

高 等 学 校 教 材

# 现代英语教程

# 泛读

总主编 赵国杰  
主 编 李行亮  
陈根发

2

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English Course*

*Extensive Reading*

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总 主 编： 赵国杰  
本 册 主 编： 李行亮 陈根发  
本册副主编： 邹钱荣 于洪颖 邱志华  
本 册 编 委： 辛 琳 胡 萍 廖华英  
涂丽萍 王雅丽 郭志丽  
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刘 琦 刘庆雪 徐 红  
倪亚音 黄皎玲 雷晓敏

现代英语教程 泛读(2)

总主编 赵国杰

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邮编:330046 电话:(0791)8512093

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# 前 言

《现代英语教程》是根据正在编写的新的大学英语教学大纲及江西省大学英语教学的实际需要而编写的。它是江西省大学外语教学协作组一项重要的科研项目。

教材分精读、泛读、口语和听力四种形式,分四级出版,供各校课堂教学及课外活动使用。

本书的编写得到了江西省教育委员会高教一处的大力支持和帮助;全省的各个外语教学单位积极参加编写,成为本书编写的坚强基础和可靠保证。在江西工作的美国专家 Lisa·J·Peterson、Cindy Stevens、Wes Beasley、Mark King、Pat King、Michelle L. Stabler、Greg A. Entzian 审校全书并为该书录音,在此一并表示衷心地感谢。

《现代英语教程》编写组

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# Unit One

## Text A American on Wheels

Early automobiles were sometimes only “horseless carriages” powered by gasoline or steam engines. Some of them were so noisy that cities often made laws forbidding their use because they frightened horses.

Many countries helped to develop the automobile. The internal-combustion engine was invented in Austria, and France was an early leader in automobile manufacturing. But it was in the United States after 1900 that the automobile was improved most rapidly. As a large and growing country, the United States needed cars and trucks to provide transportation in places not served by trains.

Two brilliant ideas made possible the mass production of automobiles. An American inventor named Eli Whitney thought of one of them, which is known as “standardization of the parts.” In an effort to speed up production in his gun factory, Whitney decided that each part of a gun could be made by machines so that it could be exactly like all the others of its kind. For example, each trigger would be exactly like all other triggers. A broken trigger could then be replaced immediately by an identical one. After Whitney’s idea was applied to automobile production, each part no longer had to be made by hand. Machines were developed that could produce hundreds, even thousands, of identical parts that would fit into place easily and quickly.

Another American, Henry Ford, developed the idea of the assembly line. Before Ford introduced the assembly line, each car was built by hand. Such a process was, of course, very slow. As a result, automobiles were so expensive that only rich people could afford them. Ford proposed a system in which each worker would have a special job to do. One person, for example, would make only a portion of the wheels. Another would place the wheels on the car. And still another would insert the bolts that held the wheels to the car. Each worker needed to learn only one or two routine tasks.

But the really important part of Ford’s idea was to bring the work to the worker. An automobile frame, which looks like a steel skeleton, was put on a moving platform. As the frame moved past the workers each worker could attach a single part. When the car reached the end of the line, it was completely assembled. Oil, gasoline, and water were added, and the car was

ready to be driven away. With the increased production made possible by the assembly line, automobiles became much cheaper, and more and more people were able to afford them.

Today it can be said that wheels run America. The four rubber tires of the automobile move America through work and play. Wheels spin, and people drive off to their jobs. Tires turn, and people shop for the week's food at the big supermarket down the highway. Hubcaps whirl, and the whole family spends a day at the lake. Each year more wheels crowd the highways as 10 million new cars roll out of the factories. One out of every six Americans works at assembling cars, driving tracks, building roads, or pumping gas. America without cars? It's unthinkable.

But even though the majority of Americans would find it hard to imagine what life could be like without a car, some have begun to realize that the automobile is a mixed blessing. Traffic accidents are increasing steadily, and large cities are plagued by traffic congestion. Worst of all, perhaps, is the air pollution caused by the internal-combustion engine. Every car engine burns hundreds of gallons of fuel each year and pumps hundreds of pounds of carbon monoxide and other gases into the air. These gases are one source of the smog that hangs over large cities. Some of these gases are poisonous and dangerous to health, especially for someone with a weak heart or a respiratory disease.

