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119TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
119–620

FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TOGETHER WITH

DISSENTING VIEWS

[TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 7567]

BOOK 1 OF 2

APRIL 21, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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63–524 WASHINGTON : 2026

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FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

APRIL 21, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 7567]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

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Sec. 1002. Tree assistance program.
Sec. 1003. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.
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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

SEC. 1001. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITY.

Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031".

SEC. 1002. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "or biennial" after "annual"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "or pest" after "insect".

(b) ECONOMIC VIABILITY.—Section 1501(e)(2)(A) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

(2) by striking "to provide assistance—" and inserting "to provide assistance under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no longer produce an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary.".

(c) ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e)(3) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(3)) is amended in the matter before subparagraph (A) by striking "and (5)" and inserting ", (5), (6), and (7)".

(d) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a condition on receipt of assistance under this subsection, to carry out any replacement and rehabilitation activities for which such assistance is provided not later than—

"(A) 2 years after the application for such assistance is approved; or

"(B) if the period specified in subparagraph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at such time as is necessary to ensure tree survival.

"(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower receiving assistance under this subsection with respect to tree loss may use such assistance to replant using—

"(i) an alternative variety from the variety used prior to the loss;

"(ii) an alternative stand density from the stand density used prior to the loss; and

"(iii) an alternative location than was used prior to the loss.

"(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance provided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers—

"(i) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(i), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the variety lost;

"(ii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the stand density lost; and

"(iii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(iii), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery

tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the location in which the loss occurred.".

(e) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION STATUS.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9801(e)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving an application for assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

"(A) approve or deny such application; and

"(B) notify the applicant of such approval or denial.".

(f) INITIAL PAYMENTS UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) before incurring the costs described in paragraph (3) relating to such losses.

"(B) AMOUNT.—An initial assistance payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs described in paragraph (3) that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), as determined by the Secretary.

"(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower that opts to receive an initial payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after providing such initial payment, provide a subsequent payment to the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower in an amount equal to—

"(I) the payment amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received with respect to such losses under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

"(II) the initial payment amount provided to such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower under subparagraph (B) with respect to such losses.

"(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial payment under subparagraph (B) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) is greater than the amount an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall repay the Secretary the excess amount.

"(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make payments under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2035.".

SEC. 1003. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting after section 196 (7 U.S.C. 7333) the following:

"SEC. 196A. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a framework to provide direct assistance to producers of specialty crops the production of which was impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with this section.

"(b) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the Secretary shall calculate payments based on—

"(1) the producer's sales of specialty crops for a calendar year that precedes the year in which the adverse event described in such subsection occurred or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive calendar years that precedes the year in which such adverse event occurred, as determined by the Secretary; multiplied by

"(2) a payment factor the Secretary determines, subject to the availability of funds, to address losses of such specialty crops from such adverse event.

"(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (d), in providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall consider—

"(1) the higher value of specialty crops;

"(2) the greater input costs required to grow specialty crops; and

"(3) diverse types of legal entities and structures used by specialty crop producers.

"(d) LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a qualified pass-through entity) (as such terms are defined in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year under this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308), as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such section 1001.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person or legal entity with an average gross income (as calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities—

"(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and

"(ii) the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than $900,000.

"(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGIBILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a producer of a specialty crop under this section in the same manner as such sections apply to a person or legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, except to the extent such sections relate to the application of subsections (b) through (d) of section 1001A.".

(b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting "or 196A" after "section 196"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting "or 196A" after "section 196".

SEC. 1004. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional funds made available after the date of the enactment of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such losses available in the form of block grants.

"(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term 'covered losses' means losses—

"(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops, trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a consequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary); and

"(2) for which assistance is not available pursuant to any other Federal law.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

"1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.".

SEC. 1005. DAIRY-RELATED EXTENSIONS.

(a) FORWARD PRICING.—Section 1502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(c) PROMOTION AND RESEARCH.—Section 113(e)(2) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.

Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) for each manufacturer required to report under subparagraph (A) for any product, require that manufacturer to report production cost and product yield information, as determined by the Secretary, for all products processed in the same facility or facilities.";

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting "products and" after "those";

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting ", subject to subsection (b)(1)," after "of information";

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "ELECTRONIC REPORTING" and inserting "REPORTING";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "ELECTRONIC REPORTING" and inserting "REPORTING"; and

(ii) by striking "this section" and inserting "subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)";

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking "this section" and inserting "subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in subsection (b)(2).";

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(5) by adding after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Secretary under this section shall not be subject to review under Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735) or any successor order.".

SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.

Paragraph (4) of section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514) is amended by striking "Not later" and all that follows through "an annual report" and inserting "With respect to each calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a report (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after the last day of such calendar year)".

SEC. 1008. PROCESSING OF CERTAIN LOANS.

(a) MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.".

(b) LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.—Section 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a loan under this section by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.".

SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.

Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "funds for producers" and inserting the following: "funds for—

"(1) producers"; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production (as such term is defined in section 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph)).".

SEC. 1010. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal policy that would impact the administration of the programs described in this subtitle or any rule, policy, or guidance issued pursuant to such programs, the preservation and strengthening of the domestic production described in subsection (b) shall be a priority objective of the President.

"(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The domestic production described in this subsection is the production of an agricultural commodity—

"(1) described in this subtitle; and

"(2) from which a food ingredient that serves an important function throughout the domestic food production supply chain is derived.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1301 the following:

"1302. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.".

SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1601(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "this title, sections 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act" and inserting "a covered provision of law"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered provision of law' means—

"(A) this title and sections 11003 and 11017;

"(B) title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act; and

"(C) title I of the Farm Food and National Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made by that title.".

(b) LOAN IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1614(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "subtitle B" the first place it appears and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "a covered provision of law.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "of subtitles B or C"; and

(B) by striking "under subtitles B or C" and inserting "under the repayment provisions"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The term 'covered provision of law' means—

"(i) subtitle B or C or the amendments made by subtitle B or C;

"(ii) the amendments made by subtitle B or C of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, except with respect to the assistance provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208; and

"(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

"(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term 'repayment provisions' means the repayment requirements under—

"(i) subtitle B or C; or

"(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).".

SEC. 1012. RESTORATION OF TOBACCO AS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY IN COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION CHARTER ACT.

Section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) is amended by striking "(other than tobacco)" each place such term appears.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Definitions

SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "subtitles A through I:" and inserting "subtitles A through J:";

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking "term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term" and inserting "terms 'Indian tribe' and 'Indian Tribe' have the meaning given those terms";

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

"(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed,

feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

"(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'precision agriculture technology' means any technology (including targeted inputs and the equipment that is necessary for the deployment of such technology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

"(A) Global Positioning System-based or geospatial mapping technology;
"(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;
"(C) yield monitors;
"(D) soil mapping technology;
"(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, or livestock conditions;
"(F) Internet of Things and telematics technologies;
"(G) data management software and advanced analytics;
"(H) network connectivity products and solutions;
"(I) Global Positioning System guidance or auto-steer systems;
"(J) variable rate technology for applying inputs, such as section control; and
"(K) any other technology, as determined by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use of crop or livestock production inputs, which may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amendments, chemicals, water, and time."; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—The term 'wildlife habitat connectivity' means the degree to which landscape or habitat elements facilitate native species movement among seasonal habitats.".

SEC. 2002. MITIGATION BANKING.

Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve Program

SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018" and inserting "the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026"; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking "September 30, 2017, or September 30, 2018" and inserting "September 30, 2025, or September 30, 2026".

(c) ENROLLMENT.—

(1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section 1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 2023" and inserting "each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031".

(2) GRASSLANDS.—Section 1231(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(3) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—Section 1231(d)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(4)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2026 through 2031" each place it appears.

(4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE.—Section 1231(d)(6)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of applying the limitations in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by September 30, 2031.".

SEC. 2102. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.

Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting "(including the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)" after "planning".

SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PAYMENTS.—

(1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting "and wildlife habitat connectivity" before "; or".

(2) 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 inserting the following:

"(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—Except as provided in paragraph (9), 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 the same practices on the same land.

"(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing that they may apply to receive 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.".

(3) 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—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting "STATE-DETERMINED" before "HIGH-PRIORITY"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking "or" at the end;

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) addresses the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat, including wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors; or

"(vi) increases carbon sequestration or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.".

(4) 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 PRACTICES.—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 for the purpose of implementing conservation practices.".

(5) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

"(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

"(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

"(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a practice if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same practice on the same land under this title.".

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "; or" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to achieve water conservation and energy efficiency.".

(d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023, $140,000" and inserting "2027 through 2031, $200,000".

(e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Section 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(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".

(f) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide payments under the program to producers to implement conservation practices on covered lands of such producers that address and repair covered damage that may contribute to a natural resource concern or problem.

"(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a contract under the program entered into for the implementation of practices described in paragraph (1), such contract shall have a term of 1 year.

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term 'covered damage' means damage to agricultural land or farming infrastructure.

"(B) COVERED LAND.—The term 'covered land' means eligible land in a county at or near the southern border of the United States, as determined by the Secretary.".

SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.

Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAYMENTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACHES.—Section 1240H(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may award competitive grants that are intended to stimulate development and evaluation of new and innovative approaches to leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management, through the program, including grants for the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards."; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the period "(including precision agriculture practices and precision agriculture technologies)".

(b) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)(1)(B)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (VI), by striking "and" at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subclause (VII) the following:

"(VIII) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and".

(c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by inserting ", including both management and structural conservation practices," after "conservation practices"; and

(B) by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) data that may be used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendations for State and regional applications of such new and emerging technologies; and"; and

(4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting "for consideration under the streamlined process developed under section 1242(h)(3)" before the period at the end.

Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 1240J(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and except as provided in paragraph (3)," after "paragraph (2),"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

"(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

"(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

"(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a conservation activity if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same conservation activity on the same land under this title.

"(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource concern, practice, or incentive pertaining to restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on the acres described above will prevent or alter emergency grazing and haying access for grassland acres enrolled in the conservation reserve program.".

SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

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

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the period "(including increased costs associated with planning and adopting precision agriculture conservation activities and acquiring precision agriculture technology)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an annual payment under the program shall be not less than $4,000.".

(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 conservation activities."; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking "or advanced grazing management" and inserting ", advanced grazing management, or precision agriculture conservation activities".

(c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 2303. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.

Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1240L–2. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'eligible Indian Tribe' means an Indian Tribe that is—

"(A) implementing a soil health program for the area over which the Indian Tribe has jurisdiction; and

"(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the Indian Tribe for the soil health program.

"(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term 'eligible State' means a State that is—

"(A) implementing a soil health program for the State; and

"(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the State for the soil health program.

"(3) SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term 'soil health program' means a program to improve soil health on agricultural land that—

"(A) is broadly consistent with the soil health principles of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) technical assistance;

"(ii) financial assistance;

"(iii) on-farm research and demonstration;

"(iv) education, outreach, and training;

"(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

"(vi) such other components as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health programs.

"(c) APPLICATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such a manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall require, which shall include—

"(A) a description of performance measures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal soil health program and the results of any activities carried out using grant funds received under this section; and

"(B) an assurance that grant funds received under this section will supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal funds in support of soil health, rather than replace such funds.

"(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an eligible State.

"(d) GRANTS.—

"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this section for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—

"(A) $5,000,000; or

"(B) as applicable—

"(i) 50 percent of the cost of implementing the State soil health program in the fiscal year; or

"(ii) 75 percent of the cost of implementing the Tribal soil health program in the fiscal year.

"(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall be for 1 year, and may be renewed annually.

"(e) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary—

"(1) for each year for which the State or Indian Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

"(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall establish, a review and evaluation of the State or Tribal soil health program.

"(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary, after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of future grants under this section.

"(g) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, $100,000,000 shall be available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.

"(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

"(2) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section may not use more than 7 percent of the granted funds for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.".

Subtitle E—Other Conservation Programs

SEC. 2401. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.

Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1240M the following:

"SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control program (in this section referred to as the 'program') to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health.

"(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

"(1) study and assess the nature and extent of damage to the threatened areas caused by feral swine;

"(2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas;

"(3) develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine; and

"(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in threatened areas.

"(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to agricultural producers under the program to implement methods to—

"(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas; and

"(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

"(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for purposes of this section through State technical committees established under section 1261(a).

"(e) COST SHARING.—

"(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

"(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

"(f) THREATENED AREA DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'threatened area' means an area of a State in which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agriculture, native ecosystems, or human and animal health, as determined by the Secretary.

"(g) FUNDING.—

"(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $75,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and $150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

"(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1)—

"(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out the program, including the provision of financial assistance to producers for on-farm trapping and technology related to capturing and confining feral swine; and

"(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carry out the program, including the use of established, and testing of innovative, population reduction methods.

"(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made available under this section may be used for administrative expenses of the program.

"(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or universities to assist with the program in achieving its goals.

"(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1) if such college or university—

"(A) has developed and implemented a system of evaluating damages from feral swine and effectiveness of control efforts in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334);

"(B) shows evidence of a strong working relationship with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

"(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-Federal Wildlife Services program that has an active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the structure of the Land Grant University System.

"(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university that enters into a contract under paragraph (1) shall, as a condition on entering into such a contract, assist the program by acting as a strategic, neutral entity that is able to advance the program beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve the stated goals of the program by—

"(A) identifying and carrying out research on novel methods of feral swine control and land remediation;

"(B) assisting in establishing strategic areas for feral swine control based on data collected in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;

"(C) coordinating and collaborating between field staff, programmatic staff, and research staff within the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

"(D) establishing and consulting with the Department on research goals and priorities in the program.

"(4) FUNDING.—Funding made available under (g)(2) shall be available to fund activities under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

"(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'land-grant college or university' has the meaning given the term 'land-grant colleges and universities' in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).".

(b) REPEAL.—Section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note) is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2408.

SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003(a)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7) and inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) to provide technical and financial assistance for remedial actions in accordance with subsection (c); and".

(2) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS; STREAMLINING.—Section 3 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to local organizations for remedial actions for a completed work of improvement installed under this Act with respect to which—

"(A) deterioration of a structural component of the work of improvement is occurring at an abnormal rate, including situations in which such deterioration is due to a design deficiency or to site conditions that were unknown at the time of installation of the work of improvement;

"(B) the planned service life of the work of improvement exceeds the service life of a structural component of such work of improvement; or

"(C) structural damage to such work of improvement, or to a structural component of such work of improvement, was caused by a storm event that exceeded the maximum storm event for which the work of improvement was designed.

"(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance provided under this subsection shall be provided in accordance with the cost-share rate established in the agreement with the local organization for the work of improvement.

"(d) STREAMLINING.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis—

"(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural barriers to timely provision of assistance under this Act;

"(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating to coordination with other Federal or State agencies for required reviews and permitting of projects pursuant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are commensurate with the size and scale of the projects;

"(3) conduct an assessment of internal Department of Agriculture planning, technical support, and approvals to determine best practices to be used for the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking authority of State conservationists with respect to approvals required for projects under this Act; and

"(4) prioritize the use of agreements and contracting authorities under this Act to provide funding to local organizations for the planning, design, and construction of works of improvement.".

(b) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 13. DATA.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and maintain, and make publicly available—

"(1) data, on a national and State-by-State basis, concerning—

"(A) expenditures for the individual flood control and conservation measures for which assistance is provided under this Act; and

"(B) the expected flood control or environmental (including soil erosion) benefits that will result from the implementation of such measures; and

"(2) data, with respect to each project for which assistance is provided under this Act, concerning—

"(A) total allocated and expended funds for planning, design, construction, remedial actions, and rehabilitation; and

"(B) contracts and agreements entered into by the Secretary with a local organization to provide services, including—

"(i) the services provided through such contracts and agreements;

"(ii) the total funds allocated to such contracts and agreements; and

"(iii) any modifications or adjustments made to such contracts and agreements.

"(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make publicly available under this section an agreement entered into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier under this Act, or any disaggregated information that identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occupier.".

(c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECTANCY.—

(1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "65 percent" and inserting "90 percent"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AUTHORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for which assistance is provided under this section shall not be subject to—

"(A) the requirement under section 2 that a project contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities, that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project; or

"(B) section 4(5).".

(2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION MEASURES" after "FENCING";

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to repair or replace a farmland or conservation structure, the Secretary shall give the agricultural producer the option of receiving—

"(A) before carrying out such replacement or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of the payment for such replacement or rehabilitation,

which shall be based on the fair market value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) before carrying out such repair, not more than 50 percent of the payment for such repair, which shall be based on the fair market value of the repair, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Repair or replacement of fencing under this section may include updating of fencing to new or emerging technology if such updating does not increase the cost of the repair or replacement."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage with respect to which a payment may be made under subsection (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused naturally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.".

SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.

(a) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—Section 403(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (5), as so redesignated, the following:

"(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological functions, and other functions and values of the land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

"(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and enhance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological restoration measures, and other restoration measures on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

"(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary may—

"(A) enter into contracts with landowners; and

"(B) enter into agreements with States, nongovernmental organizations, and Indian Tribes.

"(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may authorize a landowner to carry out activities on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a) that are—

"(A) compatible uses necessary to carry out paragraph (1) or (2); or

"(B) compatible economic uses (including such activities as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, water management, or periodic haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent with the long-term protection of the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired."; and

(3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "paragraph (5)" each place it appears.

(b) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may undertake measures that increase the level of protection above that which would be necessary to address the immediate impairment of the watershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed and the long-term protection of the watershed from repetitive impairments.".

SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNERABILITY STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural lands, including—

(1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and livestock resulting from flooding under different recurrence scenarios;

(2) an analysis of the downstream effects of mitigation activities carried out as part of a watershed management approach;

(3) an analysis of available Federal and State data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricultural land, including data relating to riverine flooding, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipitation, and flash flooding; and

(4) a description of ongoing producer-level conservation practices and broader government initiatives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk within and across watersheds, and recommendations for additional practices and initiatives to further address such effects and risk.

SEC. 2407. STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF WINTER WHEAT AS A COVER CROP.

The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives the results of a study on the environmental benefits of using winter wheat as a cover crop, including use as a cover crop that is removed during harvest.

Subtitle F—Funding and Administration

SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031";

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking clauses (i) through (vi) and inserting the following:

"(i) $2,530,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
"(ii) $2,730,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
"(iii) $3,130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
"(iv) $3,175,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
"(v) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) The forest conservation easement program under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(A) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
"(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
"(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
"(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
"(E) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

"(6) The regional conservation partnership program under subtitle J, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(A) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
"(B) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
"(C) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
"(D) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
"(E) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.".

(b) REGIONAL EQUITY.—Section 1241(e)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is amended by striking "subtitle I" and inserting "subtitle J".

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting "of" before "any terms"; and

(2) in paragraph (9)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B of chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, subtitle I, or subtitle J;";

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the semicolon and inserting "; or";

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(d) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND ASSISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking "section 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)" and inserting "section 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)".

SEC. 2502. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1242(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The term 'non-Federal certifying entity' means a non-Federal entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (e)(4) that has entered into an agreement under subsection (e)(5)(D).".

(b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(b)) is amended by inserting "timely," after "consistent,".

(c) NON-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(d)) is amended by inserting "(including private sector entities)" after "Department or non-Federal entities".

(d) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—Section 1242(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008" and inserting "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026";

(2) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as follows:

"(A) ensure that persons (including commercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or local governments or agencies, and other Federal agencies) with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation planning, watershed planning, environmental engineering, conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation, and any other technical skills determined appropriate by the Secretary, are eligible to become approved providers of the technical assistance;"; and

(3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and inserting the following:

"(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider may be certified to provide technical assistance under this section only—

"(A) through a certification process administered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

"(B) by a non-Federal entity (other than a State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider;

"(C) by an Indian Tribe approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider; or

"(D) by a State agency that—

"(i) has statutory authority to certify, administer, or license professionals in one or more fields of natural resources, agriculture, or engineering; and

"(ii) is approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider.

"(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a process to approve a non-Federal entity (including a State agency and an Indian Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

"(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application by a non-Federal entity to certify third-party providers under this section, the Secretary shall make a decision on whether to approve such application.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

"(i) the ability of the applicable non-Federal entity to assess the qualifications of a third-party provider and to certify third-party providers at scale;

"(ii) the experience of the applicable non-Federal entity in working with third-party providers and eligible participants;

"(iii) the expertise of the applicable non-Federal entity in the technical skills described in paragraph (3)(A); and

"(iv) such other qualifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an application under this paragraph, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the non-Federal entity to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

"(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party providers under this section, a non-Federal certifying entity shall—

"(i) assess the ability of a third-party provider to appropriately provide technical assistance to eligible participants for specified practices and conservation activities;

"(ii) provide training to ensure that a third-party provider is qualified to provide technical assistance upon certification by the non-Federal certifying entity; and

"(iii) submit to the Secretary, in a timely manner, information on—

"(I) each third-party provider certified by the non-Federal certifying entity, for inclusion on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary; and

"(II) each third-party provider the certification of which is withdrawn by the non-Federal certifying entity.

"(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

"(A) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified under the process described in paragraph (4)(A) for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall—

"(i) make a final decision with respect to such application; and

"(ii) if the final decision is to certify the third-party provider, include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

"(B) CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity that a third-party provider was certified, pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (4), for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

"(7) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for the Secretary and non-Federal certifying entities to use to certify under this section a third-party provider that has a relevant professional certification for particular practices and conservation activities, as determined by the Secretary.".

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "each of the programs specified in section 1241" and inserting "conservation programs administered by the Secretary";

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "or a non-Federal certifying entity" before "under this section";

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall—

"(A) review the certification processes under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection (e);

"(B) make any adjustments considered necessary by the Secretary to—

"(i) increase the number of third-party providers delivering technical assistance; and

"(ii) improve the quality of technical assistance delivered by third-party providers;

"(C) conduct outreach to, and receive input on the barriers for third-party providers to become certified under this section from—

"(i) third-party providers that are, or have been, certified under this section; and

"(ii) other interested parties associated with eligible participants; and

"(D) set a target rate of utilization of third-party providers to deliver technical assistance across all conservation programs administered by the Secretary.";

(4) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting "(including maintenance)" after "implementation";

(5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments provided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall determine payment amounts for technical assistance provided by third-party providers, which shall be at rates equivalent to, but that do not exceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing technical assistance directly to an eligible participant.

"(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider specialized equipment, frequency of site visits, training, travel and transportation, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from calculations relating to any cost-sharing requirements of the applicable conservation program under which the payment was provided.

"(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available information on—

"(A) funds obligated to third-party providers through—

"(i) contracts entered into between eligible participants and individual third-party providers; and

"(ii) agreements with public and private sector entities to secure third-party technical assistance;

"(B) the certification process under this section, including—

"(i) the number of third-party providers certified by the Secretary;

"(ii) the number of non-Federal certifying entities approved by the Secretary;

"(iii) the number of third-party providers certified by non-Federal certifying entities (other than State agencies and Indian Tribes);

"(iv) the number of third-party providers certified by Indian Tribes;

"(v) the number of third-party providers certified by State agencies; and

"(vi) the number of third-party providers certified through the streamlined certification process described in subsection (e)(7);

"(C) how third-party providers contribute to the quality and effectiveness of conservation practices implemented and adopted through conservation programs administered by the Secretary, and what improvements are needed; and

"(D) the target rate of utilization of third-party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and how actual rate of utilization compares to the target rate."; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) 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 agriculture practices, comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other innovative plans.".

(f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking "REVIEW" and inserting "ESTABLISHMENT AND REVIEW";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years thereafter, complete a review of each conservation practice standard, including engineering design specifications;";

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

"(D) evaluate opportunities to increase flexibility in conservation practice standards in a manner that integrates new and innovative technologies that provide equivalent or improved natural resource benefits compared to the standards in effect at the time of the review;"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) provide a process for public input on each conservation practice standard under such review, including a process for consideration of State and local input;

"(F) publicly post a summary of any input received under subparagraph (E) and any decisions made relating to such input; and

"(G) revise any conservation practice standard based on the results of such review, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and publish any such revised standard.";

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall develop a streamlined process under which the Secretary shall establish interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards.

"(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the streamlined process under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) ensure that the public can engage with the Department of Agriculture, including by recommending interim conservation practice standards; and

"(ii) establish—

"(I) the types of data, metrics, and other relevant information that are necessary for the establishment of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards;

"(II) the process by which an interim conservation practice standard may become a new conservation practice standard; and

"(III) specific requirements for an expedited review of a new conservation practice for the purpose of establishing a new conservation practice standard for such practice.

"(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing an interim conservation practice standard or a new conservation practice standard under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

"(i) input from State technical committees on recommendations that identify innovations or advancements in conservation practices;

"(ii) technological advancements, including advancements from projects developed under section 1240H;

"(iii) State and local input in the form of—

"(I) recommendations for interim conservation practice standards; and

"(II) partnership-led proposals for new and innovative techniques to facilitate implementing agreements and grants under this title; and

"(iv) input from native entities in the form of information relating to native traditional ecological knowledge that can inform conservation practice standards.

"(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRIORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice standards under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards that integrate innovative technologies, including—

"(i) precision agriculture technologies;

"(ii) biological fertilizers, biostimulants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and other tools determined by the Secretary to reduce nutrient loss;

"(iii) animal feed additives;

"(iv) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and

"(v) any other innovative technology, as determined by the Secretary.

"(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall make available on a public website a detailed description of the process for recommending, reviewing, and establishing interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards under this paragraph.";

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018" and inserting "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026"; and

(ii) by striking "a report on" and inserting "a report detailing";

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking "administrative" and inserting "streamlined";

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) any other information the Secretary determines useful to improve such streamlined process for reviewing and establishing conservation practice standards."; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service an Office of Conservation Innovation (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Office') which shall be under the direct supervision of the Chief.

"(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

"(i) provide support to the Chief in meeting the requirements of this subsection; and

"(ii) encourage innovation in conservation practices through—

"(I) revisions of existing conservation practice standards;

"(II) recommendations of interim conservation practice standards; and

"(III) recommendations of new conservation practice standards.

"(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the Office not more than 6 employees of the Department of Agriculture who are technical specialists that possess an understanding of conventional, organic, and other production techniques, representing—

"(i) agronomy and agroecology (including soil health, biological nutrient sources, and compatible cover cropping systems);

"(ii) grazing lands ecology (including rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest land);

"(iii) animal husbandry (including animal nutrition and feed management);

"(iv) water conservation, drainage water management, and irrigation engineering technology;

"(v) agricultural engineering (including animal waste management, energy, and structural measures); and

"(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

"(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funding from the annual appropriations for conservation operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out this subsection.".

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

"(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to positions within the Natural Resources Conservation Service that provide technical assistance under conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies to a candidate who—

"(A) is qualified to provide the technical assistance described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) meets qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management.".

(h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) to the maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate nonstructural methods to control livestock distribution, such as virtual fencing, into the conservation practice standards; and

"(B) provide for the appropriate range of conservation practices and resource mitigation measures available to landowners using nonstructural methods described in subparagraph (A).

"(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that adequate technical assistance is available for the implementation of—

"(A) nonstructural methods described in paragraph (1)(A); and

"(B) other practices that support wildlife habitat connectivity through Federal conservation programs.".

SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) TENANT PROTECTIONS.—Section 1244(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(d)) is amended by striking "I." and inserting "J.".

(b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—Section 1244(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(f)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not enroll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any county in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "paragraph (1)(A)" and inserting "paragraph (1)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end and inserting "or";

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking "paragraph (1)(A)" and inserting "paragraph (1)"; and

(4) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking "classes IV" and inserting "classes III".

(c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1244(j)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, and not later than October 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary shall" and inserting "The Secretary shall establish a process under which the Secretary shall annually";

(B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) review, with respect to each State, the actual practice costs and rates of payments (or, where actual practice costs and rates of payments are not available, estimates of such practice costs and rates) made to producers pursuant to programs under this title for practices on eligible land; and"; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) accounts for the variability in costs of implementing practices on eligible land under this title; and"; and

(iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking "regional, State, and" and inserting "State and".

(2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—Section 1244(j)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "estimates for"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) monitoring for and identifying significant variability in practice costs in each year; and"; and

(iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting "and, when appropriate, adopting any recommendations made by such State technical committee" after "that State".

(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Section 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In order to provide rates of payments that are commensurate with the costs of implementing practices pursuant to programs under this title, the Secretary shall establish processes and procedures for updating rates of payments under a contract or agreement in effect under this title to reflect the appropriate practice costs and rates of payments determined under paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice is implemented.".

(d) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TARGETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—Section 1244(n) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(ii) in clause (i), by striking the "and" at the end; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) identify in each State a source water protection coordinator who shall be responsible for coordinating such collaboration with community water systems under this subsection; and"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "under subparagraph (A)(ii)" and inserting "under subparagraph (A)(iii)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall make publicly available—

"(A) an annual report that details—

"(i) for each local priority area identified under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—

"(I) the conservation programs under which assistance is provided pursuant to paragraph (1);

"(II) the practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

"(III) the number of contracts and acres devoted to such practices;

"(ii) for each conservation program administered by the Secretary—

"(I) the amount of funds obligated and expended for practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

"(II) information regarding the status of compliance with paragraph (3); and

"(iii) the practices, by State, that are receiving increased incentives and higher payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii); and

"(B) through an interactive map, aggregated data detailed under subparagraph (A).".

(e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conservation practices that support the development, restoration, and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.".

Subtitle G—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

"(i) that is subject to a pending offer for purchase of an agricultural land easement from an eligible entity;".

SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "in eligible land;" and inserting "on eligible land; and";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "(iv); and" and inserting "(iii).";

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—Section 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share determined by the Secretary of an amount not to exceed 65 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary using—

"(I) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

"(II) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

"(III) another industry-approved method.

"(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In the case of eligible land with respect to which a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holds an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 90 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

"(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In the case of grassland of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.";

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement, the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).";

(ii) by striking clause (ii);

(iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "subparagraph" and inserting "paragraph"; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may elect to enter into an agreement under paragraph (4) in which the terms and conditions of an agricultural land easement funded under the agreement do not include a right of enforcement for the Secretary if the eligible entity agrees to a Federal share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

"(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), an eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for agricultural land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

"(I) are consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(II) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of such easements.

"(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary shall require the terms and conditions for the agricultural land easement to include a right of enforcement for the eligible entity.

"(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the eligible entity shall provide cash resources in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).".

(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank applications submitted by eligible entities for the purchase of agricultural land easements from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from applications submitted for the purchase of agricultural land easements from other landowners.".

(3) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section 1265B(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking clause (iii);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(iii) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking the "and" at the end;

(iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ";"; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

"(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

"(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

"(aa)(AA) the holder of the easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

"(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the easement have been violated; and

"(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection; and

"(vi) include a right of the Secretary to require the transfer of the easement to a different eligible entity if the eligible entity that holds the easement ceases to exist or is no longer eligible to participate in the program, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I)(ff), by striking "(v)" and inserting "(iv)"; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking the "and" at the end;

(ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following:

"(iv) do not conflict with any minimum terms or conditions under subparagraph (C) that may be required.".

(4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "under which the Secretary may" and inserting ", to minimize administrative burdens on the Secretary and recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to administer easements with minimal oversight by the Secretary, under which the Secretary shall"; and

(ii) in clause (iv), by inserting ", and modify," after "entity to use";

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking "10" and inserting "5"; and

(II) in subclause (III), by striking the "or" at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking "10" and inserting "5"; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or";

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) is an eligible entity not described in clause (ii) or (iii) that has—

"(I) acquired not fewer than 10 agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

"(II) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program."; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the header, by striking "REVIEW AND REVISION" and inserting "REVIEW AND REVOCATION";

(ii) in the header of clause (i) by striking "REVIEW" and inserting "CERTIFIED ENTITY REVIEW"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish and conduct an annual quality review process to—

"(I) review a sample set of easements acquired by certified eligible entities;

"(II) ensure the integrity of the easement acquisition process under this section;

"(III) establish and enforce a process for corrective actions; and

"(IV) provide for a waiver of successive easement reviews based on demonstrated compliance.".

SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.

(a) EASEMENTS.—Section 1265C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking "tribes" and inserting "Tribes and landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers"; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3)(C) the following:

"(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from offers from other landowners.".

(b) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—Section 1265C(c)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(c)(1)) is amended by striking "subsection (f)" and inserting "subsection (g)".

(c) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—Section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c), the following:

"(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land enrolled under this section for the repair, necessary maintenance, and enhancement activities described in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

"(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) regularly assess land enrolled under this section to identify maintenance and management needs, including any needed repair or enhancement of existing structural practices, in accordance with the applicable wetland reserve easement plan;

"(B) consistent with the purposes of the program, create, execute, and update as necessary based on the assessments carried out under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy for—

"(i) prioritizing and addressing the needs identified under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) projecting the amount of annual funding needed for financial and technical assistance to address such needs; and

"(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address such needs.

"(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make payments in an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

"(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

"(A) an inventory of the existing stewardship needs of all wetland reserve easements, based on the assessments carried out under paragraph (2);

"(B) the stewardship strategy created under paragraph (2)(B);

"(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to allocate to address such stewardship needs, based on projections made pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(ii); and

"(D) the planned use of compatible uses under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agreements under subsection (e)(2), or wetland reserve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to ensure that each such stewardship need is addressed.".

(d) ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (e) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" and inserting "ASSISTANCE"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with a Federal, State, or local agency, a nongovernmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a private entity to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.".

(e) WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT OPTION.—Subsection (f) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 15 percent to carry out this subsection.".

SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—Section 1265D(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d(c)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

"(A) MODIFICATION.—

"(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

"(I) will support the long-term agricultural viability of the applicable farm or ranch operation and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

"(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

"(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors, exercising reserved rights, and increasing flexibility to recognize changes in water availability or administration.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

"(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action taken pursuant to this subparagraph may not be considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

"(B) EXCHANGE.—

"(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

"(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

"(II) the exchange—

"(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

"(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

"(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land, or a portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the adjustment—

"(i) furthers the practical administration of the program; and

"(ii) is not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination, as determined by the Secretary.

"(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under this paragraph may include title corrections and other minor adjustments, including—

"(i) typographical error corrections;

"(ii) minor changes in legal descriptions as a result of survey or mapping errors;

"(iii) the transfer of an interest of an eligible entity to another eligible entity;

"(iv) changes to a building envelope boundary;

"(v) relocation of easement access;

"(vi) authorization of temporary work areas not associated with other easement administration actions; and

"(vii) other adjustments determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(7) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to modify a term or condition of an agricultural land easement that is the subject of an agreement entered into under section 1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modification does not conflict with any minimum term or condition required by the Secretary under such section.".

(b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

(1) EXEMPTION.—Section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865D) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assistance under this subtitle.".

(2) CALCULATION.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the adjusted gross income of a person or legal entity that is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section 1265A) shall not include any income received as compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.".

Subtitle H—Forest Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2701. FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM.

Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle I (16 U.S.C. 3871 et seq.) as subtitle J; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle H (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.) the following:

"Subtitle I—Forest Conservation Easement Program

"SEC. 1267. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a forest conservation easement program for the conservation and restoration of eligible land and natural resources through the acquisition of conservation easements or other interests in land.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—

"(1) to protect the viability and sustainability of working forest land, and related conservation values of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects of nonforest land uses of such land;

"(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem and landscape functions and values;

"(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and improvement of habitat of species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

"(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section.

"SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.

"In this subtitle:

"(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'acreage owned by an Indian Tribe' means—

"(A) land that is held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians;

"(B) land, the title to which is held by Indian Tribes or individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance;

"(C) land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

"(D) land that is held in fee title by an Indian Tribe;

"(E) land that is owned by a native corporation formed under—

"(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the 'Indian Reorganization Act') (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

"(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); and

"(F) a combination of 1 or more types of land described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) an agency of State or local government or an Indian Tribe (including a land resource council established under State law); or

"(B) an organization that is—

"(i) organized for, and at all times since the formation of the organization has been operated principally for, 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(ii) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

"(iii) described in—

"(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of that Code; or

"(II) section 509(a)(3) of that Code and is controlled by an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of that Code.

"(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means private land or acreage owned by an Indian Tribe—

"(A) that is—

"(i) forest land; or

"(ii) being restored to forest land;

"(B) in the case of a forest land easement—

"(i) the enrollment of which would protect working forests and related conservation values by conserving land; or

"(ii) the protection of which will further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(C) in the case of a forest reserve easement, the enrollment of which will maintain, restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

"(i) increase the likelihood of recovery of a species that is listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); or

"(ii) improve the well-being of a species that is—

"(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

"(II)(aa) a candidate for that listing, a State-listed species, or a special concern species; or

"(bb) designated as a species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

"(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term 'forest land easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

"(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

"(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses, consistent with an applicable forest management plan.

"(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term 'forest management plan' means—

"(A) a forest stewardship plan described in section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

"(B) another plan approved by the applicable State forester or State forestry agency;

"(C) a plan developed under a third-party certification system determined appropriate by the Secretary; or

"(D) another plan determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term 'forest reserve easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

"(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

"(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses consistent with the applicable forest reserve easement plan developed under section 1267C(c)(1)(A).

"(7) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the forest conservation easement program established under this subtitle.

"(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LANDOWNER.—The term 'socially disadvantaged forest landowner' means a forest landowner who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

"SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.

"(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall facilitate and provide funding for—

"(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements on eligible land;

"(2) the development of a forest management plan; and

"(3) technical assistance to implement this section.

"(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect working forests, and related conservation values of eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible entities for purchasing forest land easements.

"(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

"(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) may provide for a Federal share of not more than 75 percent of the fair market value of a forest land easement in the case of eligible land that is—

"(I) a forest of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary; or

"(II) owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

"(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement described in paragraph (4), the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the forest land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

"(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity under this paragraph may comprise—

"(I) cash resources;

"(II) a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution (as defined in section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from the private forest landowner from which the forest land easement will be purchased;

"(III) costs associated with securing a deed to the forest land easement, including the cost of appraisal, survey, inspection, and title; and

"(IV) other costs, as determined by the Secretary.

"(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall determine the fair market value of a forest land easement using—

"(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

"(ii) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

"(iii) another industry-approved method.

"(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—

"(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria to maximize the benefit of Federal investment under the program.

"(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for the purchase of a forest land easement—

"(i) that maintains the viability of a working forest, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(ii) on eligible land for which a forest management plan has been developed at the time of application.

"(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

"(i) protecting working forests and related conservation values of eligible land;

"(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest land; and

"(iii) maximizing the areas protected from conversion to nonforest uses.

"(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into agreements with eligible entities to stipulate the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share assistance provided under this section.

"(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term that is not less than 3, but not more than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines that a longer term is justified.

"(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for forest land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

"(i) are consistent with—

"(I) the purposes of the program; and

"(II) the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

"(ii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest land easements;

"(iii) include a requirement to implement a forest management plan on eligible land subject to a forest land easement;

"(iv) include a limit on the impervious surfaces to be allowed that is consistent with the forestry activities to be conducted; and

"(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

"(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the forest land easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

"(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

"(aa)(AA) the holder of the forest land easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

"(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the forest land easement have been violated; and

"(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a

reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection.

"(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include terms and conditions for a forest land easement that—

"(i) are intended to keep the eligible land subject to the forest land easement in active forest management, as determined by the Secretary;

"(ii) allow subsurface mineral development on the eligible land subject to the forest land easement and in accordance with applicable State law if, as determined by the Secretary—

"(I) the subsurface mineral development—

"(aa) has a limited and localized impact;

"(bb) does not harm the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement;

"(cc) does not materially alter or affect the existing topography;

"(dd) complies with a subsurface mineral development plan that—

"(AA) includes a plan for the remediation of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

"(BB) is approved by the Secretary prior to the initiation of mineral development activity;

"(ee) is not accomplished by any surface mining method;

"(ff) is within the impervious surface limits of the forest land easement under subparagraph (C)(iv); and

"(gg) uses practices and technologies that minimize the duration and intensity of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

"(II) each area impacted by the subsurface mineral development is reclaimed and restored by the holder of the mineral rights at cessation of operation; and

"(iii) include other relevant activities relating to the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

"(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the parties, substitution of qualified projects that are identified at the time of the proposed substitution.

"(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a violation of a term or condition of an agreement under subparagraph (A) occurs—

"(i) the Secretary may terminate the agreement; and

"(ii) the Secretary may require the eligible entity to refund all or part of any payments received by the eligible entity under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land does not have a forest management plan at the time of application, prior to the acquisition of the forest land easement the landowner shall develop, in partnership with the eligible entity, a forest management plan for the land subject to the forest land easement.

"(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse the landowner for the cost of the development of a forest management plan for eligible land enrolled under this section.

"(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—

"(1) permanent easements; or

"(2) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws.

"(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in compliance with the terms and conditions of forest land easements.

"SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.

"(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

"(1) forest reserve easements and related forest reserve easement plans; and

"(2) technical assistance to implement this section.

"(b) EASEMENTS.—

"(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

"(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section—

"(i) through the use of—

"(I) permanent easements;

"(II) 30-year easements; and

"(III) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws; and

"(ii) in the case of acreage owned by an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

"(I) 30-year contracts (the compensation for which shall be equivalent to the compensation for 30-year easements); or

"(II) permanent easements.

"(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-year easements under this section.

"(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

"(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria for offers from landowners under this section.

"(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to the enrollment of eligible land under this section that provides the greatest conservation benefit to—

"(i) primarily, species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

"(ii) secondarily, species that are—

"(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

"(II)(aa) candidates for that listing, State-listed species, or special concern species; or

"(bb) designated as species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

"(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary may give additional consideration to eligible land the enrollment under this section of which will—

"(i) improve biological diversity;

"(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

"(iii) conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in subparagraph (B);

"(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest land; and

"(v) increase carbon sequestration.

"(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve easement shall include terms and conditions that—

"(i) are consistent with the purposes of the program and the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

"(ii) are consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A);

"(iii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest reserve easements;

"(iv) provide for the efficient and effective establishment or enhancement of forest ecosystem functions and values; and

"(v) include such additional provisions as the Secretary determines are desirable to carry out the program or facilitate the practical administration of the program.

"(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request that a term or condition be included in a forest reserve easement, and the Secretary may include such term or condition, if it—

"(i) is consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A); and

"(ii) does not conflict with any terms or conditions included under subparagraph (A).

"(4) COMPENSATION.—

"(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement under this section, the Secretary shall pay the owner of the eligible land an amount equal to the difference between, as determined by the Secretary—

"(i) the fair market value of the eligible land before the enrollment in the permanent easement; and

"(ii) the fair market value of the eligible land as encumbered by the permanent easement.

"(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the owner of eligible land enrolled under this section in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid under subparagraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in a permanent easement.

"(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of eligible land for purposes of this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice or another industry-approved method.

"(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT.—

"(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a forest reserve easement shall be subject to a forest reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that describes such activities to be carried out on the land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance habitat for species described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

"(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A forest reserve easement plan developed under subparagraph (A) shall require implementation of such practices and measures as are necessary to accomplish the activities described in the plan under such subparagraph, which may include—

"(i) vegetative management and silviculture practices;

"(ii) structural practices and measures;

"(iii) practices to increase carbon sequestration;

"(iv) practices to improve biological diversity; and

"(v) other practices and measures, as determined by the Secretary.

"(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land to carry out the activities, practices, and measures described in the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under paragraph (1).

"(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to financial assistance provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall pay—

"(i) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement, an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary; and

"(ii) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, an amount that is not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary.

"(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for payments under this paragraph are the costs of activities, practices, and measures referred to in subparagraph (A) that are associated with the restoration or enhancement of the habitat conditions specified for the applicable species in the forest reserve easement plan.

"(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under this paragraph shall be made—

"(i) only on a determination by the Secretary that an activity, practice, or measure described in subparagraph (C) has been established in compliance with appropriate standards and specifications, which determination shall be made as soon as practicable after establishment; and

"(ii) as soon as possible after such determination is made.

"(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance provided by the Secretary under this paragraph to an owner of eligible land may not exceed $500,000 per easement or contract.

"(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to owners of eligible land technical assistance to assist the owners in—

"(A) developing a forest reserve easement plan; and

"(B) complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement, including the implementation of a forest reserve easement plan.

"(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with private entities or agreements with a State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide technical assistance described in para-

graph (1), if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.

"(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

"(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a landowner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve easement, and whose conservation activities under the forest reserve easement plan developed for such land result in a net conservation benefit for a species described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

"(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

"(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

"(2) MEASURES.—If protection under paragraph (1) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land, the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for payments under subsection (c)(2).

"(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION.—

"(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to other Federal or State agencies that have the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

"(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to a nonprofit conservation organization if the Secretary determines the organization has the appropriate expertise and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

"(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may consult with—

"(A) private forest landowners;

"(B) other Federal agencies;

"(C) State forestry agencies;

"(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

"(E) State environmental quality agencies;

"(F) other State conservation agencies; and

"(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

"SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.

"(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use amounts made available to carry out the program for the purposes of acquiring an easement on—

"(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian Tribe;

"(2) land owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of local government;

"(3) land subject to an easement or deed restriction that, as determined by the Secretary, provides similar protection as would be provided by enrollment in the program; or

"(4) land the enrollment in the program of which would undermine the purposes of the program due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land uses.

"(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—

"(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary (including for the purposes of utilities and energy transmission services) directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that the subordination—

"(A) increases conservation values or has a limited negative effect on conservation values;

"(B) minimally affects the acreage subject to the interest in eligible land; and

"(C) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

"(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

"(A) MODIFICATION.—

"(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corpora-

tion, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

"(I) will support the viability and sustainability of working forests and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

"(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

"(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors and exercising reserved rights.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

"(B) EXCHANGE.—

"(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

"(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

"(II) the exchange—

"(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

"(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

"(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

"(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

"(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.

"(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may approve a termination of any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that—

"(A) termination is in the interest of the Federal Government;

"(B) the United States will be fully compensated for—

"(i) the value of the interest in the land, as determined by the Secretary;

"(ii) any costs relating to the termination; and

"(iii) any damages determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

"(C) the termination will—

"(i) address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative even with avoidance and minimization; and

"(ii) further the practical administration of the program.

"(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if applicable, for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

"(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before taking any termination action described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

"(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled in the program.".

SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relating to title V.

(b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by subsection (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of any contract, agreement, or easement entered into by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or any payments or technical assistance required to be made in connection with the contract, agreement, or easement.

(2) FUNDING.—

(A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the repeal made by subsection (a), any funds made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall be made available to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1), subject to the condition that no such contract, agreement, or easement may be modified so as to increase the amount of any payment received.

(B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1) using the provisions of law (including regulations) applicable to those contracts, agreements, and easements as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle I—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) To address natural resource concerns on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, including through—

"(A) the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil;

"(B) the conservation and protection of water, including sources of drinking water and groundwater;

"(C) the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought, and the improvement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

"(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources.".

SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) The forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I.".

SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner to implement a project that will assist producers with installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eligible land.

"(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a partnership agreement under paragraph (1)—

"(A) is entered into not later than 180 days after the date on which an application is selected under subsection (e); and

"(B) contains only—

"(i) the information, described under subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and initiate the project to be implemented under the partnership agreement; and

"(ii) any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any waiver provided under paragraph (3) of such section.

"(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f).".

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking "how the Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary for that year for technical assistance under section 1271D(f); and" and inserting "the use of funds for technical assistance under section 1271D(c);";

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under a partnership agreement are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.".

(c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) any requests by an eligible partner for a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f); and".

SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.

Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the "and" at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the following:

"(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2), not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the scope of the project that is the subject of a partnership agreement funded pursuant to paragraph (1) in direct funding; and".

SEC. 2805. FUNDING.

(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by striking "subsection (a)" and inserting "section 1241(a)(6)".

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

"(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available to implement a project under a partnership agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the project.

"(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be considered to be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).".

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

"(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, through a partnership agreement, identify—

"(A) the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance; and

"(B) the share of such funds that will be provided to eligible partners under paragraph (2).

"(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

"(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partnership agreement that is not funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), the Secretary may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance provided through such partnership agreement, including—

"(i) the costs of technical assistance needed to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit of the applicable project;

"(ii) the costs of providing outreach and education to producers for potential participation in the applicable project;

"(iii) the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

"(iv) other costs necessary to support the implementation of eligible activities, as determined by the Secretary.

"(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may advance to eligible partners reasonable amounts of funds for costs that may be reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

"(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.

"(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements or advancements to eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance under this subsection.

"(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall develop and implement strategies to encourage third-party technical service providers to provide technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to a partnership agreement.".

SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting "make publicly available and" after "the Secretary shall".

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program to be used as part of the applicable partnership agreement.

"(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible activity carried out under a program contract entered into pursuant to the partnership agreement—

"(i) to provide a simplified process; or

"(ii) to better reflect unique local circumstances.

"(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not adjust the application of statutory requirements for a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, including requirements governing appeals, payment limits, and conservation compliance.

"(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program contract for an eligible activity under the agricultural conservation easement program, the Secretary may, in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligibility of land.

"(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a partnership agreement entered into for acquisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the authorities applicable to the eligible partner under section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an eligible entity certified under such section.

"(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program contract that includes an eligible activity under the environmental quality incentives program to be installed and maintained in a State in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may not consider prior irrigation history when determining the eligibility of land.

"(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to section 1271C(d).".

SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting ", including restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors" before the semicolon at the end.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended by striking "funds under section 1271D(d)(2)" and inserting "funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)".

TITLE III—TRADE

Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act

SEC. 3101. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721) is amended by striking "(to be implemented by the Administrator)" and inserting "(to be implemented by the Secretary)".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723, 1725, 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by striking "Administrator" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

(2) FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Title III of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is amended by striking "Administrator" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

(3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), respectively.

(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sections 403 and 404 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 and 1734) are each amended—

(A) by striking "or the Administrator, as appropriate," each place it appears;

(B) in section 403(h), by striking "or Administrator"; and

(C) in section 404(d), by striking "or the Administrator".

