

## **ABA Talking Points At A Glance**

### **Conservation Reserve Program**

- ABA estimates that as much as one-third of the farm land idled through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) could be returned to production without sacrificing environmental goals.
- ABA strongly supports a proposal from House Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson for a seven million acre decrease in the program.
- ABA is continuing to urge USDA to exercise its authority to waive penalties for farmers seeking an early release from contracts for CRP acres.

### **Ethanol**

- ABA supports developing energy efficient alternatives and alternative fuel research (cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel); however, these policies must be balanced with the needs of traditional agriculture to ensure a reliable food supply for our nation.
- Trading independence from foreign oil for dependence on foreign sources of basic food is **not** in the best security interests of the country.
- ABA supports the requirement in the 2007 energy bill that gives the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with USDA and the Energy Department, authority to waive yearly renewable fuel standard requirements if they would “severely harm the economy of a state, region or the US” or if domestic supplies are not adequate to meet the standards.

### **Wheat Stocks and Availability**

- Congress and the Administration must develop policies that do a better job of balancing the need to provide Americans with affordable, healthy food products and the desire for renewable fuels such as ethanol.
- ABA supports instituting a requirement for USDA to periodically evaluate the impact of the renewable fuels program on the nation’s commodity supply and recommend adjustments to the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) as necessary.
- USDA also should implement responsible export practices such as ensuring an adequate domestic supply before sending wheat exports to other countries.