



# Food Stamps: Fighting Hunger Or Draining Resources?

May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM

For the full show go to: <http://wbur.fm/11ctgWZ>

Congress says food stamps are costing the country too much and debating big cuts. One in every seven Americans is using them to eat. What's going on?



P)

It's time for [Farm Bill](#) renewal in Congress, and the biggest item by far in the big bill is not about tractors or sugar beets or corn subsidies. It's about food stamps.

In total, \$80 billion a year out of the \$100 billion in Farm Bill spending goes to food stamps — to the [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program](#), with 48 million American getting help with the grocery bill.

That number exploded during the Great Recession. It's still high. Some in Congress want to whack it back. But for a lot of Americans, it's what's for dinner.

Up next *On Point*: The Farm Bill and food stamps.

– Tom Ashbrook

## Guests

---

**Mary Clare Jalonick**, food and farm reporter for the Associated Press (@MCJalonick)

**Deborah Frank**, founder and principal investigator for [Children's HealthWatch](#). She's also the director of [The Grow Clinic](#) at Boston Medical Center and a professor of child health and well-being at Boston University School of Medicine.

**Daniel Sumner**, director of the **Agricultural Issues Center** at the University of California at Davis. He's also the former Assistant Secretary for Economics at the United States Department of Agriculture. He formerly served as a senior economist at the President's Council of Economic Advisers and as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the USDA.

---

Click here to read more online: <http://onpoint.wbur.org/2013/05/23/farm-bill-food-stamps>