One answer to the problem of air pollution is to build a car that does not pollute. That's what several major automobile manufacturers are trying to do. But building a clean car is easier said than done. So far, progress has been slow. Another solution is to eliminate car fumes altogether by getting rid of the internal-combustion engine. Inventors are now working on turbine-powered cars, as well as on cars powered by steam and electricity. But most of us won't be driving cars run on batteries or boiling water for a while yet. Many auto makers believe that it will take years to develop practical models that are powered by electricity or steam.

To rid the world of pollution—pollution caused not just by cars, but by all of modern industrial life—many people believe we must make some fundamental changes in the way many of us live. Americans may, for example, have to cut down on the number of privately owned cars and depend more on public mass transit systems. Certainly the expensive use of new transit systems could cut down on traffic congestion and air pollution. But these changes do not come easily. Sometimes they clash head on with other urgent problems. For example, if a factory closes down because it cannot meet government pollution standards, a large number of workers suddenly find them-

selves without jobs. Questioning the quality of the air they breathe becomes less important than worrying about the next paycheck.

But drastic action must be taken if we are to reduce traffic accidents, traffic congestion, and air pollution. While wheels have brought better and more convenient transportation, they have also brought new and unforeseen problems. Progress, it turns out, has more than one face.

## NEW WORDS

automobile [ˈɔ:təməubi:l] <i>n.</i>	car 汽车
gasoline [ˈgæsəli:n] <i>n.</i>	汽油
forbid [fə'bid] <i>vt.</i>	command (sb. or sth.) not to do sth. 禁止, 不许
internal-combustion	内燃机的
[ɪntənl kəm'blʌstʃən] <i>adj.</i>	
transportation [ˌtræns'pɔ:teɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	运输
standardization [ˌstændədaɪ'zeɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	标准化
trigger ['trɪgə] <i>n.</i>	(枪的)板机
identical [aɪ'dentɪkəl] <i>adj.</i>	the same 完全相等的
propose [prəu'pəuz] <i>vt.</i>	suggest, put forward for consideration 提出
portion ['pɔ:ʃən] <i>n.</i>	一部分
insert [ɪn'sɜ:t] <i>vt.</i>	put sth. inside (sth. else) 插入
bolt [bəult] <i>n.</i>	栓, 螺钉
routine [ru:'ti:n] <i>n.</i>	the regular fixed ordinary way of working or doing things 常规, 例行公事
frame [freɪm] <i>n.</i>	the hard solid parts which are fitted together to make sth. 骨架, 架子
skeleton ['skelɪtn] <i>n.</i>	a framework 框架
platform ['plætfɔ:m] <i>n.</i>	平台
spin [spɪn] <i>v.</i>	turn round and round fast 旋转
shop [ʃɒp] <i>v.</i>	visit shops in order to buy 到商店去购物
hubcap ['hʌbkæp] <i>n.</i>	汽车轮外侧将车轴遮盖之金属碟
whirl [wɜ:l] <i>vi.</i>	move round and round very fast 旋转
roll [rɔ:l] <i>vi.</i>	move steadily and smoothly along 行驶
pump [pʌmp] <i>vt.</i>	抽出
unthinkable [ʌnθɪŋkəbl] <i>adj.</i>	无法想象的
blessing ['blesɪŋ] <i>n.</i>	祝福
plague [pleɪg] <i>v.</i>	cause continual discomfort, suffering, or trou-

