To leverage incentives for the adoption of costly precision agriculture technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2021

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mrs. FISCHBACH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To leverage incentives for the adoption of costly precision agriculture technology, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment Act” or the “PRECISE Act”.

SEC. 2. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-

GRAM.

Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—
(1) in subsection (b)(3), by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) the adoption of precision agriculture practices, and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology;”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and’’;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and’’; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) producers who use the loans to adopt precision agriculture practices or acquire precision agriculture technology, including adoption or acquisition for the purpose of participating in the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985.’’;

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) 90 percent of the principal amount of the loan in the case of—
“(A) a producer that is a qualified socially
disadvantaged farmer or rancher or a beginning
farmer or rancher; or
“(B) loans that are used for the purchase
of precision agriculture technology.”; and
(4) in subsection (f)—
(A) by striking “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
VISIONS.—The Secretary” and inserting the fol-
lowing:
“(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—
“(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Sec-
retary”; and
(B) by adding after and below the end the
following:
“(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making
or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Sec-
retary shall ensure that there is coordination be-
tween the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
sources Conservation Service.”.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.

Section 310B(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)) is amend-
ed—
(1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
graph (C);
(2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) expanding precision agriculture prac-
tices, including by financing equipment and
farm-wide broadband connectivity, in order to
promote best-practices, reduce costs, and im-
prove the environment.”.

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the
1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “(including the adop-
tion of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition
of precision agriculture technology)” after “planning”.

(b) PAYMENTS.—

(1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

(A) by striking “A producer shall” and in-
serting the following:

“(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
A producer shall”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—
“(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiving payments for practices on eligible land under the program may also receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cover costs for same practices on the same land.

“(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing of the availability of a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act as it relates to costs of implementing practices under this program.”.

(2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is amended, in the subsection heading, by inserting “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRIORITY”.

(3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount that would otherwise be provided for a practice under this subsection to not more than 90 percent of the costs associated with adopting precision agriculture practices and acquiring precision agriculture technology.”.

(c) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Section 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)” after “incentive practices”.

SEC. 5. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Section 1240L(c)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer under this subsection shall not be provided for conservation activities for which there is no cost incurred or income forgone by the producer.”.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—
(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) precision agriculture.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced grazing management” and inserting “, advanced grazing management, or precision agriculture”.

SEC. 6. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in providing technical assistance for soil health planning, including planning related to the use of cover crops, precision conservation management, com-
prehensive nutrient management planning, and other
innovative plans.”.