(5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

(c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

"TITLE VII—TRANSFER PROVISIONS

"SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

"On and after the date of the enactment of this title, the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, pursuant to any authority under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

"SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.

"On and after the date of the enactment of this title, any authority or responsibility provided by any other provision of law that was or could have been used by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsibility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture, respectively.

"SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

"Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend such rules and regulations (including by issuing or reissuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may determine appropriate, including by amending such rules and regulations issued by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development with respect to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all functions and duties previously carried out by that Administrator to the Secretary.

"SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.

"The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the authorities under this Act.".

SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.

Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "any other provision of law" and inserting "any other provision of this Act";

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting "assistance, including in the form of" before "agricultural commodities";

(3) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "Agency for International Development" and inserting "Department of Agriculture"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "Agency" and inserting "Department";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "or" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary.";

(5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50 percent may be made available for expenses other than the procurement of United States-grown agricultural commodities and ocean transportation of such commodities."; and

(6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.

Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724) is repealed.

SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1725), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3), by striking "the Agency for International Development" and inserting "the Department of Agriculture";

(2) in subsection (b)(4), by striking "Agency" and inserting "Secretary";

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8), as amended, as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "December 31, 2031".

SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018" and inserting "the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026";

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ", in consultation with the Secretary,"; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ", in consultation with the Secretary,"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.

Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not less than $15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.".

SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commodities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of such commodities.".

SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as follows:

"(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities to be provided under title II and title III.";

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "Administrator" and inserting "Secretary";

(3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking "Agency for International Development" and inserting "Secretary";

(4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031";

(5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking "Administrator" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary";

(6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "or the Administrator, as appropriate,";

(7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as follows:

"(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding each program and activity carried out under this Act during the prior fiscal year.";

(8) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (I);

(B) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as follows:

"(H) A statement of the amount of funds provided to each eligible organization that received assistance under this Act and the manner in which those funds were used, including whether such use was for commodity transportation or administrative costs.";

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs (F) through (I), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) An assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls."; and

(9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.

Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.

Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS CHILD WASTING.—

"(1) MINIMUM LEVEL.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, not less than $200,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out emergency food assistance programs under title II shall be expended for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

"(2) APPLICABILITY.—The minimum expenditure requirement under paragraph (1) shall only apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

"(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, published annually by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the United Nations Children's Fund, report a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5 percent for the year covered by such report; and

"(B) the total amount made available to carry out programs under title II in the fiscal year is greater than $1,200,000,000.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit on the authority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.".

SEC. 3111. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.1736g–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking "Administrator, in consultation with the"; and

(B) by striking the comma after "Secretary"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3112. JOHN OGONOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.

Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended—

(1) by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking "Administrator of the Agency for International Development" and inserting "Secretary".

SEC. 3113. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary may use funds made available for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law, including such funds otherwise obligated as of the date of the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the implementation of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle.

(b) CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the balance of any funds provided to carry out subsection (a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use during the following fiscal year.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILITATION.

(a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program established under this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements, with eligible trade organizations or with nonprofit organizations with expertise in supply chain infrastructure, to provide needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments, to ensure that United States agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of such infrastructure.

"(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out the program established under this subsection, not more than $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more than $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter may be made available to carry out this paragraph.".

(b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

"(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit every two years to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the competitiveness of United States specialty crops.

"(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that constitute significant barriers to, or distortions of, United States exports of specialty crops, including the imposition of—

"(I) tariffs (including retaliatory tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate quotas); and

"(II) nontariff barriers, including technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, import licensing procedures, and subsidies;

"(ii) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that enhance the competitiveness of imported specialty crops with domestic specialty crop producers, including—

"(I) the subsidization of exports from the producing country; and

"(II) the impact of any lack or circumvention of labor and environmental laws in the producing country;

"(iii) identify and analyze any differences in applicable food safety regulations of foreign countries that may result in imported specialty crops posing a risk to United States consumers;

"(iv) make an estimate of the impacts on the competitiveness of United States specialty crops of any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

"(v) assess the extent to which each act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to international agreements to which the United States is a party;

"(vi) include information with respect to any action taken by the executive or legislative branches during the two years preceding submission of the report, or expected to be taken after submission of the report, to eliminate any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii), including—

"(I) any action under section 301;

"(II) negotiations or consultations with foreign governments, which may include engagement through the standing committee on sanitary and phytosanitary matters established under a free trade agreement to which the United States is a party; and

"(III) action at the World Trade Organization, including dispute settlement actions, consultations, or negotiations; and

"(vii) a description of—

"(I) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in the fiscal year preceding submission of the report; and

"(II) the reason such funds were not obligated.

"(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the report required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall seek and consider comments from the public and from the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

"(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public in machine-readable format.

"(E) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

"(i) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

"(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.".

(c) MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.—Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—Of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section the following amounts, to remain available until expended:

"(A) For fiscal year 2026, $255,000,000.

"(B) For fiscal year 2027, $500,000,000.

"(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031, $533,000,000."; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, the Secretary" and inserting "The Secretary";

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "not less than" and all that follows through the end and inserting: "not less than—

"(I) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

"(II) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

"(III) $410,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.";

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "not less than" and all that follows through the end and inserting: "not less than—

"(I) $34,500,000 for fiscal year 2026;

"(II) $70,500,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

"(III) $82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.";

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking "not more than" and all that follows through the end and inserting: "not more than—

"(I) $8,000,000 for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027; and

"(II) $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.";

(iv) in clause (iv), by striking "Corporation" and all that follows through the end and inserting: "Corporation—

"(I) $9,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

"(II) $18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031."; and

(v) in clause (v)(I), by striking "commodities," and all that follows through the end and inserting "commodities, $3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031".

(d) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public Law 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note).

(2) Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7 U.S.C. 5623a).

SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS USING COMMON NAMES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "As used in this Act—" and inserting "In this Act:";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (4), respectively, and reordering such paragraphs in numerical sequence;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) COMMON NAME.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'common name' means a name that, as determined by the Secretary—

"(i) is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product;

"(ii) is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product;

"(iii) with respect to wine—

"(I) is—

"(aa) ordinarily or customarily used for a wine grape varietal name; or

"(bb) a traditional term or expression that is typically placed on the packaging and label of the wine; and

"(II) does not mean any appellation of origin for wine listed in subpart C of part 9 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

"(iv) the use of which is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

"(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names, among others, shall be considered as common names as such term is defined for purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A):

"(i) With respect to food products: american, asiago, basmati, black forest ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne, bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert, capicola and capocollo, cheddar, chevre, chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers, cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental, feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana, gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburger and limburgo, mascarpone, monterey jack, mortadella, munster and muenster, neufchatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pepper jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, romano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samso, and swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

"(ii) With respect to wine:

"(I) The list of grape varietal terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

"(II) The grape variety designations administratively approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

"(III) The following nonvarietal descriptors: chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted and crusting, noble, ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vintage character.

"(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout, barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel, witbier, saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier, weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles, rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier, doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder, kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie, lager.

"(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may take into account—

"(i) competent sources, such as dictionaries, newspapers, professional journals and literature, and information posted on websites that are determined by the Secretary to be reliable in reporting market information;

"(ii) the use of the common name in a domestic, regional, or international product standard, including a standard promulgated by the

Codex Alimentarius Commission, for the agricultural commodity or food product; and

"(iii) the ordinary and customary use of the common name in the production or marketing of the agricultural commodity or food product in the United States or in other countries.

"(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enumeration of certain names under subparagraph (B) may not be construed to limit or restrict the ability of the Secretary to determine, consistent with subparagraph (A), that any other name is a common name for purposes of this section."; and

(4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (v), by striking "; or" at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of a name determined or considered to be a common name pursuant to paragraph (2).".

(b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COMMON NAMES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of United States agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products.

"(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on efforts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).".

SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.

Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the 'working group') composed of representatives from each agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

"(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall consult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, relevant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and other relevant trade associations to identify threats that imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

"(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding potential additional trade actions and investigations with respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables, as determined to be advisable by the working group.

"(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The working group shall recommend programs or assistance that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market impacts.".

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.

Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended in subsection (d), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.

Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (commonly referred to as the "Food for Progress Act of 1985"; 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking "enter into" and inserting "annually enter into two or more"; and

(B) by inserting "two or more" before "eligible entities";

(2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(3) in subsection (g), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(4) in subsection (k), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(5) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by striking "HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT" and inserting "DEVELOPMENT";

(6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking "humanitarian and"; and

(7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking "Committee on International Relations" and inserting "Committee on Foreign Affairs".

SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.

Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031";

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking "the Administrator" and inserting "the Secretary";

(3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);

(4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting "by the Secretary" after "reimbursed"; and

(5) in subsection (h),

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "2026" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EMERGING MARKETS.

Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031";

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

"(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible countries in the long-term development of enduring, school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(1) implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years; and

"(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multiyear.".

SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end the following new section (and by conforming the table of contents in section 1(b) accordingly):

"SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term 'eligible candidate' means an individual that—

"(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30 years;

"(B) has demonstrated experience in agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education;

"(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host countries for at least 2 months or up to 6 months; and

"(D) is a resident of the United States.

"(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term 'eligible country' means a country that has agricultural trade relations with the United States, as recognized by the Foreign Agriculture Service.

"(3) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program established under subsection (b).

"(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an international cultural immersion and exchange program, to be known as the 'International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program', under which the Secretary shall—

"(1) provide eligible candidates with international cultural exchange and immersion experiences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education through placement with host families in eligible countries; and

"(2) place in the United States with host families individuals that meet the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible countries to experience United States agriculture, trade relations, and culture.

"(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

"(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the United States; and

"(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the United States in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

"(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Program, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization that has experience in implementing international cultural exchange programs focused on agricultural sciences, food and nutrition education, and cultural understanding through placement with host families.

"(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit organization with which the Secretary has a memorandum of understanding dated not earlier than January 1, 2019.

"(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of entering into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal matching funds from non-Federal sources.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.".

SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM.

Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting "or lower middle" before "income";

(2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking "Committee on International Relations" and inserting "Committee on Foreign Affairs";

(3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking "not more than 10 percent" and inserting "not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent".

SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.

Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as follows:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.";

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by inserting "under this section" after "Trust"; and

(B) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "fiscal years 2014 through 2023" and inserting "fiscal years 2023 through 2031".

SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT PROJECTS.

Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish a joint task force, to be known as the "Agricultural Trade Enforcement Task Force" (referred to in this section as the "Task Force").

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

(A) identify trade barriers to United States agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dispute settlement under the World Trade Organization ("WTO") or other trade agreements;

(B) develop and implement a strategy for enforcing violations of trade agreements related to these trade barriers;

(C) identify like-minded trading partners for specific trade barriers that could act as co-complainants or primary complainants on disputes that are systemically or economically important to the United States; and

(D) report quarterly to Congress on progress toward resolving cases or filing disputes.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate, with the following:

(A) Relevant stakeholders in the private sector, including the agricultural trade advisory committees.

(B) Federal departments and agencies that are not represented on the Task Force.

(C) Like-minded trading partners that are similarly concerned with trade barriers and are potential participants in the dispute settlement process.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be comprised of the following members:

(A) One or more employees of the Foreign Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(B) One of more employees of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, who shall be appointed jointly by the General Counsel for the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Chief Agricultural Negotiator.

(C) One or more employees of other Federal agencies as needed, who shall be appointed jointly by the officials specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members of the Task Force only if such employees have appropriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and trade enforcement.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to Congress a report on its progress in identifying and addressing trade barriers to United States agricultural exports.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A description of the systemic and economically significant trade barriers that have been identified.

(B) A justification for including the identified trade barriers.

(C) A description of the progress that has been made in developing dispute settlement cases and further information that is required.

(D) The current status of ongoing disputes at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbitration, or appellate body decisions.

(3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this subsection shall, in addition to the matters described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), include a plan to file a request under the WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to address India's minimum price supports. The plan shall include—

(A) an identification of like-minded trading partners that could act as co-complainants or primary complainants with respect to the request;

(B) a description of specific claims the United States intends to make with respect to the request; and

(C) a timeline to—

(i) request consultations; and

(ii) request the establishment of a panel not later than 60 days after the date of the request for consultations if India does not provide assurances that it will address its minimum price supports.

(e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate Members of Congress and congressional staff.

SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that examines policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) include an analysis of—

(A) the Secretary's authority with regard to shrimp and other seafood products;

(B) domestic shrimp and other seafood producers' access to financial support programs; and

(C) ways to facilitate interagency coordination under existing authorities around common goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities with respect to tariffs, market access policies, and other nontariff barriers; and

(2) identify trade or other legal barriers to United States shrimp and seafood production that are vulnerable to dispute settlement through the World Trade Organization or otherwise under bilateral or multilateral trade agreements.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Other Trade Matters

SEC. 3401. REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS TO USMCA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and concurrently make publicly available, prior to July 1, 2026, a report on how any expected or implemented modification or revocation of any part of the USMCA (as such term is defined in section 3 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 4502(9))) in any manner will affect the importation or exportation of any article that is a covered agricultural commodity, including—

(1) the anticipated effects on relevant product prices and projections as a result of such revocation or modification, including—

(A) the short- and long-term impacts on domestic pricing;

(B) changes in consumer food prices;

(C) expected or anticipated shifts in input costs for domestic producers; and

(D) regional or sector-specific variations in pricing impacts; and

(2) the forecasted shifts in farm revenue and profitability for domestic farmers, foresters, ranchers, and other producers as a result of such revocation or modification, including—

(A) impacts on net farm income and debt-to-asset ratios;

(B) sector-specific effects on crops, livestock, and specialty crops;

(C) effects on small, medium, and large farm operations;

(D) impacts on agricultural exports, market access, and global competitiveness; and

(E) estimated effects on rural employment and economies.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term "covered agricultural commodity" has the meaning given the term "agricultural commodity" under section 102(1) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602(1)).

SEC. 3402. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON ARGENTINE BEEF IMPORTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress as follows:

(1) Congress finds that United States ranchers and cattle producers produce the healthiest and highest quality beef on the planet.

(2) Any official trade agreement between the United States and Argentina—including the United States of America—Argentine Republic Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment—that allow Argentina to export ship fresh and frozen beef into the United States market under expanded quotas is detrimental to domestic ranchers, cattle producers, and cattle markets.

(3) Congress recognizes that many Americans enjoy eating beef and recognizes that many Americans want their beef raised domestically.

(4) Congress further concludes that any agreement to allow increased beef from Argentina into United States markets introduces unfair competition into an already volatile market as this imported beef could depress cattle prices at United States sale barns and have a ripple effect throughout the domestic economy affecting feed suppliers, equipment dealers, veterinarians, and other rural businesses.

(5) Congress additionally concludes that United States beef production is the safest in the world and that inconsistent enforcement abroad could put American consumers at risk and create an uneven regulatory playing field.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the United States signs any formal trade agreement with Argentina that includes a change to the tariff rate quotas or other duties on fresh and frozen beef imported from Argentina the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade Representative shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of such imported beef on domestic beef and cattle markets, including—

(A) American consumer sentiment about the quality of beef in the United States;

(B) impacts on domestic cattle prices;

(C) effects on domestic beef prices;

(D) changes to the domestic cattle herd size; and

(E) rancher sentiments toward expanding their herds.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "It", and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition assistance program allows low-income households to obtain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that supports the prevention of—

"(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

"(A) obesity;

"(B) diabetes;

"(C) hypertension;

"(D) heart disease; and

"(E) cancer;

"(2) disability;

"(3) premature death;

"(4) unsustainable health care costs; and

"(5) undermining of military readiness.

"(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nutrition assistance program in a manner that will provide participants, especially children, access to a variety of foods essential to optimal health and well-being.".

SEC. 4102. PROHIBITED FEES.

Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking "Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither" and inserting "Neither".

SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost in accordance with the State agency's standard contracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nutrition assistance program certification or carry out any other function of the State agency under such program so long as—

"(A) the contract does not provide incentives for the agency or contractor to delay eligibility determinations or to deny eligibility for individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; and

"(B) the contractor has no direct or indirect financial interest in an approved retail store.

"(2) USE.—A State agency may use the authority provided in paragraph (1) when—

"(A) the State experiences an inability to timely process supplemental nutrition assistance program applications from causes that include but are not limited to—

"(i) pandemics and other health emergencies;

"(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;

"(iii) temporary staffing shortages; and

"(iv) weather or other natural disasters;

"(B) the State's payment error rate, as defined in section 16, is greater than or equal to 6 percent based on the most recent available Department of Agriculture data; or

"(C) the State experiences an increase in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications.

"(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that hires a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure such action—

"(A) is consistent with all principles under section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

"(B) is part of a blended workforce and does not supplant existing merit-based personnel in the State.

"(4) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall notify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority provided in this section and shall provide any information or data supporting State agency increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or any inability to timely process such applications.

"(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10 days after the date of the receipt of a notification submitted by a State agency under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture the notification submitted by such State agency and any accompanying information or data supporting such notification so submitted.

"(6) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—

"(A) considered to be a major change in the operations of such State agency for purposes of section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or

"(B) subject to any requirement specified in such section.

"(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an annual report that contains—

"(A) a description of measures taken to address increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications and any inability to timely process such applications;

"(B) information or data supporting State agency notifications provided pursuant to paragraph (4); and

"(C) recommendations for changes to the Secretary's authority under this Act to assist the Secretary, States, and local governments of States in preparing for any future increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or inability to timely process such applications.

"(8) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority provided to State agencies under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) expire when the backlog of supplemental nutrition assistance program applications has been eliminated;

"(B) not override any collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding in effect between the State and employees of the State or of a local government of such State; and

"(C) expire when the error rate, as defined in section 16, is less than 6 percent.".

SEC. 4104. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR SNAP RETAILERS.

The 2d sentence of section 9(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 is amended by inserting ", on two consecutive occasions within a 3-year-period," after "does not meet".

SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.

Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

"(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include all identified payment errors, including small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

"(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).".

SEC. 4106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting ""2031".

SEC. 4107. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAFFICKING.

Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4108. EBT CARD SECURITY REGULATIONS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate, in the form of a proposed rule, regulations through notice and comment rulemaking to enhance EBT Card (as defined in section 3(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act; 7 U.S.C. 2012(i)) security measures.

SEC. 4109. REPORT ON SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that—

(1) examines the causes of State variation in supplemental nutrition assistance program administrative costs and identifies the factors most likely to contribute to an increase in these costs; and

(2) provides recommendations on how the Department of Agriculture and Congress can improve oversight of administrative costs in the program.

SEC. 4110. ANIMAL PROTEIN AN ELIGIBLE INCENTIVE FOOD.

Section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(j)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting "animal protein," after "whole grain,".

SEC. 4111. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ONLINE PURCHASING.

Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(l) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

"(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall begin transitioning the supplemental nutrition assistance program online purchasing initiative from pilot or demonstration status to permanent nationwide program operations, with the completion of the regulations marking the end of the transition.

"(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations and guidance as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1), including provisions related to program integrity, consumer protections, and equitable access in rural areas. Such regulations shall be issued not later than 2 years after the effective date of this subsection.

"(3) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish a formal process for consultation with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons learned from online purchasing operations during the period of 2014 through 2025.

"(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the consultation process and recommendations received.".

SEC. 4112. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 27(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(c) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD FRESH.—Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Secretary may allow the State agency to use not more than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allocated to that State agency under this section to order commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.".

SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution Programs

SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "and herbs" and inserting "herbs, maple syrup, and tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts)".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031", and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031",

(2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to award grants for the operation of projects that increase the access of low-income elderly persons to commodities through home delivery or other means and to evaluate such projects.

"(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agencies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible entities, to carry out the activities described in paragraph (5).

"(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant awarded to a State agency under this subsection shall not exceed—

"(A) the greater of—

"(i) the State's commodity supplemental food program caseload at time of application multiplied by 60; or

"(ii) $10,000; or

"(B) $4,000,000;

whichever is less.

"(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a grant under this subsection shall distribute grant funds to eligible entities to operate projects that facilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the commodity supplemental food program, including with respect to costs associated with—

"(A) transportation and distribution of commodities to participants in the commodity supplemental food program, including transportation and distribution services provided by a third party;

"(B) staffing required to operate delivery services; and

"(C) outreach to participants or potential participants in the commodity supplemental food program with respect to home delivery.

"(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible entities that serve participants in the commodity supplemental food program who reside in a rural area.

"(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in which a State agency is awarded a grant under this subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligible entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until grant funds are expended, a State agency shall submit a report to the Secretary that includes—

"(A) a summary of the activities carried out under the project, including the quantity of commodities delivered, number of participants in the commodity supplemental food program served, and total number of deliveries;

"(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the project, including a calculation of the average cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any services provided by a third party; and

"(C) best practices regarding use of home delivery to improve the effectiveness of the commodity supplemental food program.

"(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term 'State agency', 'local agency', and 'subdistributing agency' have the meanings given such terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

"(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(i) a local agency; or

"(ii) a subdistributing agency.

"(C) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

"(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to remain available until expended.".

SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.

Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term "demonstration project" means the demonstration project established under paragraph (2).

(B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The term "food distribution program" means the commodity supplemental food program identified in section 4 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86).

(C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term "Indian reservation" has the meaning given the term "reservation" in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—The term "self-determination contract" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as determined by the Secretary.

(F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term "Tribal organization" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a demonstration project under which 1 or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities under the food distribution program for the Indian reservation of that Tribal organization.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with Indian Tribes to determine the process and criteria under which a Tribal organization may participate in the demonstration project.

(B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select for participation in the demonstration project Tribal organizations that—

(i) are successfully administering the food distribution program of the Tribal organization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(2)(B));

(ii) have the capacity to purchase agricultural commodities in accordance with paragraph (4) for the food distribution program of the Tribal organization; and

(iii) meet any other criteria determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Indian Tribes.

(4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased by a Tribal organization under the demonstration project shall—

(A) be domestically produced;

(B) not result in a material increase in the amount of food in the food package of that Tribal organization compared to the amount of food that the Secretary authorized to be provided through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Guide Rate;

(C) be of similar or higher nutritional value as the type of agricultural commodities that would be supplanted in the existing food package for that Tribal organization or be an agricultural commodity with Tribal significance to that Indian Tribe; and

(D) meet any other criteria determined by the Secretary.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which funds are appropriated under paragraph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the activities carried out under the demonstration project during the preceding year.

(6) FUNDING.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in advance specifically to carry out this subsection shall be available to carry out this subsection.

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACTS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall appoint an existing office of the United States Department of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-determination contracts to include but not limited to:

(A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Service nutrition program self-determination contracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

(B) hiring contract officers and program staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal organizations and execution of self-determination contracts.

(2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated $1,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL MEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category.

"(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.—Domestically unavailable products and commodities included on a list issued pursuant to clause (iii) with respect to a school year and purchased by a school food authority during such school year shall not be used to calculate whether such school food authority meets the requirements under clause (i).

"(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall make available to school food authorities a list of domestically unavailable products and commodities.

"(iv) LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Except with respect to a domestically unavailable product or commodity included on a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary may not waive or make accommodations for any of the requirements of this subparagraph.

"(v) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.—The Secretary shall prohibit school food authorities from purchasing raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.".

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning on the first day of the first school year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subparagraph (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.

"(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POVERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an activity carried out—

"(I) in a county that, during the preceding 30-year period has had a population of which greater than or equal to 20 percent of such population are living in poverty (as measured by the most recent decennial censuses and most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of the Census); or

"(II) in a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent during the preceding 30-year period, as measured by the most recent 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census."; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

(ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

"(ix) increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables;";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "fresh fruits and vegetables" and inserting "all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes" each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031".

SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting "ANNUAL" before "REPORT";

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and annually thereafter," before "the Secretary shall";

(3) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) a general description of each project and activity implemented pursuant to this section;

"(D) a summary of the cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

"(E) a detailed account of how the Secretary avoided, managed, or will manage market disruption; and

"(F) a summary of coordinated activities with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, including interagency communication and coordination related to the promotion or exclusion of practices and technologies to limit food waste.".

SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.

Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**" and inserting "**DAIRY NUTRITION**" (and by conforming the item of such section in the table of contents accordingly);

(2) by striking "healthy fluid milk" and inserting "dairy nutrition" each place it appears;

(3) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term 'covered dairy products' means—

"(A) cheese (including nonstandardized cheese) that is—

"(i) made from pasteurized cow's milk;

"(ii) a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(iii) sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice, stick, string or in snack-size form; and

"(B) yogurt (or other cultured dairy product) that—

"(i) is made from pasteurized cow's milk;

"(ii) is a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(iii) contains limited amounts of added sugars.

"(2) FLUID MILK.—The term 'fluid milk' means all varieties of pasteurized cow's milk that—

"(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

"(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels consistent with the Food and Drug Administration, State, and local standards for fluid milk.";

(4) in subsection (b), by inserting "and covered dairy products" after "of fluid milk" each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting "and covered dairy products" after "purchase of fluid milk"; and

(6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking "$20,000,000" and inserting "$50,000,000".

SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis) with eligible entities—

(1) to help support covered local producers through building and expanding economic opportunities;

(2) to establish and broaden partnerships with such covered local producers and the food distribution community to ensure distribution of fresh (including fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

(3) to strengthen such entity's local and regional food security and systems.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall use funds received through such agreement—

(1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from covered producers;

(2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the total annual value of products purchased by the eligible entity comprises purchases from small-size producers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

(3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

(A) covered local producers, including in obtaining food safety training and certifications; and

(B) efforts to grow the local agricultural value chain;

(4) to distribute such local foods to organizations, including nonprofit organizations, that have experience in food distribution to improve access to healthy and nutritious food; and

(5) to build and expand economic opportunity for covered local producers.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to an eligible entity through a cooperative agreement under this section, an eligible entity may use not more than 15 percent of such amount—

(A) to cover administrative expenses; and

(B) to provide technical assistance described in subsection (b)(3);

(2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent to provide technical assistance described in subsection (b)(3).

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities entering into a cooperative agreement under this section guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

(e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

(1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal Governments, to be allocated using a funding formula determined by the Secretary; and

(2) of the amounts remaining after making the allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to each State (other than Tribal Governments); and

(3) after making the allocations under paragraphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts to each eligible entity (other than Tribal Governments) by applying the formula described in section 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

(f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms "beginning farmer or rancher" and "veteran farmer or rancher" have the meanings given such terms in section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

(2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term "covered producer" means a fisherman, farmer, producer, rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that is—

(A) within the geographic boundaries of the eligible entity in which the food will be delivered; or

(B) not more than 400 miles from the delivery destination of the food.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means a State agency, commission, or department that is responsible for agriculture, procurement, food distribution, emergency response, or other similar activities within the State.

(4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term "mid-sized producer" means an individual whose annual gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds $350,000 and is less than $999,999.

(5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term "small-sized producer" means one whose annual gross cash farm income is less than $350,000.

(6) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED LOCAL FOODS.—The term "unprocessed or minimally processed local foods" means food products means only those agricultural products that retain their inherent character. Such term includes—

(A) fruits and vegetables (including 100 percent juices);

(B) grain products, such as pastas and rice;

(C) meats (including whole carcasses, pieces thereof, or ground meat);

(D) protein sources that are meat alternatives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and yogurt); and

(E) foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (such as whole, cut, or pureed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned, or dried).

SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.

Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended by striking "$125,000,000" and inserting "$135,000,000".

SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "At least every five years" and inserting "Beginning with the 2030 report and at least every 10 years thereafter,"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: "Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the development of each report under this paragraph.";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "shall be based on the preponderance of the scientific and medical knowledge which is current at the time the report is prepared." and inserting "shall—

"(A) be based on significant scientific agreement that is determined by evidence-based review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

"(B) be current at the time the report is prepared;

"(C) be derived from questions generated under paragraph (5)(E);

"(D) address high-priority areas of concern to advance health outcomes;

"(E) be designed to achieve nutritional adequacy and promote health, as specified by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, from the consumption of food, including nutrients and bioactive food components occurring naturally and in fortified foods;

"(F) include nutritional and dietary information relevant to individuals with nutrition-related common chronic diseases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

"(G) include recommendations that are affordable, available, and accessible for the general population.";

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (7);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may publish the report required under paragraph (1) more frequently than required under that paragraph if the Secretaries determine that more frequent publication is necessary to promote health, based on the updated dietary reference intake values specified by—

"(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; and

"(B) other relevant scientific advancements based on continuous monitoring of the totality of publicly available scientific evidence.

"(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days before the Secretaries plan to update a report under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall submit notification of that plan, in writing, to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

"(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification under subparagraph (A) shall include a justification for updating the report.

"(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall establish an Independent Advisory Board (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Board').

"(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be comprised of at least 4 members and not more than 8 members, of which—

"(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secretaries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal employees; and

"(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of the highest ranking Member of Congress on each Committee described in paragraph (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the President of the United States at the time of the appointment.

"(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member appointed to the Board shall have expertise in nutrition science or food science, including academic and applied experience.

"(D) MEETINGS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting of the Board—

"(I) may only take place on or after the date that 4 members are appointed to the Board under subparagraph (B); and

"(II) shall take place on or after the date that is 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A).

"(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

"(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the Board, the Board shall submit to the Secretaries and the Committees described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific questions relating to the report for purposes of paragraph (2)(C).

"(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Board shall terminate, and the Board shall disband, immediately after carrying out subparagraph (E).

"(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guidelines contained in each report required under paragraph (1) shall not be based on or include topics that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as determined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition."; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—

"(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'evidence-based review' means a process under which—

"(i) the totality of the scientific evidence relevant to a question of interest is collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

"(ii) scientific studies, conclusions, and recommendations are rated, adhering strictly to standardized, generally accepted evidence-based review methods; and

"(iii) external peer review is conducted by nongovernment experts with recognized expertise in quality of evidence evaluation.

"(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each guideline contained in a report published under paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the Secretaries for the strength of evidence used, including to the extent by which the guideline will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

"(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

"(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual appointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or an Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5) shall—

"(i) be appointed as a special government employee;

"(ii) comply with financial disclosure requirements applicable to such a special government employee under subpart I of part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), including the requirement to file the Office of Government Ethics Form 450 (or successor Form); and

"(iii) prior to such an appointment, provide a report to the Secretaries regarding, for the 10-year period preceding such report, any research funding or professional affiliation relating to a report under paragraph (1).

"(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or an Independent Advisory Board is established, the Secretaries shall make publicly available—

"(i) a summary of the financial disclosures reported by members of such Committee or Board;

"(ii) the research funding and professional affiliations reported by such members under subparagraph (A)(iii), categorized by the name of the individual; and

"(iii) a detailed plan for managing any disclosed conflicts of interest, including financial or ethical conflicts of interest, preferences, values, and beliefs.".

(b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until the publication of the first report under such subsection in accordance with the amendments made to such section by this Act.

TITLE V—CREDIT

Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans

SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.

Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

(1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by striking "a majority" each place it appears and inserting "at least a 50 percent";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

"(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

"(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who is an owner of the farm real estate owns at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the applicant.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities, shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle.".

SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "3 years" and inserting "2 years"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking "3-year" and inserting "2-year"; and

(II) by striking "1 or 2 years" and inserting "1 year";

(ii) in clause (iii), by inserting "or operational" before "responsibilities";

(iii) in clause (vii), by striking "or"; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(ix) met any other criteria established by the Secretary; or"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "3-year" and inserting "2-year".

SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT LOANS.

Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DIRECT LOANS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), shall promulgate regulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this subsection.

"(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A guaranteed loan may be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant to this subsection only if the Secretary determines that—

"(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed due to its status as a nonperforming loan that does not have a positive cash flow at rates and terms available from the lender;

"(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed loan is in monetary default and subject to liquidation or foreclosure action;

"(iii) a reasonable chance for the success of the operation financed by the guaranteed loan exists; and

"(iv) all other criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection to protect taxpayer funds and the loan programs of the Farm Service Agency have been satisfied.

"(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary may determine that a reasonable chance for the success of an operation exists if the Secretary determines that—

"(i) all relevant problems with the operation financed by the guaranteed loan—

"(I) have been identified; and

"(II) can be corrected; and

"(ii) on correction of the problems, the operation can achieve, or be returned to, a sound financial basis.

"(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guaranteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency into a direct loan issued under another program of the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in accordance with the laws applicable to the program under which the direct loan is issued.

"(3) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—A direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursuant to the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, including, if applicable, the limitations described in sections 305 and 313.".

SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "1985." and inserting "1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); 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 technologies, 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 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).."; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.

Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended by striking "$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019" and inserting "$850,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,500,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2026".

SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.

Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "of the Prices Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year" and inserting "of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted equally"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "of such index (as so defined) for the 12-month period that immediately precedes the 12-month period described in paragraph (1)" and inserting "of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the year immediately preceding the year described in paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally".

SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C. 2206a) the following:

"SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered under this Act may, for the purpose of making available capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide related equipment or other support for essential community facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and commitments, and extend other technical and financial assistance for projects for essential community facilities eligible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

"(c) LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System institution described in subsection (a) shall not provide financing or assistance under this section in an aggregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total of all outstanding loans of the institution.

"(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit System institution shall not provide financing or assistance under this section unless the institution—

"(i) has offered, under reasonable terms and conditions acceptable to the borrower involved, an interest in the financing to at least 1 domestic lending institution not referred to in subsection (a) other than the Department of Agriculture; and

"(ii) has reported the offer to the Farm Credit Administration.

"(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRIORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing to a domestic lending institution described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System institution shall give priority to community banks located in the service area of the essential community facility being financed.

"(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the activities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Credit System institutions during the period covered by the report, including through partnerships between such an institution and other lending institutions, which shall also be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administration.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "exceed 45 percent of the least" and inserting "exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 percent of the lesser";

(2) in subparagraph (A), by adding "or" after the semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking "; or" and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.—Section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a cooperative agreement must be for any of the following purposes:

"(A) To assist with transitioning land to agricultural production.

"(B) To maintain land in agricultural production.

"(C) To increase access to programs administered by the Secretary through the resolution of real property claims in order to allow real property owners to meet land ownership eligibility requirements for participation in a program administered by the Secretary.

"(2) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) DURATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in effect for not more than 4 years, subject to clause (ii).

"(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may extend a cooperative agreement or re-enter into a cooperative agreement with the same or a different eligible entity to provide continued services for heirs if—

"(I) property ownership is not resolved within the initial term of the original cooperative agreement; and

"(II) the entity certifies that the entity understands that the cooperative agreement is not guaranteed to be funded for more than 4 years after the commencement of the original cooperative agreement.

"(B) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

"(i) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible entity must provide annual reports to the Secretary summarizing the progress made during each fiscal year towards achieving the goals of the cooperative agreement for the heirs for whom services are provided under the cooperative agreement.

"(ii) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The Secretary may require an eligible entity to provide the Secretary with such information or data as the Secretary deems necessary to determine that the eligible entity is making acceptable progress. The data may not include personally identifiable information.

"(iii) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity providing services under such a cooperative agreement does not demonstrate success, as determined by the Secretary, in resolving or reasonably attempting to resolve the property claims of an heir, the Secretary may terminate the agreement.

"(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may utilize requests for public input or the formal rulemaking process to effectuate this subsection. At a minimum, the Secretary shall make publicly available the criteria for selecting an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to provide services, the administrative and performance requirements for cooperative agreements under this subsection, as well as codify within its internal policy its implementation process.

"(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—On a limited basis, and when determined by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a program administered by the Secretary and to expand access to such a program, the Secretary may allow an eligible entity to provide services at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved heir if—

"(i) the land with respect to which the services are to be provided is not farmland or in agricultural production, but could be viably productive for agricultural, conservation, or forestry purposes;

"(ii) the heir satisfies all other requirements of the definition of 'underserved heir';

"(iii) the heir can provide proof to substantiate that the heir is in control of the real property; and

"(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary that the heir intends to apply for, and make a good faith effort to enroll the land in, a program administered by the Secretary once property claims to the land are resolved through services provided under a cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection.

"(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a nonprofit organization that—

"(i) provides legal or accounting services to an underserved heir at no cost to the underserved heir to resolve property ownership issues; and

"(ii) has demonstrated experience in resolving issues related to ownership and succession on farmland or forest land that has multiple owners.

"(B) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir shall be considered a limited resource heir for purposes of this subsection if—

"(i) the total household income of the heir is at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of the county

median household income for the 2 immediately preceding calendar years, as determined annually using data of the Department of Commerce; or

"(ii) the property of the heir for which legal services are provided pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection is in a persistent poverty community, as determined annually on the basis of data from the Department of Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as designated by the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention.

"(C) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term 'underserved heir' means an heir with an undivided ownership interest in farmland or forest land that has multiple owners, who is—

"(i) a limited resource heir;

"(ii) a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990); or

"(iii) a veteran (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

"(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report on the activities carried out under this subsection in the year covered by the report.

"(5) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUTCOMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section 310I(g) of such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b) of this section, is amended by striking "Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall" and inserting "The Secretary shall annually".

SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARANTEED LOANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to lenders a short, simplified application form for real estate and operating guaranteed loans under this title, for loans of not more than $1,000,000.

"(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days after receipt of a complete application to guarantee a farm ownership or operating loan that meets the requirements under subparagraph (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender or Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify the lender as to whether the application is approved or disapproved.

"(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the percentage of the principal amount of a loan which may be guaranteed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed—

"(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan not exceeding $125,000;

"(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $125,000 and not more than $500,000; or

"(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $500,000 and not more than $1,000,000."; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop an application process that accelerates, to the maximum extent practicable, the processing of applications for business and industry guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as described under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans not exceeding $400,000.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated application process, as provided under subparagraph (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding $600,000 if there is not a significant increased risk of a default on the loan, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(2) by striking subsection (h).

SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

"SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expedited qualification and approval process for borrowers seeking—

"(1) a direct farm ownership loan under this Act; or

"(2) a guaranteed farm ownership loan under this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Certified Lender under section 339(d) and provided to a creditworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred Certified Lender.

"(b) LOAN ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process for making—

"(1) determinations necessary to make the certifications and assessments referred to in section 339(c)(5); and

"(2) determinations under section 360(b).

"(c) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall not be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification of any requirement, other than an application process timing requirement, imposed by or under this Act.

"(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report examining the actions undertaken under, and the results of, the pilot program.

"(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section shall terminate effective September 30, 2031.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 346(b)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting ", to the extent practicable" after "April 1 of the fiscal year";

(2) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting ", to the extent practicable" after "September 1 of the fiscal year"; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by inserting ", to the extent practicable" after "April 1 of the fiscal year".

Subtitle B—Operating Loans

SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.

Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

(1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by striking "a majority" each place it appears and inserting "at least a 50 percent"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity" and inserting the following:

"(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

"(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity"; and

(B) by striking "ownership interests of each embedded entity of the entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the family farm" and inserting "total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm improved or supported with funds under this subtitle".

SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING LOANS.

Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended by striking "$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019" and inserting "$750,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,000,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2026".

SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.

Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended by striking "$50,000" and inserting "$100,000".

SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.

Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

Subtitle C—Emergency Loans

SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.

Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the 1st sentence—

(i) by striking "(A)" and inserting "(i)";

(ii) by striking "(B)" and inserting "(ii)";

(iii) by striking "(1)" and inserting "(A)";

(iv) by striking "(2)" and inserting "(B)"; and

(v) by striking "a majority" each place it appears and inserting "at least a 50 percent";

(B) in the 2nd sentence, by striking "this subsection" and inserting "this paragraph";

(C) by striking the 5th sentence; and

(D) by adding after and below the end the following:

"(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

"(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who is an owner of the real estate owns at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the applicant.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities, shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle."; and

(2) by striking all that precedes "shall make and insure" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary".

Subtitle D—Administrative Provisions

SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.

Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.

Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPERATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous

SEC. 5501. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PROVIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HARVESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their operating needs; or".

(b) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Section 1.11(c)(1) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended by inserting "and to persons furnishing services directly related to the operating needs of producers or harvesters of aquatic products" after "needs".

(c) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section 2.4(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their operating needs.".

SEC. 5502. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking "50 percent of the bank's capital" and inserting "15 percent of the total assets of the bank"; and

(2) by striking "an amount equal to 50 percent of the bank's capital" and inserting "15 percent of the total assets of the bank".

SEC. 5503. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYSTEMS.

Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(2) by striking "The banks" and inserting "(1) The banks";

(3) striking "For purposes" and inserting "(3) For purposes";

(4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by inserting ", or in the case of such loans, commitments, and assistance that are guaranteed, the term 'rural area' means an area described in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))" before the period at the end; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a bank for cooperatives may make and participate in loans and commitments and provide technical and other financial assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (except for the Federal Government) for the purpose of installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural area for the processing or disposal of waste from any source, the provision of telecommunication services, and producing electricity from any source for use or sale by the borrower.".

SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4.20 the following:

"SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.

"(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall be the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System with respect to activities subject to this Act.

"(b) Nothing in this section shall limit or affect any regulatory or other authority granted to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation under this Act.

"(c) A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify or supersede the exclusive authority provided by subsection (a), except to the extent that the enacted law does so expressly.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting " or section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))" before the 1st comma.

SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.

Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "mortgage investors" and inserting "investors in those types of loans"; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE BORROWERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation's tier 1 capital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

"(2) REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm Credit Administration may issue regulations establishing a single borrower concentration limit lower than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the Farm Credit Administration determines that such a lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound operation of the Corporation.".

SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "$500,000" and inserting "$700,000"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial assistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent fiscal years.".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

(1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking "by the county committee" and inserting "of the application".

(2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is amended—

(A) by striking the last sentence of subsection (b); and

(B) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking "county committee certification that the borrower of the loan meets the eligibility requirements and" and inserting "the borrower meeting"; and

(B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking "county committee certification that the borrower meets the eligibility requirements or" and inserting "the borrower meeting".

(4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking "(as determined by the appropriate county committee during the determination of eligibility for the loan)".

(b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking "annual review of direct loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans" and inserting "periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct and guaranteed loans".

(c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—

(1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1928(e)) is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development".

(2) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking "Consolidated".

(3) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and (7) by striking "Farmers Home Administration" each place it appears and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development".

(4) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking "Rural Development Administration or by the Farmers Home Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development".

(5) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)) is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration or by the Rural Development Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency or by Rural Development".

(6) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(a)) is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency or Rural Development".

(7) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking "Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service payments" and inserting "Farm Service Agency farm program";

(B) by striking "Farmers Home Administration liens" and inserting "liens for a farmer program loan"; and

(C) by striking "Farmers Home Administration farmer" and inserting "Farm Service Agency farmer".

(8) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1988(a)) is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development".

(9) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration" and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development".

(10) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004) is amended—

(A) by striking "Farmers Home Administration may" and inserting "Farm Service Agency and Rural Development may"; and

(B) by striking "the inventory of the Farmers Home Administration" and inserting "inventory".

(11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2008e(a)) is amended by striking "the Rural Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration" and inserting "Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Rural Utilities Service".

(12) Each of the following provisions of such Act is amended by striking "Farmers Home Administration" each place it appears and inserting "Farm Service Agency":

(A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1929(g)(1)).

(B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

(C) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1983a(e)(1)).

(D) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

(E) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

(F) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C. 1997(e)(1)(B)).

(G) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

(d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "15" and inserting "60";

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(A) by striking "135" and inserting "180"; and

(B) by inserting "suitable for farming and ranching, as determined by the Secretary" before the comma; and

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "not later than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the 135-day period," and inserting "or if the property is not suitable for farming and ranching as determined by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the 180-day period, the Secretary shall".

(e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROPERTY DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

(1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking ", and until January" and all that follows through "fit)".

(2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5) and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

"(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent with this section that ensures the release of funds to each borrower.".

(f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking "district office" each place it appears and inserting "District Director".

(g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" and inserting "the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands".

(h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINITION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting "before June 18, 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or after June 18, 2008," before "emergency loan (EM)".

(i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is amended by

striking "related to one another by blood or marriage" and inserting "qualified beginning farmers".

(j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D) and (2)(D) by striking "described in section 304".

(2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934) is amended by striking ", or paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 304(a)," and inserting "section 304(a)".

(k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section 353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended by striking "registered or certified mail" and inserting "any method that provides documentation of delivery".

(l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking "Soil Conservation Service" and inserting "Natural Resources Conservation Service".

(m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "not be—" and all that follows and inserting "be equal to the interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.".

(2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking "not be—" and all that follows and inserting "be equal to the interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.".

(n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the paragraph heading by striking "BEGINNING FARMER LOANS" and inserting "DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANT".

(o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRICTIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1949) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**OR GUARANTEES**"; and

(2) by striking "or with respect to whom there is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle".

(q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 352(c)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2000(c)(3)) is amended by striking "section 333B" and inserting "subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994".

(2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h), by striking "under section 333B"; and

(B) in subsection (j)—

(i) by striking "filed with the appeals division under section 333B" and inserting "to the National Appeals Division";

(ii) by striking "appeals division shall" and inserting "Secretary shall"; and

(iii) by striking "county supervisor" and inserting "Secretary".

(s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking "that are consistent with subtitle A through this subtitle".

(t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking "MORTGAGE LOANS" and inserting "LOAN QUALITY".

SEC. 5509. REPORT ON IMPROVING CREDITWORTHINESS OF DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOAN BORROWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report evaluating the feasibility of requiring the adoption of certain risk management practices as a condition for approving certain direct and guaranteed farm loans.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—In the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall evaluate the feasibility of requiring, as a condition for approving certain direct and guaranteed farm loans, the adoption of 1 or more of the following risk management practices:

(1) Hedging and marketing price or revenue risk management strategies.

(2) Insurance coverage optimization or coordination.

(3) Periodic financial reporting or financial management practices.

(4) Cash management services to facilitate timely disbursement of funds and structured collection of operating revenues.

(5) The use of integrated monitoring and analytics tools to align risk management and financial decisions with observed environmental and production conditions.

(6) Other risk mitigation practices as determined by the Secretary.

(7) Voluntary lender incentives to promote integrated risk management support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall also evaluate the feasibility of establishing a certification program that identifies loans approved contingent on the adoption of enhanced risk management practices, including through voluntary lender incentives to promote integrated risk management support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements and evaluations under this section shall apply only to operating, production, and working capital loans made for agricultural production purposes and shall not apply to real estate loans, rural development loans, housing loans, business and industry loans, or other non-operating credit programs administered by the Secretary.

SEC. 5510. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OPTION TO EXAMINE LOW-RISK FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS ON A 24-MONTH CYCLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5.19(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2254(a)) is amended in the 1st sentence—

(1) by striking "in no event" and inserting "not"; and

(2) by inserting ", except that the Farm Credit Administration, in its sole discretion, may extend the time period between mandatory examinations of institutions deemed by the Farm Credit Administration to be small, low-risk institutions to not more than 24 months" before the period.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Improving Health Outcomes in Rural America

SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM.

Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "2025" and inserting "2027";

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the heading, by striking "SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-ASIDE" and inserting "SET-ASIDE";

(II) by inserting "at rural health facilities" before "that provide"; and

(III) by inserting ", mental health, behavioral health, or maternal health" before "treatment"; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting "mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or" before "substance";

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the heading, by striking "SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELECTION" and inserting "SELECTION";

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting "mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or" before "substance" the first place it appears; and

(III) in subclause (II), by inserting "mental health concerns, behavioral health concerns, maternal health concerns, or" before "substance"; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting ", behavioral health treatment, mental health treatment, or maternal health, respectively" before the period; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting "behavioral health, mental health, maternal health, or" before "substance" the first place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "2025" and inserting "2027".

SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE LOANS AND GRANTS.

Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is amended by striking "$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023" and inserting "$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated".

Subtitle B—Connecting Rural Americans to High Speed Broadband

SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**" and inserting "**RECONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**";

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "The purpose" and all that follows through "provide funds for" and inserting "The Secretary shall establish a program, which shall be known as the 'ReConnect Rural Broadband Program', to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to finance";

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment necessary for delivering broadband service in rural areas.";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, making loans, and guaranteeing loans under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the highest priority to applications for projects to provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service of at least—

"(i) a 25–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

"(ii) a 3–Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

"(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applications described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to applications—

"(i) for projects to provide broadband service to rural communities—

"(I) with a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants; or

"(II) in geographically underserved and distressed areas, including—

"(aa) a socially vulnerable community (as determined by the Secretary);

"(bb) a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary); or

"(cc) in an economically distressed area (as determined by the Secretary);

"(ii) that were developed with the participation of, and will receive a substantial portion of the funding or in-kind assistance for the project from, 2 or more stakeholders, including—

"(I) State, local, and Tribal governments;

"(II) nonprofit institutions;

"(III) community anchor institutions, such as—

"(aa) public libraries;

"(bb) elementary schools and secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

"(cc) institutions of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities);

"(dd) health care facilities; and

"(ee) facilities essential for local or regional commerce or for the movement of goods;

"(IV) private entities;

"(V) philanthropic organizations; and

"(VI) cooperatives; or

"(iii) that are submitted by an eligible entity or is owned by an entity that has provided broadband service or other utility service for at least 5 years in rural areas in the State in which the project would be carried out.

"(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In determining whether a household is unserved for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall consider the affordability of broadband service.";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "and" at the end of clause (i);

(II) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting "; and"; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) shall be subject to a grant agreement of not less than 10 years.";

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

"(C) APPLICATIONS.—

"(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process that permits an application for a grant-only award.

"(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process that—

"(I) permits a single application for a grant and a loan under title I or II, or this title, that is associated with the grant; and

"(II) provides a single decision to award the grant and the loan.";

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D); and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(D) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) FEES.—

"(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under this section in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

"(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under this section in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guarantee loan.

"(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under this section, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by adding "and" at the end; and

(II) by striking "require; and" and all that follows through "agree" and insert "require, and agree";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to obtain assistance under subsection (c) may include—

"(i) a State or local government, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision of a State or local government;

"(ii) a territory or possession of the United States;

"(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

"(iv) a cooperative or mutual organization;

"(v) an organization of 2 or more incorporated areas that have established an intermunicipal legal agreement for the purposes of delivering communication services to residents;

"(vi) a corporation; or

"(vii) a limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

"(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An individual or legal general partnership that is formed with individuals shall not be eligible to obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan combination under subsection (c).