congestion [kən'dʒestʃən] <i>n.</i>	ble to 折磨,使烦恼 the condition of being too full or blocked up, esp. because of traffic 拥塞 (液量单位)加仑
gallon ['gælən] <i>n.</i>	
fuel [fjuəl] <i>n.</i>	material that is used for producing heat or power by burning 燃料
carbon monoxide ['kɑ:bən mɒ'nɒksaɪd] <i>n.</i>	一氧化碳
smog [smɒg] <i>n.</i>	mixture of smoke and fog (as in towns) (美)烟雾
poinsonous ['pɔɪznəs] <i>adj.</i>	有毒的
respiratory [rɪs'paɪəətəri] <i>adj.</i>	connected with breathing 呼吸(作用)的
fume [fju:m] <i>n.</i>	(usu. pl.) strong-smelling smoke, gas or vapour(有害的,气味难闻而强烈的)烟,气体,汽
inventor [ɪn'ventə] <i>n.</i>	a person who invents sth. new 发明者
battery ['bætəri] <i>n.</i>	电池
rid [rɪd] <i>vt.</i>	make free (of)解除
fundamental [ˌfʌndə'mentl] <i>adj.</i>	of the greatest importance 基本的,根本的
transit ['trænsɪt] <i>n.</i>	the moving of people or goods from one place to another esp. on public vehicles 运输
urgent ['ɜ:dʒənt] <i>adj.</i>	very important and needing to be dealt with quickly or first 紧急的,急迫的
clash [klæʃ] <i>v.</i>	come into opposition 撞击
paycheck ['peɪtʃek] <i>n.</i>	薪水支票
drastic ['dræstɪk] <i>adj.</i>	strong, sudden, and often violent or severe 强有力的,激烈的
convenient [kən'vi:njənt] <i>adj.</i>	suited to one's needs 方便的
unforeseen [ˌʌnfɔ:'si:n] <i>adj.</i>	unexpected 预料不到的

## PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS

speed up	(cause to) move or go faster 加速
fit into	适合于
drive off	驾车离去
hang over	continue or remain 挂在……上面
get rid of	free oneself from (sth. unwanted) 免除,解除
cut down	减少
clash head on	产生矛盾,抵触



take action

begin to act 采取行动

## PROPER NAMES

Eli Whitney ['i:lai 'witni]

伊莱·惠特尼(1765—1825,美国发明家)

Henry Ford ['henri 'fɔ:d]

亨利·福特 (1863—1947,美国汽车制造商)

## NOTES

1. **mass production** making in great numbers 大量生产
2. **As a large and growing country, ...** Being a large and growing country, ...
3. **With the increased production made possible by the assembly line** 独立结构, 表示原因  
eg. With winter coming on, it's time to buy warm clothes.
4. **Today it can be said that wheels run America.** We may say automobiles enable America to function.
5. **wheels spin, tires turn, hubcaps whirl** 都是指汽车开动
6. **... is a mixed blessing** has both good and bad effects
7. **plagued by traffic congestion** troubled by too many automobiles
8. **easier said than done** 说起来容易做起来难
9. **turbine-powered cars** 涡轮发动机汽车

## EXERCISES

### I. Comprehension of the Text

Choose the best answer for each of the following.

1. Early automobiles were not allowed to be used for some time because \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. horses were afraid of the noise  
B. people didn't like automobiles  
C. automobiles were slow  
D. automobiles were too fast
2. The automobile was most improved rapidly in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. Austria      B. France      C. the United States      D. China
3. What will people do when the trigger of a gun is broken?  
A. They'll buy a new gun.

- B. They'll throw the broken gun away.
  - C. They'll make a new gun.
  - D. They'll replace the broken trigger with a new identical one.
4. Before the assembly line was introduced by Henry Ford, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. automobiles were so expensive that only rich people could afford them
  - B. each part was built by hand
  - C. each worker had a special job to do
  - D. each worker needed to learn only one or two routine tasks
5. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A. An automobile frame was carried by the moving platform.
  - B. Each worker attached a single part to the frame.
  - C. Gasoline and water were added before the car was assembled.
  - D. Since automobiles became cheaper, more people could afford them.
6. Cars are helpful to Americans in many ways except \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. going to work
  - B. shopping at the big supermarket
  - C. making the highways crowded
  - D. having holidays at the lake
7. What gas does a car produce?
- A. Carbon monoxide.
  - B. Carbon dioxide.
  - C. Nitrous oxide.
  - D. Methane.
8. What kind of disease would people have if the air is polluted by cars?
- A. Stomachache.
  - B. Indigestion.
  - C. Respiratory diseases.
  - D. Headache.
9. Which of the following is most serious to the workers?
- A. Many workers will lose their jobs when the factory closes down.
  - B. The highways won't be crowded if we cut down on the number of cars.
  - C. The air will be fresh if we cut down on the number of cars.
  - D. Traffic accidents will be reduced if we cut down on the number of cars.
10. What can we learn from the text?
- A. Automobiles have enabled America to function.
  - B. Automobiles have brought work to workers in America.
  - C. Automobiles have caused many unpleasant things in the U.S.
  - D. Automobiles have both good and bad effects on Americans.

