investment.

Bill number	S. 404
Title	Country of Origin Labeling Act of 2007
Sponsor / Co-sponsors	Sponsored by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY) Co-sponsors: Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), , Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) , Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), , Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY), Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), Sen. John Thune (R-SD), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Description	To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require the implementation of country of origin labeling requirements by September 30, 2007.
Latest Development	1/26/2007 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
ACTION NEEDED	ENCOURAGE YOUR SENATORS TO CO-SPONSOR THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

Background to S. 404: The 2002 Farm Bill provided for Country-of-Origin labeling for beef, lamb, fresh fruits, fish and shellfish. Mandatory COOL for fish was implemented in April of 2005, but implementation for all other commodities has been stymied by meatpackers and retailers. Congress should reauthorize COOL to reaffirm its benefits and fully fund the program