"(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Secretary may fund the construction of networks owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guarantee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or both, as determined necessary by the Secretary, furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan, or loan guarantee."; and

(iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by inserting ", directly or in conjunction with any combination of affiliates," before "may not";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "subparagraphs (B) and (C)" and inserting "subparagraph (B)";

(II) by striking "is submitted—" and all that follows through "(i) not less than 50" and inserting "is submitted not less than 75"; and

(III) by striking "(e); and" and all that follows and inserting "(e).";

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "(A)(i)" and inserting "(A)"; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In deciding whether a proposed service territory is unserved for purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider the affordability of broadband service in the service territory."; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "Subject to paragraph (2), for" and inserting "For";

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking "25" and inserting "50"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "3" and inserting "25";

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may adjust, through a 30-day public notice and comment period published in the Federal Register, an increase in the minimum level of broadband service under paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds of the program are obligated in the preceding 2 funding rounds."; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking "BUILDOUT" and inserting "PROJECT AGREEMENT"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) through (D) and inserting the following:

"(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS DEFINED.—A project must meet the following applicable broadband standard in order to be considered for assistance;

"(i) A project with an award term of less than 8 years must provide service at 2 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

"(ii) A project with an award term of at least 8 years and less than 14 years must provide service at 5 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

"(iii) A project with an award term of 14 or more years must provide service at 10 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

"(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seeking to meet the broadband buildout standards under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if the applicant submits information regarding the potential for the physical infrastructure of the network to be upgraded to meet the broadband buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii) at the time of the application, assuming reasonable progress in relevant networking technologies.";

(6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended."; and

(7) in subsection (k), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by

subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

(c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unobligated balances of amounts made available, as of the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot program to the program under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by this Act.

(2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated balances of all amounts made available on or before June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) that are in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph are hereby transferred to and merged with amounts made available to carry out the program authorized under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

(B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount described in this subparagraph is the amount required to fully fund each project approved as of the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, under the pilot program described in such section 779 for which amounts were not obligated or partially obligated as of such date.

SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE INTO RURAL AREAS.

Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking "2018 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–2) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the 'Innovative Broadband Advancement Program', under which the Secretary may provide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband technologies or methods of broadband deployment that significantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are available, in a rural area.

"(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of deploying innovative broadband technologies to qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial broadband service in rural areas.

"(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain assistance under this subsection for a project, an entity shall—

"(A) submit to the Secretary an application—

"(i) that describes a terrestrial broadband demonstration project designed to decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and substantially increase broadband speed to not less than the maximum broadband project agreement requirements established under section 601(e)(4), to qualified consumers in a rural area to be served by the project; and

"(ii) at such time, in such manner, and containing such other information as the Secretary may require;

"(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to carry out the project; and

"(C) agree to complete the project build-out within 5 years after the date the assistance is first provided for the project.

"(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals for projects that—

"(A) involve partnerships between or among multiple entities;

"(B) would provide broadband service to the greatest number of rural entities at or above the broadband requirements referred to in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

"(C) the Secretary determines could be replicated in rural areas described in paragraph (2); and

"(D) are located in States and territories selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the basis of geography, topography, and demographics.

"(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this subsection, the term 'qualified consumer' means—

"(A) an individual or member of a household who lives in a rural area;

"(B) a rural small business; or

"(C) an essential community facility, as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

"(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the term 'rural area' has the meaning provided in section 601(b)(3).

"(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite broadband service for remote subscribers.

"(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a broadband service provider that provides Internet access directly to qualified consumers in remote areas via satellite technology.

"(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term 'qualified consumer' means a consumer served by an eligible entity that receives a grant under paragraph (3), who is—

"(i) an individual or a member of a household at or below the poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any revision required by such section, applicable to a family of the size involved); or

"(ii) an essential community facility, as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

"(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIPMENT.—The term 'satellite broadband equipment' means user terminals, Wi-Fi routers, power supplies, mounts, and any other equipment necessary to connect a qualified consumer to satellite broadband service.

"(D) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service.

"(E) REMOTE.—The term 'remote' means a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas published by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture.

"(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the cost associated with the purchase or installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall—

"(i) provide retail broadband service delivered via satellite technology to qualified consumers, that—

"(I) enables a qualified consumer to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, video; and

"(II) has a latency which does not exceed 250 milliseconds;

"(ii) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such other information as the Secretary may require;

"(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the cost associated with the purchase, installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment for qualified consumers; and

"(iv) agree to provide qualified consumers with the reduction or elimination of that cost within 1 year of the assistance being obligated to the eligible entity.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CONSUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote areas of qualified consumers that do not have access to terrestrial broadband service of at least—

"(i) a 25–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

"(ii) a 3–Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

"(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness, and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement Program, including—

"(1) an assessment of the broadband infrastructure funded, including the scope, scale, nature and geographic locations of each award;

"(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved, including the download and upload speeds, latency, and overall network reliability;

"(3) any technical or logistical challenges encountered by the eligible entities; and

"(4) any recommendations for future innovative broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.

Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "10" and inserting "25"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "1" and inserting "3";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) provides broadband speeds not less than the broadband project agreement requirements established under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligible entity within the proposed eligible service area."; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.

Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–5) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.

"Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.".

SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,**" before "**AND**";

(2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting ", including a complete shapefile map" before the semicolon;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) validate the information submitted by service providers under subparagraph (A) through procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include an agency determination provided to the submitter, an opportunity of the submitter to respond, and a final non-appealable determination of the Secretary; and"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subparagraph (A)"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee, or grant for any retail broadband project provided assistance or for which assistance is sought that is administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall confirm that each unserved rural community identified in the application is eligible for funding by—

"(A) utilizing the map created by the Federal Communications Commission under section 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map established under section 60104(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1704(b));"; and

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations to provide or receive eligible entities broadband technical

assistance and training to expand access to broadband service in rural communities through the broadband programs of the Department of Agriculture including—

"(A) preparing applications for grants, loans and loan guarantees under this section;

"(B) identifying resources to finance broadband facilities from public and private sources, including other Federal agencies;

"(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial forecasts, market surveys, environmental studies, and technical design information to support broadband services;

"(D) preparing reports and surveys necessary to support the need for broadband services, the price range, and request financial assistance;

"(E) analyzing and improving operations related to the management, including financial management, of broadband facilities and to the efficiency of the entity;

"(F) collecting broadband infrastructure data; or

"(G) assisting with other areas of need identified by the Secretary.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to obtain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall be—

"(A) a federally recognized Tribe or Tribal entity;

"(B) a State or local government, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof;

"(C) a territory or possession of the United States;

"(D) an institution of higher education (including a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant Institution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or Historically Black College or University);

"(E) a nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

"(G) a corporation; or

"(H) a limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

"(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipients of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to organizations that have experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural entities.

"(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall allow applications for grants under this paragraph from qualified organizations for the sole purpose of providing on-site community technical assistance and training on a national or multi-State regional basis.

"(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND MAPPING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of collecting broadband service data to assist the Secretary in—

"(A) establishing the availability of broadband service or middle mile infrastructure in a rural area;

"(B) determining the eligibility of a community for assistance under any broadband program administered by the Secretary;

"(C) undertaking a service area assessment under this section; or

"(D) collecting information to submit a challenge to the National Broadband Map created by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

"(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under this section, an entity shall submit an application which identifies—

"(A) the data collection area;

"(B) the purpose of the data collection;

"(C) the types of broadband service data to be collected;

"(D) the survey and data collection methods utilized; and

"(E) any other information the Secretary determines necessary to promote the integrity of broadband service collected under this section.

"(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made available under this subsection shall not exceed $50,000.

"(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service data collected under this section is—

"(A) measured or assessed in accordance with such standards as are established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

"(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance with such standards as are established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

"(C) included in any broadband maps or data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

"(D) made available to the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for inclusion in any broadband maps or data sets either may maintain.

"(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term 'broadband service' has the same meaning given the term in section 601.

"(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'broadband service data' means information related to—

"(I) the location and type of broadband service;

"(II) the location and type of broadband infrastructure;

"(III) the advertised, maximum, and average speed of broadband service;

"(IV) the average price of the most subscribed tier of broadband service;

"(V) the speed tiers of broadband service available in the area; or

"(VI) any additional metric the Secretary deems appropriate.

"(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The Secretary shall further define the term 'broadband service area' to ensure that data is measured and collected in a manner consistent with the reporting requirements under this section, and any broadband coordination or data-sharing obligations.

"(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(i) a unit of local government in a rural area;

"(ii) a Tribal Government or unit of Tribal Government;

"(iii) an economic development or other community organization;

"(iv) an eligible entity under title I or II that serves persons in rural areas;

"(v) an internet service provider that has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

"(vi) any other entity eligible under a title VI program that is not an internet service provider.

"(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'middle mile infrastructure' has the meaning given the term in section 602.

"(E) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 601.

"(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more than 1 percent of the amounts made available under subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this subsection.

"(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title VI shall be set aside to be used for—

"(1) conducting oversight under such title;

"(2) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under such title; or

"(3) carrying out this section.".

SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.

Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.

"Any area in a proposed service area under this title shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another Federal or State broadband program has received an obligation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.".

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.

Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ", if the entity continues to serve rural areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))" before the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

"(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit entity that uses innovative financing techniques and market development tools to accelerate the deployment of energy efficiency technology; or";

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The term 'energy efficiency measures' means, with respect to any property service by an eligible entity—

"(A) a structural improvement or investment in a cost-effective, commercial technology to increase energy efficiency (including cost-effective on- or off-grid renewable energy or energy storage system); and

"(B) the replacement of a manufactured housing unit or large appliance with a substantially similar manufacturing housing unit or appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option with respect to energy savings.";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "AND GRANTS" before "TO";

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection, the Secretary shall provide—

"(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to use the loan funds to make loans under subsection (d) to qualified consumers for the purpose of implementing energy efficiency measures; and

"(B) at the election of any eligible entity that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, a grant in accordance with paragraph (11).";

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall give priority to applications from eligible entities serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers residing in rural areas, as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).";

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting "FOR LOANS" before the period; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "that is";

(E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph) and inserting the following:

"(6) REPAYMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

"(i) the term shall not exceed 20 years from the date on which the loan is closed; and

"(ii) except as provided in paragraph (8), the repayment of each advance shall be amortized for a period not to exceed 10 years.

"(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may extend the term of a loan under subparagraph (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an advance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Secretary determines appropriate.";

(F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking "(1)" and inserting "(1)(A)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking "Repayment" and inserting "Subject to an applicable extension under paragraph (6)(B), repayment";

(G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph) and inserting the following:

"(9) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special advances shall be made under a loan described in paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the term of the loan.

"(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not more than 10 percent of the total annual amount of budget au-

thority for loans described in paragraph (1) may be used for the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances."; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

"(11) GRANTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an eligible entity that receives a loan under this subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eligible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the costs incurred in—

"(i) making repairs to the property of a qualified consumer that facilitates the energy efficiency measures for the property financed through a loan provided to the qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

"(ii) providing technical assistance, outreach, and training.

"(B) AMOUNT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant provided to an eligible entity under this paragraph shall be equal to not more than 5 percent of the amount of the loan provided to the eligible entity under this subsection.

"(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES.—The amount of a grant provided under this paragraph to an eligible entity that will use the grant to make loans under subsection (d) to qualified consumers located in a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary) shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount of the loan provided to the eligible entity under this subsection.";

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "or grant" before "funds"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

"(B)(i) may have a term and amortization schedule the length of which is the useful life of the energy efficiency measures implemented using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed 20 years; and

"(ii) shall finance energy efficiency measures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage or costs of the qualified consumer by an amount that ensures, to the maximum extent practicable, that the applicable loan term described in clause (i) will not pose an undue financial burden on the qualified consumer, as determined by the eligible entity;

"(C) shall not be used to fund purchases of, or modifications to, personal property unless the personal property—

"(i) is a manufactured housing unit or large appliance described in subsection (b)(2)(B); or

"(ii) is or becomes attached to real property as a fixture;"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan under this subsection to any qualified consumer located within the service territory of the eligible entity, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is located in a rural area.";

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "OUTREACH," before "AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and technical assistance of the program" and inserting "outreach, and technical assistance relating to the program under this section"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting ", outreach," before "and training"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under subsection (i) may be used to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance under this subsection."; and

(5) in subsection (i), by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term "advanced wireless communications technology" means advanced technology that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks, next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future networks using other technologies, regardless of whether the net-

work is operating on an exclusive licensed, shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term "artificial intelligence" has the meaning given the term in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

(3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term "foreign adversary" means any foreign government or foreign nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States, or security and safety of United States persons.

(4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms "precision agriculture" and "precision agriculture technology" have the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985.

(5) TRUSTED.—The term "trusted" means, with respect to a provider of advanced communications service or a supplier of communications equipment or service, that the Secretary has determined that the provider or supplier is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign adversary.

(6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term "voluntary consensus standards development organization" means an organization that develops standards in a process that meets the principles for the development of voluntary consensus standards (as defined in the document of the Office of Management and Budget entitled "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities" (OMB Circular A–119)).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States; and

(2) to promote United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

(c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Federal Communications Commission, shall—

(A) develop voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture that will promote economies of scale and ease the burden of the adoption of precision agriculture; and

(B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) coordinate with relevant public and trusted private sector stakeholders and other relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(ii) consult with sector-specific agencies, other appropriate agencies, and State and local governments.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in carrying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, consider—

(A) the evolving demands of precision agriculture;

(B) the connectivity needs of precision agriculture technology;

(C) the cybersecurity challenges facing precision agriculture, including cybersecurity threats for agriculture producers and agriculture supply chains;

(D) the impact of advanced wireless communications technology on precision agriculture; and

(E) the impact of artificial intelligence on precision agriculture.

(d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary develops standards under subsection (c), and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses those standards, including the extent to which those standards, as applicable—

(A) are voluntary;

(B) were developed in coordination with relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(C) have successfully encouraged the adoption of precision agriculture.

(2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that summarizes the findings of each study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.

Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term 'food supply chain guaranteed loan' means a business and industry guaranteed loan that is made or guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in subsection (a)(3).

"(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaranteed loan may be made for the purpose of financing new investments in the start-up or expansion of projects in the United States that will increase the capacity of the food supply chain in the United States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs.

"(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed $40,000,000.

"(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a facility that is not located in a rural area if—

"(A) the primary purpose of the loan guarantee is for a facility to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food agricultural products, or agricultural inputs for agricultural producers or processors that are located within 80 miles of the facility;

"(B) the applicant demonstrates to the Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan guarantee will be to provide employment for residents of a rural area; and

"(C) the total principal amount of food supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a fiscal year under this paragraph does not exceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of food supply chain guaranteed loans made for the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

"(5) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

"(A) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved through use of the assistance, and the ability of the recipient of the assistance to meet performance goals;

"(B) a description of any debt recovery made with respect to a loan guaranteed under this subsection, and agency projections for activities for which the assistance is provided; and

"(C) any recommendations of the Secretary regarding the implementation of this subsection.

"(6) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out subsection (a) to carry out this subsection.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal year.".

SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROCESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis, including a small establishment and very small establishment;

(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(C) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

(D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in that section); and

(E) a State department of agriculture or other applicable State office with authority over meat and poultry processing and rendering.

(2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—The terms "small establishment" and "very small establishment" have the meanings given the terms "smaller establishment" and "very small establishment", respectively, in the final rule entitled "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems" (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to create more resilient local and regional food systems;

(2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience in meat and poultry processing and rendering activities;

(3) to increase farmer and rancher access to animal slaughter options;

(4) to improve compliance of processors with livestock and poultry processing statutes (including regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

(5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat and poultry processors and renderers;

(6) to establish new, or update, expand, or otherwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing and rendering facilities; and

(7) to support the processing and slaughtering of niche production methods such as halal, kosher, and other specific cultural methods.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with subsection (d).

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed $500,000.

(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small establishments and very small establishments.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out activities in support of the purposes described in subsection (b), including activities—

(1) to identify and analyze business opportunities, including feasibility studies required for credit worthiness;

(2) to achieve compliance with applicable Federal, State, or local regulations;

(3) to conduct regional, community, and local economic development planning and coordination and leadership development;

(4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile enterprises for increasing or improving local and regional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

(5) to implement humane handling infrastructure, including holding space for livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and structures and equipment for humane slaughter;

(6) to develop a feasibility study or business plan for, or carry out any other activity associated with, establishing or expanding a small meat or poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

(7) to purchase equipment that enables the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or byproducts; and

(8) to purchase cold storage and related equipment.

(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the activities carried out using a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed—

(1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the amount of $100,000 or less; or

(2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an amount greater than $100,000.

(f) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

(1) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved through use of the grant, and the ability of the grantee to meet performance goals;

(2) an evaluation of the compliance of the grantee with the terms and conditions of the grant;

(3) a determination as to whether the grant recipient maintains adequate financial capacity to carry out the activities for which the grant is provided; and

(4) any recommendations of the Secretary regarding the implementation of this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHILDCARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "childcare" means any program that—

(i) provides quality care and early education for children who have not yet entered first grade; and

(ii) is operated by—

(I) an eligible childcare provider described in section 658P(6)(A) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n(6)(A)); or

(II) a childcare provider that, on the date of enactment of this Act—

(aa) is licensed, regulated, or registered in the State, territory, or Indian Tribe in which the provider is located; and

(bb) meets applicable State, Tribal, territorial, and local health and safety requirements.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "childcare" includes—

(i) a school-based program described in subparagraph (A);

(ii) a program described in subparagraph (A) that is a Head Start program, including a migrant and seasonal Head Start program, or an American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(iii) a facility used for a program described in subparagraph (A); and

(iv) a service provided under a program described in subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIATIVE.—The term "Initiative" means the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative established under subsection (b).

(3) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an initiative, to be known as the "Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative", under which the Secretary shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029, priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

(c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and grants under a program described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified applicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to address the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The programs referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) The essential community facilities loan and grant programs authorized under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

(B) The business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program authorized under section 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

(C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance program authorized under section 379E of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

(D) The intermediary relending program authorized under the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in accordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under the Initiative.

(e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the projects carried out using assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

(A) a description of—

(i) the types of projects carried out;

(ii) the communities in which the projects are carried out;

(iii) the organizations and entities participating in the projects; and

(iv) the types of partnerships developed to carry out the projects; and

(B) the economic and social impacts of the investments in the projects.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of the evaluation.

SEC. 6306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly, or through cooperative agreements, provide technical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to rural development programs administered by the Secretary for local partners (including local govern-

ments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

(b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually publish, make available to the public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on how the provision of technical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geographically underserved and distressed areas in the year covered by the report.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREA.—The term "geographically underserved and distressed area" means a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)))—

(A) in a socially vulnerable community (as determined by the Secretary);

(B) in a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary);

(C) in an economically distressed area (as determined by the Secretary); or

(D) in a colonia.

(2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The term "community anchor institution" means—

(A) a public library;

(B) an elementary or secondary school;

(C) an institution of higher education;

(D) a health care facility; or

(E) any other nonprofit or governmental community support organization.

SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

"(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION AREAS.—In this section, the term 'Rural Development Mission Areas' means the agencies under the Rural Development Agency at the Department of Agriculture, including the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural Development Innovation Center (the 'Innovation Center') to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives.

"(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

"(1) review all processes for Rural Development Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies, redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

"(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant applications processing and approvals;

"(B) high application costs; and

"(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for programs;

"(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public process for public and private stakeholders to provide perspectives on the challenges faced when applying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Development Mission Area programs;

"(3) identify and assess any innovative strategies and collaborative models to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of rural development programs and initiatives;

"(4) foster and maintain partnerships with public and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

"(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and identify best practices in rural economic development;

"(6) identify and implement technological solutions and software applications to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mission Area programs, including enhancing data management systems;

"(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Development Mission Area programs, and ensure that the programs are accessible, transparent, and user-friendly; and

"(8) disseminate information, guidance, and training materials to Rural Development Mission Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural development practices and opportunities.

"(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Center shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization plan to facilitate innovation in administering and implementing rural development programs and initiatives that—

"(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the potential of emerging technologies for program delivery and overall service;

"(2) enhances program efficiencies by identifying and implementing measures to streamline program and administrative processes, reduce redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

"(3) expands the availability and accessibility of digital services, leveraging digital platforms and tools to broaden the reach of the programs and improve the overall user experience for rural stakeholders;

"(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize program delivery and maximize impact and effectiveness of the efforts in rural development; and

"(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to track the progress of the modernization plan.

"(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on—

"(1) the activities and accomplishments of the Innovation Center, including progress in advancing rural development innovation and the outcome achieved;

"(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to actively engage public and private stakeholders, as described in subsection (c)(2); and

"(3) the progress on the modernization plan described in subsection (d).".

SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.

Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(10) coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining the activities conducted under subsection (b).".

Subtitle D—Additional Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER FACILITY GRANTS.

Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended to read as follows:

"(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, through the Rural Utilities Service, shall continue a national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program that is consistent with the activities and results of the program conducted before the date of enactment of this Act, and with this section, as determined by the Secretary.

"(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall provide a network of expert rural water Circuit Riders located in all 50 States, including United States territories and Freely Associated States, which work one-on-one with eligible rural water and wastewater systems in major assistance categories described in subparagraph (D). The program is intended to help rural water systems operate effectively and efficiently and achieve long-term sustainability and compliance with certain Federal laws and requirements, including the Safe Water Drinking Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

"(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting recipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to be made available for activities listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall select nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated experience providing technical assistance and disaster and recovery assistance for water and wastewater utilities nationwide. Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess active water and wastewater opera-

tors' licenses or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary to carry out eligible activities under subparagraph (D).

"(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use funds under the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater disposal facility for—

"(i) technical assistance, including—

"(I) Board training;

"(II) managerial and financial operations with the effort to enhance the long-term sustainability of rural water and wastewater systems, including partnerships, consolidation, and regionalization;

"(III) physical operation and maintenance of rural water and wastewater infrastructure;

"(IV) water treatment;

"(V) regulatory compliance;

"(VI) facility security;

"(VII) loan application and reporting;

"(VIII) cybersecurity;

"(IX) implementation of cybersecurity plans, procedures, and technologies to protect against cyberthreats; or

"(X) other areas the Secretary deems appropriate;

"(ii) disaster and recovery assistance including—

"(I) direct on-site personnel and equipment to eligible utilities;

"(II) coordinating in statewide emergency response networks;

"(III) facilitating the development of action plans between utilities, local governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State emergency management agencies;

"(IV) resiliency and mitigation planning;

"(V) GIS mapping;

"(VI) updating vulnerability assessments, preparation of emergency response plans, communication protocols, hazard recognition and evaluation skills;

"(VII) conducting preliminary damage assessments of critical infrastructure;

"(VIII) addressing outstanding deficiencies focused on resolving health-based regulatory, operational, financial, and managerial deficiencies that impact the sustainability of the affected utilities;

"(IX) application and reporting assistance for Federal and State requirements including Federal Emergency Management Agency and insurance recovery claims;

"(X) providing for disaster readiness, support, and response activities targeted to disadvantaged communities that lack the financial resources and human capital necessary to adequately address significant health, safety, or sanitary concerns; and

"(XI) other areas the Secretary deems appropriate.

"(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response to activities under subparagraph (B) related to natural disasters and emergencies, not more than 5 percent of each award may be used to purchase or reimburse the rental costs of appropriate emergency equipment, as determined by the Secretary.

"(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To receive assistance under the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

"(i) an area with a population of—

"(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants for technical assistance under subparagraph (D)(i); or

"(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants for disaster and recovery assistance under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

"(ii) a public body, nonprofit corporation, or Indian tribe with legal authority to own and operate the water facility.

"(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.".

SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DISTRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (22) the following:

"(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.—

"(A) To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of eligible rural community waste disposal and water facilities as described in

subparagraph (B), for any entity described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary may—

"(i) make a zero percent interest loan or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to paragraph (1);

"(ii) forgive the principal or interest, or modify any term or condition of a new or existing loan made pursuant to paragraph (1);

"(iii) refinance all or part of any other loan made for an eligible purpose under paragraph (1) of this subsection or section 306C; or

"(iv) waive any fee required to insure or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph (1) or (24).

"(B) To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of the services provided by eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

"(i) provide assistance to an eligible entity for the purpose of—

"(I) ensuring the entity has necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

"(II) addressing financial hardships of the eligible entity, its customers, and the community it serves;

"(III) improving the financial stability of the eligible entity, including changes to—

"(aa) operational practices;

"(bb) revenue enhancements;

"(cc) policy revisions; and

"(dd) contract services; and

"(IV) supporting a partnership, regionalization, or consolidation of the entity with another water system; and

"(ii) require an applicant to—

"(I) receive financial planning assistance and prepare a long-term financial plan; or

"(II) partner, regionalize, or consolidate with another water system.

"(C) An entity shall be eligible for assistance under this paragraph if the entity—

"(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater disposal system with respect to which assistance may be provided under a water or wastewater, or waste disposal program under this subsection or section 306A, 306C, or 306D, and

"(ii) is—

"(I) located in a socially disadvantaged community, a persistent poverty county, colonia, or distressed tribal area, as determined by the Secretary; or

"(II) facing an economic hardship as defined by the Secretary.

"(D) An entity eligible under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a water and wastewater utility provider to apply for a loan under this paragraph and carry out the loan application on behalf of the eligible entity.

"(E)(i) The Secretary shall evaluate such a loan application on the basis of the needs of the eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligible entity rather than the needs of the applicant water and wastewater utility provider.

"(ii) A water and wastewater utility provider to whom a loan is made under this paragraph on the basis of an application submitted on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan only for the benefit of the residents of the eligible area for which the loan is provided.".

SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is amended by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES IN ALASKA.

Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amended by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'eligible individual' means an individual who is a member of a household the members of which have a combined income (for the most recent 12-month period for which the information is available) that is not more than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the State or territory in which the individual resides, according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

"(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible grant recipient' means a private nonprofit organization that uses a grant provided under this section for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).

"(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—The term 'qualified water quality testing' means a baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical characteristics of concern from a drinking water sample collected at the point of consumption and tested by a laboratory certified to conduct water quality testing that is provided to—

"(A) the Secretary; and

"(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a grant under this section and any eligible individual served by the eligible grant recipient.

"(b) GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose of—

"(A) providing loans and subgrants to eligible individuals for—

"(i) the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the eligible individuals; or

"(ii) in the event of ground well water contamination, the installation or replacement of water treatment, where needed as determined by a qualified water quality test or other third-party documentation to the satisfaction of the Secretary;

"(B) performing qualified water quality testing of individual household water well systems and individually utilized household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals; or

"(C) providing technical assistance to eligible individuals for—

"(i) the installation or replacement of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the eligible individuals;

"(ii) interpreting qualified water quality tests; or

"(iii) addressing ground well water contamination.

"(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND SUBGRANTS.—

"(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made with grant funds under this section—

"(i) shall have an interest rate of 1 percent; and

"(ii) shall have a term not to exceed 20 years.

"(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made with grant funds under this section shall not exceed $20,000 for each water well system or decentralized wastewater system described in paragraph (1).

"(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient of a grant made under this section may use grant funds to pay administrative expenses associated with providing the assistance described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

"(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water treatment provided under this section shall—

"(A) incorporate components that are third-party certified as compliant with relevant consensus-based standards for drinking water treatment units or systems, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) be installed, according to the instructions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, certified, or licensed water treatment professional, including a professional credentialed through a manufacturer or third-party.

"(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experience in promoting the safe and effective use of individually owned household water

well systems, individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground water.

"(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this section for the activities described under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.

Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms 'precision agriculture' and 'precision agriculture technology' have the meanings given those terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985."; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices, including by financing the acquisition of precision agriculture technology, in order to promote best practices, reduce costs, and improve the environment.".

SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "governments and related agencies" and inserting "governments, related agencies, and Indian tribes"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The term 'cooperative development' means activities including education, training, and technical assistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and existing cooperatives.";

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking "underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas of the United States" and inserting "socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed communities"; and

(B) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by inserting "at least" before "a 25 percent"; and

(ii) by inserting ", and all applications that satisfy this subparagraph shall be given the same priority for the scoring criterion based on satisfying this subparagraph" before the period;

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary shall award a grant under this subsection to a nonprofit institution on the same terms and for the establishment or operation of the same center or centers for cooperative development for which the nonprofit institution was awarded a grant in the current fiscal year, if the nonprofit institution—

"(i) is a recipient of an award under this subsection;

"(ii) requests a renewal under this subparagraph;

"(iii) has submitted a complete application under this subsection in the preceding 2 fiscal years; and

"(iv) has operated the center or centers for cooperative development in a manner which successfully meets the parameters described in paragraph (5), as determined by the Secretary.";

(4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the following: "The Secretary shall analyze the data resulting from the research, and include the data and the

analysis in the annual report submitted by the interagency working group under paragraph (12).";

(5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the following: "Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this sentence and annually thereafter, the interagency working group shall submit to the Congress a report describing the activities carried out by the working group."; and

(6) in paragraph (13), by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A) IN GENERAL.—" before "In connection";

(2) in paragraph (5), by adding "and" at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking "; and" and inserting a period;

(4) by striking paragraph (7); and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) FEES.—

"(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

"(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

"(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) FEES.—

"(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

"(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

"(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any guaranteed business and industry loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.".

SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.

Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.

Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) provides training opportunities and resources for veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who actively are or are seeking to become agricultural producers, which shall be known as the 'Armed to Farm Initiative'."; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking "2008 through 2023." and inserting the following: "2027 through 2031, of which—

"(A) $3,500,000 shall be made available for each fiscal year for activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2); and

"(B) $1,500,000 shall be available for each fiscal year for activities described in paragraph (2)(E).".

SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.

Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.

Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is amended—

(1) by striking "Assistance" and inserting the following:

"(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance";

(2) by striking "rural hospital" and inserting "an eligible health care facility";

(3) by striking "a community" and inserting "an area";

(4) by striking "hospital," and inserting "eligible health care facility,"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of an eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall—

"(A) provide assistance to an eligible health care facility for the purpose of—

"(i) ensuring the facility has necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

"(ii) addressing financial hardships of the facility, its patients, and the area it serves; and

"(iii) identifying the financial stability of the facility, including—

"(I) operational practices;

"(II) revenue enhancements;

"(III) policy revisions;

"(IV) partnerships, regionalization, or consolidation of rural health systems; and

"(V) contract services; and

"(B) require an applicant to—

"(i) receive financial planning assistance; and

"(ii) prepare a long-term financial plan.

"(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Secretary may waive the requirement of section 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is insolvent.

"(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other authority under which the Secretary may provide technical assistance to any eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') to provide technical assistance and training, tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible health care facility, to help eligible health care facilities in rural areas—

"(A) identify development needs for maintaining essential health care services, and support action plans for operational and quality improvement projects to meet the development needs;

"(B) better manage their financial and business strategies, including providing financial planning assistance and preparing long-term financial plans; and

"(C) identify, and apply for assistance from, loan and grant programs of the Department of Agriculture for which the facilities are eligible.

"(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall be to—

"(A) improve the long-term financial position and operational efficiency of the eligible health care facilities;

"(B) prevent the closure of eligible health care facilities;

"(C) strengthen the delivery of health care in rural areas;

"(D) help eligible health care facilities better access and compete for loans and grants from programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; and

"(E) continue the activities of the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program in effect as of the date of the enactment of this subsection.

"(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall engage in outreach and engagement strategies to encourage eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program.

"(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to borrowers and grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The Secretary may also consider—

"(i) the age and physical state of the health care facility involved;

"(ii) the financial vulnerability of the eligible health care facility, and the ability of the eligible health care facility to meet debt obligations;

"(iii) the electronic health record implementation needs of the health care facility;

"(iv) whether the eligible health care facility is located in a health professional shortage area or a medically underserved area;

"(v) whether the eligible health care facility serves a medically underserved population; and

"(vi) such other criteria and priorities as are determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report describing the progress and results of the program conducted under this section, which should include—

"(i) a brief description of each project to provide technical assistance to an eligible health care facility under this section, including—

"(I) the name and location of the facility;

"(II) a description of the assistance provided;

"(III) a description of the outcomes for completed projects;

"(IV) the cost of the technical assistance; and

"(V) any other information the Secretary deems appropriate;

"(ii) a summary of the technical assistance projects completed;

"(iii) a summary of the outcomes of the technical assistance projects;

"(iv) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Program; and

"(v) recommendations for improving the Program.

"(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

"(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term 'development needs' includes—

"(A) constructing, expanding, renovating or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

"(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

"(C) acquiring or upgrading health care information systems such as electronic health records;

"(D) providing financial planning assistance and preparing a long-term financial plan; and

"(E) such other needs as the Secretary deems critical to maintaining health care services in the community in which an eligible health care facility is located.

"(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The term 'eligible health care facility' means a facility that is located in a rural area and is—

"(A) a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

"(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in section 1861(f) of such Act);

"(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

"(D) a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

"(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

"(F) a religious nonmedical health care institution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of such Act);

"(G) a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

"(H) a rural emergency hospital (as defined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

"(I) a home health agency (as defined in section 1861(o) of such Act); or

"(J) a community health center (as defined in section 330 of the Public Health Service Act).

"(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.—The term 'health professional shortage area' has the meaning given the term in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

"(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The term 'medically underserved area' has the meaning given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public Health Service Act.

"(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.—The term 'medically underserved population' has the meaning given the term in section 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rulemaking carrying out such amendments.

SEC. 6418. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in the case of such activity that commenced before November 29, 1990.

"(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

"(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title for a utility line.

"(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—This section shall not apply to a rural development loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C of this Act for an activity or project for which the applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to obtain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).".

SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP.

Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031"; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTERS.

Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking "$50,000" and inserting "$75,000";

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking "shall not exceed 75 percent" and inserting "may be up to 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a project may be used to cover not more than 50 percent of any renovation, construction, or related costs of real estate improvements under the project";

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting "(or 5 percent, in the case of a microenterprise development organization serving a persistent poverty county, as determined by the Secretary)" before "of the total amount"; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

"(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));";

(II) by redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively, and inserting after subclause (I) the following:

"(II) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));"; and

(III) in subclause (IV) (as so redesignated by subclause (II) of this clause), by striking "and";

(ii) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking subclause (IV) and inserting the following:

"(IV) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));"; and

(II) by redesignating subclause (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting after subclause (IV) the following:

"(V) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) in the case of a career pathway program, includes 1 or more members of the local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and serving the region to ensure the program is integrated with the activities carried out by the local workforce development board; and"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term 'career pathway' has the meaning given the term in section 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

"(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'industry or sector partnership' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "or carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities" before ", including";

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities; and

"(D) promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by inserting ", career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships" before the semicolon; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting ", career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships" before "to provide"; and

(bb) by inserting "leadership development," before "customized training";

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) the ability of the eligible entity to carry out activities to address the issues of worker displacement, an aging workforce, and youth migration."; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of grants or participants in providing grants under paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway programs, and related programming.";

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) to support career pathway programs or industry or sector partnerships to be carried out within industries in rural communities, including—

"(i) telecommunications or broadband services;

"(ii) water, waste water, or disposal services;

"(iii) electric supply services;

"(iv) forestry and logging operations;

"(v) conservation practices and management;

"(vi) health care and child care;

"(vii) manufacturing;

"(viii) agribusiness related to production, processing, and distribution;

"(ix) veterinarian services; and

"(x) any other sectors identified by the local workforce development board serving the region to be an in-demand industry sector or occupation, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.";

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and";

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (xvii), by striking "or";

(ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as clause (xix) and inserting after clause (xvii) the following:

"(xviii) the number of individuals who have completed skills development, recognized postsecondary credentials, or gained specialized education through career pathways programs or industry or sector partnerships; or"; and

(iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) in the case of a career pathway program or industry or sector partnership, report to the Secretary the employment and earnings outcomes for individuals who participate in the program on the indicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act."; and

(5) in subsection (f), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6426. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.

Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by striking "50" and inserting "75".

SEC. 6427. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by striking "2014 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by striking "urbanized" and inserting "urban":

(1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

(2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item (aa).

(3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

(4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

(5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(E)).

(6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

(7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–8(c)(4)(C)).

SEC. 6429. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking "technical assistance and training to—" and inserting "for—";

(B) in clause (v), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by redesignating clauses (i) through (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively, and moving each such provision 2 ems to the right; and

(D) by inserting before the matter so redesignated the following:

"(i) technical assistance and training to—"; and

(E) by adding after and below the end the following:

"(ii) disaster and recovery assistance."; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "or disaster and recovery assistance" before "described".

Subtitle E—Additional Amendments to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936

SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.

Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) REPAYMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable repayment terms as will encourage borrower participation.

"(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary shall not require a letter of credit or other similar guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan under this section if the borrower assigns the Secretary a security interest in any collateral provided to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this section, or makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary."; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.

Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking "2008 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "15" and inserting "16";

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

"(E) 1 member representing the industry, consumer, or rural interests of insular areas."; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "7" and inserting "3"; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.

Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "Not later than" and all that follows through "initial members of" and inserting "The Secretary shall continue to implement, and appoint the members of"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a period at the end; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "executive committee" and inserting "Secretary".

SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.

Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.—In determining 'veterinarian shortage situations', the Secretary—

"(1) may consider—

"(A) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

"(B) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

"(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) identified by appropriate State agencies; and

"(2) shall—

"(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations in the short-term and long-term; and

"(B) make available to State agencies described in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative mechanisms developed under subparagraph (A)."; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under this section based on a veterinarian's participation in a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

"(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish streamlined application procedures and guidelines for entering into agreements with veterinarians under this section.".

SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking ", as defined in" and all that follows through "1991(a))"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))."

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas;";

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 the Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process."; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERVICES"; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "situations and support" and inserting "situations, to expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas, and to support"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) To cover expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices, including—

"(i) relocation expenses;

"(ii) the purchase of necessary startup equipment; and

"(iii) housing or living stipends for veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students.".

SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.

Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: "The term of such grants may be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years."; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: "The term of such grants may be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years."; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal year under this subsection that remains unexpended at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use during the following fiscal year."; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking "20 percent" and inserting "40 percent".

(b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "30 percent" and inserting "40 percent";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "the research director" each place it appears and inserting "the agricultural research director"; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking "a research director" and inserting "an agricultural research director"; and

(B) by striking "or other officer".

SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "**(COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE DAVID A. SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS)**" before the period at the end; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "Not later than September 30, 1999" and inserting "Beginning on September 30, 2026, and not later than September 30 of each fiscal year thereafter"; and

(B) by striking "fiscal year 1999" and inserting "the fiscal year ending on that September 30"; and

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible institution located in the State matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).".

SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.

Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking "land-grant college or university" and inserting "land-grant college or university (except for a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)))"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "entered into" and inserting ", as entered into in 1977,";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "United States and Israel" and inserting "United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD Fund shall establish an accelerator program that supports mid-stage research, as determined by the technology readiness level, in priority areas established by the BARD Fund that—

"(A) fast-tracks cooperative research between scientists participating in activities described in paragraph (2);

"(B) accelerates the successful development of agricultural research through resources and services developed or orchestrated by the BARD Fund;

"(C) provides management guidance, technical assistance, and consulting to scientists participating in activities described in paragraph (2); or

"(D) advances cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration.".

SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows "**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**";

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term 'developing country' means a country that meets such criteria as determined by the Secretary, established using a gross national income per capita test selected by the Secretary.

"(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term 'eligible institution' means—

"(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

"(B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture;

"(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college or university; and

"(D) a cooperating forestry school.

"(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—The term 'international partner institution' means a higher education institution in a developing country that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities similar to agricultural research, extension, and education activities carried out through eligible institutions in the United States.

"(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

"(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make competitive grants to eligible institutions in order to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development through—

"(A) enhancing the international content of the curricula in colleges and universities so as to ensure that United States students acquire an understanding of the international dimensions and trade implications of their studies;

"(B) ensuring that United States scientists, extension agents, and educators involved in agricultural research and development activities outside of the United States have the opportunity to convey the implications of their activities and findings to their peers and students in the United States and to the users of agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

"(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges and universities to do collaborative research with other countries, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United States agricultural competitiveness;

"(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges and universities to provide cooperative extension education to promote the application of new technology developed in foreign countries to United States agriculture; and

"(E) enhancing the capability of United States colleges and universities, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to provide leadership and educational programs that will assist United States natural resources and food production, processing, and distribution businesses and industries to compete internationally, including through the use of product market identification, international policies limiting or enhancing market production, the development of new or enhancement of existing markets, and production efficiencies.

"(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may promote cooperation and coordination between eligible institutions and international partner institutions through—

"(A) improving extension by—

"(i) encouraging the exchange of research materials and results between eligible institutions and international partner institutions;

"(ii) facilitating the broad dissemination of agricultural research through extension;

"(iii) assisting with efforts to plan and initiate extension services in developing countries; and

"(iv) developing self-sustaining regional agricultural markets and promoting the application of new agricultural technologies and techniques;

"(B) improving agricultural research by—

"(i) in partnership with international partner institutions, encouraging research that addresses problems affecting food production and security, human nutrition, agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries, including local challenges; and

"(ii) supporting and strengthening national agricultural research systems in developing countries;

"(C) improving agricultural teaching and education by—

"(i) in partnership with international partner institutions, supporting education and teaching relating to food and agricultural sciences, including technical assistance, degree training, research collaborations, classroom instruction, workforce training, and education programs; and

"(ii) assisting with efforts to increase student capacity, including to encourage equitable access for women and other underserved populations, at international partner institutions by promoting partnerships with, and improving the capacity of, eligible institutions;

"(D) assisting eligible institutions in strengthening their capacity for food, agricultural, and related research, extension, and teaching programs relevant to agricultural development activities in developing countries to promote the application of new technology to improve education delivery;

"(E) providing support for the internationalization of resident instruction programs of eligible institutions;

"(F) establishing a program, to be coordinated by the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place interns from eligible institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries; and

"(G) establishing a program to provide fellowships to students at eligible institutions to study at foreign agricultural colleges and universities.";

(3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "covered Institutions" and inserting "eligible institutions"; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.

Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311) is amended by striking "2023" each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.

Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3312) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(2) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops); and"; and

(3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.

Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319e) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: "**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS**";

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) a junior or community college (as defined in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agriculture advancement;

"(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year public colleges supporting agriculture advancement; or

"(C) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a program of study in agriculture.

"(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term 'work-based learning' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

"(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

"(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator or conservation district to provide work-based learning, experiential training, and other opportunities for students.

"(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made available through the grant—

"(1) to offer educational programming on agricultural industry jobs, including farm business management-related subjects, such as accounting, paralegal studies, finance, and soil, water, and related resource conservation;

"(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities; and

"(3) other services that would increase workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ", including precision agriculture," after "equipment"; and

(ii) by striking "relating to the research and development of qualified products and projects";

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking "PERSON" and inserting "ELIGIBLE ENTITY";

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "person" and inserting "eligible entity";

(iii) by striking subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) any other product or project, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(D) in paragraph (7), by striking "that is developed to assist in the discovery, development, or manufacture of a qualified product or project";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of agricultural technologies, research tools, and qualified products and projects that enhance export competitiveness, environmental sustainability, water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;";

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking "persons" and inserting "eligible entities"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking "persons" and inserting "eligible entities"; and

(C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(i) by striking "a person" and inserting "an eligible entity"; and

(ii) by striking "the person" and inserting "the eligible entity";

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "persons" and inserting "eligible entities"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary shall use the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA under this section.";

(4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "5 years" and inserting "13 years"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "5-year" and inserting "13-year".

SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and insert "2031".

SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND RESPONSE.

Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: "**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM**";

(2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary will award grants to eligible entities to support research, extension, and education activities that improve the capability of the United States to protect the food and agricultural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attack.

"(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this section shall be used to—

"(1) encourage basic and applied research and development of agricultural countermeasures;

"(2) promote the development and expansion of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity;

"(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet biosafety and biosecurity requirements necessary to protect facility staff, members of the public, and the food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecurity research;

"(4) costs associated with the acquisition of equipment and other capital costs related to expansion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity; or

"(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the United States to respond in a timely manner to emerging or existing threats.

"(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive a grant under this section include—

"(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

"(2) State departments of agriculture;

"(3) colleges and universities;

"(4) university research foundations;

"(5) other research institutions and organizations;

"(6) Federal agencies;

"(7) national laboratories; or

"(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).";

(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (d); and

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking "for each fiscal year." and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapters 1 and 2 of subtitle B of title XIV of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912, 8913, 8921, and 8922) are repealed.

SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.

Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.

Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7131. REPEALS.

(a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

(b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

(c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

(d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.) is amended by striking "2023" each place it appears in sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i) (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIATIVE.

Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9), (10), (11), (13), and (18);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by inserting "and harmful algal blooms" after "macro-algae systems"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out research to improve fertilizer use efficiency in crops and examining nutrient management based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of crop nutrients.

"(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

"(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat plant pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants, including—

"(i) coffee plants;

"(ii) macadamia trees;

"(iii) cacao trees;

"(iv) plantains and bananas;

"(v) mangos;

"(vi) vanilla plants;

"(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery crops; and

"(viii) any other tropical plant as determined by the Secretary;

"(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests or noxious weeds;

"(C) surveying and collecting data on tropical plant production and health;

"(D) investigating tropical plant biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics; and

"(E) conducting research on various factors that may contribute to, or be associated with, tropical plant immune systems and other serious threats to tropical plants.

"(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types across soil types, soil health and soil management conditions, application methods, and climatic and agronomic regions, including through the establishment of a national biochar research network, to—

"(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration potential of various biochars and management systems integrating biochar use;

"(B) understand how to use biochar productively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop production, resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem and soil health, natural resource conservation, and farm profitability; and

"(C) deliver science-based, region-specific, cost-effective, and practical information to farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation managers, urban land managers, and other land and natural resource managers and businesses on sustainable biochar production and application.

"(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of studying the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and apples, by—

"(A) conducting research—

"(i) to identify the compounds responsible for smoke exposure; and

"(ii) to establish standard methodologies for sampling and testing smoke-exposed specialty crops and smoke-affected products, including fast and inexpensive screening methods;

"(B) establishing a reliable database of background levels of smoke exposure compounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

"(C) developing risk assessment tools or mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke exposure; and

"(D) studying compounds that can act as a barrier between specialty crops and smoke compounds.

"(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to manage or eradicate (including through methods of biocontrol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*).

"(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the agricultural impacts of microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including structural firefighting foam, in land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, including by—

"(A) conducting surveys and collecting data on concentration, particle size, and chemical composition of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland;

"(B) the development or analysis of techniques, including wastewater treatment and composting, to filter out or biodegrade such substances from biosolids intended to be used for agricultural purposes;

"(C) conducting an analysis of the impact on agricultural crops and soil health of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland, including the uptake of such substances by various crops or livestock;

"(D) conducting research to better understand how wastewater processing impacts such substances;

"(E) conducting research to better understand the fate, residence time, and transport of such substances on farmland; and

"(F) conducting research on how to remediate soil and water systems contaminated with such substances.

"(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products, including innovations in production processes for easily deployable refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricultural burning, and fostering energy production through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and plant-based waste.

"(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

"(A) developing management practices that improve soil health, including establishing tools that aid soil preservation or improve composition of soil

organic compounds that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment; and

"(B) disseminating such practices through methods such as innovative coursework and work-based learning.

"(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of white oak research, including conducting research on—

"(A) white oak genes with resistance and stress tolerance;

"(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

"(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

"(D) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

"(E) reforestation of white oak through natural and artificial regeneration; and

"(F) the best methods for reforesting abandoned mine land sites.

"(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and enhancing research on the characterization, utilization, and evaluation of alternative growing media, including science-based techniques that maximize functions in the growth of plants and harvest yields.

"(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the development of forage production and improved grazing and range management, including the adoption of virtual fencing technology that simultaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

"(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing and evaluating mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.";

(2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(5) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(6) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

"(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028, and not less frequently than once every other year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in subsections (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative, through—

"(1) amounts made available under appropriations Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

"(2) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity and infrastructure programs (as defined in section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

"(3) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive programs (as defined in such section); and

"(4) amounts made available through other agencies within the Department."; and

(7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (4)), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(2) by striking subsection (e);

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a))—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee established under section 222(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994" and inserting "the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production established under section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)"; and

(B) by striking "emerging agricultural production" and inserting "emerging agricultural production practices (as described in subsection (a)(3) of such section)";

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "emerging agricultural production" and inserting "emerging agricultural production practices";

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking "or" at the end;

(4) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(9) managing waste streams to improve the environmental footprint; or

"(10) advising land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving institutions (as described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))), and vocational schools, with respect to career and technical education.".

SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish at least one center of excellence for the purpose of carrying out research, extension, or education activities for each of the areas of focus described in paragraph (3).

"(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection include—

"(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

"(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

"(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note);

"(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103);

"(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges or universities, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

"(vi) accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

"(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the geographic diversity of institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection.

"(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may host or co-host only one center of excellence under this subsection at a time.

"(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection shall partner with the Agricultural Research Service, other Federal agencies, State governments, other institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural industry groups, or other relevant entities to—

"(i) reduce duplicative efforts and focus on filling gaps across research, extension, or education activities by enhancing coordination and improving cost-effectiveness;

"(ii) leverage available resources by using public-private partnerships;

"(iii) implement training and educational initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities;

"(iv) increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues;

"(v) rapidly respond to emerging issues that threaten any sector of the United States agricultural industry;

"(vi) focus on workforce development for employers to recruit and retain high-quality employees in rural areas; and

"(vii) engage in assistance for administrative management and education regarding potentially valuable intellectual property derived from federally-supported research, extension, or education activities.

"(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

"(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing and applying aquaculture methods, including through the propagation and rearing of economically and ecologically valuable aquatic and marine species.

"(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension or education activities focused on training beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm and agribusiness management, mentoring and technical assistance, and access to capital.