## II. Topics for Discussion

1. What help does the car give us?
2. How can we get rid of the bad effects of the car?

### III. Vocabulary Learning

1. Fill in the blanks with the words or expressions given below. Change the forms where necessary.

pump	plague	majority	identical	get rid of
whirl	speed up	hang over	eliminate	convenient

- 1) The car \_\_\_\_\_ to a hundred kilometers per hour.
  - 2) White clouds \_\_\_\_\_ the mountain peaks.
  - 3) It took me a month to \_\_\_\_\_ my cough.
  - 4) They invited him to visit their country at a \_\_\_\_\_ date.
  - 5) You have been \_\_\_\_\_ me with silly questions all day!
  - 6) They \_\_\_\_\_ the well dry, and could get no more water.
  - 7) The handwriting on both checks is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8) The new bridge over the railroad tracks \_\_\_\_\_ the danger in crossing.
  - 9) He \_\_\_\_\_ round to see what was happening.
  - 10) The \_\_\_\_\_ of people prefer peace to war.
2. Choose the definition from Column B that best matches each word or phrase in Column A.

A	B
1) mass production	a. put sth. inside (sth. else)
2) internal-combustion engine	b. conflict
3) transit	c. strong-smelling smoke, gas or vapour
4) insert	d. command not to do something
5) clash head on	e. remove or get rid of
6) forbid	f. making in great numbers
7) respiratory	g. connected with breathing
8) eliminate	h. engine driven by force of fuel burned inside it
9) fume	i. unexpected
10) unforeseen	j. the moving of people or goods from one place to another

### VI. Translation Work

Put the following into Chinese.

Many countries helped to develop the automobile. The internal-combustion engine was invented in Austria, and France was an early leader in automobile manufacturing. But it was in the United States after 1900 that the automobile was improved most rapidly. As a large and growing country, the United States needed cars and trucks to provide transportation in places not served by trains.

## Text B The American Way: Farming

In our modern society, agriculture remains one of the world's most important professions. Without farmers, we don't eat.

Farmers above all other people are in close contact with the earth. They live close to the land, their lives intertwined with nature and the seasons. They are totally dependent on the elements for their sustenance. In the spring, as the world celebrates the rebirth of nature, farmers set about to plant their crops and thus participate in the miracle of new life. Ironically, though, fewer and fewer Americans these days are participating in this miracle by becoming farmers. Whereas the typical American family of the 1700s and 1800s lived on farms, in the 1900s only about 3 percent of Americans farm, as compared to 61 percent of all Asians.

Despite the small numbers of Americans who farm, the United States is the world's number-one exporter of agricultural products. Heading the list of exports are wheat, soybeans, rice, cotton, tobacco and corn. Interestingly, the largest importer of American farm products is one of the world's largest exporters of automobiles and technology—Japan. How is it that American farmers today can produce more with less? A major factor is that advances in technology have permitted farmers to farm a much larger land area—and to farm more efficiently—than in previous generations. Since 1935, the number of farms in the United States has decreased from 6.8 million to 1.9 million. Meanwhile, the average farm size has more than tripled, from 155 acres to 467 acres.

Farms in America fall into two categories: specialized and mixed. In the past, most farms were mixed farms. That is, they produced a variety of goods, both crops and livestock. Today the vast majority of farms—around 95 percent—are specialized farms. These farms specialize in one type of agricultural product. For example, farms in the Midwest—a region known as the Corn Belt—produce corn, wheat and other feed grains. The Southeast offers vast ranges of grazing land, so it is ideal for raising livestock on large ranches. The Pacific region grows great quantities of fruit and vegetables.