"(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to defend the United States food supply from any attacks.

"(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on biosystems and agricultural engineering, including precision agriculture technologies and mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.

"(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on development of animal and plant biotechnologies that will increase agricultural productivity.

"(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION, AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on crop production and protection, including the development, manufacture, and use of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adjuvants in increasing productivity and protecting crops from damaging pests and diseases.

"(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing, evaluating, and deploying digital agriculture, including artificial intelligence and remote sensing systems.

"(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on farm business and financial management activities, including marketing plans, production diversification, and cash forward contracting.

"(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on improving food quality, including research on the uptake of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

"(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on foreign animal diseases, including the ecology and etiology of emerging diseases, control methods, and implementation strategies to enhance preparedness and response efforts to protect the livestock and poultry industry.

"(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on forest productivity and forest health, including invasive species control, biochar

and pyrolysis development and commercialization, reforestation and restoration of damaged landscapes, and new wood-based materials.

"(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on the control and eradication of invasive species that pose a persistent and growing threat to United States agricultural production, forest resources, global food security, and rural economies.

"(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on issues impacting livestock (including equines) and poultry production in the United States, including economic research to understand policy implications for producers.

"(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing additional veterinarians, including large animal veterinarians, to address the veterinarian shortage in rural areas.

"(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on water quality and quantity efforts, including drought, water management, natural resource benefits, and the health and resilience of the water supply in the United States.

"(4) TERMS.—

"(A) DURATION.—The term of an award under this subsection shall be for a five-year period, and may be renewed for not more than one additional five-year period.

"(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—Funds made available under this subsection shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

"(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

"(A) the projects initiated by each center of excellence established under this subsection in the preceding year;

"(B) the amount of funding for each such project and the funding source;

"(C) the institutions participating in each such project and their shares of the overall funding for each project;

"(D) the level of cost sharing for each such project;

"(E) any technology transfer and intellectual property management actions taken by each such center of excellence, such as the number of relevant invention disclosures, any provisional patents filed, any non-provisional patents filed and issued, the number of licenses executed, and any start-up companies registered; and

"(F) any additional information deemed necessary.";

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "The Secretary" and inserting "In addition to the centers of excellence established under subsection (a), the Secretary"; and

(ii) by striking "not less than 3 centers of excellence" and inserting "not less than 8 centers of excellence";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT" and inserting ", WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL STUDIES"; and

(II) by inserting "economics, psychology, rural sociology, data sciences," after "mathematics,";

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting "and nature-based solutions to improve the composition of soil organic compounds, including carbon, that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment" before the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVATION.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience to catastrophic wildfire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban and community forestry programs to promote healthy forest ecosystems and resilient communities.

"(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture enterprise development, and innovative food and agriculture product development."; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) provide education and support to youth and young adults with disabilities interested in farming and farm-related occupations."; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH.

Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "Secretary of Agriculture" and inserting "Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,"; and

(ii) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting "and organizations that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises" after "veteran farmers and ranchers";

(ii) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by striking "shall include a broad representation of peers of the eligible entity" and inserting "shall include a broad representation of individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking "to the eligible entities providing that technical assistance" and inserting "to the needs of farmers and ranchers' ongoing economic viability";

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (J); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (K), (L), (M), (N), and (O) as subparagraphs (J), (K), (L), (M) and (N), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking "to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach" and inserting "to programs that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises"; and

(D) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking "a broad representation of peers of the applicant for the grant or cooperative agreement" and inserting "a broad representation of the United States agriculture industry and individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management"; and

(3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7212. REPEAL.

Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 7213. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

"SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

"(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities relating to the transition of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural production systems for the purposes of—

"(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to organic agricultural production;

"(2) documenting and understanding the effects of organic practices on ecosystem services, including soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-related services, and pest management; and

"(3) developing improved technologies, methods, models, and metrics to document, describe, and optimize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural production into organic management.

"(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.".

Subtitle C—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998

SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION, EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(f)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED BY *FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM* OR BY *TILLETIA INDICA*.

Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking "subsection (d) and (j)" and inserting "subsections (d), (j), and (k)";

(2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under subparagraph (A) with respect to a grant if the Secretary determines that—

"(i) the results of the grant are of a particular benefit to a specific specialty crop, but such results are likely to be applicable to specialty crops or agricultural commodities, generally; or

"(ii)(I) the grant—

"(aa) involves a minor commodity; and

"(bb) deals with scientifically important research; and

"(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.";

(3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking "subsection (k)(1)(C)" and inserting "subsection (l)(1)(C)";

(4) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l);

(5) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

"(k) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive research and extension grant program to award grants to eligible entities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the United States through the advancement and acceleration of mechanization and automation, including projects that—

"(1) create or improve cost-effective mechanization and automation technologies to—

"(A) reduce the manual labor requirements of a specialty crop grower; or

"(B) increase the efficiency of—

"(i) crop production;

"(ii) resource management;

"(iii) harvesting;

"(iv) processing;

"(v) post-harvest technologies; or

"(vi) packing;

"(2) increase adoption of mechanization and automation technologies by—

"(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, including—

"(i) connectivity;

"(ii) autonomy;

"(iii) reliability;

"(iv) durability;

"(v) in-field validation; or

"(vi) cost-effectiveness; or

"(B) investing in, and developing human capital to, increase the capacity to—

"(i) utilize new technologies; or

"(ii) manage a more tech-focused farm workforce; or

"(3) accelerate automation and mechanization through—

"(A) prototype development;

"(B) in-field trial testing;

"(C) ongoing industry engagement; or

"(D) rapid commercialization."; and

(6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by paragraph (4)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall reserve not less than $30,000,000 of the funds made available under subparagraph (B) to carry out the program established under subsection (k).."; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

"(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4), any funds reserved under subparagraph (C) that remain unobligated at the end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such funds are first made available shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the specialty crop research initiative established under subsection (b).";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking "FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2023"; and

(ii) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(C) by striking paragraph (3); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for a grant under this section if such entity is—

"(1) a cooperative extension service;

"(2) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

"(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in such section);

"(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university (as defined in such section);

"(5) a State department of agriculture;

"(6) a nonprofit organization;

"(7) a community-based organization; or

"(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

"(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds received through the grant—

"(1) to provide training and classroom education that leads to a comprehensive understanding of farm and ranch business operations and management practices;

"(2) to develop or identify curriculum that veteran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help manage their enterprise;

"(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and instructor-supervised field experiences; or

"(4) to support any other activity, as identified by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development in agriculture.

"(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall provide non-Federal matching funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.".

SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM.

Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642(e)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.

Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION RESEARCH.

Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7310. REPEALS.

The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624); and

(2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).

Subtitle D—Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is amended by striking ", or otherwise be conveyed or transferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2026" and inserting ", beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act".

SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting ", including crisis hotlines" after "websites";

(2) in subsection (d), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the efforts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope

of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant recipient may establish referral relationships with—

"(1) certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public Law 113–93);

"(2) health centers (as defined in section 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(a)));

"(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)));

"(4) Federally qualified health centers (as defined in that section); and

"(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in section 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).".

SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and bioproduct" before "technologies";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "product" and inserting "bioproduct"; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "product" and inserting "bioproduct";

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "4 percent" and inserting "30 percent"; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7404. REPEALS.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202); and

(2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

Subtitle E—Amendments to Other Laws

SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.

The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

(1) in section 533(b), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking "equal to" and inserting "that is not less than";

(3) in section 535, by striking "2023" each place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and inserting "2031"; and

(4) in section 536—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary for strengthening the capacity of the Institution to conduct research in the food and agricultural sciences";

(B) by striking subsection (b);

(C) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b); and

(D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.

Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(i) by inserting "regionally adapted" before "cultivar"; and

(ii) by inserting "breeding for environmental resilience," before "and participatory breeding";

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting ", including methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish" after "aquaculture";

(C) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other production technologies used in controlled-environment agriculture production."; and

(D) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting ", including supply chain coordination and capacity building" after "overseas markets";

(ii) in clause (vii), by striking "; and" at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in clause (viii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(ix) workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing (including rendering) and precision agriculture; and

"(x) reducing food loss and food waste.";

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) area career and technical education schools;"; and

(C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by striking "(H)" and inserting "(I)"; and

(3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.

Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.

The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first sentence, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.

The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "acquaculture" and inserting "aquaculture";

(B) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ", not less than once every 3 years," after "periodic reviews"; and

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ", not less than once every 3 years," after "undertake a continuing assessment of aquaculture in the United States";

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) a catalog of new and existing capital constraints, as described in the capital requirements plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the development of the aquaculture industry in the United States; and

"(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or State regulatory barriers, as described in the regulatory constraints plan formulated under section 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial aquaculture ventures.";

(2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the 'Committee'), to advise the Secretary on—

"(A) oversight of programs of the Department and other members of the coordinating group to support development of, and to advance, aquaculture best practices using the best available science, in consultation with farmers and industry partners;

"(B) providing technical assistance to aquaculture farmers and businesses, including technical assistance that pertains to shellfish, algae, and land-based aquaculture systems, using the best available science; and

"(C) any other aspects of the implementation of this Act.

"(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 14 members, who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government.

"(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.

"(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

"(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to the Committee—

"(I) 5 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years;

"(II) 5 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

"(III) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

"(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee—

"(I) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

"(II) shall be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

"(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial appointee of the Committee may serve an additional consecutive term if the member is reappointed by the Secretary.

"(3) MEETINGS.—

"(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

"(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the Committee shall hold the first meeting of the Committee.

"(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

"(A) develop recommendations and advise the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initiatives, and outreach administered by the Department;

"(B) evaluate and review ongoing research and extension activities relating to aquaculture practices;

"(C) identify new and existing barriers to successful aquaculture practices; and

"(D) provide additional assistance and advice to the Secretary as appropriate.

"(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

"(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

"(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

"(6) TERMINATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B).

"(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on which the Committee terminates, the Secretary may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year periods.

"(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis, and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aquaculture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

"(1) a description and evaluation of the actions undertaken with respect to the Plan during the reporting period;

"(2) an explanation of any revisions made to the Plan during the reporting period;

"(3) the results of the continuing assessment established under section 4(e);

"(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal department or agency has in supporting the aquaculture industry;

"(5) the total amount and value of expenditures of Federal departments or agencies on—

"(A) aquaculture purchases;

"(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach supporting the aquaculture industry;

"(C) grants made to the aquaculture industry; and

"(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture research and the subject matter of such research;

"(6) a summary of the activities and recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Committee established under subsection (d);

"(7) a summary of the activities and recommendations of the coordinating group; and

"(8) such other comments and recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate."; and

(3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking "2023" each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT 1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Not later than" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relating to each matching requirement applicable to the State under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is located.

"(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each calendar year, the Governor of each State described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary an attestation that describes if the State is able to fulfill each matching requirement with respect to which information is provided by the Secretary under such subsection for such State and calendar year.

"(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report describing the attestations received under paragraph (1) during that calendar year.".

SEC. 7509. REPEAL.

Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is repealed.

SEC. 7510. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.

Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)) is amended by inserting after "for the purposes set forth in section 2" the following: ", and for 1994 Institutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth in section 2".

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH.

Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "of Agriculture; and" and inserting a semicolon; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking "the roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension authorized by section 7504 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7614a)" and inserting "the national research policies and priorities set forth in section 1402 of the Na-

tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101)";

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking "National Academy of Sciences" and inserting "National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)"; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking "industry" and inserting "national farm, producer, or research organizations"; and

(3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking "and post online" and inserting "online and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate";

(ii) in item (bb), by striking "and" at the end;

(iii) in item (cc), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

"(dd) the source and a description of all gifts to the Foundation of real or personal property;

"(ee) the source and amount of each gift to the Foundation of money, including a specification of any restrictions on the purposes for which a gift to the Foundation may be used;

"(ff) the source and amount of any Federal or State grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded to the Foundation;

"(gg) an accounting of the use of funds made available under subsection (g)(1);

"(hh) a description of the Foundation's outreach activities to agricultural stakeholders and potential research partners; and

"(ii) a description of the Foundation's consultation process with the Department under subsection (d)(1)(B).";

(B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III); and

(C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (II).

SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "Each Agriculture Innovation Center" and inserting "Subject to paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation Center"; and

(ii) by striking "following::" and inserting "following:"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate for the purpose of carrying out this section."; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.

Public Law 100–208 (101 Stat. 1439) is amended by striking "Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory" each place it appears and inserting "Knipling-Bushland Research Center".

SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The U.S. National Poultry Research Center of the Department of Agriculture located in Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the "U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center".

SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.

Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking "known as a director" and inserting "known as an experiment station director"; and

(B) by striking "or other officer appointed by the government board of the station";

(2) in the third sentence, by striking "or other officer"; and

(3) in the fourth sentence, by striking "the authorized receiving officer" and inserting "the experiment station director".

SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in this section as the "Commission").

(b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide recommendations on—

(1) how data collection can be modernized and streamlined to—

(A) improve the quality of statistics reported;

(B) account for differences of national, regional, and local production;

(C) accelerate adoption of new and innovative technologies to reduce the number of surveys needed;

(D) improve producer response rates in statistical surveys and identifying ways to reduce survey fatigue;

(E) increase transparency and confidence in statistical reports through improved collaboration with agricultural stakeholders;

(F) use more real-time statistical and environmental data to complement existing survey-based data and reporting; and

(G) improve collection and generation of timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

(2) how the recommendations under paragraph (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining data collection can be implemented and the estimated costs of such implementation.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, as follows:

(A) The Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(B) The Administrator of the Economic Research Service.

(C) The Chief Economist of the Department.

(D) The Chair of the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the Department.

(E) A representative from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(F) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, of which—

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair of the Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee; and

(iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the chair and ranking member of the Committee.

(G) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, of which—

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair of the Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee; and

(iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the chair and ranking member of the Committee.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of all members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (b), including—

(1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the Commission, and the frequency with which they are conducted; and

(2) such recommendations for administrative, regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commission considers appropriate.

(g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricultural stakeholders to inform the results of the study required under subsection (b) and the report required under subsection (f).

(i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Commission.

(j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mail in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space and such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sections 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission.

(n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on September 30, 2031.

(o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4–H NAME AND EMBLEM AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 4–H CLUB.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "4–H club" means a 4–H club recognized under the 4–H Program.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "4–H club" includes an authorized agent of a 4–H club.

(2) 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term "4–H emblem or name" means the 4–H sign or emblem, consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and the letter "H" in white or gold on each leaflet, and the words "4–H", "4–H Club", and "4–H Clubs", used to identify and distinguish the 4–H Program and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and services of the 4–H Program.

(3) 4–H PROGRAM.—The term "4–H Program"—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "4–H Program" means the youth development program of the land-grant colleges or universities, the Cooperative Extension System (as defined by the Secretary), and the Department.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "4–H Program" includes an authorized agent of the 4–H Program.

(4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term "land-grant college or university"—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "land-grant college or university" means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "land-grant college or university" includes an authorized agent of a land-grant college or university.

(b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

(1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-grant college or university taken with respect to the use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been enacted into law.

(2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

(c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

(A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

(B) grant authorizations to use the 4–H emblem or name, as provided by regulations issued by the Secretary.

(2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph (1) may be granted—

(A) without a fee or other consideration; or

(B) for a fee or other consideration.

(3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit into a special account any fees collected under paragraph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Program.

(d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Department, a land-grant college or university, and those authorized by them, uses in commerce the 4–H emblem or name or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of the 4–H emblem or name to indicate membership in an association, organization, or other collective group, or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or services, on or in connection with which that use is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to membership or participation in, an affiliation, connection, or association with, or authorization or approval by, a 4–H club or the 4–H Program, shall be subject to the civil action under paragraph (2).

(2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States against whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts described in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the "Trademark Act of 1946" or the "Lanham Act") (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this section makes unlawful the use of any emblem, name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was lawful on December 26, 2020.

(2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Secretary to delegate the authority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) be responsible for the coordination of research activities with other Federal agencies.";

(2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking "not less than 3 years" and inserting "not less than 1 year"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of

the mission requirements and priorities of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies.

"(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

"(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as the 'Secretaries') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

"(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretaries may—

"(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas;

"(II) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

"(III) promote collaboration and open community-based development between—

"(aa) Federal agencies;

"(bb) National Laboratories;

"(cc) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

"(dd) nonprofit institutions;

"(ee) industry partners; and

"(ff) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement involved;

"(IV) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary;

"(V) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies; and

"(VI) facilitate relations between public and private entities to carry on the activities of this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

"(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretaries are authorized to—

"(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

"(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

"(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Director of the National Science Foundation (referred to in this subparagraph as the "Director") shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

"(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Director may—

"(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas;

"(II) promote collaboration and open, community-based development between—

"(aa) Federal agencies;

"(bb) institutions of higher education;

"(cc) community colleges (as defined in section 3167B of the Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381c–3));

"(dd) area career and technical education schools (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));

"(ee) nonprofit institutions;

"(ff) industry partners; and

"(gg) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement;

"(III) support research infrastructure, including new facilities, equipment and broadband deployment, as the Secretary and Director determine necessary;

"(IV) develop translational technologies for commercial utilization;

"(V) organize education, training, and research initiatives relating to STEM education and workforce development, which may include—

"(aa) activities supported by the Cooperative Extension System;

"(bb) industrial partnership programs;

"(cc) workshops for educating kindergarten through grade 12 teachers on how to increase agricultural literacy;

"(dd) development of agricultural-based science curricula for kindergarten through grade 12 students; and

"(ee) distribution of resources for educators to implement curricula; and

"(VI) facilitate relationships between public and private entities to carry on the activities under this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

"(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretary and the Director are authorized to—

"(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

"(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

"(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense (referred to in this subparagraph as the 'Secretaries') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, industry, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

"(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretaries may—

"(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas, including the areas specified in clause (iv);

"(II) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

"(III) promote collaboration and secure information sharing with stakeholders that are capable of increasing market-based adoption of technologies developed pursuant to the memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements entered into under this subparagraph;

"(IV) promote collaboration and open community-based development between—

"(aa) Federal agencies;

"(bb) National Laboratories;

"(cc) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

"(dd) nonprofit institutions;

"(ee) industry partners; and

"(ff) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement involved;

"(V) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary;

"(VI) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies; and

"(VII) facilitate relations between public and private entities to carry on the activities of this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

"(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretaries are authorized to—

"(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

"(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

"(iv) FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The focus areas described in this clause are the following:

"(I) Management strategies for water, energy, soil, forests, and food to reduce scarcity risks to civilian and military operations.

"(II) Innovations applicable to defense objectives and beneficial to rural agricultural economies, including—

"(aa) precision agriculture technologies;

"(bb) drones;

"(cc) remote sensing; and

"(dd) positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities.

"(III) Mitigation of the impacts of chemicals, specifically perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred to as PFAS), released through activities carried out by the Department of Defense, to farmland contiguous to military bases.

"(D) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In addition to the memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appropriate, enter into memoranda of understanding with the heads of other Federal agencies to coordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing—

"(A) interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

"(B) potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

"(C) collaborative research achievements;

"(D) areas of future mutually beneficial successes;

"(E) continuation of coordination activities between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

"(F) potential opportunities for additional memoranda of understanding with other Federal agencies; and

"(G) any additional information as the Secretary deems appropriate.

"(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).".

SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section as the "Ag I–Corps") to promote technology transfer and increase the economic impact of federally-funded research through—

(1) supporting agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commercial potential of technologies developed in laboratories through a standardized entrepreneurial training program; and

(2) bringing together Agriculture Research Service researchers and institutions of higher education within a distinct geographical region to collaborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial training curriculum.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education receiving funds from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag I–Corps.

(c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make funds available from the Small Business Innovation Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–Corps participants to help support—

(A) prototype or proof-of-concept development; and

(B) such activities as the Secretary considers necessary to build local, regional, and national infrastructure for agricultural entrepreneurship.

(2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1) shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with innovations that, because of the early stage of development of such innovations, are not eligible to participate in a Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps to support entrepreneurship education and training for agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027, and not less frequently than once every other year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on the effectiveness of the program.

SEC. 7610. STUDY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND ASSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study on, and submit to Congress a report on, ways to increase opportunities for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) to conduct educational programs and provide technical assistance with respect to issues relating to the transfers of agricultural land and assets, including heirs property, to the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

(b) HEIRS PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "heirs property" means real property held in tenancy in common which, as of the date on which a partition action is filed, satisfies all of the following requirements:

(1) There is no recorded agreement binding all the co-tenants which governs the partition of the property.

(2) One or more of the co-tenants acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased.

(3) Any of the following applies:

(A) 20 percent or more of the interests are held by co-tenants who are relatives.

(B) 20 percent or more of the interests are held by an individual who acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased.

(C) 20 percent or more of the co-tenants are relatives.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.

Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "to carry out this section," and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "the Secretary may use any other funds made available under this Act to develop and implement the State-wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by subsection (a), except that the total amount of combined funding used to develop and implement such assessment and strategy may not exceed $10,000,000 in any fiscal year.".

SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "the State of Vermont" and inserting "a State"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "of Vermont" and inserting "involved".

SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8104. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C 2106) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking "in kind contributions." and inserting "in-kind contributions. The Secretary may waive the Federal share requirements of this subparagraph with respect to any such funds made available to rural volunteer fire departments."; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1)—

(A) by striking "any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization" and inserting "any fire protection organization that is organized as a not for profit organization or by the authority of a local government and";

(B) by striking "10,000" and inserting "15,000"; and

(C) by striking "80" and inserting "70".

Subtitle B—Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITIGATION.

Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

"(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term 'adjacent land' means non-Federal land, including State, local, and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the same watershed as, National Forest System land on which a watershed protection and restoration project is carried out under this section."; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and (L), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

"(G) an acequia association;

"(H) a local, regional, or other public entity that manages stormwater or wastewater resources or other related water infrastructure;

"(I) a land-grant mercedes;

"(J) a local, regional, or other private entity that has water delivery authority;";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "The Secretary shall" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection and restoration project under the Program shall be designed to—

"(A) protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, a municipal or agricultural water supply system, and water-related infrastructure;

"(B) protect and restore forest health from insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

"(C) advance any combination of the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

"(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed protection and restoration projects under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

"(A) provide risk management benefits associated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience to climate change; and watershed and fire resilience, including minimizing risks to watershed health, water supply and quality, and water-related infrastructure, including municipal and agricultural water supply systems;

"(B) support aquatic restoration and conservation efforts that complement existing or planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduction efforts; or

"(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water supply or quality and include the use of nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetland and riparian ecosystems.

"(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT LAND.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity may be carried out under this section on adjacent land unless the owner of the adjacent land agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and engaged partner in carrying out that project or activity.

"(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any change in—

"(i) the ownership of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section; or

"(ii) the management of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section, except during the carrying out of that project or activity.";

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "watersheds that provide water to the end water users" and inserting "watersheds, and lands adjacent to any such watershed, that provide water—

"(A) to the end water users subject to the agreement; or

"(B) for the benefit of another end water user.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) a good neighbor agreement entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation under this section.";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source management plan shall be—

"(A) designed to protect and restore ecological integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

"(B) based on the best available scientific information; and

"(C) conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land on which the watershed protection and restoration project is carried out."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and restoration action plan developed under section 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning documents as approved by the Secretary may be used as the basis for a water source management plan under this subsection.";

(5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking "primary purpose of" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "primary purpose of advancing any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).";

(6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners to be in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal funds.

"(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in subparagraph (A) may be waived at the discretion of the Secretary."; and

(7) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner planning and technical assistance efforts in developing or implementing a water source management plan under subsection (d).".

SEC. 8204. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in paragraphs (3) and (5) by striking "protection and".

SEC. 8205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COMBAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES.

Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking "October 1, 2023" and inserting "October 1, 2031".

SEC. 8206. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.

Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8207. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING PROJECTS.

Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting ", including retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or contract under this subsection" before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking "10 years" and inserting "20 years"; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

"(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the term 'multiyear contract' means a contract entered into under subsection (b) that—

"(i) has a term of at least 5 years; and

"(ii) is entered into on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

"(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Director with an entity shall provide that, in the case of cancellation or termination of the multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall provide to the entity a cancellation or termination payment equal to the lesser of—

"(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of the multiyear contract; or

"(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract (including the term canceled).".

Subtitle C—Other Forestry Programs

SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.

Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting "**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS**";

(2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respectively;

(3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this section, the term 'agroforestry' means a management system that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to build more profitable and weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, address natural resource concerns and conservation needs, and establish productive and sustainable land use practices, including—

"(1) riparian forest buffers;

"(2) alley cropping;

"(3) silvopasture;

"(4) forest farming and multistory cropping; and

"(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and, where applicable, field borders, and living snow fences.";

(4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "SEMIARID" and inserting "NATIONAL";

(B) by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'Secretary')" after "Secretary of Agriculture";

(C) by striking "Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center (hereafter referred to in this section as the 'Center')" and inserting "National Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center"; and

(D) by striking "at the Center under subsection (b)" and inserting "under subsection (d)";

(5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption.

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and coordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1).

"(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize locations at which the Department of Agriculture has, on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee providing coordination among a diverse group of research institutions and other partners.

"(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1) shall by administered by the National Agroforestry Center.";

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "the Center" and inserting "each of the centers established under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to in this section as the 'Centers')";

(ii) by inserting "and organizations" after "nonprofit foundations"; and

(iii) by inserting "demonstration projects," after "studies,";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "on semiarid lands that" and inserting "that build soil health and"; and

(ii) by inserting ", including agroforestry systems on semiarid land and other fragile agroecosystems where permanent woody perennial plant communities can enhance carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions" before the semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "forestry products for commercial sale from semiarid land" and inserting "agroforestry products for commercial sale";

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking "in semiarid regions"; and

(ii) by striking "the Great Plains region" and inserting "particular regions";

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting "technical assistance, demonstration projects, and" before "technology";

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

(G) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

"(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley cropping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other perennial production and conservation systems and technologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration, drought preparedness, soil and water conservation, environmental quality, and biological diversity;

"(7) address barriers to the adoption of agroforestry practices, including—

"(A) insufficient access to plant material;

"(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain equipment and plant material;

"(C) insufficient machinery to implement agroforestry practices;

"(D) insufficient technical service assistance; and

"(E) insufficient research related to agroforestry systems, including silvopasture and alley cropping;";

(H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by striking "on semiarid lands";

(I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by striking "on semiarid lands worldwide" and inserting "worldwide, including on semiarid land"; and

(J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking "on semiarid lands"; and

(ii) by inserting "and extreme weather" after "pollution";

(7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "the Center" and inserting "each of the Centers";

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "forestry" and inserting "forestry, agroforestry,"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by disseminating comprehensive information on Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs that provide support for agroforestry.";

(8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects, including demonstration sites.

"(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey."; and

(9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking "There are" and inserting "In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is"; and

(B) by striking "$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023" and inserting "$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031".

SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.

(a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–7) is amended—

(1) by striking "The activities" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (2) shall be made available for activities—

"(A) on national forests that are approved by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

"(B) to—

"(i) re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

"(ii) improve management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

"(iii) improve and expand white oak nursery stock; and

"(iv) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

"(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the purposes of carrying out the activities specified in paragraph (1).

"(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the National Forest Foundation shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of each such Foundation for each fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a summary of the activities carried out under paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under paragraph (2) that includes—

"(A) the amount—

"(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in the preceding fiscal year; and

"(ii) described in clause (i) that is unobligated on the date of the report; and

"(B) a description of the activities under paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fiscal year.".

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C. 580d

note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking "September 30, 2019" and inserting "September 30, 2031".

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "their resources" and inserting "the resources of those forests, including forest carbon,";

(B) by striking "In compliance" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall carry out, as a data collection method—

"(i) a national timber products output survey; and

"(ii) a national woodland owner survey.";

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting "including with respect to available forest carbon data," after "2 decades,";

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking "The standards" and inserting the following:

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards described in subparagraph (A)";

(B) by striking "(4) NATIONAL STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure" and inserting the following:

"(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

"(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall include a clear description of the definition of 'forest' used for purposes of reporting data from inventories and analyses of forests and the resources of forests under this subsection with—

"(i) any data or report provided under the program under this subsection;

"(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

"(iii) any data or report provided to an entity outside the United States.";

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection," and inserting "In accordance with paragraph (7),"; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

"(D) the organization and procedures necessary to understand and report on changes in land cover and use;

"(E) the organization and procedures necessary to sample and evaluate carbon-related data variables, including soil carbon, collected from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber products output surveys, and national woodland owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting information needs can be met; and"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to include—

"(i) a plan to implement nationally consistent data collection protocols and procedures to improve the statistical precision of base program estimates;

"(ii) pathways to integrate and report on status and trends in forest carbon pools, including below-ground carbon;

"(iii) plans, including the identification of challenges, to collaborate with other Federal agencies, non-Federal partners, and the private sector to integrate existing nationally available data sets and best available commercial technologies, such as remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques, and other new technologies;

"(iv) a plan to increase transparency and clarity in reporting in accordance with paragraph (4)(C);

"(v) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include procedures to improve the statistical precision of estimates at the sub-State level;

"(vi) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include information on renewable biomass supplies and carbon stocks at the local, State, regional, and national levels, including by ownership type; and

"(vii) such other matters as the Secretary determines to be appropriate based on recommendations of the Forest Inventory and Analysis National User Group.

"(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives the update to the strategic plan prepared under subparagraph (A).

"(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the update is submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

"(i) prepare an additional update to the strategic plan; and

"(ii) submit the additional update to the committees described in subparagraph (B).

"(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that data collected under this subsection is—

"(A) easily accessible to all public- and private-sector entities; and

"(B) collected and made accessible using means that ensure the confidentiality, in accordance with section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

"(i) plot locations;

"(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland owners; and

"(iii) nonaggregated data from timber product output survey.

"(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the tables contained in the Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant geospatial products.

"(10) EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an office, a data platform, or team to process and respond to complex data requests submitted by external organizations relating to the program under this subsection.

"(B) FEES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs of processing of and responding to complex data requests described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may impose fees on external organizations submitting the requests.

"(ii) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees collected under clause (i) may only be used for the purposes described in such clause.

"(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall publish as part of the forest inventory and analysis business report a detailed description of the progress of the Secretary in implementing the programmatic elements of the strategic plan described in paragraph (6), including—

"(A) the costs and priorities of the strategic plan; and

"(B) how the program under this subsection leverages new technology, improves and standardizes collection protocols, and increases workforce capacity.".

(b) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking "technologies" and inserting "technologies, such as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products,".

SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED ORCHARD SUPPORT.

(a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED ORCHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) partner with Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant entities to provide training, technical assistance, and re-

search to nursery and tree establishment programs that support natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation;

(2) promote information sharing to improve the technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of the demands, climate change impacts, and other issues necessary to address all facets of the reforestation pipeline;

(3) provide technical and financial assistance to international nursery and tree establishment programs through—

(A) international programs conducted by the Forest Service pursuant to the International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.);

(B) the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry of the Forest Service; and

(C) the International Institute of Tropical Forestry of the Forest Service;

(4) collaborate with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and international organizations to provide technical and financial assistance related to nurseries and reforestation;

(5) coordinate the efforts of the Department to—

(A) address the challenges associated with the reforestation pipeline; and

(B) leverage economic development assistance for work with private nurseries; and

(6) expand science-based reforestation supply chains through research, seed collection and storage, and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordination with the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.

(b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may make a grant under this subsection to an eligible recipient for a project to carry out at least one of the following:

(A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve nursery production capacity or other infrastructure to—

(i) improve seed collection, processing, and storage;

(ii) increase seedling production, storage, and distribution; or

(iii) enhance seedling survival and properly manage tree genetic resources.

(B) Establish, improve, or expand a nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.

(C) Develop or implement quality control measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

(D) Promote workforce development within any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

(E) Carry out such other activity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term "eligible recipient" means—

(A) a State forestry agency;

(B) an Indian Tribe;

(C) a private nursery that has experience growing high-quality native trees of appropriate genetic sources in bareroot or container stock types specific for reforestation, restoration, or conservation, including native plants and seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian Tribes;

(D) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(E) a county or local government with a nursery or seed orchard.

(2) NURSERY.—The term "nursery" means a tree or native plant nursery.

(3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term "seed orchard" means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Subtitle D—Forest Management

PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY HAZARD TREES.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard tree activities.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and administering the categorical exclusion under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), in determining whether to use the categorical exclusion.

(3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project carried out using the categorical exclusion developed under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term "high-priority hazard tree" means a standing tree that—

(A) presents a visible hazard to people or property due to conditions such as deterioration of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the tree, as determined by the Secretary;

(B) is determined by the Secretary to be highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be highly likely to cause injury to people or damage to Federal property; and

(C) is located—

(i) within 300 feet of a National Forest System road with a maintenance level of 3, 4, or 5;

(ii) along a National Forest System trail; or

(iii) in a developed recreation site—

(I) that is operated and maintained by the Secretary; and

(II) on National Forest System land.

(2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "high-priority hazard tree activity" means a forest management activity that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees, including pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority hazard tree.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "high-priority hazard tree activity" does not include any activity—

(i) conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area;

(ii) for the construction of a permanent road or permanent trail;

(iii) conducted on Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(iv) conducted in an area in which activities described in subparagraph (A) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan; or

(v) conducted in an inventoried roadless area.

SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.

Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by striking "3000 acres" and inserting "10,000 acres".

SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.

Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by striking "3000 acres" and inserting "10,000 acres".

SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER WILDLAND VEGETATION.

Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking "3,000 acres" and inserting "10,000 acres".

SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABITAT.

Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking clause (ii);

(B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively; and

(C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking "in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "concurrently for both greater sage-grouse and" and inserting "for greater sage-grouse or"; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

"(g) LIMITATION.—A covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a forested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland ecosystem.".

SEC. 8406. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—Forest management activities described in subsection (b) are a category of activities designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management activities designated as being categorically excluded under subsection (a) are—

(1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the Secretary; and

(2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

(c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may use the categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest management activity conducted—

(1) in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(2) on National Forest System lands on which, by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited.

(e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not include the establishment of a permanent road.

(2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary may carry out necessary maintenance and repair on an existing permanent road for the purposes of conducting a forest management activity designated under subsection (b).

(3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed for a forest management activity designated under subsection (b) not later than 3 years after the date on which the action is completed.

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SEC. 8407. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out forest management activities, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across National Forest System lands.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land in a manner that attains multiple ecosystem benefits, including.—

(A) reducing forest fuels;

(B) maintaining the diversity of plant and animal communities;

(C) improving soil, streams, lakes, wetlands, and water quality, including in riparian areas; and

(D) increasing resilience to changing water temperature and precipitation regimes.

(d) GROUND DISTURBANCE.—Consistent with applicable Federal law and any applicable forest plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish criteria for ground conditions following a forest management activity carried out under a forest plan that results in ground disturbances; and

(2) monitor such ground conditions to determine whether desired outcomes or conditions are achieved.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—A forest management activity conducted on National Forest System land for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if the forest management activity—

(1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;

(2) is developed—

(A) in coordination with impacted parties, specifically including representatives of local governments, such as county supervisors or county commissioners; and

(B) in consultation with other entities, as determined by the Secretary/ any other entity determined relevant by the Secretary; and

(3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

(f) COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with an impacted party to provide for fuel reduction, soil restoration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restoration, revegetation, and similar management activities on Federal land and non-Federal land.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term "forest management activity" means a project or activity that is carried out by the Secretary on National Forest System land and is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

(2) FOREST PLAN.—The term "forest plan" means a land and resource management plan under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1406).

(3) IMPACTED PARTIES.—The term "impacted parties" includes—

(A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

(B) local fire departments;

(C) other relevant volunteer groups.

(4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term "National Forest System" has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

SEC. 8408. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to National Forest System lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service—

(1) shall—

(A) use available resources to carry out wildfire suppression with the purpose of containing wildfires detected on such lands not later than 24 hours after such a wildfire is detected; and

(B) carry out wildfire suppression under subparagraph (A) in a manner that is consistent with interagency agreements and applicable standards of firefighter safety;

(2) shall not inhibit the suppression efforts of State or local firefighting agencies that are authorized to respond to wildfire on such lands;

(3) may only use fire as a resource management tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that complies with applicable law and regulations;

(4) may only initiate a backfire or burnout during a wildfire—

(A) by order of the responsible incident commander, in consultation with the appropriate Forest Service line officer; or

(B) in instances that are necessary to protect the health and safety of firefighting personnel;

(5) shall use available resources to control any such initiated backfire or burnout until contained;

(6) shall use available resources, including infrared technologies, to ensure prescribed fires are contained; and

(7) shall update the prescribed fire policies of the Forest Service to reflect the findings and recommendations included in the report entitled "National Prescribed Fire Program Review" published in September 2022 by the Forest Service.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the National Forest System lands described in this subsection are National Forest System lands that—

(1) the National Interagency Fire Center has established as a National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level of 5;

(2) contain areas that the U.S. Drought Monitor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity; or

(3) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, has identified as being located in a fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire exposure, as determined using the most recent published models of fireshed risk exposure published by the Forest Service.

(c) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term "National Forest System" has the meaning given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.

(a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land management plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

"(A) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

"(B) new information reveals effects of the land management plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.".

(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

"(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

"(2) new information reveals effects of the land use plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.".

SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

(a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking "or Indian tribe";

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term 'special district' means a political subdivision of a State that—

"(A) has significant budgetary autonomy or control;

"(B) was created by or pursuant to the laws of the State for the purpose of performing a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function; and

"(C) is distinct from any other local government unit within the State.".

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ", Indian Tribe, special district," after "Governor";

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by inserting "special district," after "Indian Tribe," each place it appears;

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking "on"; and

(bb) by striking "; and" and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in subclause (II)(bb), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

"(III) to construct new permanent roads on Federal lands that are—

"(aa) necessary to implement authorized restoration activities; and

"(bb) approved by the Federal agency through environmental analysis or categorical exclusion decision;

"(IV) to complete new permanent road construction to replace and decommission an existing permanent road that is adversely impacting forest, rangeland, or watershed health; and

"(V) if there are funds remaining after carrying out subclauses (I) through (IV), to carry out authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements and for the administration of a good neighbor authority program by a Governor, Indian Tribe, special district, or county."; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "2028" and inserting "2030";

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ", Indian Tribe, special district," after "Governor"; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ", Indian Tribe, special district," after "Governor"; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting ", Indian Tribe, special district," after "Governor".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if the project was initiated after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or pathogens" after "species";

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (H), by adding "and" after the semicolon at the end; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(I) address standardized monitoring questions and indicators;";

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) proposals that seek to use innovative implementation mechanisms, including good neighbor agreements entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation mechanisms;

"(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological restoration activities—

"(i) within areas across land ownerships, including State, Tribal, and private land; and

"(ii) within the wildland-urban interface; and

"(I) proposals that seek to enhance watershed health and drinking water sources."; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the National Forest System to be funded during any fiscal year; and";

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate committees" means—

(A) the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources, and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term "covered agency" means—

(A) the National Park Service;
(B) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
(C) the Bureau of Land Management;
(D) the Bureau of Reclamation;
(E) the Forest Service;
(F) the Department of Defense;
(G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
(H) the United States Fire Administration;
(I) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(J) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
(K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
(L) any other Federal agency involved in wildfire response.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term "covered entity" means—

(A) a private entity;
(B) a nonprofit organization; or
(C) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term "Pilot Program" means the deployment and testbed pilot program developed under subsection (b).

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly.

(b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall—

(1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an existing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

(2) in consultation with the heads of covered agencies, identify key technology priority areas with respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies, including—

(A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments or activities;
(B) dispatch communications;
(C) remote sensing and tracking;
(D) safety equipment; and
(E) common operating pictures or operational dashboards; and

(3) partner with each covered entity selected to participate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland fire mitigation activities and training.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretaries may require, which shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2).

(e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly available the key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to test and demonstrate their technologies to address those priority areas.

(g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that includes the following with respect to the Pilot Program:

(1) A list of participating covered entities.

(2) A brief description of the technologies tested by such covered entities.

(3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the technology tested in the program and applying it at scale.

(4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to covered entities developing wildfire technologies.

(5) Assessments of, and recommendations relating to, new technologies with potential adoption and application at-scale in Federal land management agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation efforts.

(h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire on September 30, 2031.

SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**ACES**" and inserting "**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**" (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections accordingly);

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a) IN GENERAL.—";

(B) by striking "Agriculture Conservation"; and

(C) by inserting ", professional, or administrative" after "technical"; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking "$10,000" and inserting "$55,000"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of National Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees or forest products located on such unit of National Forest System land.".

SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on National Forest System lands provided to an electric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the sale of any material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall develop and implement a strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the completion of any reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow a permittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze on vacant grazing allotments during instances of drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster that disrupt grazing on the allotments covered by such grazing permit;

(B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce hazardous fuels;

(C) an increase in the use of temporary grazing permits to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of invasive annual grasses;

(D) an increase in the use of livestock grazing—

(i) to eradicate invasive annual grasses; and

(ii) as a restoration strategy and for post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

(E) the integrated use of advanced technologies to dynamically adjust livestock placement on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;

(F) an increase in the use of any authorities applicable to livestock grazing, including modifications to grazing permits or leases to allow variances; and

(G) the use of grazing on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned in a manner that—

(i) avoids conflicts with other uses of such land; and

(ii) is consistent with any applicable land management plan.

(b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) any livestock grazing program carried out by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any statutory authority for any program described in paragraph (1).

(c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Secretary concerned" means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting "and at least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter" after "and 2023"; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking "and 2023" and inserting "through 2031".

SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**" and inserting "**PROGRAM**" (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of contents accordingly); and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "demonstration projects by" and inserting "a program under".

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.

Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "**COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PROGRAM**" and inserting "**COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM**";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "woody biomass, including residuals" and inserting "primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program" and inserting "Community Wood Facilities Program";

(3) in subsection (b), by striking "to be known as" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "to be known as the 'Community Wood Facilities Program'.";

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "exceed—" in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting "exceed $5,000,000.";

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as (1) through (7), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by inserting "or market competitiveness" after "cost effectiveness";

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking "use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill" and inserting "construction, use or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing";

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "5 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy" and inserting "15 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "25 percent" and inserting "50 percent"; and

(8) in subsection (h), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—Section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting ", including the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized" before the period at the end.

(b) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give priority to proposals for projects that—

"(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

"(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design and interior wood products, including forest impacts, which can be improved by North American manufacturing; or

"(3) include in the proposal of the entity an analysis of the benefits that forest management under the proposal will have on the resilience and economy of the community, including benefits associated with—

"(A) wood products from anticipated wood supply areas;

"(B) wildfire risk reduction;

"(C) increased fiber flow;

"(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs; and

"(E) support for forested communities.".

(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(d)) is amended by inserting "50 percent of" before "the amount".

SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, shall establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall source data, information, and data analysis from Department programs and interagency programs, including—

(1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, including the Timber Products Output survey;

(2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service soil carbon estimations;

(3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

(4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Commons;

(5) Department entity-level guidelines; and

(6) other relevant programmatic data and information sources, as published and made available.

(c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by subsection (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

(1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon stocks and stock changes associated with species composition, forest management regime, and landowner types (including small area estimations for regional and localized geographies across the United States) made available through Forest Inventory and Analysis updates and annual reports;

(2) the embodied carbon involved in the manufacture of products, using data from published environmental product declarations and life cycle assessments, updated as new and more refined data becomes available;

(3) the long-term stored carbon in manufactured timber products; and

(4) the carbon displacement of wood products, compared to other materials, using substitution factors.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to provide authority with respect to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or environmental credits from National Forest System lands in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BIOCHAR.—The term "biochar" means carbonized biomass produced by converting feedstock through reductive thermal processing for nonfuel uses.

(2) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term "covered Secretaries" means—

(A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(C) the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Director of the Office of Science.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a private, nonprivate, or cooperative entity or organization;

(B) a State, local, special district, or Tribal government;

(C) an eligible institution;

(D) a National Laboratory (as such term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

(E) a partnership or consortium of two or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(4) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term "eligible institution" means land-grant colleges and universities, including institutions eligible for funding under—

(A) the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(B) the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known as the "McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962"); or

(D) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382).

(5) FEEDSTOCK.—The term "feedstock" means excess biomass in the form of plant matter or materials that serves as the raw material for the production of biochar.

(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the covered Secretaries shall establish a program to enter into partnerships with eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects to support the development and commercialization of biochar in accordance with this subsection.

(B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program established under subparagraph (A), the covered Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with eligible entities such that not fewer than one demonstration project is carried out in each region of the Forest Service and each region of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the covered Secretaries may require.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the program established under paragraph (1)(A), the covered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and provide funding to such partnerships to carry out demonstration projects to—

(A) acquire and test various feedstocks and their efficacy;

(B) develop and optimize commercially and technologically viable biochar production units, including mobile and permanent units;

(C) demonstrate—

(i) the production of biochar from forest residue; and

(ii) the use of biochar to restore forest health and resiliency;

(D) build, expand, or establish biochar facilities;

(E) conduct research on new and innovative uses of biochar;

(F) demonstrate cost-effective market opportunities for biochar and biochar-based products;

(G) carry out any other activities the covered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

(H) do any combination of the activities specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give priority to entering into partnerships with eligible entities that submit proposals to carry out biochar demonstration projects that—

(A) have the most potential to create new jobs and contribute to local economies, particularly in rural areas;

(B) have the most potential to demonstrate—

(i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

(ii) market viability for cost-effective biochar-based products;

(iii) the restorative benefits of biochar with respect to forest health and resiliency, including forest soils and watersheds; or

(iv) any combination of the purposes specified in clauses (i) through (iii);

(C) are located in areas that have a high need for biochar production, as determined by the covered Secretaries, due to—

(i) nearby lands identified as having high or very high or extreme risk of wildfire;

(ii) availability of sufficient quantities of feedstocks; or

(iii) a high level of demand for biochar or other commercial byproducts of biochar; or

(D) satisfy any combination of the purposes specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, an eligible entity that carries out a biochar demonstration project under this subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used under such project, derive at least 50 percent of such feedstock from forest thinning and management activities, including mill residues, conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands.

(6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries shall conduct regionally specific research, including economic analyses and life-cycle assessments, on any biochar produced from a demonstration project carried out under the program established in paragraph (1)(A), including—

(i) the effects of such biochar on—

(I) forest health and resiliency;

(II) carbon capture and sequestration, including increasing soil carbon in the short term and long term;

(III) productivity, reduced input costs, and water retention in agricultural practices;

(IV) the health of soil and grasslands used for grazing activities, including grazing activities on National Forest System land and public land; and

(V) environmental remediation activities, including abandoned mine land remediation;

(ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a coproduct of biofuels or in biochemicals; and

(iii) the effectiveness of other potential uses of biochar to determine if any such use is technologically and commercially viable.

(B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide data, analyses, and other relevant information collected under subparagraph (A) with recipients of a grant under subsection (c).

(7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Secretaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into a partnership with the covered Secretaries under paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of the capital cost of establishing such biochar facility.

(c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar research and development grant program to make competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible institution shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

(A) the effect of biochar on forest health and resiliency, accounting for variations in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

(B) the effect of biochar on soil health and water retention, accounting for variations in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

(C) the long-term carbon sequestration potential of biochar;

(D) the best management practices with respect to biochar and biochar-based product that maximize—

(i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

(ii) the commercial viability and application of such products in forestry, agriculture, environmental remediation, water quality improvement, and any other similar uses, as determined by the Secretary;

(E) the regional uses of biochar to increase productivity and profitability, including—

(i) uses in agriculture and environmental remediation; and

(ii) use as a coproduct in fuel production;

(F) new and innovative uses for biochar byproducts; and

(G) opportunities to expand markets for biochar and create related jobs, particularly in rural areas.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) includes policy and program recommendations to improve the widespread use of biochar;

(B) identifies any area of research needed to advance biochar commercialization; and

(C) identifies barriers to further biochar commercialization, including permitting and siting considerations.

(2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the second fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until the date described in subsection (e), the covered Secretaries shall include in the materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the status of each demonstration project carried out under subsection (b) and each research and development grant carried out under subsection (c).

(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 8501. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.

Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 8502. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through the applicable regional forester so long as before the applicable regional forester makes an appointment, the applicable regional forester conducts the review and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for an appointment to a resource advisory committee, including any review and analysis with respect to civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and reporting, as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.";

(2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking "October 1, 2026" and inserting "October 1, 2031"; and

(3) by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 8503. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORTS.

(a) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall include in the materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a

report describing the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year, as determined using—

(A) the methodology of the Secretary concerned in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) the methodology described in paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) in determining the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the period covered by the report—

(i) record acres of Federal land on which hazardous fuels reduction activities were completed during that period; and

(ii) record each acre described in clause (i) once in the report, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on that acre during the applicable period; and

(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land recorded in the report, include information relating to—

(i) which acres are located in the wildland-urban interface;

(ii) the level of hazard potential of the acres on the first and last day of the period covered by the report;

(iii) the types of hazardous fuels reduction activities completed with respect to the acres, including a description of whether those hazardous fuels reduction activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned hazardous fuels reduction project;

(iv) the cost per acre of the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out during the period covered by the report;

(v) the region or System unit in which the acres are located; and

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities with respect to reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether those data accurately correlate to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the standardized procedures; and

(B) any programmatic or policy recommendations to Congress to address limitations in tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

(c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study regarding the implementation of this section, including any limitations with respect to—

(A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (a); or

(B) tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (b); and

(2) submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means any land under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Secretary; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "hazardous fuels reduction activity" means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed burning.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "hazardous fuels reduction activity" does not include the awarding of a contract to conduct an activity described in subparagraph (A).

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section.

(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activities authorized by this section are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for those purposes.

SEC. 8504. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE WAIVER.

All or part of the programmatic administrative fee, and any fees related to the special use authorization, as appropriate, may be waived by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, when equitable and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land in the following circumstances:

(1) The holder of the special use authorization is a State or local government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities and cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is customer charges.

(2) The holder is—

(A) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

(B) not controlled or owned by a profit-making corporation or business enterprise; and

(C) is engaged in a public or semipublic activity to further public health, safety, or welfare.

(3) The holder is an amateur station, amateur operator, or provides amateur radio services, as those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(4) Other circumstances the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines appropriate.

SEC. 8505. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.

(a) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out a program to charge and collect fees under subsection (b) for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

(2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based on fair market value for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

(b) FEES.—

(1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall charge and collect fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products on National Forest System lands.

(2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market value of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of the forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

(3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a person assessed a fee under this subsection to provide security to ensure that the Secretary receives the fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

(c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(A) conduct appropriate analyses to determine whether and how the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis; and

(B) establish procedures and timeframes to monitor and revise the harvest levels established for forest botanical products.

(2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not permit under the program under this section the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 531).

(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product below that level by a person for personal use shall not be subject to charges and fees under subsections (a) and (b).

(2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may also waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

(e) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall be deposited into a special account in the United States Treasury.

(2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into the special account in accordance with paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended without further appropriation.

(3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made available under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units of the National Forest System in proportion to the charges and fees collected at that unit under the program under this section to pay for—

(A) the costs of conducting inventories of forest botanical products, determining sustainable levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and for restoration activities, including any necessary revegetation; and

(B) the costs described in subsection (b)(2).

(4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the following laws:

(A) The sixth paragraph under the heading "forest service" in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 500).

(B) The fourteenth paragraph under the heading "forest service" in the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

(C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

(D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

(E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

(F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

(G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

(H) Section 100904 of title 54, United States Code.

(I) Any other provision of law relating to revenue allocation.

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Secretary collects charges and fees under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds from the special account under subsection (e), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall submit to the Congress a report summarizing the activities of the Secretary under the program under this section, including the funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b), the expenses incurred to carry out the program under this section, and the expenditures made from the special account during that fiscal year.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term "forest botanical product"—

(A) means any naturally occurring mushroom, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf, berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone, epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows on National Forest System lands; and

(B) does not include trees, or portions of trees, except as provided in regulations issued under section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term "National Forest System" has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

SEC. 8506. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL REMEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.

Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) solicit and consider public input regionally in selecting projects for funding under the Program by—

"(i) publishing annually, for each region, a list of projects considered for funding under the Program;

"(ii) accepting public comment on the projects described in clause (i); and

"(iii) considering public comments in selecting projects for funding under the Program;"; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "annually, for each region," before "publish"; and

(ii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

"(ii) a list that includes a description of—

"(I) each project considered for funding under the Program;

"(II) public comments received on each project described in subclause (I);

"(III) the ranking within the applicable region of each project described in subclause (I); and

"(IV) the proposed outcome of each project funded under the Program for the applicable fiscal year."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the term 'region' means one of the 9 regions of the Forest Service.".

SEC. 8507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a position in the competitive service in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the qualification standards.

SEC. 8508. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures under this section, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined by the Secretary based on the fair market value of the cost of the emergency measures using the estimated cost of the applicable practice published in the Field Office Technical Guide of each State by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned to the Secretary within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.".

SEC. 8509. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, shall not apply to an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System lands, including National Forest System lands on which authorized utilities, communications facilities, powerline facilities, or roads have been installed, if—

(1) the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure; or

(2) the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes available.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms "communications facility" and "communications use authorization" have the meanings given the terms, respectively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).

(2) PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The term "previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands" means any National Forest System lands with respect to which the Secretary has—

(A) granted, issued, and executed a communications use authorization; and

(B) conducted sufficient environmental or historical reviews.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 8510. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DELI, INC.—The term "Deli, Inc." means Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business located in Millston, Wisconsin.

(2) DELI LAND.—The term "Deli land" means the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, and the Governor of Wisconsin, in 2 separate parcels, by Deli, Inc., and located in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as described as follows:

(A) A parcel of real property containing approximately 31.3 acres (which includes land within the road right-of-way), together with any improvements—

(i) comprising the NE¼NE¼ sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin;

(ii) excluding—

(I) land lying north of the railroad right-of-way; and

(II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with 50 feet lying to the northeast, and 100 feet to the southwest, of a line commencing at a point 5 feet east of the northwest corner of the quarter-quarter section described in clause (i), thence south 56° east 39″ a distance of 222 feet, thence south 57° east 31″ a distance of 1359 feet; and

(iii) subject to—

(I) any public water use or easements on Lee Lake; and

(II) any easements or restrictions of record, public roadways, zoning and use ordinances, and the railroad right-of-way.

(B) A parcel of real property containing approximately 5.97 acres located in the SW¼SW¼ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, comprising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483, as recorded in volume 19S of the certified survey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

(3) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Black River State Forest–Deli, Inc." and dated June 26, 2023.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Wisconsin.

(5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term "State forest land" means the approximately 31.83 acres of land located in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as described as follows:

(A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

(i) comprising the portion of the E½SE¼ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying south of the Interstate Highway 94 southern right-of-way; and

(ii) excluding a triangular parcel in the southwest corner described as commencing at the southwest corner, thence east 260 feet, thence

northwesterly to a point on the west boundary thereof 200 feet north of the southwest corner, thence south to the place of beginning.

(B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres comprising the portion of the NE¼NE¼ sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and described as commencing at the northeast corner of that quarter-quarter section, thence west 1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-quarter section, thence north on the east line 750 feet to the place of beginning.

(b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the State forest land is subject to a reversionary interest of the United States pursuant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring that the State forest land be used for public purposes in perpetuity; and

(B) the State and Deli, Inc., have agreed that the State will convey the State forest land in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land will be added to Black River State Forest in the State.

(2) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—If the State offers in a written agreement to convey the State forest land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance of the Deli land to the State—

(A) the reversionary interest of the United States in the State forest land shall be released; and

(B) the Secretary shall provide, as expeditiously as possible, recordable evidence of the release under subparagraph (A) in the form of a quitclaim deed, which shall—

(i) convey any interest of the United States in the State forest land without consideration; and

(ii) be provided to the State for recording before the exchange deeds are recorded.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may make any necessary corrections to the legal description of the State forest land for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in paragraph (2)(B).

SEC. 8511. DOUG LAMALFA SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT.

Section 1 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by inserting "or the 'Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act'" before the period at the end.

SEC. 8512. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.

(a) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMITTEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations allowing a permittee to carry out a minor range improvement on the lands with respect to which the permittee holds a grazing permit if—

(1) the permittee notifies the applicable Forest Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to carrying out such minor range improvement; and

(2) such applicable district ranger—

(A) approves the minor range improvement; or

(B) does not respond to notification regarding the minor range improvement.

(b) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger, shall—

(1) respond to a covered request not later than 30 days after the date on which such request is submitted; and

(2) if such response confirms that the Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger, will carry out the range improvement requested—

(A) notify the district office that serves the area in which such range improvement will occur; and

(B) expedite the carrying out of such range improvement using any available administrative tools or authorities, including categorical exclusions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CFR TERMS.—The terms "grazing permit", "permittee", and "range improvement" have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 222.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(2) COVERED REQUEST.—The term "covered request" means a request submitted by a permittee to the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry out a range improvement.

(3) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term "minor range improvement" includes improvements to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipelines, and stock tanks.

Subtitle F—White Oak Resilience

SEC. 8601. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "White Oak Resilience Act".

SEC. 8602. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition shall be established—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and private and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter titled "White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter" adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or any successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local, private, and nongovernmental restoration of white oak in the United States; and

(2) to make program and policy recommendations, consistent with applicable forest management plans, with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and resiliency of white oak;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between forest landowners, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oak;

(E) outreach to forest landowners with white oak or white oak regeneration potential; and

(F) options and policies necessary to improve the quality and quantity of white oak in tree nurseries.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for administrative support, technical services, and development and dissemination of educational materials as the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary, as applicable, determines necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 8603. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in such forests through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable forest management plans.

(b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects required under subsection (a) shall be carried out on national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under subsection (a).

(d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8604. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK HABITAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the "White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program" (in this section referred to as the "Program").

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak within the United States;

(2) collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives;

(3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and conservation activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes restoration outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(4) establish the voluntary grant and technical assistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall consult with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(2) the Governor of each State in which restoration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Program.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program include—

(1) coordinating restoration and conservation activities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities and conservation partners to address white oak restoration priorities;

(2) improving and regenerating white oak and upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such forests provide;

(3) carrying out coordinated restoration and conservation activities that lead to the increased growth of species of white oak in native white oak regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

(4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under changing climate conditions;

(5) engaging the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities for species of white oak; and

(6) increasing scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out such coordinated restoration and conservation activities.

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program (in this section referred to as the "grant program") to achieve the purposes of the Program, as described in subsection (d).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this subsection referred to as the "Foundation") to manage and administer the grant program.

(B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, after the Secretary enters into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation under subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall, for each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out this subsection in an advance payment of the entire amount on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

(3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out the grant program shall be subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

(f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8605. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) develop and implement a national strategy to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of tree seedlings; and

(2) coordinate such strategy with—

(A) the national reforestation strategy of the Forest Service; and

(B) each regional implementation plan for national forests.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on the best available science and data; and

(2) identify and address—

(A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot and container tree seedlings;

(B) regional reforestation opportunities and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such opportunities;

(C) opportunities to enhance seedling diversity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

(D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or creating new infrastructure to increase nursery capacity.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.

Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv)) is amended by inserting "and sustainable aviation fuel" after "diesel-equivalent fuel".

SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.

Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

"(G) PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordination with the Secretary, shall provide educational materials to procuring agencies to consider the longevity of a product, economic savings, and the efficacy and performance of a product when making procurement decisions under this subsection."; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(aa) by inserting "and the Secretary" after "Policy"; and

(bb) by striking "information concerning—" and inserting "a report that describes, for the year covered by the report—";

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting ", including the actions taken by the procuring agency to establish and implement the biobased procurement program of the procuring agency under that paragraph" before the semicolon;

(III) in subclause (IV), by striking "and" at the end;

(IV) in subclause (V), by striking "and" at the end; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

"(VI)(aa) the specific categories of biobased products that are unavailable to meet procurement needs of the procuring agencies; and

"(bb) the desired performance characteristics and other relevant specifications for those products; and

"(VII) if applicable, an explanation of the procurement requirement or updated procurement requirement established under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies failed to meet and reasons for the failure; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation with the Secretary, shall annually—

"(i) collect the information required to be reported under subparagraph (B) and make the information publicly available;

"(ii) using the information collected under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, document relevant procuring agencies under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applicable, have established a procurement program in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i)(I); and

"(iii) make the information publicly available, subject to the exemptions from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.";

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting "AND NAPCS" before "CODES";

(ii) by inserting "and North American Product Classification System codes" before "for—"; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

"(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers and biobased products manufacturers; and

"(B) renewable chemicals and biobased products."; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that provides—

"(A) the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

"(B) recommendations to implement any bioeconomy-related changes as part of the 2027 revisions of the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes; and

"(C) an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Product Classification System codes would have on the measurement by the agency of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy."; and

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2024" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting "or innovative" before "commercial-scale"; and

(B) by inserting ", renewable chemicals, or biobased products" after "end-user products";

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking all that precedes "a loan guarantee" and inserting the following:

"(B) FEASIBILITY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving"; and

(ii) by adding after and below the end the following:

"(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement that the applicant must demonstrate commercial viability for projects adopting commercially available technology.";

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each project applicant that clearly outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary determines successful technical feasibility of the project under this section.

"(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement provided under clause (i) shall include clear guidelines and expectations for the methodologies, protocols, and procedures, and what the eligible technology must demonstrate, for the Department to determine technical feasibility from an integrated demonstration unit, including—

"(I) a set timeline for the integrated demonstration unit campaign and final technical report to show reliable evidence of continuous, steady-state production;

"(II) criteria and methods for evaluating the project's success, including any third-party assessments or evaluations that may be conducted during the demonstration period and at the conclusion of the set timeline;

"(III) criteria and methods to prove the ability of the integrated demonstration unit to use project-specific feedstock for the production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, or biobased products at a yield and quality consistent with the design basis of the project;

"(IV) required information and conditions that demonstrate operation duration, quality, and quantity specifications; and

"(V) any other information that, if supplied to the Secretary, would assist the eligible entity in sufficiently demonstrating a project's technical feasibility.

"(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT.—

"(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION.—If a project applicant fails to comply with the technical feasibility requirements as provided under clause (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written notice to the project applicant detailing the specific deficiencies and providing a reasonable timeframe for the project applicant to rectify the issues.

"(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PERIOD.—The project applicant shall have a period of not more than 90 days from the date of issuance of the noncompliance notice to address the identified deficiencies and submit a revised technical feasibility assessment for reconsideration.

"(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY APPROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the conditions of agreement established under clause (ii) or approval of the revised technical feasibility assessment under clause (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the project to be technically feasible."; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking all that precedes "is authorized" and inserting the following:

"(g) FUNDING.—There"; and

(B) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, $18,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by inserting after section 9003 the following:

"SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

"(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue rules implementing national uniform labeling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the following terms in the labeling and marketing of bioproducts:

"(A) Bio-attributed plastic.

"(B) Bio-attributed product.

"(C) Biobased plastic.

"(D) Plant-based product.

"(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS.—In implementing the national uniform labeling standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include the following terms, as defined in section 9001:

"(A) Biobased product.

"(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

"(C) Renewable biomass.

"(D) Renewable chemical.

"(b) CONSULTATION.—In defining terms under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

"(1) biomanufacturers;

"(2) entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts;

"(3) feedstock growers; and

"(4) other industry stakeholders.".

SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED BIOFUELS.

Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'Program')" after "Program";

(2) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ", cost savings," after "savings";

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) the potential of the proposed program to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business.";

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting ", agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500 employees," before "and rural";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

"(G) the potential improvements to the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business; and"; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking "$25,000,000" and inserting "$50,000,000";

(4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and inserting after subsection (c) the following:

"(d) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall develop a streamlined application process, including within each tier described in subsection (c)(4), under which an entity may apply for a grant under subsection (b), financial assistance under subsection (c), or a bundled application for a project with components eligible under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(A).";

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "OUTREACH" and inserting "OUTREACH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION";

(B) by striking "that adequate" and inserting the following: "that—

"(1) adequate";

(C) in paragraph (1) (as inserted by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) technical assistance is provided to entities seeking to apply for a grant or financial assistance under the Program; and

"(3) outreach, technical assistance, and education is provided to recipients of grants and other financial assistance under the Program relating to integrating renewable energy projects on land shared with crops or livestock.";

(6) in subsection (g), (as so redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) RESERVE FUND.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds obligated under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year , not less than 10 percent shall be deposited in a reserve fund in the Treasury and reserved for use in accordance with this subparagraph.

"(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts reserved under subparagraph (A) to provide grants to support projects using underutilized renewable energy technologies.

"(ii) COSTS.—The amount of the grant for such a project shall not exceed 25 percent of the installation or maintenance costs of the project for the year in which the grant is awarded.

"(C) FREQUENCY OF SOLICITATIONS TO FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out at least 2 solicitations for applications for grants from the reserve fund in each fiscal year.

"(D) REALLOCATION.—Any funds reserved under subparagraph (A) that remain unobligated 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in which made available under subparagraph (A) shall be reallocated to carry out the program established under this section.

"(E) DEFINITION OF UNDERUTILIZED RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.—The term 'underutilized renewable energy technologies' means renewable energy technologies for which have been expended not more than 20 percent of the average of the total amounts made available under this section for the 5 fiscal years most recently ending before the date of the enactment of this paragraph."; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

"(h) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—In approving grant or loan guarantee applications under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as possible of technologies, products, and approaches are assisted.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 9007 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking "subsection (f)" each place it appears and inserting "subsection (g)".

SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.

Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "2026" and inserting "2031"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "2026" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 9014. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of covered farmland out of agricultural production in accordance with this section.

"(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall—

"(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel installations on covered farmland, including the effects on—

"(A) crop yields;

"(B) land values, including adjacent properties;

"(C) land access and tenure;

"(D) local economies; and

"(E) food security;

"(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installation, operation, and decommissioning on covered farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

"(A) soil health;

"(B) water resources;

"(C) wildlife;

"(D) vegetation;

"(E) water drainage; and

"(F) air quality;

"(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy and agricultural production on covered farmland, including best practices to—

"(A) maintain or increase agricultural production;

"(B) increase agricultural resilience;

"(C) retain covered farmland;

"(D) increase economic opportunities in farming and rural communities, including new revenue streams and job creation;

"(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of covered farmland; and

"(F) enhance biodiversity;

"(4) assess the types of agricultural land best suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and agricultural production;

"(5) study the compatibility of different species of livestock with different solar panel system designs, including—

"(A) the optimal height of and distance between solar panels for livestock grazing and shade for livestock;

"(B) manure management considerations;

"(C) fencing requirements; and

"(D) other animal-handling considerations;

"(6) study the compatibility of different crop types with different solar panel system designs, including—

"(A) the optimal height of and distance between solar panels for plant shading and farm equipment use; and

"(B) the impact on crop yield;

"(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Federal, State, or local tax incentives result in the development of covered farmland under study;

"(8) recommend effective incentives that could shift solar panel installations toward the built environment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated sites;

"(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs administered by the Federal Government related to solar energy development that—

"(A) result in the development of contaminated lands, the built environment, and other preferred sites; and

"(B) discourage solar panel installations that would convert covered farmland out of agricultural production; and

"(10) estimate the loss of agricultural production on covered farmland due to solar panel installations.

"(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary of Energy, while conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall consult with—

"(1) farmers;

"(2) ranchers;

"(3) landowners;

"(4) agricultural organizations;

"(5) State departments of agriculture and energy;

"(6) units of local government;

"(7) conservation organizations;

"(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

"(9) solar developers.

"(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a written report on the findings of the study and recommendations under this section.

"(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term 'covered farmland' includes—

"(A) farmland, as defined in section 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

"(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

"(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term 'brownfield site' has the meaning given that term in section 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

"(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.".

SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 9015. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term 'covered farmland' includes—

"(A) farmland, as defined in section 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

"(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

"(2) CONVERSION.—The term 'conversion' means, with respect to covered farmland, any activity that results in the covered farmland failing to meet the requirements of a State (as defined in section 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural production, activity, or use or timber harvest.

"(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

"(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide financial assistance for a project that would result in the conversion of covered farmland for solar energy production.

"(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to a project if the project—

"(1) results in the conversion of less than 5 acres of covered farmland; or

"(2) results in the conversion of less than 50 acres of covered farmland with—

"(A) the majority of the energy produced being for on-farm use; and

"(B) receipt of a resolution of approval or support, or other similar instrument, from each county and municipality in which the project is sited.

"(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

"(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary for financial assistance for a project to which subsection (c)(2) applies shall—

"(A) develop a farmland conservation plan for the project to—

"(i) implement best practices to protect future soil health and productivity, and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and other effects of solar energy production during construction, operation, and decommissioning; and

"(ii) remediate and restore the soil health of the farmland to that of the farmland before the solar energy production project construction; and

"(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as determined by the Secretary, are provided for the decommissioning of the solar energy production system and the remediation and restoration of covered farmland to carry out the farmland conservation plan described in subparagraph (A).

"(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial assistance for a project described in paragraph (1), but shall not disburse the financial assistance until the Secretary has determined that the applicant for the financial assistance has complied with paragraph (1).

"(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1) shall carry out—

"(A) the provisions of the plan that are described in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt by the project of financial assistance from the Secretary and for the duration of solar energy production under the project; and

"(B) the provisions of the plan that are described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation of solar energy production under the project.

"(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to comply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the person for the project.

"(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not provide financial assistance for a project that procures a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manufactured, or assembled—

"(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

"(2) by—

"(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by such a foreign country; or

"(B) a foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).".

SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.

The Secretary shall establish a Departmentwide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels by—

(1) facilitating the collaboration between relevant Department mission areas to encourage the advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply chain, including utilization of agricultural crops grown for sustainable aviation fuels production;

(2) identifying opportunities to maximize sustainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and commercialization;

(3) leveraging the capabilities of America's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to capture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market;

(4) supporting rural economic development through sustainable aviation fuels production; and

(5) promoting public-private partnerships for the development, deployment, and commercialization of sustainable aviation fuels.

SEC. 9014. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR PUMPING SYSTEMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.

(2) Improving the efficiency of agricultural irrigation pumping systems can save up to 22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year and eliminate 8,300,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

(3) Energy savings from electrifying agricultural irrigation pumping systems can save farmers and ranchers more than $1,800,000,000 annually in energy costs.

(4) Pumping systems play a central role in the watering of livestock and the management of animal waste in every State.

(5) Pumping systems are a critical component of the Nation's $2,300,000,000 aquaculture industry.

(6) Improving the efficiency of pumping systems used in raising livestock and fish can significantly reduce energy use, save producers millions of dollars annually, and provide meaningful reductions in carbon emissions.

(7) Agricultural irrigation pumping systems utilizing plastic piping can provide significant drought relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37 percent of the Nation's surface and ground water, 30 percent of which is lost to seepage and evaporation.

(8) Reducing the friction in piping used for agricultural irrigation and livestock watering can provide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10 miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for crops and livestock.

(9) Solar pumping systems can play an important role in protecting riparian habitat and improving water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries through providing alternative watering options for livestock.

(b) INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to educate farmers on the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department easily accessible information on cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems.

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include information on—

(A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls that can provide energy savings and cost savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon emissions; and

(B) Department programs that provide farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient pumping systems and drought management infrastructure, including the environmental quality incentives program, the Rural Energy for America Program, and the conservation stewardship program.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems and increase participation in Department programs that promote energy efficiency, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department a user-friendly tool to—

(A) assist farmers in making a preliminary assessment of the energy efficiency of existing pumping systems; and

(B) provide an estimate of potential energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1) provides a user with projected energy savings, projected cost savings, and projected carbon emissions reductions through the input by the user of the following data relating to an existing pumping system:

(i) Pump type.

(ii) Flow rating and actual flow.

(iii) Pressure rating and actual pressure.

(iv) Speed rating and actual speed.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1)—

(i) in assessing the energy efficiency of a pumping system, takes into consideration pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls associated with the pumping system; and

(ii) in projecting the energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements, takes into consideration the cost of electricity and the profile of the existing pumping system.

(d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to increase the effectiveness of Department of Agriculture energy efficiency programs, shall establish a process to educate persons performing energy efficiency audits for the Department of Agriculture on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of existing education and training programs focused on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting "and energy-efficient pumping systems" before ", as determined".

(f) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this section, the term "pumping system" means any pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations.

SEC. 9015. ADDING WASTE ENERGY RECOVERY TO THE RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

Section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(15)(A)) is amended by striking "or hydroelectric" and inserting "hydroelectric, or waste energy recovery".

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

Subtitle A—Horticulture

SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.

Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) by striking "specialty crops, including—" and inserting "specialty crops through priorities established annually by State program administrators in consultation with specialty crop producers and producer groups, including—"; and

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

"(e) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The State plan shall identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of carrying out the plan and indicate—

"(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

"(2) how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved.".

SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.

Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION.

Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "production" after "emerging agricultural";

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by inserting "controlled-environment agriculture, including" before "hydroponic"; and

(ii) by striking "and" at the end;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (H); and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide technical assistance for business incorporation, navigating local zoning, and managing farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous parcels to growers implementing activities described in this paragraph;

"(F) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to promote conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture and innovative production, including techniques that address stormwater runoff and the impacted nature of urban land and the subsurface of the land;

"(G) assisting urban and innovative producers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and local policies and regulations that impact business or operations; and";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking "the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B)" and inserting "September 30, 2031";

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(1) GRANTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production and technical or financial assistance to producers.

"(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A) to provide subgrants to urban and innovative producers to support the growth of the farm or farm business of the urban and innovative producers.

"(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under subparagraph (A) is—

"(i) a nonprofit organization;

"(ii) a unit of local government;

"(iii) a Tribal organization;

"(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association; or

"(v) a school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.

"(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production.

"(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to enter into cooperative agreements under subparagraph (A) is—

"(i) a nonprofit organization;

"(ii) a unit of local government;

"(iii) a Tribal organization; or

"(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association.";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "PILOT";

(B) by striking "pilot" each place it appears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that" and inserting "The Secretary shall continue to implement a program that";

(D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031"; and

(E) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and construct at-scale composting, food-to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects" before the period at the end; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "PILOT";

(II) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "Tribal governments," after "local governments,";

(III) by redesignating clauses (vi) through (viii) as clauses (vii) through (ix), respectively; and

(IV) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

"(vi) develop food waste-to-energy operations;"; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.

Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.

(a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (vii) as clauses (iii) through (viii), respectively;

(II) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

"(I) only industrial hemp; or

"(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;"; and

(III) in clause (iii), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph—

(aa) by inserting "except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i)," before "a procedure"; and

(bb) by striking "delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration" and inserting "total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "include any other practice" and inserting the following: "include—

"(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

"(ii) notwithstanding subsection (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

"(iii) any other practice"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or Indian tribe shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, only industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

"(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the documentation required under subparagraph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).";

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking "delta-9" and all that follows through "percent" and inserting the following: "total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant"; and

(3) in subsection (e)(3)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) REPORTING.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State department of agriculture or a Tribal Government with respect to which a State or Tribal plan is approved under subsection (b), such State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) shall immediately report a hemp producer to the Attorney General and, as applicable, the chief law enforcement officer of the State or Indian tribe, if the State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) determines that the hemp producer has—

"(I) violated the State or Tribal plan with a culpable mental state greater than negligence; or

"(II) violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii).

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to—

"(I) a violation described in subclause (I) of clause (i); or

"(II) the production of a crop inconsistent with its designation, as described in subclause (II) of such clause.";

(B) in subparagraph (B), by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any person growing hemp that designates the type of production as only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

"(I) the State or Tribal plan approved under subsection (b) includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

"(II) the plan established by the Secretary under section 297C includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section."; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person who knowingly produces a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be ineligible to participate in the program established under this section for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the violation.".

(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639q) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "paragraph (1) shall" and all that follows through "practice to maintain" and inserting the following: "paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall include—

"(i) a practice to maintain";

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and moving the margins of such subclauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through (vi), respectively, and moving the margins of such clauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

(iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as designated by clause (i) of this subparagraph) the following:

"(ii) a procedure under which the Secretary shall require a hemp producer to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

"(I) only industrial hemp; or

"(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;";

(v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

(I) by inserting "except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i)," before "a procedure"; and

(II) by striking "delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration" and inserting "total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)";

(vi) in clause (v) (as redesignated by clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(vii) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(viii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) may include—

"(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

"(ii) notwithstanding section 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

"(iii) such other practices or procedures as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, to the extent that the practice or procedure is consistent with this subtitle."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

"(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the appropriate documentation required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).."; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated), the following:

"(i) the designation of the type of production of the hemp producers under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;"; and

(iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of this section.".

(c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "**REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES**" and inserting "**ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES**"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES" and inserting "ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this subtitle.".

SEC. 10006. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED PARTIES.

Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED PARTIES.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term 'covered microorganism'—

"(A) means a genetically engineered microorganism that is a plant pest or may pose a plant pest risk; and

"(B) does not include listed agents or toxins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8401(l))).

"(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The term 'covered unauthorized release' means an unauthorized release of a covered microorganism, including such a release that a responsible party suspects took place.

"(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'pilot program' means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

"(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term 'plant pest risk' has the meaning given such term in section 340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

"(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term 'responsible party' means a partnership, corporation, association, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

"(A) has a physical address in the United States;

"(B) is not owned by or otherwise affiliated with the government of a country of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

"(C) has more than 1 responsible party biocontainment facility;

"(D) employs quality control personnel that are capable of overseeing the movement and control of covered microorganisms;

"(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant pests pursuant to permits granted by the Secretary under this Act;

"(F) has the ability and resources to ensure compliance with the requirements under subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot program;

"(G) has implemented the precautions specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unauthorized release of covered microorganisms; and

"(H) has not, during the 5-year period preceding the date on which the relevant application is submitted under subsection (c)—

"(i) caused an unauthorized release of a plant pest;

"(ii) materially failed to comply with a permit granted by the Secretary for the interstate movement of plant pests; or

"(iii) violated any provision of this section (including regulations promulgated thereunder).

"(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT FACILITY.—The term 'responsible party biocontainment facility'—

"(A) means a physical structure or portion thereof, constructed and maintained in order to contain plant pests, that is under the control of, or operated by, a responsible party within the contiguous United States; and

"(B) includes sites under the control of, or operated by, any parent organization, subsidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

"(1) to move covered microorganisms in interstate commerce between responsible party biocontainment facilities without a permit; and

"(2) to maintain control over and dispose of such covered microorganisms.

"(c) APPLICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept applications from responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot program during a 45-day application period, beginning on the date on which the pilot program is established under subsection (b), using a web-based application process established by the Secretary.

"(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot program shall include the following:

"(A) The name and contact information of the responsible party and any agent of the responsible party that will be involved in the movement of a covered microorganism.

"(B) The methods by which a covered microorganism will be moved and the measures taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized release of the covered microorganism.

"(C) The manner in which a shipping container, packaging material, or any other material accompanying the covered microorganism will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized release of a covered microorganism.

"(D) A list of responsible party biocontainment facilities to which the responsible party intends to move covered microorganisms.

"(E) A list of the predominant covered microorganism chassis strains that, at the time of the application, the responsible party intends to move.

"(F) A sworn certification that the responsible party meets each criterion specified in subsection (a)(5).

"(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party may submit a supplemental application to the Secretary to update a list under subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a determination with respect to such supplemental application not later than 30 days after the date on which such supplemental application is submitted to the Secretary.

"(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only deny a supplemental application if the Secretary has made the determination set forth in subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supplemental application shall be subject to appeal in accordance with the terms specified in subsection (d)(3).

"(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

"(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) evaluate applications received under subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the applications are received; and

"(B) approve or deny all applications received during the period described in that subsection not later than 45 days after the end of that period.

"(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an application received under subsection (c)(1) if—

"(A) the Secretary has already selected 75 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot program; or

"(B) the Secretary determines that the responsible party submitting the application does not meet each criterion specified in subsection (a)(5).

"(3) APPEAL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose application has been denied under paragraph (2) may submit to the Secretary a written appeal within—

"(i) the 10-day period beginning on the date on which the responsible party receives written notification of the denial; or

"(ii) a longer period, if the responsible party makes a request for additional time to submit such appeal and the Secretary grants such request.

"(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall, within a reasonably prompt period, grant or deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writing, which shall include the reasons for the decision.

"(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

"(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered microorganisms in a manner that prevents unauthorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of those covered microorganisms in the environment;

"(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit under this Act, only move a covered microorganism between sites that are responsible party biocontainment facilities;

"(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each covered microorganism separately from other organisms;

"(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that covered microorganism;

"(5) use, at a minimum, a package for movement—

"(A) that consists of a securely sealed inner and outer container, each of which is an effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized dissemination of the covered microorganism;

"(B) the inner container of which—

"(i) contains all of the applicable covered microorganism; and

"(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such a manner as to remain sealed during any shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

"(C) the outer container of which is rigid and strong enough to withstand typical shipping conditions (such as dropping, stacking, and impact from other freight) without opening;

"(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

"(A) to sample materials associated with the interstate movement of covered microorganisms under the pilot program;

"(B) to observe and inspect the interstate movement of those covered microorganisms; and

"(C) to audit records of the activities of the responsible party under the pilot program;

"(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of all activities carried out under the pilot program to demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements;

"(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to each responsible party biocontainment facility for inspection in relation to a responsible party's enrollment in the pilot program; and

"(9) comply with any additional requirement for the containment of covered microorganisms in interstate commerce that the Secretary may require if—

"(A) the Secretary determines that such an additional requirement is reasonable; and

"(B) the sole purpose of such additional requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized release.

"(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take no action or promulgate any regulation that—

"(1) treats genetically engineered covered microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically engineered covered microorganisms; or

"(2) limits the quantity or type of covered microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot program between responsible party biocontainment facilities.

"(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A responsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly report that describes the activities of the responsible party under the pilot program during the period covered by the report, including—

"(1) a description of each covered microorganism moved in interstate commerce, including—

"(A) the 1 or more countries or localities at which the covered microorganism was collected, developed, manufactured, reared, cultivated, or cultured, as applicable;

"(B) the genus, species, and any relevant subspecies and common name information of the covered microorganism; and

"(C) when applicable, a brief description of the genetic modifications made in the microorganism, including—

"(i) the intended phenotype that the 1 or more modifications are expected to confer;

"(ii) any targeted deletions, insertions, or base pair substitutions; and

"(iii) the genetic elements used in imparting the modification, including the name, donor organism, and a brief description of the function;

"(2) each method by which the covered microorganism was moved in interstate commerce;

"(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism moved in interstate commerce; and

"(4) the specific responsible party biocontainment facilities between which the covered microorganism was moved in interstate commerce.

"(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

"(1) contact the applicable office within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within 48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized release; and

"(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later than 5 business days after the date of that discovery.

"(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall terminate the enrollment of a responsible party in the pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual basis to determine that—

"(A) the responsible party no longer meets the eligibility criteria of a responsible party described in subsection (a)(5);

"(B) the responsible party has materially failed to comply with the requirements under subsection (e); or

"(C) as a result of a failure by a responsible party under subparagraph (B), the responsible party caused a covered unauthorized release during the pilot program.

"(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Secretary terminates the enrollment of a responsible party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

"(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a responsible party that seeks to appeal a termination of enrollment under paragraph (1).

"(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which the Secretary completes the application selection process under subsection (d)(1)(B).

"(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of termination of the pilot program described in subsection (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

"(1) the activities carried out under the pilot program, including—

"(A) the quantities and identities of covered microorganisms that were moved; and

"(B) a description of any unauthorized release of covered microorganisms that were moved, including a description of the cause and consequence of any unauthorized release; and

"(2) recommendations on—

"(A) whether the pilot program should become a permanent program; and

"(B) whether, as a permanent program, changes should be made to the criteria for a responsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to the requirements under subsection (e).".

Subtitle B—Marketing

SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.

Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended—

(1) by inserting "mandarin oranges," after "oranges,";

(2) by inserting "almonds," after "onions,"; and

(3) by striking ", other than dates for processing," each place it appears.

SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.

Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) FOOD HUB.—The term 'food hub' means a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products to multiple buyers from multiple producers, who are pri-

marily local and regional producers, to strengthen the ability of such producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, retail, and institutional demands.";

(2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting ", regional food chain coordination," after "collaboration";

(3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking "stakeholders" and inserting "stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (I), by striking "or";

(ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following:

"(K) to support the purchase of special purpose equipment."; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(II) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

"(vii) a food hub;";

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "applications that" and inserting "applications, outreach, and technical assistance that would";

(II) in clause (i), by striking "or" at the end;

(III) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(IV) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) provide greater geographic balance relative to the benefits of the Program; or"; and

(V) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by striking "are used" and inserting "be used";

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for eligible entities described in subparagraph (B) that—

"(I) request less than $100,000; and

"(II) choose from the project categories described in clause (ii), which shall include a specific, limited set of key activities with predefined requirements established by the Secretary.

"(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for the following project categories but may include additional project categories as necessary:

"(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-consumer project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

"(aa) An outreach and promotion project.

"(bb) A project to provide funding for farmers market manager staff time.

"(cc) A project to provide vendor training.

"(dd) A planning and design project.

"(ee) A data collection and evaluation project.

"(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and regional food market and enterprise project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

"(aa) A food hub feasibility study project.

"(bb) A project to provide funding for regional food chain coordination staff time.

"(cc) A project to provide technical assistance.

"(dd) A data collection and evaluation project.

"(ee) A project to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.";

(5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking "2019 through 2023" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "2026 through 2031 to support partnerships—

"(i) to plan a local or regional food system;

"(ii) to implement a local or regional food system plan;

"(iii) to develop and implement a regional food chain coordination project; and

"(iv) to develop and implement a regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation project.";

(6) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "subsection (d); or" and inserting "subsection (d)(5);";

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) are eligible to submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or"; and

(7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

(A) by striking "Of the funds" and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 50 percent, shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).".

SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first request for applications under this section that occurs at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 6 months before such a request for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry.

"(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall consider the information provided through the consultation required under paragraph (1) when making grants under this section."; and

(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INITIATIVE.

Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk, through support from regional and national programs, including regularly reported data related to—

"(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs, including—

"(i) the prices for major organic feedstuffs produced domestically;

"(ii) the prices for imported major organic feedstuffs; and

"(iii) all other costs relating to the production of organic milk;

"(B) the establishment of an Organic All Milk Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to the existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to gather and report monthly data about the amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid for organic milk and prices received for organic dairy cows, including—

"(i) national data; and

"(ii) data relating to, at a minimum, the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of organic dairy production; and

"(C) periodic organic milk reporting under which the Secretary, using data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural Marketing Service, publishes new periodic reports that include, or add to existing periodic reports relating to, data for organic milk, which shall be equivalent to data reported for conventionally produced milk."; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.

(a) REPORTS.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

(b) ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

"SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs implemented by a covered agency.

"(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'covered agency' means—

"(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;
"(2) the Agricultural Research Service;
"(3) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;
"(4) the Farm Service Agency;
"(5) the Risk Management Agency;
"(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
"(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;
"(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and
"(9) other agencies, as determined by the Secretary.".

(c) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is amended by striking "for fiscal year 2023" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031".

SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that examines—

(1) the process by which domestic commodities or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the solicitation process used to procure such commodities or products;

(2) barriers to entry into such procurement process that are for nontraditional, culturally relevant, or local and regional commodities or products;

(3) the diet quality and accessibility of commodities or products that are so procured; and

(4) the Secretary's recommendations for administrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to improve such procurement process.

SEC. 10107. DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (22) as paragraphs (22) through (24), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (19) as paragraphs (17) through (20), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

"(16) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term 'oversight protocols' means the regulations, policies, and procedures issued by the Secretary under the authorities provided in sections 2104, 2107, 2114, 2115, 2116, and 2120."; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so redesignated, the following:

"(21) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term 'risk to organic integrity' means the likelihood that a product marketed as organically produced is, or contains, an agricultural product that was not produced using a system of organic farming in compliance with this title, not processed in compliance with this title, or both.".

SEC. 10108. MODERNIZATION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS.

Paragraph (5) of section 2107(a) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) provide for annual inspections by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that has been certified under this title, which inspections shall be—

"(A) in the case of a farm or handling operation site located outside of the United States, conducted on-site;

"(B) in the case of a farm or handling operation site located in the United States, conducted on-site once every three years with intervening annual inspections being conducted on-site or virtually based on the farm's or han-

dling operation's risk to organic integrity, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(C) in the case of a handling operation that acquires but does not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products, conducted through inspection methods, including virtual methods, that provide sufficient assurance of compliance, as determined by the Secretary;".

SEC. 10109. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), as amended by section 10105, is further amended by inserting after section 2122B (as added by such section 10105) the following:

"SEC. 2122C. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

"(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study for the purpose of determining whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to organic integrity and the implementation of related reforms are necessary and appropriate.

"(b) ELEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine the feasibility, opportunities, and implications of implementing oversight protocols that—

"(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;

"(B) include differential treatment of non-compliance that increases the risk to organic integrity versus non-compliance that does not;

"(C) adopt standardized organic plans under section 2114 aligned with the risk to organic integrity;

"(D) include a multi-tiered approach to certification aligned with the risk to organic integrity and the scale of the organic operation; and

"(E) provide increased guidance and interpretations of standards and criteria established under this title given by the National Organic Program to certifying agents and to certified organic farms and handling operations.

"(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FACTORS.—In administering paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with respect to certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents, take into account—

"(A) the scope of certification or accreditation of each entity;

"(B) the scale and complexity of each entity;

"(C) the domestic or international location of each entity;

"(D) the history of compliance of each entity; and

"(E) other relevant factors.

"(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and make publicly available on the websites of the Department of Agriculture, a report describing the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

"(d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

"(1) the National Organic Standards Board;

"(2) certifying agents;

"(3) certified organic farms and handling operations;

"(4) organic consumers; and

"(5) other relevant organic stakeholders.

"(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

"(1) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Based on the findings described in the report under subsection (c), and after consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary may issue regulations to establish or modify oversight protocols under this title that the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate, provided such regulations maintain strong organic integrity, support a resilient domestic organic sector, and are consistent with the requirements of this title.

"(2) REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS; PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing the regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek to—

"(A) reduce oversight costs and administrative burdens for certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents that present a lower risk to organic integrity; or

"(B) prioritize oversight resources for activities that present a higher risk to organic integrity.

"(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

"(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

"(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

"(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the Secretary's authority to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic integrity.".

Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform

PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (v) to read as follows:

"(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant regulator' means any substance or mixture of substances intended, through physiological action, for accelerating or retarding the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants or the produce thereof.

"(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not include—

"(A) substances to the extent that they are—

"(i) intended to be produced and used within a plant; or

"(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant inoculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hormone products; or

"(B) plant biostimulants that—

"(i) have a low-risk profile in relation to humans and other organisms, as determined by the Agency; and

"(ii) are of biological origin or include chemical compounds that are synthetically derived, but structurally-similar and functionally identical to, substances of biological origin.";

(2) in subsection (hh)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "or";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "substances." and inserting "substances"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "volatilization urease" and inserting "volatilization, or urease";

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) a plant biostimulant; or

"(5) a nutritional chemical."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term 'plant biostimulant' means any substance or mixture of substances that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil or other growth media, acts to support a plant's natural nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content of that substance or mixture of substances, and that thereby improves—

"(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use efficiency;

"(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

"(3) consequent growth, development, quality, or yield.

"(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term 'nutritional chemical' means any substance or mixture of substances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in acquiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

"(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term 'vitamin hormone product' means a product that—

"(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones, plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimulants, or vitamins that is intended for the improvement, maintenance, survival, health, and propagation of plants;

"(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undiluted packaged concentrations of the product; and

"(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites and is labeled accordingly.

"(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant-incorporated protectant' means a pesticide that is—

"(A) intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

"(B) a substance or mixture of substances intended to be produced and used within a living plant, or in the produce thereof, and the genetic material necessary for its production.

"(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)).".

(b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

"(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Administrator may exempt from the requirements of this Act by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator determines either—

"(A) to be adequately regulated by another Federal agency; or

"(B) to be of a character which is unnecessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

"(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANTS.—

"(A) EXEMPTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance of guidance as described in subparagraph (B), plant-incorporated protectants resulting from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool are exempt from the requirements of this Act.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-incorporated protectant arising from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool shall not be exempt from the requirements of this Act if the Administrator determines that such plant-incorporated protectant is of a character which is necessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

"(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Administrator shall issue guidance for the implementation of subparagraph (A). The Administrator may update such guidance, as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

"(C) ORDER.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator makes a determination described in subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a plant-incorporated protectant, the Administrator shall issue an order explaining the basis for such determination, which may be issued directly to any person who owns, controls, or has custody of such plant-incorporated protectant or published in the Federal Register.

"(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After receipt or publication of an order described in clause (i), the plant-incorporated protectant described in the order will no longer be exempt from the requirements of this Act.

"(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The residue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be exempt from the requirement for a tolerance under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and until such time as, the Administrator issues or publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).".

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))";

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).";

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking "(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))".

SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.

Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) COORDINATION.—

"(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk mitigation measures are required for any pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

"(A) develop such measures in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

"(B) conduct, and publish in the docket, with the corresponding action, an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures.

"(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

"(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFORMATION.—With regard to the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act and for making a determination under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, so that the Administrator has for the Administrator's use and consideration for such processes—

"(i) agronomic use data from—

"(I) the Department of Agriculture; and

"(II) industry; and

"(ii) any information relating to the availability and economic viability of alternatives to such pesticide.

"(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When issuing any decision resulting from the processes referred to in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall publish—

"(i) a description of the use by the Administrator of any data or information provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) the determination of the Administrator on whether to use such data or information, including, as applicable, the reasons that the data or information was not used.

"(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce—

"(A) to review the development of any such actions and measures that are a result of consultations relating to actions under this Act;

"(B) to fully consider the risks and benefits of any such actions and measures in a manner consistent with practices established to evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide registered under this Act; and

"(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce on decisions relating to any such actions and measures that may affect end users of a pesticide registered under this Act.

"(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements imposed by this subsection may be waived or modified for a specific action to the extent agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registrant so long as such agreement is published by the Administrator in the docket for the corresponding action.".

SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking "The Administrator shall" and inserting the following:

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all meetings of the interagency working group.";

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (iv)—

(i) by striking "every 180 days thereafter" and inserting "each year thereafter"; and

(ii) by striking "during the 5-year period beginning on that date"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports required under this subparagraph shall be published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency."; and

(3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:

"(E) CONSULTATION.—

"(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the working group shall, as appropriate—

"(I) consult, including through public meetings, with representatives of interested industry stakeholders and nongovernmental organizations not less than once every year; and

"(II) take into consideration factors, such as actual and potential differences in interest between, and the views of, those stakeholders and organizations.

"(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING GROUP.—Before the Administrator implements any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act, the Administrator shall—

"(I) consult with the covered agencies on the policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program and take into consideration input received; and

"(II) publish the input received from the covered agencies in the docket with the corresponding policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program.".

SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.

(a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "the registration review of" and inserting "the interim registration review decision of"; and

(2) in subclause (I), by striking "2022" and inserting "2031".

(b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered interim registration review decision shall include, where applicable, measures to reduce the effects of the applicable pesticide on—

"(aa) species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

"(bb) any designated critical habitat.

"(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing measures described in subclause (I), the Administrator shall take into account the input received from the Secretary of Agriculture and other members of the interagency working group established under subsection (c)(11).

"(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered interim registration review decision' means an interim registration review decision—

"(aa) that is associated with an initial registration review described in clause (iii);

"(bb) that is noticed in the Federal Register during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this clause and ending on October 1, 2031; and

"(cc) for which the Administrator has not, as of the date on which the decision is noticed in the Federal Register, made effects determinations or completed any necessary consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)).".

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

SEC. 10205. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(b)) shall be applied to require uniformity in pesticide labeling nationally, and to prohibit any State, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, or a court from directly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any requirements for, or penalize or hold liable, any entity for failing to comply with requirements that would require labeling or packaging that is in addition to or different from the labeling or packaging approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the "Administrator") under

such Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.), including any requirements relating to warnings on such labeling or packaging, provided that the entity is not in material violation of subparagraph (M), (Q), or (R) of section 12(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136j(a)(2)), for which the entity has been penalized pursuant to section 14 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136l).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority of States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v).

SEC. 10206. AUTHORITY OF STATES.

Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "**AND LOCALITIES**" after "**STATES**"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) LOCAL REGULATION.—A political subdivision of a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any requirement relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to regulation—

"(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or

"(2) by the Administrator under this Act.".

SEC. 10207. LAWFUL USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.

Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) LAWFUL USE OF REGISTERED PESTICIDES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the use, application, or discharge of a registered pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under this Act shall be permitted and considered lawful, without further permitting or approval requirements.".

PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM PROVISIONS

SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.

Section 10109(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and make publicly available, the survey described in subsection (a).

"(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

"(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The administration of this section shall be made without regard to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).".

SEC. 10212. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such aerial application is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

(b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply to any aerial application described in such subsection that is conducted before the effective date of a permit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the requirements described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term "covered entity" means—

(A) any Federal agency, agency of a State or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agency authorized by law to conduct an aerial application of fire

retardants and water enhancers for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities; and

(B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other agent of an agency described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER ENHANCER.—The term "covered fire retardant and water enhancer" means a fire retardant and water enhancer that—

(A) has been evaluated, qualified, and approved by the Secretary; and

(B) appears on the most current Forest Service Qualified Products List.

(3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms "discharge" and "State" have the meanings given those terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 10213. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the following:

"SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture related to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies, while taking into account the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

"(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

"(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall—

"(1) develop and coordinate Department policy on biotechnology and related topics;

"(2) coordinate activities and services of the Department on biotechnology and related topics, including—

"(A) research and development;

"(B) extension and education;

"(C) communication;

"(D) regulation and labeling; and

"(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

"(3) assist other offices and agencies of the Department in fulfilling their responsibilities related to biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

"(4) perform such other functions as may be required under Federal law or prescribed by the Secretary.

"(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties under subsection (c), the Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure coordination of interagency activities with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal and State agencies.

"(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall consult with biotechnology developers, academics, agricultural producers, and other entities that may be affected by biotechnology-related activities or actions of the Department or other Federal and State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office's responsibilities under this section.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.".

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee established by subsection (f).''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking "specialty crop" and inserting "livestock";

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in subsection (f)(2)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

"(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee (in this subsection referred to as 'the Committee'); and

"(B) appoint to the Committee in accordance with paragraph (2) the initial members that will assist the Corporation in the research, creation, and improvement of policies or plans of insurance for specialty crops.

"(2) COMPOSITION.—

"(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Committee shall be an individual with experience in crop insurance and the unique nature of the specialty crop industry.

"(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall consist of—

"(i) individuals with an understanding of the production methods, markets, and risks (including losses due to weather, trade damages, and supply chain disruptions) unique to specialty crop production;

"(ii) not less than 5 producers and not more than 10 total members; and

"(iii) not less than 1 producer from each of the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast regions of the United States (as identified by the Bureau of the Census).

"(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by this subsection shall—

"(A) advise the Manager of the Corporation on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

"(B) provide input, through the Chairperson of the Committee, to the Board on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

"(C) review available educational programs and make recommendations to the Manager of the Corporation on how to enhance the effectiveness of such programs for specialty crop producers;

"(D) provide recommendations to the Manager of the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board required by section 508(a)(6);

"(E) advise the Manager of the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522; and

"(F) meet not less than 2 times each year to carry out these duties.".

(b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops Coordinator shall have primary responsibility for addressing the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advice, in connection with the activities of the Corporation to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

"(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator shall—

"(i) act as the liaison of the Corporation with representatives of specialty crop producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee; and

"(ii) assist the Corporation with the knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the producers with risk management and production issues pertaining to specialty crops.".