Although the American economy is based on capitalism, the U.S. government carefully regulates agricultural output. In many cases, the government pays farmers not to farm some of their land. Why? The factors are complex. Because agriculture is closely tied to the economy, the winds of economic change blow strongly over the farm. Besides that, devastating cli-

matic conditions, such as droughts and floods, naturally have an adverse effect on the agriculture industry. As a result, the government has instituted various policies to protect farmers and farm resources, including soil conservation measures and price supports for agricultural commodities. Both of these goals are partially achieved by having farmers leave some of their farmland idle.

Future generations of farmers receive plenty of training and encouragement in America. Many young people get involved with FFA—Future Farmers of America—which teaches them about farming through hands-on agricultural projects. A similar organization known as 4H, which stands for Head, Health, Hands and Heart, hosts country and state fairs featuring livestock shows and crop judging—as well as amusement park rides and game booths.

As the world moves into the information age, farmers may seem more and more out of place. With the focus on the wonders of computers and the Internet, people may lose sight of the more mundane realities of daily life. But despite of the acclaim of the virtual world, there's really no danger of real farmers being replaced by virtual farmers. Unless people develop a taste for virtual food.

## NEW WORDS

intertwine [intə(:)'twain] <i>vt.</i>	twist together or with something else (使)缠绕在一起
element ['elimənt] <i>n.</i>	要素,成分
sustenance ['sʌstinəns] <i>n.</i>	the ability (of food) to keep strong 支持,维持
rebirth [ri:'bɜ:θ] <i>n.</i>	change of spirit 新生
participate (in) [pɑ:'tisipeit] <i>vi.</i>	have a share, take part (in) 分享,参与
ironically [aɪ'rɒnikəli] <i>adv.</i>	出乎意料地,讽刺地
exporter [iks'pɔ:tə] <i>n.</i>	出口商,出口国
head [hed] <i>vt.</i>	be at the head or top of 在最前端
soybean ['sɔɪbi:n] <i>n.</i>	大豆,黄豆
importer [impɔ:tə] <i>n.</i>	进口商,进口国
acre ['eikə] <i>n.</i>	英亩
category ['kætigəri] <i>n.</i>	division or class in a complete system or grouping 类,种
specialize ['speʃəlaiz] <i>v.</i>	adapt for a particular purpose 专门化
livestock ['laɪvstɒk] <i>n.</i>	animals kept on a farm 家畜,牲畜

range [reɪndʒ] <i>n.</i>	牧场,放牧区
graze [greɪz] <i>v.</i>	放牧
ideal [aɪ'diəl] <i>adj.</i>	理想的
ranch [rɑːntʃ] <i>n.</i>	a very large farm where sheep, cattle or horses are produced(美)大农场,大牧场
capitalism ['kæpɪtəlɪzəm] <i>n.</i>	资本主义
regulate ['regjuleɪt] <i>vt.</i>	规定
wind [waɪnd] <i>n.</i>	影响力很大的力量或趋势
climatic [klaɪ'mætɪk] <i>adj.</i>	气候的
drought [draʊt] <i>n.</i>	long period of dry weather, when there is not enough water 旱灾
adverse [əd'veɜ:s] <i>adj.</i>	not in favor of 不利的,有害的
institute ['ɪnstɪtju:t] <i>vt.</i>	establish 制定
conservation [kən'sə'veɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	prevention of loss, waste, damage, etc. 保护
commodity [kəmədɪti] <i>n.</i>	a thing of use or advantage, esp. something sold for profit 商品
idle ['aɪdl] <i>adj.</i>	not working 空闲的
host [həʊst] <i>vt.</i>	款待
fair [feə] <i>n.</i>	博览会
show [ʃəʊ] <i>n.</i>	展览
feature ['fi:tʃə] <i>vi.</i>	以……为特色
booth [bu:θ] <i>n.</i>	摊位
mundane [mʌndeɪn] <i>adj.</i>	worldly 世间的,世俗的
acclaim [ə'kleɪm] <i>n.</i>	strong expressions of approval and praise 欢呼
virtual ['vɜ:tʃuəl] <i>adj.</i>	almost what is stated; in fact though not in name 事实上,实质上的

## PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS

intertwine with	twist together or with something else (使)缠绕在一起
set about	begin to do, start 开始,着手
fall into	分成
a variety of	种种
stand for	represent 代表
out of place	improper 不相称的
lose sight of	cease to see; fail to consider 看不见;忽略

## PROPER NAMES

the Corn Belt ['kɔ:n belt]

美国中部主要产玉米地带

the Internet ['intənet]

因特网,国际互联网络

## NOTES

1. **above all other people** 远比其他入
2. **Ironically, though, fewer and fewer American these days are participating in this miracle by becoming farmers.** It is ironic that fewer and fewer Americans nowadays are participating in this miracle by coming to be farmers.
3. **head the list** 名列第一
4. **Meanwhile, the average farm size has more than tripled, from 155 acres to 476 acres.** During this time, the average farm size has grown to three times the amount, from 155 acres to 476 acres.
5. **feed grains** 饲料粮
6. **The Pacific region grows great quantities of fruit and vegetables.** The farmers in the Pacific region plant a vast quantities of fruit and vegetables.
7. **the winds of economic change** 不可抗拒的经济变化的趋势
8. **Besides that, devastating climatic conditions, such as droughts and floods, naturally have an adverse effect on the agriculture industry.** In addition to that, droughts and floods which are known as devastating climatic conditions naturally give the agriculture industry an adverse effect.

## EXERCISES

### I. Comprehension of the Text

Decide whether the following statements are true or false according to the text.

1. In the U.S. the Southwest offers very large and wide ranges of grazing land to raise livestock.
2. Fewer people in Asia work on farms than in the United States.
3. Japan is the world's number-one importer of industrial products.
4. Farmers in the Mid-west of the U.S. do not produce fruit.
5. Many young people in America will be taught how to produce wheat and vegetables through training.

6. In the United States, the government cares much for the agricultural production.
7. The computer is one of the wonders that people pay more attention to.
8. If farmers want to make more money, they should open up vast wasteland.

## II. Topics for Discussion

1. Why is the agricultural production in the US developing so fast?
2. What do you think we should do to develop China's agricultural industry?

## III. Vocabulary Learning

1. Fill in the blanks with the words or phrases given below. Change the forms where necessary.

virtual	decrease	stand for	ironically	participate
feature	devastate	set about	specialize	out of place

- 1) The mountaineers \_\_\_\_\_ on their expedition early this morning.
  - 2) The king was so much under the influence of his wife that ~~she was~~ the \_\_\_\_\_ ruler of the country.
  - 3) How many countries will be \_\_\_\_\_ in Olympic Games?
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_, most people came to watch the match on the day it ~~poored~~ poured with rain.
  - 5) For the benefit of later generations, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of coal and gasoline used.
  - 6) He \_\_\_\_\_ first in painting birds and later in writing about them.
  - 7) The bomb \_\_\_\_\_ a large part of the city.
  - 8) I condemn fascism and all it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 9) Round-the-clock service \_\_\_\_\_ this store.
  - 10) Modern furniture would be \_\_\_\_\_ in a Victorian house.
2. Choose the definitions from Column B that matches each word in Column A.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| A              | B  |
| 1) regulate    | a) ordinary, with nothing exciting or unusual in it; uninteresting |
| 2) participate | b) establish   |
| 3) mundane     | c) but, although   |
| 4) vast        | d) control or put into correct order                               |
| 5) idle        | e) destroy completely  |
| 6) institute   | f) have a share  |
| 7) efficiently | g) not working   |
| 8) whereas     | h) not in favor of   |
| 9) adverse     | I) working well and without waste                                  |



10) devastate

j) great in size or amount

#### **IV. Translation Work**

Put the following into Chinese.

Although the American economy is based on capitalism, the U.S. government carefully regulates agricultural output. In many cases, the government pays farmers not to farm some of their land. Why? The factors are complex. Because agriculture is closely tied to the economy, the winds of economic change blow strongly over the farm. Besides that, devastating climatic conditions, such as droughts and floods, naturally have an adverse effect on the agriculture industry. As a result, the government has instituted various policies to protect farmers and farm resources, including soil conservation measures and price supports for agricultural commodities. Both of these goals are partially achieved by having farmers leave some of their farmland idle.