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by inserting "(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee)" after "Corporation".

SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.

Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the Corporation may require each policyholder to provide to the Manager, at such times and in such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the name of each individual or other entity that acquires or holds a substantial beneficial interest in such policyholder.

"(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a policyholder that does not provide the information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the Manager at the time prescribed by the Manager, the Manager shall allow such policyholder to provide to the Manager such information at any time during the applicable crop year.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a policyholder that an approved insurance provider determines—

"(I) would receive disproportionate benefits under a crop insurance program as a result of failing to provide the information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the Manager at the time prescribed by the Manager; or

"(II) failed to provide such information to avoid an obligation or requirement under any State or Federal law."; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking "5 percent" and inserting "10 percent".

SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW PRODUCTS.

Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

"(A) review each policy or product developed under section 508(h) periodically for actuarial soundness; and

"(B) take such actions, in consultation with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of such section, as are necessary to improve the actuarial soundness of such policies and products.".

SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.

Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting "or a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)" before the period at the end.

SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading, by striking "CROPS AND"; and

(2) in section 508B(f), by striking "Effective beginning with the 2019 crop year" and inserting "Effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop year under—

"(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

"(2) agriculture risk coverage under section 1117.".

SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.

Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.—Effective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying a premium or administrative fee, an approved insurance provider may charge such producer with respect to such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to exceed 60 consecutive months) the producer is so delinquent.".

SEC. 11007. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

(a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking "5 years" and inserting "10 years"; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking "5-year" and inserting "10-year".

(b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by inserting "or veteran farmer or rancher" after "beginning farmer or rancher" each place it appears.

SEC. 11008. MARKETABILITY.

Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

"(iii) APPLICATION.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), this subparagraph shall apply with respect to a proposal only during the period preceding any approval of the proposal by the Board.

"(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved insurance provider that submits a letter of support for a concept proposal, a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

"(aa) not be considered the public for purposes of clause (ii);

"(bb) have access to data and other product development information submitted to the Board during its review under this subsection; and

"(cc) be subject to the confidentiality requirements as applicable to the Board pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii).";

(2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1 shall not be implemented for such reinsurance year unless at least 90 days prior to the sales closing date for such policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary, as determined by the Board, handbooks, training materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other material."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

"(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—Prior to the approval of a product, any approved insurance provider that submitted a letter of support for the product shall provide information and analysis to the Board on the marketability of such product.

"(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In reviewing a policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection, such product shall be deemed marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one approved insurance provider, in its submission pursuant to clause (i), expresses support for such policy, plan, or material.

"(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—In evaluating whether a product is marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into consideration any information and analysis submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

"(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The Board shall not require the submission of a letter of support from an approved insurance provider in order to review and approve any policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted pursuant to this subsection.".

SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS.

Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "not exceed";

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) by inserting "not exceed" before "for the"; and

(ii) by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(C) in clause (ii)—

(i) by striking "and subsequent" and inserting "through 2026";

(ii) by inserting "not exceed" before "for each"; and

(iii) by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, be determined in accordance with subparagraph (F).."; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

"(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REINSURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REINSURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established by the Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents with

respect to each policy made available under this Act shall be equal to the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.".

SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.

Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

"(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning in calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a qualified person to conduct a review, which shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation.";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "Effective beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year, based on the review, the Corporation" and inserting "Based on each review conducted under subparagraph (A), the Corporation";

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each review under subparagraph (A) shall include engagement from regionally diverse industry stakeholders for each agricultural commodity for which a quality loss adjustment is offered."; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each review under subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

"(i) the findings from that review;

"(ii) the changes to the quality loss adjustment procedures;

"(iii) the stakeholder engagement for that review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

"(iv) plans for establishing specific quality loss adjustment procedures for unique regions, as determined by the Secretary.".

SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 508D the following:

"SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period (as defined in section 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation)).

"(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

"(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties located within or adjacent to the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District in the State of Texas; and

"(2) operate for a period of not less than 4 crop years.

"(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall—

"(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop that is planted during the late planting period;

"(2) gather and analyze data to determine if the number of days beyond the final plant date in which a crop was planted during the late planting period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

"(3) determine if planting a crop after the final plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation from the Ogallala Aquifer.

"(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of the Senate a report that includes—

"(1) a summary of the results of the pilot program established under subsection (a);

"(2) an analysis of the correlation between planting date and final yields; and

"(3) any changes to existing policies that the Corporation intends to make as a result of the information obtained during the pilot program.

"(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made available in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use not more than $200,000 to enter into a partnership or cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization, State agency, or public university that is familiar with agricultural production in the region described in subsection (b)(1)

to conduct the research and evaluation required under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).".

SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this clause and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall—

"(I) review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture) to ensure such limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and

"(II) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes a summary of the most recent review conducted and any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.".

SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.

Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ", RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION" after "NOTIFICATION";

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking "shall notify in writing" and inserting "shall, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections)";

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "TIME FOR NOTIFICATION" and inserting "REQUIRED TIMING";

(B) by striking "Notice" and inserting the following:

"(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider through an initial finding under paragraph (1), such approved insurance provider may appeal such initial finding in writing.

"(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an approved insurance provider appeals pursuant to subparagraph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final finding in writing to such approved insurance provider.

"(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance provider shall have not more than 90 days after the receipt of the Corporation's final finding under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing, a final administrative determination, if such approved insurance provider has reason to believe that the Corporation's final finding under subparagraph (C) is not in accordance with—

"(i) the applicable laws, regulations, custom, or practice of the crop insurance industry; or

"(ii) the approved policy and procedure of the Corporation.

"(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Corporation shall have not more than 90 days after the receipt of a request for a final administrative determination under subparagraph (D) to provide such final administrative determination, unless substantial new information, as determined by the Corporation, is provided by the approved insurance provider.

"(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance provider shall have not more than 90 days after receipt of a final administrative determination provided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to appeal such determination to the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals."; and

(4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NOTIFY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to comply with the requirements under paragraph (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider from the debt owed to the Corporation.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any matters referred to the Office of the Inspector General or the Department of Justice.".

SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

(a) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(20) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to expand the availability of policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue for—

"(i) oilseeds, including camelina, carinata, and pennycress;

"(ii) alfalfa;

"(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible beans);

"(iv) sugarbeets;

"(v) sugarcane;

"(vi) blueberries; and

"(vii) other crops for which only individual yield-based insurance policies are available.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall make a policy described in subparagraph (A) available if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

"(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED PRICE.—In developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation may utilize alternative methods of determining a projected price for a crop, including the correlation of actual prices received for such crop to the futures markets prices of other commodities.

"(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasibility of creating a pricing library for agents and approved insurance providers using data from alternative sources, as determined by the Secretary.

"(E) DISCOUNT FACTOR.—For purposes of developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasibility of—

"(i) establishing a State or regional discount factor as an endorsement policy to provide coverage against losses of revenue due to quality discounts in soybeans; and

"(ii) an alternative to applying the term 'zero-market value' in the case of an available salvage market.

"(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

"(i) the crops for which research and development has been carried out under subparagraph (A);

"(ii) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A);

"(iii) any recommendations with respect to those results; and

"(iv) additional crops for which research and development under this paragraph is planned to be carried out.".

(b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPOSURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPOSURE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall make available a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

"(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

"(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A);

"(ii) a description of the policies made available under this paragraph; and

"(iii) the feasibility of a product that allows producers of wine grapes to claim an indemnity through post-harvest, post-vinification testing, if such testing demonstrates smoke damage that was not detectable prior to harvest.".

(c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(22) MUSHROOMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure—

"(i) the production of mushroom growing media; and

"(ii) the production of mushrooms.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall make a policy described in subparagraph (A) available if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

"(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Research and development described in subparagraph (A) shall evaluate the effectiveness of policies described in that subparagraph, including policies that—

"(i) are based on the risk of—

"(I) pests, including mushroom phorid flies and sciarid flies;

"(II) fungal pathogens; and

"(III) viral pathogens;

"(ii) consider other causes of loss applicable to mushroom compost and mushroom production, such as—

"(I) loss of electricity due to weather; and

"(II) loss of growing media due to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-year rainfall events;

"(iii) consider appropriate best practices to minimize the risk of loss;

"(iv) consider whether to provide coverage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to provide coverage for various phases of production;

"(v) have streamlined reporting and paperwork requirements that take into account short propagation schedules, variable crop years, and the variety of mushrooms that may be produced in a single facility; and

"(vi) provide protection for revenue losses.

"(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.".

(d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of offering insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes made available regardless of an underlying crop insurance policy (or lack thereof).

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).".

(e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including table grapes, wine grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally available basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather event.

"(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Research and development under subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk management tools, such as the use of an index, with respect to low frequency and catastrophic loss weather events; and

"(ii) result in a policy that provides protection for at least 1 of the following:

"(I) Production loss.

"(II) Revenue loss.

"(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.".

(f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered oilseed crops' means rapeseed, canola, camelina, and other oilseed crops, as determined by the Corporation.

"(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, with respect to insurance policies for covered oilseed crops under double cropping and rotational cropping practices.

"(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and development carried out pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be conducted in consultation with stakeholders to evaluate—

"(i) the factors impacting availability and cost of crop insurance when incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies; and

"(ii) the potential risk management benefits associated with incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies, specifically with respect to winter-planted covered oilseed crops, including risk management benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the profitability of farming operations.

"(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may give priority to awarding contracts to qualified persons that—

"(i) have previous research experience with covered oilseed crops; and

"(ii) have access to a facility with the capacity to carry out the applicable research.

"(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

"(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (B); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.".

(g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

"(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall make available a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

"(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committees

on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

"(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) a description of the policies made available under this paragraph.".

(h) PREVENTED PLANTING.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(27) PREVENTED PLANTING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding prevented planting coverage for insurance policies for specialty crops that are not planted on a perennial basis.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

"(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.".

(i) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(28) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of updating any conclusions contained in the final report for the study on swine catastrophic disease published by the Risk Management Agency in 2015, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure swine producers with respect to financial losses due to a catastrophic event.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A).".

SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agreement that are necessary to expand the availability of policies and plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.

(b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) take into account the requirements under section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neutrality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

(2) include an analysis of—

(A) any benefit related to establishing—

(i) at least one additional reinsurance fund for States that have experienced consistently high loss ratios; and

(ii) at least one additional reinsurance fund to provide alternative risk-sharing terms for approved insurance providers that sell insurance contracts offering area plan coverage;

(B) with respect to any funds reimbursed for administrative and operating costs under section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for ensuring that approved insurance providers obligate such funds for—

(i) the delivery of risk management tools to producers; and

(ii) agent workforce assistance for producers, in an amount that is not less than the historical percentage of such reimbursement; and

(C) with respect to each policy and plan of insurance, compensation amounts for agents that—

(i) are consistent with historical norms; and

(ii) provide a reasonable return considering workload and the critical service across programs that the agents provide.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall consult with—

(1) representatives of producers—

(A) from each State and region; and

(B) with respect to each commodity;

(2) representatives of agents and approved insurance providers;

(3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

SEC. 11016. HURRICANE INSURANCE PROTECTION-WIND INDEX REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this section that caused an outage of a weather radio station operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) data on events where a producer lost crop insurance coverage as a result of an outage of a weather radio station operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that occurred during the period described in subsection (a) and the cause of such outage; and

(2) a contingency plan that evaluates the feasibility of obtaining data from land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) or other third-party sources, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall consult with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 11017. RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR LAMB.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study that includes an analysis of any modifications to existing livestock protection and risk management programs that may enhance risk management protection to domestic lamb producers.

(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall take into account the various factors affecting risk management, including—

(1) market access;

(2) sources of feed;

(3) costs of, and fluctuation of costs of, feed;

(4) imports;

(5) consumer demand and trends;

(6) labor costs; and

(7) availability and accuracy of market data.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under this section.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "existing livestock protection and risk management programs" includes—

(1) dairy margin coverage;

(2) livestock risk protection; and

(3) any other program designed to protect producers from market volatility, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 11018. STUDY ON LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION POLICY WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCERS OF FEEDER CATTLE AFFECTED BY ADVERSE WEATHER EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on potential modifications to the livestock risk protection policy offered under section 523(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) to improve the flexibility of such policy with respect to producers of feeder cattle affected by adverse weather events, as determined by the Secretary, including drought and wildfires.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall, with respect to producers of feeder cattle, evaluate—

(1) any impact drought, wildfire, and other adverse weather events have on decisions made by such producers related to the marketing of feeder cattle;

(2) in the case an adverse weather event occurs more than 60 days prior to the end date of a specific coverage endorsement under the livestock risk protection policy described in subsection (a), whether the requirements or endorse-

ment structures of such policy (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) cause such producers not to market feeder cattle so as to avoid a penalty under such policy;

(3) any option to provide additional flexibility or an exemption to such producers that market feeder cattle more than 60 days prior to such end date due to an adverse weather event; and

(4) any other recommendation to improve the effectiveness of such policy for such producers.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Livestock and Other Animals

PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT.

(a) NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by striking "including training additional emergency response personnel." and inserting the following: "including—

"(i) training additional emergency response personnel; and"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) improving animal disease traceability."; and

(2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", including activities approved by the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

(2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VACCINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 10409A(d)(3)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

(A) by striking "carry out the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)" and inserting "carry out the National Animal Health Laboratory Network under subsection (a) and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)"; and

(B) by striking "10 percent" and inserting "15 percent".

(4) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUNDING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2027 through 2031".

SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with a covered institution under which the covered institution shall conduct a review of the Program.

(2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of—

(A) the effectiveness of the Program with respect to preventing and reducing the spread of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a review of places from which the cattle fever tick has been eradicated and the resulting economic impact;

(B) with respect to cattle producers—

(i) the benefits of the Program; and

(ii) the burden of compliance with the Program;

(C) the treatment protocols developed and implemented under the Program; and

(D) the Federal and State funds allocated to support the Program for the most recent fiscal year, including the funds allocated to each research project associated with the Program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) the results of the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations for improvements to the Program, including recommendations for reducing the burden of compliance with the Program with respect to cattle producers.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term "covered institution" means—

(A) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404(13) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

(B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

(2) PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available for the agricultural and food policy research centers under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.

The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center established under section 2(a), the Secretary may—

"(1) establish other dog training facilities, which shall have the same duties as are specified in section 2(b) for the Center; and

"(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the department of agriculture of a State (or political subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training program for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance in the training of dogs, as described in section 2(b).

"(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

"(1) the location of international ports of entry;

"(2) the volume of international passengers and cargo; and

"(3) regional agricultural production trends and associated pest and disease threats.".

SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

"(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States exports, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, is authorized to negotiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regionalization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agreements regarding outbreaks of known animal disease threats of trade significance with the governments of countries with export markets for livestock animals or animal products from the United States.".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to limit the ability of the United States Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements; or

(2) to require the United States Trade Representative to condition other trade agreements on the inclusion of language relating to reducing the impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States exports, as described in subsection (d)

of section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

"SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMPENSATION.—The term 'compensation' means any act, consideration, or thing of value received by a person directly, including cash or noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of services, or maintaining a license issued under any local, State, or Federal government authority.

"(2) IMPORTER.—The term 'importer' means any person who transports or causes the transportation of a dog into the United States from a foreign country.

"(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term 'import transporter' means any person or entity that—

"(A) receives an imported dog from any importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, operator of an auction sale, or department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of any State or local government; and

"(B) receives compensation for moving such dog in commerce.

"(4) TRANSFER.—The term 'transfer' means a change of ownership or control of an imported dog to another person, including by sale, adoption, exchange, or donation.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall import a dog into the United States unless prior to transport to the United States, the Secretary receives electronic documentation necessary, as determined by the Secretary, to demonstrate that the dog—

"(A) is in good health;

"(B) has received all necessary vaccinations and internal and external parasite treatment, and demonstrated negative test results, as required by the Secretary and evidenced by a certificate that—

"(i) is issued by a licensed veterinarian accredited by a competent veterinary authority recognized by the Secretary; and

"(ii) is endorsed by that authority in a manner representing that the veterinarian issuing the certificate was authorized to do so;

"(C) is officially identified by a permanent method approved by the Secretary; and

"(D) in the case that the dog is intended for transfer—

"(i) is at least 6 months old; and

"(ii) is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regulation, shall provide an exception to any requirement under this Act in any case in which a dog is imported for purposes of transfer—

"(A) as a personal pet of United States origin returning to the United States;

"(B) as a United States military working dog or contracted working dog supporting a military mission or tasking;

"(C) for research purposes;

"(D) for veterinary treatment which is paid for by the importer, subject to the condition that the dog—

"(i) is taken directly to a veterinary facility for treatment with appropriate quarantine until the dog meets the criteria described in paragraph (1); and

"(ii) is then exported to its country of origin; or

"(E) in the case of a dog that is less than 6 months old, for lawful importation into the State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and the other requirements of this section, if the dog is not transported out of the State of Hawaii for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

"(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to implement and enforce this section, including regulations—

"(1) to facilitate electronic submission and interagency sharing of all documentation required prior to the importation of a dog into the United States under subsection (b)(1);

"(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival verification processes for imported dogs;

"(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the United States of any dog attempted to be imported into the United States in violation of subsection (b)(1);

"(4) to provide that each importer, import transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiving a certificate of veterinary inspection required under this section shall submit a copy of the certificate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

"(A) record and maintain the information in a centralized database; and

"(B) upon request by a State veterinarian, share the information with such State veterinarian not later than 3 days after such request is received by the Secretary;

"(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggregate and publicly report the data submitted under paragraph (4), including information on the countries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes for the importation of such dogs; and

"(6) to determine and establish such fees for the verification of documentation and issuance of permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be necessary to fund the implementation and enforcement of this section.

"(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability of funding made available under section 10417 to carry out this section.

"(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

"(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have the authority granted under section 10414 to enforce this section.

"(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import transporter that fails to comply with this section shall—

"(A) be subject to penalties under section 10414; and

"(B) provide, as the Secretary may determine, at the expense of the importer or import transporter, for—

"(i) the care (including appropriate veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine, and removal from the United States of each applicable dog; and

"(ii) the return of each applicable dog to its place of export, with due care for the welfare of each applicable dog.".

(b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition period, regulations promulgated under section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by subsection (a)).

(2) TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "transition period" means the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which final regulations are promulgated under such section 10404A.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

(1) protect the free movement in interstate commerce of products derived from covered livestock;

(2) encourage a national market of such products;

(3) ensure that producers of covered livestock are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restricting access to a national market; and

(4) ensure that the United States continues to uphold its international trade obligations.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock other than for covered livestock physically raised in such State or subdivision.

(c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Producers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption, any condition or standard of production on products derived from covered livestock not physically raised in such State or sub-

division that is in addition to, or different from, the conditions or standards of production in the State in which the production occurs.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term "covered livestock"—

(A) means any domestic animal raised for the purpose of—

(i) slaughter for human consumption; or

(ii) producing products manufactured for human consumption which are derived from the processing of milk, including fluid milk products; and

(B) does not include domestic animals raised for the primary purpose of egg production.

(2) PRODUCTION.—The term "production"—

(A) means the raising (including breeding) of covered livestock; and

(B) does not include the movement, harvesting, or further processing of covered livestock.

SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department's preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the Department's ability to protect producers and growers from significant economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

(1) an assessment of—

(A) existing Federal programs, including catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity, direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and herd buyouts; and

(B) the Department's capacity to utilize such programs to provide benefits to producers and growers experiencing economic losses as a result of having to sell livestock and poultry at a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, destroy, or dispose of animals, having to implement additional biosecurity measures or as a result of catastrophic market conditions;

(2) a determination of gaps that exist in the Department's ability to provide economic support for producers and growers suffering such losses; and

(3) recommendations of the Secretary for modifications to Federal law (including regulations) relating to protecting producers and growers from significant economic losses related to a foreign animal disease outbreak.

(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of facilitating the preparation of the report submitted under subsection (a), the relevant Department officials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the Secretary of the information described in subsection (b).

(2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

(C) The Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(E) The Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(F) The Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(G) Other officials, as specified by the Secretary.

SEC. 12008. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 30. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful—

"(1) for any person to knowingly engage in commercial greyhound racing, live lure training, or open field coursing events in which any greyhound is moved in interstate or foreign commerce;

"(2) to conduct any commercial greyhound racing or racing meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds occurs;

"(3) to conduct open field coursing or live lure training with the use of any bait that is not an inanimate object;

"(4) to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or foreign commerce; and

"(5) for any person to knowingly sell, buy, possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any greyhound for purposes of having the greyhound participate in commercial greyhound racing, live lure training, or open field coursing events.

"(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary, or any other person authorized by the Secretary, shall make such investigations as the Secretary determines necessary to determine whether any person has violated or is violating any provision of this section. The Secretary may obtain the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, or other law enforcement agencies of the United States, and State and local governmental agencies, in the conduct of such investigations, under cooperative agreements with such agencies.

"(c) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates any of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) shall be fined under this Act, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or both, for each such violation. Each instance of a violation of any such paragraph shall be considered a single violation.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING.—The term 'commercial greyhound racing' means any event involving the participation of greyhounds in which betting or wagering on the speed or ability of such greyhounds occurs.

"(2) SIMULCAST.—The term 'simulcast' means the simultaneous audio or visual transmission from one location of foreign or domestic greyhound races taking place at a different location and gambling on the results of such races.".

(b) DEFINITION OF ANIMAL.—Section 2(g) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132(g)) is amended by inserting "hare," after "rabbit,".

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2027.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed—

(1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gambling or protecting the welfare of animals, including greyhounds, jackrabbits, and hares; or

(2) to alter, limit, or extend the relationship between the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) as it relates to horse racing and other Federal laws in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12009. ANIMAL FIGHTING.

Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and all that follows through "It shall be unlawful" in subsection (a)(2) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, ATTENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND, OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.

"(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal fighting venture.

"(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND.—It shall be unlawful"; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast event.".

PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECTION

SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN THE UNITED STATES (A–PLUS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

(1) market agencies may have an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

(A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(i) 2,000 animals per day; or

(ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

(B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(i) 10,000 animals per day; or

(ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

(2) market agencies that have an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of livestock the existence of such ownership interest, financial relationship, or participation.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Secretary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) related to the protection of producers, competition, market integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21 U.S.C. 625) the following:

"SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

"(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

"(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Secretary shall update as necessary) for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan;

"(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of raw or further processed meat and meat food products; and

"(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

"(A) slaughter-only establishments;

"(B) processing-only establishments; and

"(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

"(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act, a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

"(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any meat processing establishment, including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a meat processing establishment.

"(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment' have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).".

(b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Products Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

"SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

"(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

"(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Secretary shall update as necessary) for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan;

"(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques used by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of raw or further processed poultry products; and

"(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

"(A) slaughter-only establishments;

"(B) processing-only establishments; and

"(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

"(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

"(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any poultry processing establishment,

including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a poultry processing establishment.

"(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment' have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).".

SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT.

(a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

"(1) have a State meat inspection program in effect pursuant to section 301; and

"(2) do not have a selected establishment.".

(b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

"(1) have a State poultry product inspection program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

"(2) do not have a selected establishment.".

(c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a report detailing the activities and results of the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by subsections (a) and (b), to—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon the receipt of an application from a custom exempt facility and subject to the requirements specified in subsection (c), a State department of agriculture may operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (referred to in this section as "meat products") directly to consumers within the State in which the facility is located in accordance with the pilot program.

(2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a State department of agriculture does not elect to operate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon request from a custom exempt facility in such a State, operate a pilot program administered by the Secretary for that State in accordance with this section.

(b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

(1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)—

(A) a State department of agriculture may approve not more than 5 facilities in such State for participation in a pilot program established under subsection (a)(1); and

(B) the Secretary may approve not more than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot programs established under subsection (a)(2).

(2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a pilot program, a State department of agriculture or the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facility that was initially approved under paragraph (1) for participation in such pilot program has been subject to an emergency action under subsection (f) during the 2-year period following such establishment, approve—

(A) in the case of a State department of agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities in the respective State; and

(B) in the case of the Secretary, not more than 10 additional facilities in all States.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot program established under this section shall, at a minimum, require—

(1) that meat products sold under the pilot program are—

(A) sold directly to consumers within the State from—

(i) the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived; or

(ii) the custom exempt facility at which the meat products were processed;

(B) not eligible for re-sale; and

(C) clearly labeled to indicate—

(i) the name and address of the facility at which the meat products were processed;

(ii) the name and address of the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived;

(iii) the location where animals from which such meat products are derived were raised;

(iv) the date of slaughter of such animals and the period of time over which the owner raised such animals;

(v) that such meat products were not subject to Federal inspection; and

(vi) that such meat products shall not be resold;

(2) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program comply with—

(A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.; commonly known as the "Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958");

(B) applicable State and local laws;

(C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

(D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

(i) sanitation standards and record-keeping requirements for custom exempt facilities; and

(ii) the handling and disposition of specified risk materials;

(3) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection at least annually by the local authority responsible for restaurant inspections or the State department of agriculture.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue, and make publicly available, guidance for participation in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to inspection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant to a State meat inspection program authorized under section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product produced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot program established pursuant to this section is adulterated, the Secretary—

(1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions as may be necessary to address the risk to public health posed by such products; and

(2) may terminate the participation of a custom exempt facility in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until September 30, 2031, each State department of agriculture operating a pilot program pursuant to this section shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing, with respect to each such pilot program within the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

(A) the number and location of persons or custom exempt facilities selling meat products under each such pilot program;

(B) the outcomes of each such pilot program;

(C) any instances in which a meat product was subject to an emergency action under subsection (f); and

(D) aggregated data on the volume of meat being processed under such pilot program.

(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report detailing—

(A) the information received from participating State departments of agriculture under paragraph (1); and

(B) for any custom exempt facilities participating in a pilot program established by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

(i) the number and location of persons or custom exempt facilities selling products pursuant to such pilot program;

(ii) the outcomes of such pilot program; and

(iii) any instances in which a meat product was subject to an emergency action under subsection (f).

(h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "custom exempt facility" means an establishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and meat food products for commerce that is not subject to the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not operate a pilot program under this section on or after September 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be exempt from that inspection on or after September 30, 2031.

Subtitle B—Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994

SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption; and"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept employees detailed from, the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947) to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security.

"(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

"(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and not less than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an assessment of risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector, including—

"(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or intentional threats, including chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

"(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

"(C) control of and access to agricultural data;

"(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual property, agricultural assets, and land;

"(E) agricultural input shortages and dependence on foreign-sourced inputs;

"(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

"(G) science and technology cooperation;

"(H) unequal investments in research, development, and commercialization;

"(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

"(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by the Secretary.

"(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of a risk assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide a briefing on the results of the risk assessment and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

"(i) an assessment of any gaps or limitations in national security efforts related to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector;

"(ii) any actions taken by the Secretary to address any gaps or limitations identified under clause (i), including through interagency coordination, threat information sharing, and stakeholder outreach;

"(iii) any recommendations for administrative, regulatory, or legislative actions that can be taken to reduce any gaps or limitations identified under clause (i), including—

"(I) recommendations to reduce the dependence on foreign-source inputs necessary for the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and

"(II) recommendations to address the cybersecurity threats to, and security vulnerabilities in, the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and

"(iv) resources the Secretary requires to address current and future national security vulnerabilities related to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

"(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A report required under subparagraph (A) shall be exempt from the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (subtitle D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3677).".

SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION HEARINGS.

Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

"(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.".

SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out the amendments made to this title by the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.".

SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS.

Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "shall advise" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "shall—"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian tribes;

"(2) oversee—

"(A) each self-determination contract (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Secretary and a tribal organization; and

"(B) each self-governance compact (as defined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C. 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and an Indian tribe; and

"(3) carry out such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate."; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "this subsection" and inserting "this section".

Subtitle C—National Security

SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFIDA.—The term "AFIDA" means the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(2) FPAC–BC.—The term "FPAC–BC" means the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501), including information on—

(1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

(2) with respect to each such report, the identity of the foreign persons included in the report and the date of submission.

(c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

(1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) update the most recent version of the Farm Service Agency handbook titled "Foreign Investment Disclosure" as determined necessary by the Secretary for the effective implementation of AFIDA; and

(B) incorporate in such update the recommendations made by the report of the Government Accountability Office titled "Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks" and dated January 18, 2024.

(2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10 years thereafter, including by incorporating any recommendations of the Government Accountability Office.

(d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through "Any such civil penalty shall be recoverable" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 3. CIVIL PENALTIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the person—

"(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance with the provisions of section 2; or

"(2) has knowingly submitted a report under section 2 that—

"(A) does not contain all the information required to be in such report; or

"(B) contains information that is misleading or false.

"(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable"; and

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through "The amount" and inserting the following:

"(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount";

(B) by striking "of this section"; and

(C) by striking "shall not exceed 25 percent" and inserting "for violations under subsection (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25 percent,".

(e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty imposed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.".

(f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by subsection (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and efforts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons, producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in section 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and county property appraiser offices, land appraisal companies, and real estate auction companies to increase public awareness and provide education regarding the reporting requirements under this Act.".

SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PURCHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term "agricultural land" has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term "covered foreign country" means a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

(4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term "covered foreign person" means a foreign person (as defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)) that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applicable, a covered foreign country.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term "state sponsor of terrorism" means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, for purposes of—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other provision of law.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

(2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to the year covered by the report:

(A) A description of—

(i) the number of acres of agricultural land owned, leased, or managed by covered foreign persons, organized by State; and

(ii) for each State, the percentage of land owned or managed by covered foreign persons compared to the total acreage of the State.

(B) An analysis of the possible threat to food security, food safety, biosecurity, or environmental protection due to the ownership of agricultural land by each covered foreign country through covered foreign persons.

(C) An analysis of the annual and total cost of support for agricultural land owned by covered foreign persons through farm programs administered by the Farm Service Agency.

(D) An analysis of the use of agricultural land for industrial espionage or intellectual property transfer by covered foreign persons.

(E) An analysis of the potential use by covered foreign persons of agricultural land in close proximity to manufacturing facilities, water sources, and other critical infrastructure to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities critical to the national and economic security of the United States.

(F) An analysis of other threats to the agricultural industry or national security of the United States due to the ownership of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

(3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted under this subsection shall—

(A) be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex; and

(B) be consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

(a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the De-

partment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions (referred to in this section as the 'Chief of Operations'), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain additional employees to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act.

"(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Operations may serve in such position simultaneously with a concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

"(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

"(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief of Operations; and

"(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security clearances.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

"(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

"(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other appropriate authority;

"(3) conduct investigations, in coordination with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Treasury, the National Security Council, and State and local law enforcement agencies, on malign efforts—

"(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and technology; or

"(B) to disrupt the United States agricultural base;

"(4) conduct an annual audit of the database developed under section 12304(b) of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026;

"(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agreement and memoranda of understanding with the Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

"(A) to ensure compliance with this Act; and

"(B) to prevent the malign efforts described in that paragraph;

"(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States transactions that—

"(A) raise potential national security concerns; and

"(B) result in agricultural land acquisition by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity of concern; and

"(7) publish annual reports that summarize the information contained in every report received by the Secretary under section 2 during the period covered by the report.

"(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations shall report to—

"(1) the Secretary; or

"(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

"(A) the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency; or

"(B) the Director of the Department of Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.".

(b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "For purposes of this Act—" and inserting "In this Act:";

(2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

(A) by striking "the term" and inserting "The term"; and

(B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the text of which comprises the term defined in that paragraph;

(3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a period;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking "; and" and inserting a period;

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

(6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term 'foreign entity of concern' has the meaning given the term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).";

(7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(5) MALIGN EFFORT.—The term 'malign effort' means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial support of the government of a foreign entity of concern.".

SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term "agricultural land" has the meaning given the term in section 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) DATABASE.—The term "database" means the database developed under subsection (c).

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term "foreign person" has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(b) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons, using data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(c) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each registration or updated registration of agricultural land owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent information, as determined by the Secretary, in the applicable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such transaction for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.

(d) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the database is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—

(1) conduct an audit of the database; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(A) evaluating the accuracy of the database; and

(B) describing recommendations for improving compliance with the reporting required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(e) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a member of the Committee with respect to a covered transaction that involves—

"(A) agricultural land;

"(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

"(C) the agriculture industry, including agricultural transportation, storage, and processing.".

(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

"(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

"(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether the Committee should initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D), or take another action authorized under this section, with respect to the reportable agricultural land transaction.

"(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'reportable agricultural land transaction' means a transaction—

"(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction, based on information from or in cooperation with the intelligence community;

"(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

"(III) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

"(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements under this subparagraph shall terminate, with respect to a foreign person of the respective foreign country, on the date that the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Re-

public of Iran, as the case may be, is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.".

Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS FOR 2050.

Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "There is established" and inserting "Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "AND RECOMMENDATIONS" after "STUDY";

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ", and make recommendations relating to," after "study on";

(C) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "and timely" after "affordable"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs, business training, and technical assistance programs;";

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "existing and new Federal tax policies" and inserting "existing and new State and Federal policies, including tax policies"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "or impede" after "facilitate";

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking "and" at the end;

(F) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) heirs' property and succession of agricultural land;

"(7) any unique barriers faced by historically underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural assets, including land; and

"(8) leasing and ownership trends, including leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or entities.";

(3) in subsection (f), by striking "1 year after the date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026";

(4) by amending subsection (l) to read as follows:

"(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections 1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission."; and

(5) in subsection (m), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.

Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR.

Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.

Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter," before "the Secretary of Agriculture";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets, including programs providing assistance relating to—

"(A) acquiring of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein), including closing costs;

"(B) subsidizing interest rates and mortgage principal amounts for intended beneficiaries;

"(C) providing down payment assistance to decrease farm mortgages;

"(D) securing clear title on heirs' property farmland;

"(E) conducting surveys and assessments of agricultural land;

"(F) improving or remediating land, water, and soil;

"(G) constructing or repairing infrastructure;

"(H) supporting land use planning;

"(I) acquiring legal or financial planning assistance;

"(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

"(K) supporting acquisition of a Department of Agriculture farm number; and

"(L) any other activities as determined by the Secretary."; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DETENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process by which an importer of plants that have been denied entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain additional information on such denial and detention.

(b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The process referred to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon the detention of any plants of such importer, the following information:

(1) The specific reasons for which the detention of the plants was initiated, including the date on which the plants were presented to the Secretary for examination.

(2) The anticipated length of the detention of such plants.

(3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be able to replicate.

(4) The nature of any information that, if supplied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposition of the detention.

SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary determines appropriate after taking into consideration any ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals that—

(1) evaluates the enforcement of standards under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both effectiveness and efficiency;

(2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to educate and advise dealers of all standards under, and requirements of, such Act;

(3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to enforce the standards established by such Act;

(4) makes recommendations for the improvement of—

(A) all standards (including animal welfare standards) under, and requirements of, such Act; and

(B) education efforts of the Secretary with respect to such standards and requirements; and

(5) considers the impact and associated costs of any recommended improvements or amendments to the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

(b) VETERINARY CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting "(which shall include visual dental examinations, whenever practicable)" after "adequate veterinary care".

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohibiting delivery of certain animals without certificate of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.

Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2031".

SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO DELIVER WATER.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within the Department that are or could be made available to provide assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

SEC. 12409. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term "agency action" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualified renewable biomass" means—

(i) forest products manufacturing bioenergy feedstocks, including from—

(I) forest products manufacturing residuals, including spent pulping liquors, pulping by-products, bark, woody manufacturing residuals, paper recycling residuals, wastewater and process water treatment plant residuals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

(II) harvest residues, including portions of harvested trees that are too small or of too poor quality to be utilized for wood products or paper products;

(III) downed wood from extreme weather events and natural disasters, nonhazardous landscape or right-of-way trimmings and municipal trimmings, and plant material removed for purposes of invasive or noxious plant species control;

(IV) biowaste, including landfill gas; and

(V) non-chemically treated used wood products, such as crates or pallets; and

(ii) forest biomass derived from residues created as a by-product of timber harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs, and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and round wood suitable for industrial purposes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not include paper of a type that is commonly recycled.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the Department related to qualified renewable biomass, the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.

(2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, policy, or program of the Department in order to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to comply with such requirements with respect to such rule, policy, or program.

(c) GUIDANCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish guidance for purposes of carrying out subsection (b).

(2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may periodically update the guidance established under paragraph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Energy; and

(C) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 12410. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.

Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "Act—" and inserting "Act and breakfasts served by schools participating in the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—";

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting "or the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)" after "Act"; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking "section 210.10" and inserting "sections 210.10 and 220.8".

SEC. 12411. SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted lanternflies.

(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the national campaign under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) place public service announcements on television, radio, and billboards in areas of high incidence of spotted lanternflies that—

(A) inform individuals of the fact that spotted lanternflies are an invasive pest that threaten local agriculture; and

(B) encourage individuals to kill any spotted lanternflies that such individuals encounter; and

(2) use such other awareness tools as the Secretary determines appropriate to provide the information described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 12412. RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the agencies described in subsection (c), shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of United States agricultural producers impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.

(b) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

(1) analyze the economic impact of water delivery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the United States agricultural sector in the area affected by such water delivery deficits, including specific assessments of damages to perennial crops;

(2) develop and implement a multi-agency strategy to—

(A) secure annual and predictable water deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty through the coordinated use of Federal diplomatic and operational authorities;

(B) enhance the resilience of the domestic agricultural water supply through improved conservation and infrastructure;

(C) assess trade-related mechanisms available to address agricultural supply chain disruptions caused by such water delivery deficits;

(D) ensure that water resources and infrastructure in South Texas are efficiently managed and operational for the beneficial use of agricultural producers and municipal users; and

(E) support Federal officials in securing annual and predictable water deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

(3) facilitate coordination among Federal agencies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic, trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical needs of the agricultural community in South Texas; and

(4) provide a forum for public engagement and transparency regarding—

(A) the status of water deliveries from Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

(B) the findings of the Working Group and the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

(c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be composed of—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall serve as Chair);

(2) the Secretary of State;

(3) the Secretary of the Interior;

(4) the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico;

(5) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(6) the United States Trade Representative;

(7) the Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

(8) the Assistant to the President of the United States for National Security Affairs.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) FREQUENCY.—The Working Group shall meet not less frequently than annually.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Working Group shall—

(A) hold the meetings described in paragraph (1) in a manner open to the public; and

(B) provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders, including agricultural producers and irrigation districts, to provide oral and written comments to the Working Group.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Finance of the Senate, a report describing—

(1) the findings resulting from the analysis under subsection (b)(1);

(2) the status of diplomatic and operational efforts to secure compliance with the annual water delivery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;

(3) an assessment of potential trade or administrative actions to secure long term water reliability under treaties with Mexico; and

(4) recommendations for projects, resources, and legislative authorities needed to fully implement the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term "1944 Water Treaty" means the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

(2) WORKING GROUP.—The term "Working Group" means the interagency working group established under subsection (a).

SEC. 12413. COST-SHARE GRANTS FOR ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROVED ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE.—The term "approved rollover protection structure" means a rollover protection structure that the Program Administrator determines—

(A) may be installed on eligible equipment;

(B) includes a seatbelt; and

(C) meets or exceeds the rollover protection structure standards.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) an agricultural producer; and

(B) an eligible school.

(3) ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT.—The term "eligible equipment" means an agricultural tractor that the Program Administrator determines to be eligible for installation of an approved rollover protection structure.

(4) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term "eligible school" means—

(A) a vocational school that provides agricultural instruction or training;

(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that provides direct, practical agricultural instruction or training; and

(C) a public or private secondary school (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8107)) the curriculum of which includes an agricultural instruction or training component.

(5) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Program Administrator" means the organization selected by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(B).

(6) ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE STANDARDS.—The term "rollover protection structure standards" includes the following:

(A) The SAE J2194 and SAE J1194 standards issued by the Society of Automotive Engineers (and successor standards).

(B) Any other relevant national or international rollover protection structure manufacturing or testing standards.

(b) COST-SHARE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing, transporting, and installing on eligible equipment approved rollover protection structures.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under this section shall equal 70 percent of the costs of the eligible entity to purchase, transport, and install the approved rollover protection structure.

(B) EXCEPTION.—If, for an eligible entity that is the recipient of a grant under this section, the costs to purchase, transport, and install an approved rollover structure (as documented by the eligible entity) exceed $500, the amount of the grant shall be increased to cover an increased percentage (as determined by the Secretary) of such costs.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary shall—

(A) seek competitive bids from nongovernmental organizations seeking to serve as the Program Administrator under this section;

(B) select 1 organization from among the organizations that submit bids under subparagraph (A); and

(C) enter into a cooperative agreement with that organization to carry out the activities described in paragraph (2).

(2) DUTIES.—The Program Administrator shall—

(A) identify—

(i) approved rollover protection structures; and

(ii) eligible equipment;

(B) administer the application process under subsection (d); and

(C) establish and administer a public website and phone hotline with information necessary—

(i) to inform eligible entities, as described in subsection (a)(2), of the grant opportunities made available by this Act, and

(ii) to administer the application process under subsection (d).

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Program Administrator an application, including documentation of the cost described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—On receipt of an application under paragraph (1), the Program Administrator shall—

(A) determine—

(i) whether the applicant is eligible for a grant under this section; and

(ii) the amount of a grant under this section for which the applicant is eligible; and

(B) submit to the Secretary a notification of the determinations under subparagraph (A).

(e) DISBURSEMENT.—On receipt of a notification under subsection (d)(2)(B), if an applicant is eligible for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall disburse to the eligible entity the amount of the grant described in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $725,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year—

(A) the Secretary shall use 70 percent of such amounts for grants under this section; and

(B) the Secretary shall transfer to the Program Administrator—

(i) 15 percent of such amounts for the promotion of, and upgrades to the website referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C); and

(ii) 15 percent of such amounts for the telephone hotline referred to in such subsection.

BRIEF EXPLANATION

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

- Suspends the outdated permanent price support authority through calendar year 2031.
- Improves and expands access to the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) by clarifying the definition of an eligible orchardist and providing producers with the option to receive an upfront payment to support the timely replanting of their crops.

• Requires the Secretary to establish a framework for delivering specialty crop emergency assistance when funding is available.
• Creates a standing block grant authority to deliver *ad hoc* disaster assistance to States.
• Extends the authorities for Dairy Forward Pricing Contracting, the Dairy Farmer Indemnity Program, and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.
• Requires a mandatory cost survey on dairy production expenses conducted by the Agricultural Marketing Service to ensure that dairy production costs are accurately reflected in manufacturing cost data.
• Requires the Secretary to continue the processing of marketing assistance loans and sugar processing loans during a lapse in appropriations.
• Provides that the implementation of the provisions under the committee-reported bill shall be exempt from general notice and comment provisions under the American Procedure Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act.
• Restores tobacco as an eligible agricultural commodity under the Commodity Credit Corporation charter.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

• Retains the historic investment in the conservation title from H.R. 1 (119th) while protecting and maintaining the locally-led, voluntary, incentive-based conservation model.
• Builds on the reforms of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 by streamlining, simplifying, and improving program administration, while increasing State and producer flexibility throughout the conservation title.
• Reauthorizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through Fiscal Year 2031 at the current limit of 27 million acres.
• Maintains the 50% livestock allocation within the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and codifies the Southern Border Initiative.
• Improves the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) by increasing the minimum payment and authorizing a matching soil health grant program for States and eligible Indian Tribes.
• Incorporates precision agriculture technologies into EQIP and CSP benefiting water quality and energy efficiency.
• Improves program administration and increases access to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) by eliminating Adjusted Gross Income requirements, allowing separate pooling for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, providing clear authorities for easement modifications and exchanges, and increasing the Agricultural Land Easement Program Federal cost-share.
• Establishes the Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) to provide an entity-held easement option for working forests and incorporating the Federal held easements currently within the Healthy Forests Reserve Program.
• Streamlines and improves implementation and administration of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The Bill links the program back to the covered programs, ensures certified entities receive the same benefits afforded in ACEP, requires streamlining of partnership agreements and administrative actions

and decisions, and allows for up to 10% of funds for a partnership agreement to reimburse administrative expenses. The program purposes are expanded to include preventing and mitigating the impacts of flooding and drought, incorporate flood resiliency, and promote the enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mitigation corridors.

- Updates the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to require ongoing streamlining and data transparency, authorizes funding for remedial actions, and increases the federal cost-share for dam rehabilitation.
- Provides additional funding through Fiscal Year 2031 for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program and designates 60% of funding to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and 40% for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Creates a process for public participation in updating conservation practice standards and requires more frequent updates beginning with one year after enactment and every subsequent 5 years. The Bill establishes an Office of Innovation within the NRCS to promote innovation and advancing technology in conservation practice standards.
- Streamlines the Technical Service Provider program by requiring the establishment of clear approval processes and timelines for certifiers and third-party providers.
- Improves the Emergency Conservation Program by authorizing advance payments of up to 75% of the cost of the emergency measures.
- Provides direct hire authority for NRCS.

TITLE III—TRADE

Trade promotion

- Increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program, E (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program (EMP), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program, and Priority Trade Fund (PTF).
- Establishes funding to provide needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to improve cold chain infrastructure in new and emerging markets.
- Requires the USDA, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative, to carry out a report on the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops.
- Directs USDA to secure foreign markets for goods using common names.
- Establishes an interagency working group to monitor and assess seasonable and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data.
- Reauthorizes the Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program.
- Reauthorizes the Export Credit Guarantee Program.
- Reauthorizes the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program.
- Creates the International Agricultural Immersion and Exchange Program and authorizes appropriations of $10 million to carry out the program.
- Reauthorizes the Cochran Fellowship Program.
- Establishes the Agricultural Trade Enforcement Task Force.

• Requires the Comptroller General of the U.S. to issue a report that examines policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets.
• Requires USDA to report on how any expected or implemented changes to USMCA will impact the agriculture industry.
• Requires USDA to report on how increased Argentine beef imports will impact domestic cattle producers, prices, and rural economies.

International food aid and food security

• Transfers all authorities of the Food for Peace Act from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to USDA. Within this transfer, the authorities of the Food for Peace Act are reauthorized.
• Reserves 50 percent of Food for Peace resources for U.S. grown commodities and ocean shipping.
• Increases the authorization of appropriations for the International Food Relief Partnership from $10 million to $15 million.
• Clarifies that the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of titles II and III of the Food for Peace Act.
• Reserves $200 million for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods if the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates is above 5 percent and the total funding for title II Food for Peace is greater than $1.2 billion.
• Provides the Secretary with the authority to use appropriated funds made available for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service to pay the administrative expenses for USDA to carry out the implementation of the Food for Peace Act.
• Reauthorizes the Food for Progress (FFPr) Program and clarifies that USDA should enter into two or more agreements with eligible entities in carrying out the program.
• Reauthorizes the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.
• Reauthorizes the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Program, clarifies that lower-middle income countries are eligible for the purposes of cost repayment for the transportation of commodities, and changes the purchase range for local and regional commodity procurement from not more than 10 percent to not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent.
• Reauthorizes the Global Crop Diversity Trust and clarifies that the Trust is not prohibited from applying for or receiving additional funding outside of what is authorized in 22 U.S.C. 2220a note (if eligible).

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

• Updates the Declaration of Policy for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to add that Congress recognizes that SNAP allows low-income households to obtain food that supports the prevention of diet-related chronic disease, disability, premature death, unsustainable health care costs, and the undermining of military readiness. Adds that it is the policy of Congress that USDA should administer SNAP in a manner that provides participants, especially children,

access to a variety of foods essential to optimal health and wellbeing.

- Makes permanent a ban on new fees on SNAP retailers first established in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Allows SNAP state agencies to use non-merit personnel in the SNAP certification process under certain circumstances.
- Permits USDA to provide technical assistance and more than one opportunity to meet stocking and inventory eligibility requirements for retailers seeking SNAP authorization.
- Directs USDA to include all identified payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental annual report.
- Directs USDA to promulgate a proposed rule on EBT card security no later than six months after enactment of the Act.
- Requires GAO to issue a report on state administrative expenses in SNAP that examines the causes of state variation and identifies factors most likely to contribute to an increase in costs.
- Adds "animal protein" to the list of foods eligible for SNAP healthy incentive projects.
- Directs USDA to issue guidance and regulations for the SNAP online purchasing program no later than two years after enactment of the Act and report to Congress.
- Expands the offering of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to include maple syrup, herbs, and tree nuts.
- Authorizes a competitive grant pilot program for home delivery in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).
- Authorizes a demonstration project under which one or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase commodities for CSFP.
- Allows for the use of all forms of produce in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program and waives the match requirement in persistent poverty counties.
- Directs USDA to submit an annual report to Congress on its Food Loss and Waste Liaison.
- Expands the SNAP Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program by allowing incentives for all forms of fluid milk, including flavored, and for hard cheeses and low sugar yogurts.
- Authorizes state-led local food purchasing programs.
- Makes several reforms to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including expanding the required scope and rigor of scientific evidence included in the report and prohibiting USDA and HHS from including topics deemed not relevant to dietary guidance.

TITLE V—CREDIT

- Removes outdated eligibility barriers that prevent modern family farms from accessing Farm Service Agency (FSA) operating, emergency, and ownership loans.
- Reduces and streamlines the experience requirements to expand access for beginning farmers.
- Requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations that establish a framework for the refinancing of distressed guaranteed loans into direct loans subject to certain conditions.
- Updates loan limits for FSA guaranteed operating and ownership loans, direct operating and ownership loans, and microloans.

• Provides Farm Credit System (FCS) institutions with the opportunity to partner with community banks to finance essential rural community facilities projects.
• Adjusts the principal amount of farm ownership loan made under the Down Payment Loan Program to align with such amount for direct ownership loans.
• Reauthorizes the Heirs Property Relending Program and allows USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with public interest legal service providers to assist producers in resolving ownership records and transitioning land into agricultural production.
• Creates a pre-approval pilot program for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans to streamline producer access to capital.
• Reauthorizes Cooperative Lending Pilot Projects, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts, and maintains the 50% direct loan fund set aside for beginning farmers and ranchers.
• Expands the authority of FCS institutions to provide loans to businesses that support the fishing industry such as equipment suppliers, repair shops, cold storage facilities, and fuel or bait providers.
• Raises the loan cap under the Export Guarantee Program to 15 percent of a bank's total assets to provide flexibility for financing agricultural exports while aligning with other Farm Credit Act limitations.
• Expands the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) authority to allow for the USDA's guaranteed water and wastewater loan program to be made available in cities and towns with a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.
• Establishes that the FCA is the sole financial regulator of FCS institutions.
• Expands access to the secondary market for guaranteed loans provided under the Rural Energy for America Program and modernizes the limitations in which the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation treat qualified loans secured by agricultural real estate.
• Directs the USDA to evaluate how enhanced risk management practices can improve the financial stability and creditworthiness of producers participating in certain direct and guaranteed loan programs.
• Allows FCA to extend audit periods for small, low-risk Farm Credit System institutions from 18 months to 24 months.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

• Codifies and merges the ReConnect Program with USDA's retail rural broadband program, establishes a 50/25 Megabits per second (Mbps) minimum service standard, prioritizes funding for areas with less than 25/3 Mbps connectivity, and imposes buildout requirements up to 500/250 Mbps to meet long-term rural needs.
• Improves the Broadband Technical Assistance Program to ensure comprehensive support for communities seeking assistance with all USDA broadband initiatives.
• Reauthorizes and improves the Innovative Broadband Advancement Program to help offset the cost of satellite broadband equipment in remote areas.

• Reauthorizes the Community Connect Program, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, and Middle Mile Program.
• Promotes adoption of precision agriculture in rural communities and establishes federal-private sector partnerships for interconnectivity standards and cybersecurity.
• Codifies the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program to strengthen rural health care services and help prevent the closure of health care facilities in rural communities.
• Permits debt refinancing for certain health care facilities committed to long-term financial and managerial planning to enhance institutional viability.
• Maintains set-aside and prioritization for telemedicine projects addressing substance use disorder treatment, while expanding services to include behavioral and mental health treatment within the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program and Community Facilities Program.
• Establishes a rural childcare initiative at USDA to improve availability and quality of childcare in rural areas.
• Modifies the RISE Grant Program to provide funding for career pathway programs and industry or sector partnerships to build-out workforce pipelines in rural America.
• Codifies USDA's Circuit Rider Program for rural water systems and allows funds to be used to address cybersecurity and emergency disaster response related needs.
• Provides zero and low-interest loans to distressed water systems, while requiring recipients to develop and receive assistance with long-term financial plans.
• Broadens the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program to support investments in food infrastructure, enhancing the resilience and diversity of the U.S. food supply chain.
• Reestablishes a meat processing and rendering grant program to support both new and growing meat processors, while also facilitating producer investments to foster competition within the meat packing sector.
• Establishes a technical assistance program for underserved and distressed areas.
• Improves the Rural Decentralized Water Systems Program to allow for the testing of contaminated groundwater to better facilitate its treatment.
• Establishes caps on guaranteed loan lender initial fees and retention fees for all guaranteed loan programs at USDA Rural Development.
• Codifies the Rural Development Innovation Center to modernize USDA RD programs for user accessibility and transparency, as well as provide a centralized structure for proactive stakeholder outreach.
• Streamlines the permitting process for Rural Development projects near wetlands that have already complied with existing wetland regulations.
• Encourages private investment in rural communities by reauthorizing the Rural Business Investment Program.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

• Strengthens specialty crop research by allowing matching fund waivers and creating a $30 million annual program for mechanization and automation research and extension.
• Expands support for 1890 institutions by increasing research and extension funding authorizations and adding new Centers of Excellence.
• Reauthorizes and strengthens capacity funding programs for 1862, 1890, and 1994 institutions and improves program delivery for Tribal land-grant schools.
• Reauthorizes competitive research programs, including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and updates priorities to address workforce development, supply chains, and emerging agricultural technologies.
• Maintains funding and improves programs supporting organic agriculture research, beginning farmers and ranchers, agricultural education, and veteran training programs.
• Establishes new high-priority research initiatives and a commission to modernize USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service data collection and reporting.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

• Authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the United States Forest Service (USFS), to take actions to protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, municipal and agricultural water supply systems, and other water-related infrastructure. Title VIII also authorizes actions to protect and restore forest health from insect infestation, disease, and wildfire.
• Allows for the flexible use of funding for the development and implementation of State forest action plans.
• Expands critical partnership authorities, including the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and Stewardship End Result Contracting, to increase the pace and scale of active management on Federal lands.
• Reauthorizes and strengthens the Water Source Protection Program, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program, and the State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program.
• Modernizes data collection by directing the Secretary to establish a program to inventory and analyze public and private forests, including updating national surveys, refining and implementing consistent data collection protocols, and ensuring timely and accessible information on forest resources.
• Increases investment in USFS programs that support regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation through expanded training, research, and technical and financial assistance.
• Expands on the effectiveness of categorical exclusions (CE), which are applied to routine activities with known outcomes. This approach saves the USFS both time and money while still protecting the environment and natural resources.
• Expedites the USFS's ability to quickly remove hazard trees along roads to protect public health and safety while maintaining access to Federal lands.

• Expands market opportunities for forest products and directs the Secretary to continue investments that support the development and use of innovative wood products.
• Authorizes a biochar application demonstration project to facilitate the use of biochar, develop new biochar applications, and support the commercialization of biochar.
• Develops a strategy, in coordination with Federal grazing permit holders, to increase livestock grazing and associated rangeland improvements for wildfire risk reduction.
• Clarifies the authority of the Regional Forester to appoint members to the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to promote collaboration and to strengthen working relationships among community members and national forest employees.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

• Reauthorizes and improves the BioPreferred Program by requiring the Secretary to issue procurement guidance to agencies, implementing more thorough reporting procedures for agency procurement, and increasing procurement accountability and verification.
• Directs the relevant agencies to develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) codes, establishes a report to recommend bioeconomy-related changes for the 2027 NAICS and NAPCS codes revisions, and assesses the development of a national measurement of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.
• Provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to develop national uniform labeling standards for certain bioproducts by defining certain bioproducts that are not already currently defined in statute.
• Reauthorizes and improves the 9003 Program by expanding eligibility for innovative biobased product manufacturing technologies and authorizing the Secretary to waive the requirement to demonstrate commercial viability for projects adopting commercially available technologies.
• Ensures transparency and accountability in the 9003 Program application process by establishing a technical review agreement that outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary will determine the project technically feasible.
• Affirms sustainable aviation fuel as an advanced biofuel.
• Reauthorizes the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program.
• Requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the impacts of solar installations on private forestland and prime farmland.
• Limits the Secretary's authority to utilize USDA dollars to convert private forestland or prime farmland into ground-mounted solar installations.
• Maintains existing dollars for assistance to rural electric cooperatives for emissions-reducing rural energy systems.
• Maintains the authority for and investments in the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.
• Repeals the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and the Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program.

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

• Strengthens specialty crop programs by improving the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, reauthorizing Specialty Crop Market News, and requiring producer consultation in setting program priorities.
• Supports local and regional food systems by maintaining $50 million annually for the Local Agriculture Market Program and simplifying applications for farmers' market and local food promotion grants.
• Continuing support for organic and urban agriculture by reauthorizing the National Organic Program, improving organic market data, and expanding the role of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
• Improves transparency and market access by requiring USDA to report on federal commodity procurement and barriers for producers.
• Reduces regulatory burdens for hemp producers by allowing USDA, states, and tribes greater flexibility in testing requirements and establishing a process for accrediting hemp testing laboratories.
• Reaffirms that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the sole authority for making safety findings related to pesticides while retaining the states' ability to further regulate the use of these products.
• Clarifies the role and authority of State lead agencies in regulating pesticides under FIFRA.
• Provides regulatory relief by eliminating costly and duplicative permitting requirements for pesticide applications.
• Creates an Office of Biotechnology Policy to better coordinate related activities at USDA and across other Federal Agencies.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

• To help expedite the creation of new policies for specialty crops Title XI establishes a specialty crop insurance advisory committee and creates a seat on the FCIC Board to advise the Risk Management Agency on specialty crop insurance policies.
• Provides the authority to correct errors if someone with substantial beneficial interest is inadvertently omitted from a policy, provided omission doesn't disproportionately impact benefits.
• Directs RMA to review 508(h) policies for actuarial soundness to address any potential issues of new policies being approved with very high loss ratios.
• Clarifies that revenue losses outside of the producer's control are considered covered causes of loss.
• Streamlines reporting requirements for the Stacked Income Protection Plan.
• Reduces the interest rate and limits the number of years interest can accrue to the producer to help with farm transition planning.
• Simplifies the development process of getting training materials to the private sector after new product approval.
• Codifies A&O reimbursement rates for the 2026 reinsurance year moving forward.

• Requires the annual review of limitations of policies under Whole Farm Revenue Protection.
• Directs the Risk Management Agency to undergo research and development on the expansion of revenue protection policies and the creation of prevented plant policies for annual specialty crops.
• Requires the Risk Management Agency to complete an analysis of the current Standard Reinsurance Agreement, including additional risk funds for AIPs that are targeted to high-loss states and area-wide policies.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS

• Reauthorizes the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), and National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasure Bank (NAVVCB).
• Clarifies that animal disease traceability is an eligible activity under NADPRP.
• Requires a review and report on the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.
• Provides the Secretary with the authority to create additional dog training facilities, which would have the same duties as the National Detector Dog Training Center.
• Requires the Secretary to work in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate animal disease regionalization agreements with our trading partners.
• Requires electronic documentation records for the importation of live dogs into the United States.
• Clarifies that states and local governments cannot impose, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption, a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock unless the livestock is physically located within such state or local government.
• Directs USDA to conduct a report on their preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak.
• Allows livestock auction owners to invest in packing facilities, subject to capacity limitations of 2,000 animals per day or 700,000 animals per year for cattle and sheep and 10,000 animals per day or 3,000,000 animals per year for hogs.
• Requires USDA to provide guidance documents and other resources for small and very small meat and poultry processing facilities.
• Requires USDA to increase their outreach on the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program.
• Creates a pilot program for the life of the farm bill to allow a small number of custom-exempt facilities to sell meat products direct to consumers within the State in which the facility is located.
• Prohibits commercial greyhound racing.
• Prohibits gambling on animal fighting ventures.

SUBTITLE B—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1994

• Requires the Secretary to conduct regular assessments to identify risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture sector.
• Reauthorizes the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.
• Requires the USDA Office of Tribal Relations to oversee self-determination contract and self-governance compacts entered into between the Secretary and tribal organizations or Indian tribes.

SUBTITLE C—NATIONAL SECURITY

• Requires USDA to enter an MOU with the Committee on the Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to ensure timely sharing of data.
• Mandates the adoption of recommendations contained in the GAO report entitled "Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks."
• Imposes a minimum penalty on any person who knowingly fails to submit or falsifies an AFIDA filing, without being punitive to individuals who self-report errors.
• Directs outreach to provide awareness of requirements under AFIDA.
• Requires a report on any agricultural land owned by citizens or entities with ties to China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other state sponsors of terrorism and identifies potential threats from the ownership of such land.
• Establishes the position of Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions to audit and oversee activities related to AFIDA and report to CFIUS any land acquisitions that may pose a threat to national security.
• Mandates the creation of a public database for all AFIDA filings.
• Expands CFIUS to include the Secretary on Agriculture for covered transactions involving agricultural land, biotechnology, or industry.
• Requires CFIUS to determine if a national security threat review is necessary for reportable land transactions by USDA.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

• Reauthorizes the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050.
• Reauthorize the authorization of appropriations for improvements to the United States Drought Monitor.
• Directs the Secretary to issue guidance to clarify how an importer of plants that have been denied entry to the U.S. under the Lacey Act may obtain additional information related to their detention.
• Requires USDA to conduct a report, as it relates to companion animals, to evaluate the enforcement of standards under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA); evaluate efforts by USDA to educate and advise on all standards and requirements of the AWA; evaluate the capacity of USDA to enforce the standards established by the AWA;

and make recommendations for the improvement of standards and education efforts under the AWA.

- Affirms that visual dental examinations should be included in existing veterinary requirements.
- Reauthorizes the Protecting Animals with Shelter provision.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Seven years, two months, twelve days—the time between when the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) was signed into law and when House Committee on Agriculture favorably reported the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (FFNS–26). In that time, the 2018 Farm Bill has been extended three times, meanwhile farmers have seen total production expenses rise by forty percent, and as a direct result Congress has been forced to step in to pass billions in emergency economic relief and disaster assistance for producers, and the Administration has tapped the resources of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to provide additional aid to stave off a widespread and systemic economic collapse in farm country. In short, the policies of 2018 are no match for the challenges of 2026, thus necessitating a new and improved farm bill that better serves all Americans, especially agricultural producers and rural communities.

Beginning in 2023, the Committee engaged in a robust dialogue with Members of Congress, relevant organizations and associations, and directly with stakeholders to ascertain the priorities and needs for farm bill reauthorization. Through hearings in Washington, D.C., over 150 listening sessions in 42 states and one territory, and countless meetings with organizations representing every American whose life is touched by the farm bill, the Committee gathered valuable input that ultimately led to the creation of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 (FFNS–24; H.R. 8476).

Key priorities in that legislation included the modernization of the farm safety net, as well as key investments in conservation, export promotion, research, specialty crops, and livestock biosecurity. While the bill advanced out of committee on a bipartisan vote, partisan disagreement over responsibly funding these much-needed investments in the farm economy ultimately led to another extension of the 2018 law.

In 2025 Republican control of both chambers of Congress and the White House provided an opportunity through budget reconciliation to pursue the enactment of investments in critical farm bill programs as well as institute historic reforms to restore integrity, promote work, and end abuse of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which at the time constituted over 80 percent of mandatory farm bill spending, up almost 10 percent just since the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill.

With the inclusion of provisions related to funding included in H.R. 1 (Public Law No. 119–21), the remaining provisions related to policy changes from FFNS–24 that were not eligible for budget reconciliation served as the basis for FFNS–26 with key updates to reflect shifting priorities, additional needs, and ongoing feedback from Members and stakeholders. The broad support for this legislation is reflected by the endorsement of over 260 state and national organizations and a strong bi-partisan vote to favorably report FFNS–26 to the House.

The farm bill is not just an assortment of titles or a broad collection of provisions directly or tangentially related to agriculture, it is also a symbol of the commitment of policy makers to the farm and ranch families that feed, fuel, and clothe our nation and the world, many of whom borrow more in one growing season than the average American will borrow in their lifetime. The farm bill is also a commitment to rural communities that often feel overlooked by Washington or low on the priority list for private sector innovation. Additionally, the farm bill serves as a helping hand for neighbors in need and it underpins a highly efficient food system that has resulted in Americans paying the lowest share of total expenditures on food at home in the world. These constituencies deserve a farm bill written for the needs of today, not those of almost eight years ago. They deserve the certainty of a long-term farm bill reauthorization.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

The commodity title of the farm bill is intended to assist farmers and dairy producers in the event they are faced with depressed prices and revenue, especially over multiple years, and for ranchers and livestock producers that experience production losses resulting from natural disasters.

The flagship programs of Title I were enhanced and extended through 2031 via H.R. 1 (Pub. L. 119–21), the first major investment in farm policy in nearly 25 years and an imperative increase based on current economic conditions in rural America. The expansion of programs such as Price Loss Coverage (PLC), Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Marketing Loans, U.S. sugar policy, dairy risk management, and supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs will be critical to producers as they weather severe losses.

The modernization of the farm safety net and investments in ARC, PLC, sugar policy, and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) ensure these programs are better equipped to meet the moment when there are downturns in the farm economy. Reference prices better reflect the increased cost of production for all commodities, and more producers will have access to the safety net through the addition of base acres. Changes to standing livestock disaster programs now ensure that losses caused by federally protected species are fully covered, provide indemnities for the value of unborn livestock killed in disasters, and provide additional assistance for forage losses during drought.

Outside of the progress made to the commodity title in H.R. 1, additional policy enhancements remain and are addressed in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

The Committee-reported bill creates certainty for specialty crop producers as well as those producers who utilize marketing loans through USDA and provides additional flexibility in the implementation of the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

The Committee-reported legislation fully maintains the broad statutory authority invested in with the Secretary of Agriculture to respond to extraordinary needs, including the authority to provide direct assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffer economic losses. The bill also prevents updated farm policy from reverting to outdated permanent law.

To provide continuity and certainty for producers who utilize marketing loans, the Committee-reported bill ensures that loan programs can continue operations during a lapse in appropriations. Previously, a producer could not enter or redeem their commodity from the loan in the event of a government shutdown. This not only harmed farm families but also disrupted the orderly marketing of commodities.

TAP is an invaluable resource to America's orchardists and nursery tree growers as they look for ways to mitigate losses. The Committee believes that expanding access to this program is vital to the success of the industry. The Committee-reported bill creates more flexibility in when and how producers are able to replant destroyed crops by expanding TAP to allow for different varieties, locations, densities, and longer timelines when needed. Additional changes to the program expand eligibility to biennial crops and now provides the opportunity for an initial payment to aid with upfront costs of losses. Producers should have access to an upfront TAP payment in order to replant their crops in a timely fashion. It is also the intent of Congress that an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower should qualify for TAP if there is such damage resulting from a qualifying disaster that the orchard will no longer produce an economically viable crop.

The importance of long-term viability and competitiveness for America's specialty crop producers cannot be overstated, not only for their economic contributions but also for the healthy foods they produce. The Committee-reported bill provides this certainty through the creation of a specialty crop assistance framework. This framework will provide guidance to USDA when there is funding made available for either disaster or economic assistance and provides producers with a payment formula that is workable on the ground. Specialty crop producers are exceptionally resilient and the ability to plan ahead will create peace of mind as they make decisions for their operations.

The Committee notes the importance of honeybee producers to agricultural production, including through pollination services. The Committee further notes that Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) provides assistance for colony losses but does not address potential income impacts when losses occur during the production season.

The Committee encourages the Secretary, consistent with existing authority and available funding, to examine whether current ELAP administration adequately reflects in-season impacts for beekeepers whose losses exceed program thresholds. In doing so, the Committee encourages reliance on existing ELAP eligibility determinations, use of nationally available data, and avoidance of additional producer documentation. The Committee expects a briefing not later than one year after enactment on any findings or administrative actions under consideration.

The Committee recognizes that drought conditions create complex loss scenarios across a range of agricultural sectors, including aquaculture and other farm-raised fish production systems. The Committee includes provisions addressing drought within the ELAP documentation framework and states the intent that drought-related losses be understood as falling within the scope of adverse conditions considered under program administration.

The Committee further emphasizes the importance of clear and practical documentation standards for producers whose drought-related losses may be difficult to quantify using traditional livestock-based metrics. In directing the Secretary to consult with eligible producers of farm-raised fish regarding documentation standards for data collection, production impacts, and defining loss conditions attributable to drought, the Committee intends to provide context for consistent interpretation and administration of program requirements across production systems and regions. The Committee recognizes the economic significance of crawfish production and similar aquaculture operations and their vulnerability to prolonged drought conditions. The Committee notes administrative actions taken to reflect these realities and provides this discussion as part of the legislative history to clarify congressional understanding that drought-related reductions in crawfish harvest and comparable aquaculture losses are appropriate considerations in program implementation.

In the event of disaster assistance, the Committee understands the importance of getting aid to producers as quickly as possible. The Committee-reported bill provides standing block grant authority for future supplemental disaster appropriations bills. The Committee acknowledges that healthy and productive Federal, State, and private forests are an important part of many rural communities, and their proper management is vital for our environment and preventing catastrophic forest fires. The Committee believes that ensuring our forests are resilient should be a priority for the Department. Accordingly, it is the intent of the Committee that this standing block grant authority encompasses all crops and commodities, including timber.

The Committee-passed bill maintains and strengthens federal dairy policy by extending the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP) and the National Dairy Checkoff through 2031. Additionally, the bill provides the authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to require a mandatory cost survey conducted by the Agricultural Marketing Service to ensure that make allowances are updated using accurate, current manufacturing cost data. Collectively, these changes promote transparency, economic stability, and the long-term success of the dairy industry.

To address the uncertainty faced by America's tobacco farmers, the Committee-reported bill includes a provision to make tobacco an eligible commodity to receive funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The Committee expects USDA to fully implement and support third-party acreage reporting for Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) program purposes, as required by Section 1614(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–79) and Section 1614(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014, as amended by section 1706 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–34, 7 U.S.C. 9097).

Furthermore, the Committee directs USDA to ensure that the development and implementation of the "One Farmer, One File" initiative by USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) further enhances and supports the availability and efficiency of third-party acreage reporting for producers and the authorized third-party vendors serving producers.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Title II programs offer producers technical assistance and financial cost-share for farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners to support voluntary, locally-led and incentive-based conservation on private lands. The farm bill's conservation programs address natural resource concerns and improve the environment while supporting the long-term viability of agricultural producers and a safe, affordable food supply. Title II programs provide producers with tools to address soil health and erosion, water quality and quantity, air quality, wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, and regulatory compliance, among others.

With their proven track records, the Committee believes farm bill conservation programs must remain voluntary, flexible, locally-led, incentive-based, and producer focused. In addition, the Committee emphasizes working lands programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), as well as partnership initiatives, such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills provided a variety of reforms to streamline and consolidate conservation programs while simplifying the statute. In response to the growing complexity of the conservation title, the 2014 Farm Bill consolidated 23 conservation programs to 13 programs, simplifying the title while simultaneously preserving the various USDA authorities. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 builds on previous reforms through additional streamlining, administrative improvements, and user-friendly enhancements. For example, the Committee is aware of the significant administrative challenges complicating participation in RCPP for many participants in recent years. In response, the reported bill streamlines the program, sets reasonable timelines for USDA administration, and restores flexibility within the program. Similarly, to encourage more access for conservation technical assistance, the Bill improves and streamlines the Technical Service Providers (TSP) program's certification process and sets timelines for approvals for certifiers and third-party providers.

The Committee strongly supports incorporating science, technology, and innovation in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, with an emphasis on the conservation title. This includes further support for precision agriculture technologies to help generate conservation and environmental benefits, reduce inputs, and encourage cost savings for the producer over the long term. As such, Section 2001 amends the definitions in current law including new definitions for "precision agriculture" and "precision agriculture technology". These definitions have been specifically added to support the inclusion of precision agriculture technology within several conservation program reauthorizations. The Committee recognizes precision agriculture technology is the most rapidly changing sector of agriculture with new and unforeseen changes within the five-year term of this farm bill. The Committee directs the Secretary to take a broad view with respect to application of these definitions beyond technology and application, to include targeted biologic products. Furthermore, to incorporate innovation into conservation practices standards, the legislation requires more frequent updates to conservation practice standards, a clear process

for public engagement, and a new Office of Innovation reporting directly to the Chief of NRCS.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Section 2101 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 reauthorizes the Conservation Reserve Program through Fiscal Year 2031 and updates the associated dates throughout the text.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The 2026 Farm Bill authorizes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program through Fiscal Year 2031. The Committee strongly supports this critically important program and continues funding levels above the current baseline. To encourage science, innovation and technology in the program, the reported bill specifies that precision agriculture and the acquisition of precision agriculture technologies are covered practices under the program. Consistent with the new definitions in section 2001, the Committee includes references to both definitions for use in EQIP under section 2201. The Committee directs the Secretary to support the broader uses and applications of this term as incorporated in the definition.

Subsection 2202(c) provides an increased payment limitation from $140,000 to $200,000 for conservation practices related to organic production included in contract enrolled beginning 2027 through 2031. Section 2202 also provides new language clarifying producers can receive loans and loan guarantee payments for eligible practices receiving payment through an EQIP contract.

Under Section 2202(a)(3), the bill allows for increased payments for precision agriculture technology under EQIP. The Committee fully expects that USDA will encourage the use of precision agriculture technology, where practicable, as contracts are awarded.

Under Section 2204, the Committee specifically references the inclusion of precision agriculture practices as eligible practices for testing within Conservation Innovation Grants. As defined for this title, the Committee understands the universe of technology under the umbrella of precision agriculture technology is rapidly expanding. The Committee directs the Secretary to utilize this provision of EQIP to provide opportunities to evaluate new and emerging technologies and ensure innovations in mechanization, chemistry, application techniques, and biologics in order to for technologies to be current with the state of science and available to agriculture producers during the term of this Farm Bill.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes that improving soil health on agricultural land, through nutrient management, is valuable in achieving conservation as well as economic benefits for farmers, as increased profit margins for farmers and long-term health of the land are key components of the success of the overall farm economy. The Committee supports new on-farm conservation trials for innovative conservation approaches and encourages NRCS to promote and provide assistance to prioritize precision agriculture and nutrient management projects through programs such as the conservation innovation grants program.

The Committee recognizes the role of precision agriculture technologies in enhancing productivity, resource efficiency, and environmental stewardship in agricultural operations. For example, virtual

fencing is one technology that uses GPS-enabled collars and digital mapping to allow producers to manage livestock movement without the need for physical fencing. The Committee notes that Section 2202 provides authority for USDA to increase payments to support precision agriculture tools that optimize input use, reduce environmental impact, and improve farm and ranch profitability. The Committee supports continued modernization of practice standards to allow precision technology and encourages NRCS to ensure States understand the standard and how to incorporate technology into conservation plans that support precision agriculture in the livestock sector.

In 2022, USDA announced the EQIP Southern Border Initiative. This initiative allows for EQIP financial assistance specifically for damage to fields and farm infrastructure along the southern border. In recognition of the strong need for the continued availability of this funding within EQIP, the legislation authorizes the initiative for five years under Section 2202(f).

The Committee recognizes innovative irrigation solutions benefit the conservation of water resources. The Committee supports the continuation of the development of surface water storage and usage, including conjunctive water management, and encourages USDA to consider EQIP funding for these purposes. Additionally, subsurface tile drainage and water management systems are critical to assisting farmers in increasing crop production while protecting their soil, water, and the environment. Due to aging and deteriorating drainage system infrastructure, the Committee encourages USDA to pursue additional financial and technical assistance opportunities for the repair and replacement of tiling systems on public and privately owned lands.

The Committee acknowledges the broad and significant role of EQIP in promoting environmental stewardship. In addressing water quality and access as a resource concern, the Committee believes that conservation programs should include farm pond rehabilitation and maintenance after their lifespan has expired as an eligible practice under EQIP. Further, the Committee recommends NRCS focuses on farm ponds that are one acre or less in size as an eligible project for EQIP funding. Many of these structures were constructed decades ago and are now silted in, leaking, or in need of upkeep and maintenance to return them to their prime condition. This practice is recognized under current standards as a proven method for water storage for livestock, fire protection, irrigation, production of fish and other uses.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Committee reauthorizes the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through Fiscal Year 2031 and maintains additional funding for the program. The revised language of the reported bill builds on the current law for 1240L(d) by adding precision agriculture technologies and conservation activities to the list of practices eligible additional payments. In making this addition, the Committee directs the Secretary to review the definitions included in Section 2001 of this Title. It is expected the full suite of precision technologies, including biologics, will be included in the additional payments offered under the Conservation Stewardship Program.

In Section 2301(a)(1) the Committee specifically references the increased costs incurred by the producer when planning and adopting precision agriculture practices. In establishing CSP practice and activity payments, the Committee directs the Secretary to gather data, incorporate, and update all the described costs described within the paragraph as they specifically relate to application of existing, new, and emerging precision agriculture technologies. In recognition of the importance of science, technology and innovation, "precision agriculture" is included as eligible for cost-share in Section 2301(b), similar to the amendments provided in EQIP.

To build upon the 2018 Farm Bill's commitment to soil health in CSP, Section 2302 of the reported bill includes a new soil health matching grant program within CSP for States and Tribes.

Feral swine eradication and control program

Through Section 2402, the Committee recognizes the success of the Feral Swine Pilot Program and the assistance it has provided since its inclusion in the 2018 Farm Bill by amending and incorporating the program language into Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985. Through the pilot, NRCS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have been able to assist more than 4,300 landowners with feral swine, encompassing nearly 3 million acres of land. The program covered 34 pilot project areas in 12 States, and demand for the program far exceeded the available dollars. As such, the reported bill also provides additional funding for the program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2031. Additionally, to further support suppression and eradication efforts, the Committee alters the current even split allocation to APHIS and NRCS to 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively.

The Committee also acknowledges the important role that the land-grant university community played in the success of the feral hog pilot in the Agricultural Act of 2018. Specifically, the universities assessed the extent and nature of damages across the pilot projects, collated this data, and provided USDA with insights on the cost-effectiveness of the projects and locations where strategic efforts yielded the greatest benefit. The universities also assisted in coordinating with landowners to ensure the projects were successful. Their work also aided USDA is understanding ways to improve program delivery in the future. The Committee encourages USDA to actively engage the expertise, networks, and experience of those universities that have made the program a success to this point and encourages USDA to enter into cooperative relationships for future efforts with those universities.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 566)

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, also known as P.L. 566, has been critical for protecting lives and property in rural America. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 supports this important program and makes several key reforms to improve it.

First, in Section 2403 of the Bill, the Committee makes two substantive changes to effectuate the policy of allowing remedial actions within the watershed program apart from the rehabilitation authority. This is done through the additions of paragraph (6) and

a subsection (c). The authorizing language is amended by appending subsection (c) to section 3 for the purpose of providing clarity with respect to continued USDA assistance to local sponsors for remedial actions of structures and their components within and beyond their planned service life. The Committee is aware of over 2,000 structures where the planned useful life installed components were less than the planned service life of the structure.

In addition, local sponsors have advised that some structures experience component deterioration at an accelerated rate either through deficiency in the original design or unrecognized site conditions at the time of construction. Sponsors have struggled to get the agency to prioritize these site-specific issues as remedial in nature rather than an operation and maintenance responsibility of the sponsor. By inserting this language, the Committee is providing clear authority for the agency to address certain issues such as remedial actions rather than operation and maintenance. For structures that have exceeded their planned service life, the agency will consider the feasibility of the remedial action extending the service life of the structure and not require each of these structures to be prioritized within the rehabilitation authority. Furthermore, the Committee provides for the costs of the remedial repair commensurate with the initial cost-share agreement with the local sponsoring organization.

Further the Committee-reported bill includes language directing USDA to streamline the program to improve its administration, reduce or eliminate regulatory and procedural barriers, and make the program easier for participants to navigate. The Committee adds section 3(d) to direct the Secretary to coordinate with the applicable Federal agencies to reduce the burdensome regulatory, policy, and procedural barriers impacting the timely and efficient delivery of completed projects to the local communities. It is our belief the regulatory burden should be significantly reduced given the location and size of many of these structures and there remain opportunities for streamlining and constructing a scalable process for securing approval and permitting of the structures rather than applying a "one-size-fits-all" across all Federal project actions.

The Committee continues to support the use of local sponsoring organizations in all aspects of program delivery. The amendment to add paragraph (6) to subsection section 3(a) creates a provision for technical and financial assistance in support of the new remedial action provision included as subsection (c) of this section.

USDA has been granted broad authority to use agreements and contracts with local organizations to accomplish their program responsibilities. Through the more recent farm bills and direct appropriations, the program has seen significant growth in funding. It is in the interest of the taxpayers that the funds be applied to projects on the ground as efficiently as possible. Paragraph (4) of subsection (3)(d) directs the Secretary to prioritize the use of existing agreement and contracting authorities to accelerate implementation where state governments and local sponsoring organizations have the capacity to deliver any or all the program deliverables from planning through construction.

The Committee amends Section 13, to increase publicly available transparency and reporting of the uses and benefits derived from the funding provided for the program. The amendment provides

specific reporting elements to be maintained, regularly updated, and communicated through a publicly accessible website. The Secretary will not include information regarding individual landowners', operators', or occupiers' agreements except in aggregate.

Section 14(b)(2) is amended to increase the minimum level of cost-share for rehabilitation of structural measures to 90%. The Committee recognizes the inability of many project sponsors to provide the requisite 35%. This results in many of our nation's most critical rehabilitation needs remaining unmet. This provision will overcome the sponsors' financial limitations and provide benefit to life, property, and communities at risk to weather volatility. The Committee intends, to the maximum extent practicable, that the minimum cost-share level be applied to all projects that are not yet awarded for construction. In addressing amendments to projects under construction requiring additional funds, the Secretary can use discretion in waiving the existing cost-share arrangement to address the funding modification necessary for the amended components.

The Committee recognizes the rehabilitation of aged watershed structures is occurring on a constantly changing landscape of agriculture and community interactions. As such, the Committee accepts and continues the program objective in delivering projects occurring within agriculture landscapes and accruing benefits to agriculture. However, specific to rehabilitation of structures, the Committee removes the required accruing of 20% agriculture benefits and the requirement for farm plans on 50% of the acres. This action will allow for the rehabilitation of prior installed structural measures where community development has altered the agriculture footprint within the watershed and increased the risk for loss of life and property.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Section 2404 amends the Emergency Conservation Program, Section 401 of the Agriculture Credit Act, to provide payment options for replacement, rehabilitation or repair of certain conservation measures, including fencing. The language further clarifies Congressional intent with respect to wildfires. The Committee acknowledges the significant impacts disasters have on agriculture operations. The Committee appreciates USDAs action in response to these disasters and conveys and expectation that the agency will continue to act expeditiously in deploying resources and delivering programs to all impacted producers. Language was also incorporated into the bill to ensure that technology-neutral modernization is eligible for fencing repair or replacement under ECP, provided that the update does not increase costs.

Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)

In amending Title IV, Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, through Section 2405 of the reported bill, the Committee clarifies and establishes clear authority for the Secretary to use appropriated program funding to restore the adapted vegetative cover and restore the wetlands hydrologic function and values historically associated with the floodplains being protected by the easements under this program.

The Committee recognizes the significant role the ecological values of properly restored and managed floodplain easements provide in addition to removing future threats to property and life. Further, the Committee adds language clarifying the authority of the Secretary to work with the landowner, government entities, and non-governmental organizations to address the long-term management needs on restored floodplain easements. With these changes the Committee expects the Secretary to conduct the program within the expanded authority and amend the program regulations within 120 days following enactment.

The Committee recognizes the value of easements acquired through EWP in long-term protection of life and property, while restoring floodplain functions. In the past, the restoration of the floodplain easement was limited to reestablishing the native vegetation ecologically adapted to the easement site with minimal attention paid to restoring the hydrologic functions and values typical of unmanipulated floodplains. The Committee includes Section 2405(a) to amend section 403(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b)) directing the Secretary to expand restoration activities with respect to restoring and maintaining floodplain easement functions and values, including hydrologic functions, in addition to the protection of the land under the easement.

Building on the success of the Wetlands Reserve Easements, the amended language clarifies the authority of the Secretary to engage partners and landowners in the restoration and maintenance of the easement. Additionally, the Secretary is statutorily granted the authority to provide landowners compatible use authorizations to provide mutual benefits for the management and maintenance of the cover and hydrologic functions.

Language under the new subsection (b) is included to reiterate and emphasize the intent of Congress to provide the Secretary authority under the program to conduct enhanced restoration activities on each floodplain easement that provides for long-term benefits to the health and protection of the watershed beyond the protection of agriculture and infrastructure from flooding.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the critical role that USDA field staff, extension service agents, and other technical service providers perform to assist producers with implementing impactful conservation practices, including practices that help producers reduce flooding and become more resilient to natural disasters. The Committee directs USDA to ensure there is appropriate support for producers to maximize flood resilience and encourages the Department to promote staff training on innovative soil health, natural resources, sustainability, and watershed management techniques that contribute to flood resilience in order to ensure their ability to provide specialized technical support for producers.

Technical Service Providers (TSP)

The Committee recognizes the importance of technical assistance and the need for improving the administration of the technical service providers program to increase access. As such, the reported bill provides a variety of reforms to improve the administration of the program for third-party certifiers and providers.

Under (5) of Section 2502, the Secretary shall establish within 180 days a process to approve a non-Federal entity to become a

non-Federal certifier. Paragraph (3) requires the Secretary to make decisions within 30 days on applications for third parties to be a certified provider. Further, the language directs the Secretary to establish within 180 days a streamlined certification process for the Secretary and non-Federal certifiers to use to certify a third-party provider.

Subsection (e)(3) amends current law to require the Secretary to comprehensively review the certification process within one year, and periodically after one year, and make adjustments to improve the process. The Committee continues to receive input that USDA's payment rates for Technical Services are insufficient to recruit service providers or encourage agriculture producers to engage the services of third parties. Subsection (e)(5) clarifies the consideration for establishing payment rates and removes the cost-sharing requirement currently utilized.

Innovation and conservation practice standards

Subsection (f) amends Section 1242(h)(1) of current law to establish a regular review of existing conservation practices on at least a 5-year cycle. The Committee notes that the spirit of this entire revision is to ensure USDA is regularly engaging the public and private sector to ensure the conservation practices are being reviewed and adapted to the current agriculture production systems and not creating unnecessary barriers to conservation and program delivery. The Committee directs the work and process of reviewing and revising standards to be open to public input, transparent, and responsive to all input received.

The reported bill's amendment to Section 1242(h)(3) in the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended represents a substantial revision to current law with respect to the process for reviewing and establishing interim and new conservation practice standards. The current pace of change in agriculture production systems and technology is creating opportunities within the current portfolio of conservation practices for both the review and revision of existing practice standards and a streamlined process for submission and establishment of interim and new conservation practices. The Committee understands that much of today's innovation in agriculture production and conservation is occurring within the private sector. The cumbersome process of developing practice standards delays opportunities for USDA employees, consultants, and producers to have adequate information and training to keep conservation "on pace." This language is intended to spur USDA into a streamlined process that can be accessed by the private sector and provide predictability, transparency, and an expedient path for delivering new practice standards to agriculture producers.

To provide clarity, the Committee listed in paragraph (D) specific innovative technologies the agency will prioritize under the streamlined process for interim and new standard development. The Committee also recognizes some of these technologies can be incorporated into one or more existing standards by revision. However, the Committee believes some technologies such as those listed under subparagraph (ii) are better served under independent standards rather than embedded in the existing nutrient management standard.

Office of Conservation Innovation

Section (f), paragraph (5) adds new language to the Food Security Act of 1985 establishing an Office of Conservation Innovation. The Committee understands the pace of innovation in agriculture and the struggles to remain current given the scope and complexity of technical and programmatic requirements placed on the agency. Therefore, the Committee is directing the establishment of this office with technical staff of the stated criteria in a structure that reports directly to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The goal is to provide technical leaders with unfettered access to the Chief to deliver the current state of technology for the Chief to better set priorities for technical advancement and timely delivery of products and tools to the field employees and agriculture producers.

Given the diminished staff capacity of the agency and the expectations of Congress for timely delivery of the programs under this title, subsection (g) of Section 2502 is added to provide a path for the agency to acquire the personnel resources necessary to deliver the conservation programs administered by the agency.

Section 2503 adjusts the aggregate acreage limitations associated with land retirement conservation programs to 25 percent across all identified programs to better balance the programs with the applicable resource needs and benefits.

In subparagraph (c), the Committee further addresses the issues of USDA continuing to elevate payment rates to a national level. The current program payment schedule process, while convenient for the agency staff, continues to miss the target for our agriculture producers. This amended language is directing the Secretary to establish a payment process that is more reflective of the local costs and variability of producer's costs in implementing conservation practices. The conservation program structure of this title is built around the premise of locally-led conservation, State Technical Committees, and shared costs with producers under the program defined sideboards. The Committee has every expectation the agency will rapidly adjust and adopt payment schedule methods that encourage and facilitate locally prioritized conservation practice adoption.

The 2018 Farm Bill initiated a significant cross-program effort to protect our Nation's source water through targeting efforts, after seven years of application of this language the Committee is making a few significant changes to the law, by requiring each Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist to designate a staff member to be responsible for coordinating with community water system providers and annually report through a publicly available method the program delivery and accomplishments of this effort.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

The legislation supports and reauthorizes the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) through Fiscal Year 2031. The Bill also provides a variety of reforms to improve administration, reduce burdensome processes, and increase program flexibility. This includes more clarity on easement transfers, modifications and exchanges, as well as a process for recognizing experienced easement entities with less unnecessary oversight. For So-

cially Disadvantaged Farmers (SDA), the bill provides a higher Federal cost-share, a separate evaluation and ranking pool, and a 30-year contract option within Wetland Reserve Easement contracts available to Indian Tribes. The bill also increases the Federal cost-share, creates a lower cost-share option, and waives the adjusted gross income requirement for the program.

The legislation rescinds the authority under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements for entities to engage in Buy-Protect-Sell transactions. With this rescission, however, the Committee does not intend to preclude all projects that facilitate the transfer of eligible land between producers. The Committee believes that current statutory authority would allow an entity to apply to the program either on behalf of an eligible landowner who intends to transfer ownership of the eligible land to another landowner prior to the acquisition of the agricultural land easement, or on behalf of the future buyer of the eligible land, provided the buyer is otherwise eligible and purchases the land prior to or simultaneously with the acquisition of the agricultural land easement.

To encourage and enable more landowners to participate in the program Section 2602 amends 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase the Federal share to an amount not to exceed 65% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. To fully promote program participation, the Committee expects the agency to apply this increased Federal share to all ACEP—ALE projects other than those eligible for the higher Federal share under (ii) or (iii) and the lower federal option authorized in (C).

Recognizing the historic issues of landownership and difficulties in binding property rights in perpetuity within certain communities, the Committee amends Section 1265C (b)(1)(D) to add socially disadvantaged landowners to the 30-year contract option available to Indian Tribes. In doing so, the Committee does not intend for socially disadvantaged landowners to be excluded from applying for and being enrolled in perpetual or 30-year easements at their discretion.

The Committee did not provide new language or modification with respect to the evaluation and ranking of offers described in 1265C(b)(3). However, the Committee recognizes the real and perceived barriers of socially disadvantaged landowners to easement programs. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to work with the socially disadvantaged landowner communities to identify barriers to access and enrollment and to further take action to reduce or eliminate these barriers within the flexibilities provided under the law. Further and as a minimum, the Secretary should establish separate ranking pools and conduct targeted, timely outreach and education to socially disadvantaged landowners.

Section 2602 amends 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to include an alternative option for landowners reluctant to enter into an agricultural land easement in which the Federal Government has a contingent right of enforcement. This option is intended to enable public agencies to reconcile the NRCS minimum deed terms with their own state requirements. Without a Federal contingent right of enforcement, the Committee believes that no minimum deed terms should be required and the review of easement deed terms under this option should be limited to consistency

with program purposes and inclusion of an effective right of enforcement for the entity.

The Committee provides modification with respect to the easement payment in 1265C(b)(3). The Committee does not believe this program should compete with the land values for productive, well-suited agricultural land that could displace agriculture production or land access for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. The Committee does believe there remains a significant acreage of soils and farms that were inadequately drained prior to 1985, or the drainage has degraded over time making consistent, economically viable production impractical without accepting a higher risk. The Secretary shall view the established rate as a cap and monitor the methods used by each state and ensure the rates being offered are not diverting productive, economically viable agriculture lands into land retirement.

The Committee provides modification to current law with respect to the agency's certification and use of certified entities. The Committee instructs USDA to embrace this provision and maximize the opportunities for entities to become certified and conduct their easement acquisition business with minimal interaction and interference of the agency.

Subsection (d) in Section 1265C addresses easement stewardship needs and responsibilities of USDA. The Department has surpassed 6 million acres of enrolled easements with approximately 3 million in the wetlands reserve, the most comprehensive easement within the farm bill portfolio. The Committee appreciates USDA's historic, decades-long commitment in prioritizing the funding for the enrollment and restoration of new acres. This effort has carried the load in achieving the "no net-loss" goal for wetland conversions and in doing so has maintained a significant portion of these wetlands in the hands of our nation's private landowners. The sole intent of this language is to elevate the easement stewardship responsibilities within the program to a planning, budgeting, and execution priority level equivalent to acquisition and restoration. It is not intended to create an equal division of the funds for stewardship, but to require the agency to inventory, monitor, assess, and plan for post-restoration activities on these lands. Doing so will properly account for the program gains in meeting all objectives and ensure future activities are funded to prevent habitat degradation and encourage further enhancement of the easement functions and values.

Section 2604 makes several changes to 1265D(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve program efficiency related to easement stewardship. The Committee is aware of significant delays by the agency in acting on entity or landowner requests for easement modifications—delays that have led to negative landowner and partner perceptions of the program, chilling landowner interest in easement programs. The Committee has decoupled easement modifications from exchanges and created a separate set of requirements for each, recognizing that the administrative actions serve different purposes. An exchange involves the removal of some land included in an existing easement in exchange for other land not currently encumbered. A modification adjusts the terms of an easement, corrects errors, and clarifies vague language. The revised requirements for easement modifications allow modifications that

support the long-term agricultural viability of farm or ranch operations and result in equal or greater conservation values, enabling farmers and ranchers to better respond to changing environmental and economic conditions and technologies, while still upholding the conservation purposes of the easement.

The Committee authorizes certified entities to act on "*de minimis*" easement adjustments, such as minor easement corrections or requests to exercise rights that have been reserved in an easement. This authority will reduce the administrative burden on NRCS while creating a more efficient, less duplicative process for landowners. Minor easement modifications are a routine task for entities who manage easements, and certified entities must show that they are capable of long-term management of easements to become certified.

Section 2604 clarifies that modifications shall not be considered a major Federal action subject to NEPA. The Committee is aware that an increasing challenge for landowners and partners in modifying easements is NRCS's determination that all modifications are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This determination delays approvals for minor easement modifications due to NRCS site visits and environmental assessments. The Committee believes that a modification to an easement in which the Federal Government has only a contingent right of enforcement does not rise to the level of major Federal action. Private agricultural lands conservation is a cornerstone to protecting valuable open space and wildlife habitat and a central condition for modifying an ACEP–ALE easement is that the modification results in equal or greater benefit to the property's conservation values.

The Committee recognizes ACEP easements are evaluated on land protection, preservation, and restoration merits and not the applicant. As such, the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions applied to the landowner are creating an impediment and burden on the applicant and the agency in further addressing the waiver requirements of Section 1001D(b). Therefore, the Committee inserted language in 1265D(g) exempting ACEP from AGI applicability.

Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP)

Recognizing the need for the increased availability of forest easements, Section 2701 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act creates a new Subtitle I within Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 and authorizes mandatory dollars for a new Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP). The Committee intends this new program to be structured and function similarly to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. With the creation of FCEP, the bill repeals the existing Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP).

Section 1267 establishes the purposes of FCEP: protect working forest land by limiting the negative effects of non-forest land uses; protect and enhance forest ecosystem functions; promote wildlife habitat; and carry out the functions of HFRP. Per Section 1267A, an eligible entity includes a state or local government or an Indian Tribe, a conservation organization, or a 501(c)(3) or a 509(a).

In Sections 1267B and 1267C, the bill establishes two types of easements within the program: forest land easements and forest reserve easements. Under the provisions of 1265B, forest land ease-

ments are conveyed to an eligible entity for protecting forestland and natural resources, while allowing the landowner to continue working forest production. Subsection (b), paragraph (4)(iii) of 1265B, includes a requirement for a forest management plan as a minimum terms and conditions for the easement to be included in the agreement between the Secretary and entities.

While the Committee believes the easement acreage should be under forest management plan, the Committee does not intend to include this or any other plan as a component, exhibit, or part of the filed easement. The easement and the long-term administration should not be encumbered by the unnecessary paperwork to review and amend an easement deed making necessary changes and adjustments to the plan during the term of the easement. The Committee reiterates that the plan development, approval, implementation, and modifications shall remain between the entity and landowner without interference of the Secretary.

Separately, 1265C provides for forest reserve easements with certain rights conveyed to the Secretary for similar natural resources and forestland protection, while also allowing the landowner to continue working forest production.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The Committee reauthorizes the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and fully supports partnerships that leverage resources to increase conservation program delivery and effectiveness. Section 2801 restructures Section 1271 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to clearly display the broad purposes to be addressed through the program.

The Committee applauds the agency's efforts to improve accountability and reporting of natural resource benefits derived from program funds. However, this effort has created an overwhelming burden for eligible partners and further complicates partner engagement. The Committee and USDA partners have expressed frustration with respect to the lengthy process and delays in securing partnership agreements. The agency has not achieved the substantial changes necessary to ensure the partners are able to expeditiously initiate projects and deliver conservation services and funding to agriculture and forest producers. Section 1271B(a)(2), as amended by the reported bill instructs the Secretary to engage with partners and re-engineer the partnership and program agreement process to deliver funds to partners early in the fiscal year and simplify the financial and progress reporting complexities to align with the deliverables within the approved program application.

The Committee also understands many partners have experienced significant delays in receiving payments for their work described and performed under the agreement. These delays hinder a partnering entity's ability to deliver the program. Amended language to subparagraph (d)(6) directs the Secretary to place greater emphasis on timely delivery of payments to partnering entities.

Subsection (c) of Section 2803 instructs the Secretary to address specific requests for waivers to the covered programs within the application process. The Committee believes the added clarity will reduce confusion and delays with respect to project delivery. Section 2804 amends current law subsection 1271C(d)(3) to add subpara-

graph (B) partners entering into an alternative funding arrangement or grant under the program will be required to furnish not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the project. Section 2805 restructures current law to accommodate the mandatory program funding language to Section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, consistent with the other conservation programs under this title.

The Committee understands the term technical assistance to include direct personnel costs including wages and benefits, equipment at standard rates, travel, and training for the partner staff performing work identified within the agreement. The Secretary should exercise discretion using the authority provided in 2805(b) of this bill in identifying the acceptable technical assistance for use of program funds. This should not unduly restrict partners from properly covering their personnel and associated costs similar to the use of the funds for USDA personnel supporting the covered programs.

It has been brought to the Committee's attention that the agency has created subdivisions in the allocation of technical assistance funds within the partnership agreement. In doing so, the agency has added administrative burden in the allocation, distribution, and modification of agreements as partners utilize the program funded technical assistance in support of the program. Further, the burdensome reporting required with respect to the division of these funds has introduced recordkeeping complexities that did not exist prior to the 2018 Farm Bill or within other program delivery agreements. Through the additions and amendments to 1271D(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985, Congress directs USDA to eliminate this administrative complexity associated within the division of allocated technical assistance funding while maintaining the overall authority for the use of these funds as described in the statute.

In establishing the program regulation as required by the 2018 Farm Bill, USDA created considerable flexibility in the relationship of this program to the regulations and policies of the covered programs listed in 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985. In doing so, the agency has created considerable confusion for partners and producers in program delivery between the covered programs rules and regulations and the RCPP flexibilities embodied in the announcement of program funding and the partnership agreements. Through the amendments provided by Section 2806 of this bill, the Committee seeks to restore the guiding principles of the covered programs that exist through statute, regulation, and program policy as the underpinning of the RCPP.

Section 2807 relates to the definition of priority resource concern for wildlife is clarified through expanded language including connectivity and corridors.

Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program

The Committee recognizes the significant role of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA–HIP) in helping State and Tribal governments increase public access to lands across the U.S. and improve wildlife habitats, while protecting private landowner rights.

The Committee understands that current areas covered under this program provide much-needed access for Americans to recon-

nect with the outdoors through recreation activities, but there are opportunities to enhance those experiences. The Committee encourages USDA to improve the quality of habitat for sought-after game species (and numerous non-game species associated with them) on lands enrolled in Voluntary Public Access for the numerous species by increasing the ability of the landowner VPA–HIP grantees to participate in more-easily incorporate effective habitat management practices in conjunction with providing public access. The additional function of habitat improvement for the landowners will be advantageous for the landscape and wildlife.

The sense of the Committee regarding other conservation efforts

Western Water and Drought.—The reported Bill reauthorizes programs within the Department's jurisdiction, and several authorities granted to the Secretary, related to water and water conservation to address growing issues of water access across the United States. Due to the geographical and atmospheric conditions unique to the Western United States, the Federal government has historically played an active role in both water supply and water quality for this region, guaranteeing access for residents and businesses. The Committee urges the Department to use its existing programs and authorities to prioritize water quality and water supply needs in the Western United States. In addition, the Committee encourages agreements and management practices for the benefit of wildlife including for the purpose of providing seasonal wetland habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds.

Wetland Reserve Easements and Levees.—The Committee recognizes that under Public Law 84–99, the Levee Rehabilitation Program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the authority to restore a levee that has been damaged by a natural disaster like a flood. In order to do so, USACE utilizes adjacent ground to realign the levee. However, the Committee also recognizes that in some instances, the adjacent ground needed to realign the levee, is private property held under easement through the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) or CRP, which restricts the land from use and further delays progress in realigning the levee. The Committee urges USDA to utilize the flexibility in existing authority to work with the USACE to develop a pre-flood memo of understanding or a joint guidance document that will provide expeditious resolution of amendments to USDA conservation program contracts necessary to permit post-flood levee realignment without delay.

Native Plants.—The Committee directs any entity of the Federal Government that performs landscape planting improvements as part of construction or maintenance activities to prioritize, as feasible with regard to cost, schedule, and product supply, the use of native plants over non-native plants, and to consider the benefits, such as habitat creation, supporting pollinators, decreasing soil erosion and landscape water usage, increasing sediment control, and controlling stormwater runoff, of using native plants over the life of the project when deciding whether to use native plants.

Winter Hearty Cover Crops and Anerobic Digesters.—Winter hearty cover crops are widely known to provide agronomic and environmental benefits in annual cropping systems, including improved soil organic carbon storage, water infiltration, nutrient re-

tention and the potential for reduced pest and weed pressure in subsequent summer crops. Allowing spring termination of cover crops through harvest could encourage more widespread adoption of cover cropping practices by farmers. The harvested material could be used for bioenergy—for example renewable electricity or renewable natural gas through anaerobic digestion—or for forage or bedding, providing market incentives for practice adoption.

Aggregate Materials.—The Committee recognizes the advantages of applying minerals from fine aggregates materials and quarry by-products, including crushed rock, gravel, and other residual materials from quarry processing, on farmland. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Agriculture, in collaboration with NRCS and the aggregates industry, to establish best practices for applying minerals from fine aggregates materials and quarry by-products on farmland.

Citrus Greening.—The Committee fully recognizes the ongoing challenges that citrus greening has created for citrus growers and citrus producing regions. The Committee encourages NRCS and FSA to make the appropriate tools and programs available to citrus growers, including cost-share opportunities and easements, where appropriate, to keep such lands working and in production.

White Oak Initiative.—White oak forests are critical for wildlife, biodiversity, and forest products, and without swift action by private landowners and land management agencies, there will be a significant decline of white oak forests in the future. The Committee commends NRCS for its work to encourage white oak conservation and promote white oak reforestation practices and encourages NRCS to expand and coordinate these efforts across its programs with the U.S. Forest Service.

TITLE III—TRADE

Trade promotion

The Committee recognizes the immense importance of trade to the agriculture industry, with U.S. agricultural exports estimated at $176 billion per year and trade supporting more than one million full time civilian jobs.

The Committee also understands our international trading partners have been substantially increasing publicly funded support for export promotion, while U.S. investments have remained stagnant. Flat spending, coupled with a lackluster trade agenda under the Biden Administration, has led to an agricultural trade deficit for the first time in decades.

The Committee has heard from every segment of the agricultural industry about the importance of maintaining support for trade promotion and market development programs. While the Committee is confident that America's farmers and ranchers are incredibly efficient and can compete with anyone in the world on a level playing field, they simply cannot be expected to compete with foreign treasuries on their own.

In an effort to keep American agriculture competitive on the global stage, the Committee-reported bill increases funding for the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program (ATPFP), comprised of the Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program, E (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Mar-

kets Program (EMP), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program, and Priority Trade Fund (PTF). The topline funding is $533 million, with $410 million allocated to MAP, $82 million allocated to FMD, $16 million allocated to EMP, $18 million allocated to TASC, and $7 million allocated to PTF. The Committee expects the Secretary and the Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at USDA to use this funding to continue breaking down barriers to trade and opening up new markets for U.S. agricultural products.

The Committee also calls attention to the funding provided to enhance needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to improve the capabilities of cold chain capacity in new and developing foreign markets. The Committee included this provision to ensure that agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of such infrastructure.

The Committee wholeheartedly endorses the suite of trade promotion programs at USDA as valuable tools in advancing our international trade interests with proven results and substantial net returns. The Committee encourages the agricultural industry to continue utilizing these programs in the most efficient manner possible and urges MAP and FMD cooperators to leverage data and analytics to even more effectively target promotional efforts for U.S. products abroad.

The Committee continues to encourage the agricultural industry to take full advantage of TASC and EMP. However, if these programs are underutilized, the Committee intends to ensure the Secretary has the flexibility to use remaining funds to supplement the popular and often oversubscribed MAP and FMD programs.

Finally, the Committee intends to clarify that the TASC program should aim to align with and use the definition of "specialty crops" from the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004, which includes fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

International food aid and food security

For more than 60 years, the United States has played a leading role in global efforts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition through international food assistance—primarily through the donation or sale of U.S. agricultural commodities. Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been a move away from in-kind assistance towards cash-based assistance, namely in the Food for Peace (FFP) program. While cash-based assistance can be beneficial in unique developmental circumstances, the Committee believes the focus of our international feeding programs should be restored to their original intent, which is to provide U.S. grown agricultural commodities to hungry people around the world.

The Committee further believes that the best agency to implement and oversee our international feeding programs is USDA. USDA has managed programs like Food for Progress (FFPr) and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Program for decades and has a unique expertise in commodity procurement. To that end, the Committee reported bill reauthorizes FFPr and McGovern-Dole and transfers all authorities of the Food for Peace Act, including the Food for Peace (FFP) program, from the U.S. Agency for International Develop-

ment (USAID) to USDA. Through this transfer, the Committee intends for all statutory and regulatory provisions that have been used by USAID to administer the program to be fully transferred to USDA.

Within the transfer, the Committee also notes the 50 percent cap on FFP nonemergency funds for expenses other than the procurement of U.S. grown agricultural commodities and ocean transportation. The Committee expects USDA to meet the 50 percent diversion requirement and work towards decreasing the diversion percentage in coming years, further restoring the original intent of the program.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Title IV authorizes funding and updates policy for several federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

SNAP currently offers nutrition assistance to 42 million individuals, providing an average monthly benefit of $332 per household. Total SNAP-related funding in FY 2025 was $102 billion, which includes benefits, administration, nutrition education, employment and training, and program integrity. Total benefits provided to households in FY 2025 summed to $95 billion.

It is important to highlight the significant increase in SNAP spending since President Trump signed into law the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334). In FY 2018, total SNAP-related funding was $65 billion and total benefits provided to households summed to $61 billion. This is why, in the first session of the 119th Congress, congressional Republicans delivered the most meaningful reforms to SNAP in the history of the program in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. 119–21), signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. These reforms, which will save taxpayers nearly $200 billion over the next decade, ensure SNAP works the way Congress intended it to, by reinforcing work, restoring program integrity, and instituting long-overdue accountability incentives to control costs and end administrative overreach. Title IV of the Committee-reported bill locks in these historic reforms for five years and continues to deliver wins for taxpayers by remaining entirely budget neutral.

Despite budgetary limitations, the Committee-reported bill prioritizes our farmers and neighbors in need by advancing policies to expand the reach of critical feeding programs, improve nutrition, and hold states who administer programs accountable.

First, the bill prioritizes innovation and improves access to nutrition programs, including by, but not limited to, authorizing state-led local purchasing programs to connect farmers and producers with their local food distribution organizations; expanding access to the CSFP through a program delivery pilot that priorities rural communities; strengthening the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) by allowing for all forms of produce in SNAP incentives and waiving the match requirement in persistent poverty counties; and requiring that USDA make the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot a permanent shopping option nationwide.

Second, the bill creates a stronger, more sustainable connection between health and federal nutrition programs. The bill includes several reforms to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to emphasize science, integrity, and transparency, while de-emphasizing politics and issues irrelevant to food and nutrition science. The Committee also expands the SNAP Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program to the Dairy Nutrition Incentive Program to increase SNAP household's access to more whole, nutritious foods. Finally, for the first time, the bill refocuses the purpose of SNAP as defined in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to a program that promotes a healthy lifestyle and the prevention of diet-related chronic disease.

Lastly, building off Pub. L. 119–21, the Committee-reported bill continues to hold USDA and states accountable to the generosity of the American taxpayer by requiring USDA to include all identified SNAP payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental, public annual report and by directing GAO to investigate skyrocketing SNAP administrative costs in the states.

Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico

The Committee supports the goal of Puerto Rico ultimately transitioning from the Nutrition Assistance Program block grant to SNAP and recognizes that SNAP would give Puerto Rico more tools to promote employment. The Committee encourages both USDA and Puerto Rico to continue to formulate a financially and operationally viable pathway toward a transition and to remain engaged with Congress on the progress made in this effort. The Committee specifically encourages the Department to provide robust technical assistance to Puerto Rico throughout this process.

SNAP Retailer Eligibility

Current statute defines "retail food stores" as part of the SNAP retailer eligibility criteria USDA considers when assessing SNAP retailer applications. However, it is unclear how unattended food retailers such as micro markets are treated by USDA in the SNAP retailer application process. Currently, the Committee does not feel a statutory change is necessary for USDA to consider unattended food retailers under the "retail food stores" definition in current law (7 USC § 2012(o)). To that end, the Committee encourages USDA to continue to consider and approve SNAP retailers, including unattended food retailers, who meet the necessary eligibility criteria under the existing statute to address food insecurity and increase utilization of the SNAP program.

Eligible Foods in SNAP

As the Department works with states to Make America Healthy Again and implement temporary waivers that restrict certain purchases with SNAP, the Committee encourages the Department to report to Congress, no later than one year after enactment of the Act, on the feasibility of a national standard for foods that should be purchased with SNAP benefits, taking into consideration implementation challenges, the effectiveness of such standards, and the impact on retailers of various sizes.

SNAP Equal Treatment

The Committee is aware that, due to changes in currency one-cent piece circulation and commercial practices, some retail food stores and authorized vendors round the total amount of cash transactions, including total change due, to the nearest whole cent or increment (*e.g.,* nearest five-cent increment). The Committee notes that this practice, when applied, is done so uniformly to all customers paying with cash and is unrelated to the form or sequence of payment used for program benefits.

The Committee does not intend for the equal treatment requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to be implicated or interpreted in a manner that penalizes otherwise compliant retailers or vendors solely because they engage in uniform cash-rounding practices when necessitated by currency one-cent piece circulation changes.

Accordingly, the Committee stresses that equal treatment or pricing requirements of SNAP are not implicated or violated solely on the basis that the retailer or vendor rounds the total amount of a cash transaction, provided that any such rounding is applied consistently to all cash transactions regardless of the type or sequence tender used.

The Committee also stresses that none of the above limits the Secretary's authority to enforce program requirements related to fraud, overcharges, or differential treatment based on the form of payment.

Buy American in SNAP

The Committee directs the Secretary, no later than one year after enactment of the Act, to submit to the Committee a report evaluating the feasibility of applying a Buy American requirement to certain food products purchased with SNAP benefits, including meat and seafood products, dairy products, eggs, and fruits and vegetables.

Ingredients and SNAP

The Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to study the impact of ingredient information and transparency on SNAP purchases.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs

The Committee supports the role the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) plays in providing access to healthy foods for low-income seniors by connecting them with local farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agricultural programs. The SFMNP is administered by state agencies who also administer the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). However, the Committee understands that while the SFMNP receives mandatory funding under this legislation, the WIC FMNP is funded through annual discretionary appropriations. The Committee understands these two funding mechanisms, along with separate sets of USDA regulations, create administrative burdens and costs for both the administering state agencies and USDA. For these reasons, the Committee requests that the Secretary report to the Committee on the impact on state agencies and

USDA of these two farmers' market programs operating separately, including administrative impacts and the impact of the annual appropriations cycle on the seasonal nature of farmers' markets.

TITLE V—CREDIT

The Committee is dedicated to providing reliable access to credit to help ensure the success of America's family farmers, ranchers, and foresters as well as the rural economies they help support. The Committee notes that agricultural production is capital intensive, yet producers must continually manage their operations in markets with extremely slim margins.

The Committee acknowledges that, in the wake of historic inflation and recent farm economy downturn, the modernization of credit programs is critical to the success of America's farmers and ranchers. The Committee-reported bill modernizes loan limits for guaranteed, direct, and microloans to account for the growing need for capital in rural America. Farm ownership loan limits are increased from $600,000 to $850,000 for direct loans and from $1,750,000 to $3,500,000 for guaranteed loans, while operating loans are increased from $400,000 to $750,000 for direct loans and from $1,750,000 to $3,000,000 for guaranteed loans. Microloan limits are increased from $50,000 to $100,000. To keep pace with elevated cost of production, the Committee-reported bill indexes the limitation for guaranteed ownership loans to land values.

Under certain conditions, the Committee-reported bill also provides the ability to refinance distressed guaranteed loans into direct loans. The Committee-reported bill also makes technical changes to Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan eligibility requirements to accommodate farmers and ranchers who utilize modern legal structures that allow them to share risk, limit liability, and aid with the transfer of operations to the next generation.

The Committee recognizes the importance of expanding access to credit. To ensure new, young, beginning, and veteran farmers can successfully manage a transition into farming and ranching, the Committee-reported bill maintains the loan levels and loan fund set asides for beginning farmer and rancher operating loans as well as reduces and streamlines experience requirements for beginning farmers. To allow beginning farmers to retain more of their working capital, the Committee-reported bill aligns the loan limit for the FSA Down Payment Loan Program to match USDA Direct Farm Ownership Loans. The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and bolsters the Heirs Property Relending Program to allow USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with public interest legal service providers and assist producers in resolving ownership records and transitioning land into agricultural production. The Committee-reported bill also establishes a pre-approval pilot program for producers utilizing direct farm ownership loans through the Farm Service Agency. To continue fostering the education and outreach to young and beginning farmers, the Committee-reported bill reauthorizes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program.

The Committee appreciates the important role that the Farm Credit System (FCS) and community banks play for producers and rural communities across the country. The Committee-reported bill clarifies the oversight authorities of the Farm Credit Administra-

tion (FCA) to ensure all participants in the System are in compliance with the Farm Credit Act. As such, the Committee-reported bill updates the Farm Credit Act of 1971 by eliminating references that are out of date based on current markets and regulations.

Regulatory burdens faced by lenders can inhibit their ability to effectively serve their customers and provide much needed capital in a timely fashion. Regulations put in place to implement certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act unnecessarily included the FCS to report to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPP), which is not the regulator of the FCS. In light of this, the Committee-reported bill reaffirms FCA as the sole regulator of the FCS unless otherwise specified in law as of the date of enactment. It is the intent of the Committee to ensure that the FCS is not subject to rules and regulations of other regulators unless Congress explicitly states so.

The Committee encourages the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) to include in its determination of low-risk institutions only those FCA chartered institutions with total assets of less than $1.5 billion. The Committee further encourages the FCA, on an annual basis, to review the Farm Credit System's year-over-year percentage change in system assets to determine if the suggested cap should be adjusted.

To help expedite the loan application process and allow lenders to provide more efficient service to producers, the Committee-reported bill amends the EZ Guarantee Loan Program to allow both certified and guaranteed lenders the ability to accept a lower guarantee on a loan in exchange for a faster turnaround time from the USDA. It was brought to the attention of the Committee instances in which a lender cannot complete a guaranteed loan application due to a lack of proof of purchase which in turn results in FSA being unable to start the final approval process. Government bureaucracy should not be the reason there is a delay in service to America's producers. For this reason, the Committee established a pilot program for guaranteed lenders that allows them to provide a bridge loan to producers to ensure they maintain the ability to secure capital. The Committee remains committed to expanding the ability of all lenders to adequately and efficiently provide credit to those who need it most as well as reduce the workload for FSA staff.

The Committee believes regulations under the Farm Credit Act have not kept pace with innovations by farmers, ranchers, and businesses using waste for energy and supports interpreting "water, waste, and waste disposal" to include recycling and energy production from waste. The Committee also believes the Bank for Cooperatives, the Farm Credit System's direct lender, should be able to finance waste recycling, disposal, and energy production facilities, including when electricity is used on-site without burdening the energy grid. Due to current limitations on the size of loans able to be made under the Export Guarantee Program, cooperative lenders are unable to increase loan volume, or they are forced to assume more of the risk themselves. The Committee-reported bill raises the loan cap under the Export Guarantee Program to 15 percent of the bank's total assets to align it with other Farm Credit Act limitations.

The Committee recognizes the importance of a strong rural economy and reliable infrastructure. The Committee-reported bill provides cooperative banks under the FCS with the ability to provide capital for essential community facilities in rural areas. To ensure community banks are not negatively impacted, cooperative lenders must offer an interest in financing to at least one domestic lending institution. To the extent practicable, it is the intent of the Committee that both FCS institutions and community banks work together to offer a blended rate of financing. The need for access to capital has become a common theme in rural America. Fishing communities across the country experience a lapse in available credit when attempting to secure loans for certain parts of the supply chain such as cold storage and gear production. To ensure the needs of the industry are being met, the Committee-reported bill expands the authority of FCS institutions to provide financial support for fishing communities. It is the intent of the Committee that these loans are limited to those that are providing direct assistance to fishing operations.

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes the State Agricultural Mediation Program to help agricultural producers, their lenders, and other persons directly affected by the actions of USDA resolve their disputes. The Committee recognizes mediation as a valuable tool for settling disputes in a variety of USDA program areas.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The federal government has provided essential technical and financial assistance since the 1930's to rural communities that support rural families and farm households. USDA Rural Development programs are vital for enhancing quality of life and creating new economic opportunities in rural America. The Committee-reported bill continues the long history of bipartisan support for rural development initiatives, and making important improvements to programs, which support access to high-speed broadband; investments in essential utility services, including water infrastructure, and community facilities; the financial stability of hospitals and other health care facilities; new workforce development opportunities for rural workers; and economic development. These improvements to USDA Rural Development programs are crucial components to ensure rural America is not left behind, while building a robust, rural economy.

SUBTITLE A—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN RURAL AMERICA

Rural Americans continue to face a range of health care challenges, which the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 aims to address.

Throughout the Farm Bill process, the Committee has prioritized addressing the health crises that continue to devastate communities nationwide. Recognizing that rural America faces persistent opioid addiction along with a rising incidence of mental and behavioral health issues, the Committee worked to improve access to essential support and resources in these areas. Limited health care access, stigma, and workforce shortages have left many rural communities struggling to provide adequate mental and behavioral health services. These urgent challenges demand a response, with the USDA playing a key role in financing the infrastructure that

communities and nonprofit organizations need to effectively address these health crises.

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes the Secretary's temporary authority for an additional two years to address a broad range of potential health crises in rural America, including substance use disorder, mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health. Further, the bill maintains the Secretary's authority to address any future health crisis, by preserving set-asides or priorities in several programs, including the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, the Community Facility Loan and Grant Programs, and the Rural Health and Safety Education Program.

In addition to these targeted health issues, rural Americans continue to face a broader concern: access to general health care services. Obtaining medical care is often more challenging in rural areas than in urban and suburban communities. In response, the bill reauthorizes the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program, which the Committee views as a vital bridge connecting rural patients to essential health care services that may otherwise be out of reach due to distance.

SUBTITLE B—CONNECTING RURAL AMERICANS TO HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Ensuring that all communities across rural America have access to broadband remains a priority for the Committee. During a hearing on broadband, the Committee heard from witnesses that highlighted the importance of USDA broadband programs for ensuring that all rural communities have reliable Internet service.

The Committee recognizes USDA's emphasis in the most recent ReConnect Program Notice of Funding Opportunity on supporting high-speed broadband infrastructure capable of delivering scalable, high-performance networks crucial to meeting the evolving connectivity needs of rural communities. The Committee encourages USDA to continue investing in projects that ensure federal broadband investments remain both durable and responsive to growing upload and download demands, while still prioritizing broadband service to those rural areas without the minimum threshold of service specified in the Committee-reported bill of 50/25 megabits per second (Mbps).

Further, the Committee-reported bill requires the Secretary, when making any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee, or grant, to consult both the broadband map created by the Federal Communications Commission under section 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communication Act of 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map established under section 60104(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

In recognition of the historic investment in broadband service through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, the Committee expects USDA Rural Development to coordinate broadband activities with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and respective state broadband offices to prevent overbuilding and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly.

Additionally, the Committee-reported bill authorizes the Broadband Technical Assistance Program, which is intended to pro-

vide broadband technical assistance and training to expand broadband access in rural communities.

Further, the Committee-reported bill amends Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–950bb–5) to state that nothing in Title VI gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to regulate rates charged for broadband service.

The permitting process for USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funded projects can be cumbersome. Efforts by USDA to revise National Environmental Policy Act regulations to reduce the regulatory burden on America's ranchers, farmers, loggers, and rural communities is a step in the right direction. The Committee urges the RUS to explore avenues to provide online updates that enable funding recipients to track the status of RUS-funded projects throughout the permitting process.

Other matters

As the USDA develops financing, policy, and other aspects related to rural broadband development, the Committee requests USDA take into account the proposed rule soon to be finalized that would amend title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 77, Safe, Efficient Use, and Preservation of the Navigable Airspace, as it applies to certain towers with the highest point of the structure at least 50 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) up to and including 200 feet AGL at its site (FAA Document ID FAA–2024–2574–0001). The proposed rule stems from the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Pub. L. No. 114–190), and will ensure communication towers providing broadband services in rural areas are properly marked and entered into a Federal Aviation Administration database to protect the safety of aerial applicators, aerial firefighters, public health applicators, medevac units, law enforcement and other low-flying aircraft.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Rural energy savings program

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) has helped thousands of rural households live more comfortably and reduce their energy costs. RESP is particularly effective for rural families who do not qualify for weatherization assistance but lack the resources to invest in insulation or other improvements by themselves.

The Committee-reported bill makes several targeted improvements to RESP to help rural utilities better support participating households. These improvements include limited grant funding to rural utilities and related entities for repairs to improved properties, technical assistance, outreach, and training. It also extends the maximum repayment term for consumer loans to 20 years, aligning with the lifespan and cost-effectiveness of energy-saving measures, and codifies manufactured housing and large appliances as eligible improvements, as in recent fiscal year appropriations. To maintain RESP's core purpose of implementing durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures, the bill includes a 10% cap on funds used for replacing manufactured housing units or large appliances.

Additionally, the Committee-reported bill clarifies that eligible cooperatives receiving funds can serve both rural and non-rural

customers within their service territories. However, the Secretary is authorized to prioritize applications from entities serving at least 80 percent rural ratepayers.

Precision agriculture

Farmers, ranchers, and foresters are the best stewards of their land and strive to reduce the use of water, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, and other inputs. Deployment of new technology, including precision agriculture, have resulted in American farmers becoming the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world. Today, the agriculture industry is among the most productive globally, generating nearly 300% more food than in the 1940s with minimal increases in input usage.

The Committee-reported bill establishes a public-private partnership to develop voluntary interconnectivity standards and address cybersecurity needs for precision agriculture technologies. Developing these standards will accelerate the innovation and adoption of data-driven practices that strengthen rural communities nationwide.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115–334) established the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. While this task force was terminated on January 1, 2025, there were multiple recommendations put forward that USDA, in collaboration with other Federal agencies and external organizations, could carry out. The Committee encourages USDA to focus on the following precision agriculture related recommendations provided: USDA, through Rural Development, and its Land-Grant partners must cooperate with the FCC in promoting awareness of the existence of the National Broadband Map, and how it benefits agricultural communities; USDA, through Rural Development, and its Land-Grant partners can support these same communities by encouraging them to actively participate in the verification and challenge process of the National Broadband Map in order to make it more accurate; USDA Rural Development can promote coordinated and complementary funding programs, including combining awards where appropriate and necessary; adopt an all-of-the-above technology approach for current and future funding programs; facilitate the emergence of sustainable competition; develop playbook for deployment; and there should be stakeholder conferences convened between farmers, extension services, and state employment offices to identify gaps and develop solutions to encourage adoption of precision agriculture.

The Committee-passed bill includes several provisions implementing recommendations of the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States and improves precision agriculture practices and increases the accessibility of precision agriculture services. The Committee-reported bill establishes a partnership between the Federal Government and the private sector to create voluntary interconnectivity standards and prioritize the cybersecurity needs for precision agriculture technologies. Additionally, the bill helps rural entities expand the adoption of precision agriculture practices, including by financing the acquisition of precision agriculture

technology. The bill also promotes coordinated and complementary funding between federal programs and reauthorizes and enhances the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant program. These enhancements will provide funding for career pathway programs and industry or sector partnerships to build out workforce pipelines for specific industry sectors in rural America, including telecommunications or broadband services and any other sectors identified by the local workforce development board serving the region.

The Committee is aware of radar-based sensing technologies that have potential to significantly improve the delivery of health services in underserved rural areas. The Committee strongly urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to explore existing funding opportunities to support precision agriculture technologies, including unmanned aircraft systems, radar-based sensing technologies, and related equipment and software.

Domestic food supply chain

The COVID–19 pandemic revealed serious vulnerabilities in the domestic food supply chain. A 2022 survey found that 70% of retailers were impacted by disruptions, while farmers faced delays in getting their products to market due to a shortage of shipping containers. In some regions, freight costs for fresh foods tripled, and limited warehouse space along with rising rental rates exacerbated the strain, heightening the risk of further disruptions.

In response, the Committee-reported bill reinstates the Food Supply Chain Loan Guarantee Program at USDA Rural Development by integrating it into the broader Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program. This expansion supports new investments or start-up costs in food infrastructure, including aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution, to build a more resilient and diverse U.S. food supply chain. The Committee-reported bill reserves no more than five percent of funds available under the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program for this purpose. By increasing the capacity of the food supply chain, these investments help reduce disruptions, enhance resilience, and improve food security. Expanding infrastructure also fosters economic growth, supports local and national economies, and ensures the United States can meet growing demands for food and agricultural products.

The Committee intends for program funds to be used for, but not limited to, business conversions, expansions, repairs, modernization, or development; purchasing and developing land, buildings, and infrastructure for commercial or industrial use; building or equipping facilities for lease to commercial or industrial enterprises; purchasing and installing machinery, equipment, and IT systems; and providing working capital.

Additionally, recognizing the unique role of controlled environment agriculture (CEA) facilities in the fresh food supply chain, the Committee intends to finance these facilities through this program. CEA facilities integrate production, post-harvest processing, and distribution activities within a single building or location. The Committee expects this clarification will not expand the pool of eligible entities for guaranteed loans under the program, but rather more accurately represent the capital requirements of CEA growers and their unique supply chain solutions, including the implau-

sibility of readily separating production from post-harvest functions within their operations.

Meat and poultry processing and rendering capacity

Building on its strong commitment to a resilient domestic supply chain, the Committee recognizes the importance of facilitating meat and poultry processing and rendering capacity in rural communities. Many rural areas lack sufficient processing and rendering infrastructure, which forces farmers to transport livestock long distances, driving up costs and limiting market access. Investing in local processing and rendering facilities allows rural communities to create jobs, capture more local economic value from livestock production, and ease bottlenecks that affect the availability and pricing of meat and poultry products. By expanding processing and rendering capacity, rural areas can diversify the supply chain and enhance national food security.

The Committee-reported bill establishes a USDA Rural Development grant program to support the growth of new and existing meat and poultry processors and renderers, enabling producers to invest in ways that boost competition within the packing sector. This program will encourage competition and sustainable growth in the U.S. meat processing sector, as well as help improve supply chain resiliency.

Rural childcare

Childcare is a vital resource in rural America, where limited access to quality care presents significant challenges for working families. The long distances to childcare centers often prevent parents from maintaining stable employment or pursuing education. Affordable, reliable childcare is essential for economic stability and child development, which in turn helps rural communities thrive. However, high costs, a shortage of providers, and concerns over care quality make it difficult for families to find dependable options. Strengthening childcare infrastructure is critical to ensuring equitable opportunities for rural families.

Recognizing childcare as a critical component of broader economic development, the bill establishes a 3-year rural childcare initiative at USDA, which directs USDA to prioritize projects that address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in agricultural and rural communities through the Community Facilities Program, the Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program, the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and the Intermediary Relending Program. For the purposes of this bill childcare means any program that provides care and early education for children who are in kindergarten or younger and is operated as a center (including school-based programs) or in a family home that is properly licensed.

The Committee-reported bill also requires the Secretary to conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the projects supported under the rural childcare initiative and to submit this evaluation to Congress upon the initiative's completion. The Committee intends for the report to provide recommendations for further addressing childcare challenges in rural communities in the next Farm Bill.

Technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas

Geographically underserved and distressed communities have often lacked the support and technical assistance needed to access and use critical rural development programs. These programs are intended to address vital needs in infrastructure, healthcare, housing, and economic development, but many rural areas face barriers, such as limited staffing and complex application processes, that prevent them from fully benefiting from the multitude of available programs at USDA's Rural Development.

The Committee-reported bill allows USDA to provide technical assistance to strengthen local capacity and improve access to rural development programs for geographically underserved and distressed rural areas directly or through cooperative agreements, similar to the authority the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334) provided the Secretary for Tribal entities. Geographically underserved and distressed areas are defined as socially vulnerable communities, persistent poverty counties, economically distressed areas, or colonias.

The Committee intends to reference social vulnerability as a community's ability to prepare for and respond to hazardous events, from natural disasters like tornadoes or disease outbreaks to human-caused threats such as toxic chemical spills. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI), which measures social vulnerability at the census tract level within each county. The Committee intends for the Secretary to reference the CDC/ATSDR SVI when utilizing this authority.

The Committee also intends persistent poverty counties to include those that have maintained poverty rates of 20 percent or more over the past 30 years, as measured by the Decennial Census.

Finally, the Committee intends economically distressed areas to include census tracts located in at-risk and transitional counties, with a median family income no greater than sixty-seven percent of the national average and a poverty rate at least one hundred fifty percent of the U.S. average, following the criteria used by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The Committee intends for the Secretary to reference the ARC's Distressed Areas Classification System when utilizing this authority.

Rural innovation and modernization

The Committee-reported bill codifies the USDA's Rural Development Innovation Center, formally establishing its role in advancing and implementing innovation across all rural development programs and initiatives.

The Innovation Center is organized into three divisions, each playing a vital role in enhancing Rural Development (RD) efforts. The Data Analytics Division evaluates program performance to guide strategic investments. The Strategic Engagement Division builds partnerships and promotes cross-agency collaboration to support rural economic development. The Regulations Management Division develops and implements the regulations and policies that govern RD programs.

Building on the Innovation Center's current responsibilities, the Committee-reported bill requires the Center to establish and maintain a public-facing process to gather input from both public and private stakeholders. This process will address the challenges encountered by stakeholders when applying for, utilizing, or participating in programs under the Rural Development Mission Area. The Committee is pleased with Rural Development's Rural Data Gateway, a great resource for stakeholders and potential applicants, with the added Lender Lens component providing further transparency.

According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, agritourism generated $1.26 billion in income for U.S. farms and ranches, a 12.4 percent increase from 2017 after adjusting for inflation. The USDA Economic Research Service defines agritourism as on-farm services that provide recreation, hospitality, educational, or entertainment experiences to visitors. In addition to providing supplemental farm income, agritourism supports rural entrepreneurship, promotes agricultural literacy, strengthens local food systems, and deepens community connections to working lands.

As part of this continuing upward trend, the Committee strongly encourages Rural Development to actively highlight and promote eligible agritourism projects in existing program outreach, technical assistance, and funding guidance, particularly for farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses seeking to diversify income through on-farm recreation, hospitality, educational programming, or direct-to-consumer experiences. As such, the Committee requests USDA to provide a report to be made public within six months of the date of enactment detailing RD's efforts to promote agritourism projects. The report shall include the following:

1. Efforts to increase the visibility of federal resources for agritourism.
2. Steps taken to clarify eligibility for agritourism-related activities under existing programs.
3. Recommendations that would further support agritourism as a rural economic development strategy.

Further, the Committee encourages RD to coordinate internally to ensure that agritourism applicants are aware of and able to access relevant programs across Rural Development's suite of programs.

The Committee recognizes USDA Rural Development's commitment to serving rural communities and their stakeholders. However, the Committee has identified a disconnect between rural-serving entities and USDA Rural Development in addressing on-the-ground challenges. Additionally, the Committee continues to hear persistent concerns regarding burdensome, redundant, and difficult application processes at USDA Rural Development. By maintaining an open process for stakeholder feedback, the Innovation Center will help ensure that RD programs remain user-friendly, transparent, and adaptable to the evolving needs of rural communities. This ongoing commitment to improvement is essential for effectively reaching underserved areas, addressing local challenges, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Stakeholders and potential applicants have also expressed concerns about the delay with Rural Development notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs). The Committee urges RD to examine ways

to ensure enhanced transparency regarding publication of NOFOs, including potentially providing targeted publication dates online. Other USDA agencies previously provided that information, allowing potential applicants to better plan application submissions and enhance overall project planning.

USDA Rural Development is uniquely qualified to best serve rural America. RD has state-level offices led by State Directors who work with local offices across their respective states to implement RD initiatives. RD also has locally based staff who administer and serve customers of nationally managed RD programs. RD State Directors and local staff know their communities, because they live in their communities. The Committee held a hearing in September 2025, that explored why Rural Development programs are best housed at USDA. USDA Rural Development has long provided specialized services to rural communities that other agencies do not understand. In contrast to any other agency, Rural Development's structure also makes it the ideal choice for leveraging other Federal resources.

The Committee urges the Rural Development Mission Area and senior Rural Development leadership to provide clear and consistent direction and encouragement to State Directors to ensure State Directors are more proactive with outreach to rural communities. This outreach can be enhanced by continuing existing partnerships and establishing new or expanded partnerships.

Further, this outreach could be facilitated under the cooperative agreement authority provided in 7 U.S.C. 2204b(b)(4). To improve the effectiveness of Federal programs, services, and actions in rural America, the Committee strongly urges USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other experienced, qualified organizations or entities with demonstrated experience in delivering technical assistance to rural areas. These groups include philanthropic, public-private partnerships, community development financial institutions, other financial institutions, cooperatives, regional and/or community development organizations, historic preservation nonprofits, nonprofits, national organizations and their respective state and regional affiliates, or individuals with longstanding connections, such as the Land-Grant Cooperative Extension System that often have local offices in rural communities. These new cooperative agreement partnerships have the potential to enhance Rural Development's presence, provide direct technical assistance to rural communities through local or regional rural partnerships, and ensure that access and information is available about RD programs.

With disasters striking rural communities without notice, the Committee urges the USDA Rural Development to continue its partnerships with other Federal agencies and the Cooperative Extension System to provide assistance to rural communities following a natural disaster, including spotlighting the comprehensive Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Resources Guide for Rural Communities before disasters strike. Additionally, Rural Development should explore new public-private partnerships that aim to provide technical assistance to rural communities following a disaster.

The Committee requests an update to be made public within six months of the date of enactment on USDA's implementation of 7 U.S.C. 2204b and 7 U.S.C. 2204b–3. These statutes complement

each other and provide USDA with the authority to coordinate a nationwide rural development program and lead the Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development (Council). Particularly, the Committee requests updates on the rural development strategy required in 7 U.S.C. 2204b and the Council established in 7 U.S.C. 2204b–3.

The Committee-reported bill requires the Innovation Center to develop and periodically update a modernization plan to enhance rural development program delivery. The Committee intends this plan to help USDA Rural Development outline strategies aimed at harnessing emerging technologies to improve services, streamline administrative processes, and optimize its resources. It will also aim to help expand digital access and availability for rural stakeholders and leverage data-driven solutions to increase program effectiveness. The Committee also intends USDA Rural Development to establish periodic milestones and goals to track the progress of its modernization plan. This modernization plan is crucial for ensuring that rural development programs remain efficient, accessible, and responsive to the changing needs of rural communities.

The Committee notes that in the House Agriculture Committee reported Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334), there was a comprehensive report requested on USDA's Economic Development Authorities. The Committee requests that the Department update that report and make public within one year of the date of enactment. The requested information was, as follows:

1. Catalogues and describes USDA's statutory programs and authorities devoted to economic development, both current and lapsed;
2. Identifies each economic development office, agency, subagency, panel, committee, or other organizations created in statute or by regulation, and the decision-makers associated with each;
3. Enumerates all authorizations and appropriations, as well as number of staff which support each authority, program, and organization, from both Federal and non-Federal sources;
4. Provides a comprehensive description of how each program is utilized by the Department, any deficiencies, and overlap with other programs; and
5. Makes suggestions for reforming USDA's Rural Development authorities, including streamlining or sun-setting any unnecessary or duplicative programs and authorities; consolidating overlapping authorities; or establishing new authorities where there is a need.

SUBTITLE D—CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes the important infrastructure and economic development programs in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CON Act), including the water and waste loan and grant programs, the community facilities programs, and rural business programs.

Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program

The Committee-reported bill codifies the USDA's Circuit Rider Program, which provides essential technical assistance to rural water systems through a cooperative agreement with the National

Rural Water Association. Additionally, the bill expands the Circuit Rider Program to include funding for cybersecurity and emergency disaster response needs.

The Committee recognizes that maintaining essential water services is critical for the health and economic well-being of communities during and after an emergency. Further, given the vulnerability of small water systems to cyber threats due to limited resources, strengthening cybersecurity protections is essential to safeguarding critical infrastructure and ensuring reliable service.

By incorporating disaster response and cybersecurity into the Circuit Rider Program, the Committee intends to better equip rural water systems, customers, and communities to effectively manage future emergencies and protect essential water services.

Zero and low interest loans for distressed water systems

In the wake of the financial challenges stemming from the COVID–19 pandemic, small rural water systems continue to face significant obstacles. To address these challenges and promote long-term sustainability, the Committee-reported bill empowers the Secretary to offer zero-interest, low-interest (1 percent), and forgivable loans to water and waste disposal systems in distress, particularly those in socially disadvantaged communities, persistent poverty counties, colonias, or distressed Tribal areas. To receive this assistance, entities must engage in financial planning and prepare a long-term financial strategy. This plan may include partnering, regionalizing, or consolidating with other water systems to strengthen their operations.

Additionally, the Committee intends persistent poverty counties to include those that have maintained poverty rates of 20 percent or more over the past 30 years, as measured by the Decennial Census.

The Committee intends that an eligible entity may designate a water and wastewater utility provider to apply for and carry out the loan application on behalf of the eligible entity. Further, the designated utility must be contiguous to, or in the locality of, the service area of the eligible association and currently receives or is eligible for assistance under a rural water or wastewater program.

Providing affordable financing for these distressed systems plays a key role in driving economic development, as infrastructure improvements attract businesses and create jobs. It also significantly improves residents' quality of life by ensuring continued access to clean water and efficient wastewater services.

Decentralized water and wastewater systems

An estimated 23 million U.S. households rely on private wells for their drinking water. Unlike municipal water systems, private wells are not subject to the same oversight and testing, which can delay the identification of potential health hazards in local groundwater.

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and improves the Rural Decentralized Water Systems Program, which supports qualified nonprofits and tribes in creating revolving loan funds to expand access to clean, reliable water and septic systems in eligible rural areas.

In addition to maintaining funding for the construction, refurbishment, and servicing of well water and wastewater systems, the Committee-reported bill allows funds to be used for qualified water quality testing in cases of potentially contaminated groundwater. If the test results confirm contamination, funds can also be used to purchase and install water treatment equipment.

To ensure the program's focus remains on its core mission, the Committee-reported bill establishes a ten percent cap on the use of funds for water testing and treatment equipment. It also requires that any water treatment systems funded through the program must be third-party certified to address the specific health-based contaminants identified in the drinking water.

The Committee clarifies that "water treatment" refers to point-of-use or point-of-entry systems, which include replaceable or replacement filter components that can be maintained. These systems must be third-party certified as compliant with NSF P231, NSF/ANSI Standards 42, 44, 53, 55, 58, 401, or other relevant, consensus-based standards for drinking water treatment units or systems.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) Program plays a vital role in enhancing economic conditions in rural areas by providing essential support for the creation, expansion, and sustainability of cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses.

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and improves the RCDG program. Specifically, the Committee-reported bill clarifies that cooperative development encompasses activities such as education, training, and technical assistance to support both the start-up and ongoing success of cooperatives. Further, to ensure a more equitable interpretation of program match requirements, the bill guarantees that applicants who meet match requirements in full receive maximum points in the application scoring process. The Committee intends this change to address the current disadvantage faced by under-resourced organizations due to the "scoring on a curve" method.

In addition, the Committee-reported bill provides the Secretary with the authority to renew RCDG awards for nonprofit institutions on the same terms and obligations as the previous fiscal year, provided the entity is a current recipient, requests renewal, submits a complete application in the prior two fiscal years, and meets program standards. This Committee intends this provision to reduce regulatory burdens and improve program delivery effectiveness.

The Committee-reported bill directs the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development (IWGCD), established through the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–79), to submit an annual report to Congress. The IWGCD coordinates cooperative development efforts across federal agencies and works with national and local cooperative organizations to strengthen and expand cooperative enterprises in rural areas. The Committee intends this provision to provide enhanced oversight and accountability to ensure that the benefits of cooperative development are fully realized.

The Committee is concerned with the RCDG program being administered by USDA agencies other than USDA Rural Develop-

ment. Rural Development has the expertise, institutional knowledge, and field capacity needed for the most effective program delivery. In administering the program, USDA should continue to operate under the existing regulatory framework, including 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, while updating internal guidance, notices of funding opportunity, scoring rubrics, and reporting templates to reflect statutory changes enacted in this reauthorization. Additionally, any revised program guidance and application materials should be published in a timely manner ahead of respective application period, and include broad stakeholder engagement, technical webinars, and clear transition instructions for returning grantees. Once grant selections are made, it is essential to ensure the timely distribution of the awards.

Caps on loan guarantee fees

Lender fees in guaranteed loan programs help offset the risks lenders assume by providing financial compensation for potential defaults and administrative costs. These fees also ensure the sustainability of the program, enabling continued loan guarantees, and facilitating market access for underserved borrowers.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334) authorized the USDA's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan program to charge and collect lender fees, though without clear guidance on fee structure. While the provision aimed to reduce the costs of subsidies for insured or guaranteed loans, concerns have arisen regarding the impact of higher fees on program participation. Although the Agriculture Improvement Act stipulates that fees should "not act as a bar to participation," the Committee believes that fees exceeding three percent of the guaranteed loan principal could harm both the marketplace and user participation. Since the Act's enactment, annual Congressional appropriations have capped the Secretary's authority to assess fees at three percent.

The Committee-reported bill establishes a three percent cap on lender fees for all guaranteed loan programs under USDA Rural Development. In addition, the bill introduces a retention fee cap of 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan, and requires the Secretary to provide a public disclosure, 30 days in advance, of any rate adjustments up to these caps, detailing the rationale and supporting data for any increases.

These provisions are designed to maintain transparency, ensure fairness, and reduce potential barriers for participation, fostering an environment where rural businesses can access critical funding.

Rural health care

Since 2010, approximately 180 rural hospitals have closed or discontinued inpatient services, deepening the challenges faced by rural communities. The closure of these facilities not only deprives communities of essential medical care but also leads to the loss of major employers, with significant consequences for local economies and the well-being of rural populations.

In response to these challenges, the Committee-reported bill codifies and strengthens the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program. USDA administers this program through a cooperative agreement with the National Rural Health Association. The Committee intends for the program to continue fulfilling its current re-

sponsibilities, focusing on preventing closures, strengthening essential health services, and improving the financial and operational sustainability of rural health care facilities. The Committee believes this program will help these facilities enhance service delivery and ensure continued access to critical care in rural areas.

Additionally, the Committee-reported bill offers eligible health care facilities the opportunity to refinance certain debt obligations, contingent upon their commitment to comprehensive financial and managerial planning. This provision builds upon a similar measure in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Section 6103). The Committee's goal is for this planning process to focus on long-term financial stability, improved efficiency, and the facility's overall viability. By addressing both immediate and long-term challenges, this provision aims to preserve rural health care infrastructure and ensure rural communities maintain access to essential health services.

Ultimately, the Committee's goal is to ensure that rural health care facilities not only survive, but thrive. By strengthening operational capacity, reducing the risk of closure, and improving care quality, these facilities will continue to serve their communities and support the health and economic stability of rural America. With this expanded support, rural health care facilities will be better positioned to address ongoing challenges and safeguard the future of rural health care.

Under the authority provided by Congress in 7 U.S.C. 343(a)(13)(D), the Under Secretary for Rural Development can grant "rural in character" exceptions to areas that otherwise do not meet the requirements of the default rural definition for the Community Facilities Program. The Committee understands that there are instances where rural hospitals serving the civilian population of military installations have experienced challenges, but the town population exceeds the default "rural" definition. The Committee strongly urges USDA to coordinate with the Department of War to determine the prevalence of these situations across rural America and collaborate with local communities and military installations to keep rural hospitals financially viable in a changing healthcare landscape to continue to serve area and civilian residents.

Rural workforce

According to the 2020 Census, between 2010–2020, the working-age population in non-metro areas declined 4.9 percent while a 16 percent increase in the aging rural population. This means upwards of 20 percent of rural residents are aged 65 or above. Although the rural population only decreased by 289,000 out of 46 million, this marks the first decade-long decline in rural population in U.S. history. This trend is concerning, especially given that the rural workforce has historically been concentrated in agriculture and manufacturing, industries essential to the national economy.

As industries, technology, and global markets evolve, so too must career training and education to address the changing opportunities in the U.S. economy. Rural America uniquely experiences the impact of these economic shifts, with residents facing high long-term unemployment rates and limited access to training opportunities. At the same time, many employers struggle to find workers with the skills needed to fill open positions. In response, employers

are developing their own workforce initiatives to provide the specific training required to meet job demands.

The Committee-reported bill aims to address these challenges by modifying the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program. The Committee expands eligibility for funding under the program to include nonprofit and for-profit institutions of higher education, as well as area career and technical education schools. It also allows RISE grant funds to be used to establish career pathway programs and industry or sector partnerships in rural communities.

The Committee defines career pathways as a combination of education, training, and support services that align with the skill needs of local industries. These pathways prepare individuals for success in secondary and postsecondary education, including registered apprenticeships, and provide counseling and workforce preparation. The aim is to help individuals earn a secondary school diploma or equivalent, along with a recognized postsecondary credential, and advance in specific occupations or industry sectors.

The Committee also defines industry or sector partnerships as workforce collaborations organized around shared goals and human resource needs within an industry cluster. These partnerships include employers, labor organizations, educational institutions, and various state or local stakeholders. By organizing such partnerships, the Committee aims to address workforce displacement, promote targeted skill development, and stimulate economic growth and innovation in rural regions.

The industries specified in the Committee-reported bill include telecommunications or broadband services; water, waste water, or disposal services; electric supply services; forestry and logging operations; conservation practices and management; health care and child care; manufacturing; agribusiness related to production, processing, and distribution; veterinarian services; and any other sectors identified by the local workforce development board serving the region to be an in-demand industry sector or occupation, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. All of these sectors are crucial to rural America, especially health care and childcare, as many rural communities struggle to recruit and retain qualified workers and sustain access to essential services. Industry or sector partnerships that bring together employers, local governments, education and training providers and other key stakeholders can align existing workforce development resources to regional needs, address workforce displacement, and advance local economic growth and innovation, while strengthening the capacity of rural communities to deliver essential services to residents.

These improvements to the RISE program will help meet workforce needs in rural communities by providing targeted training initiatives that support economic development and address the challenges specific industries face in these areas.

Other matters

The Committee-reported bill supports rural entities in expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices by providing financing for the acquisition of precision agriculture technologies through the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program.

The Committee amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) to allow USDA loans or grants for projects near wetlands, if these projects comply with wetland regulations. USDA Rural Development adheres to Executive Order (EO) 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, for all wetland impacts, regardless of jurisdiction. Additionally, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that federal agencies demonstrate no practicable alternative to wetland development and implement mitigation measures before funding or approving construction in these areas.

The Committee acknowledges that USDA RD works to minimize and mitigate wetland impacts; for jurisdictional wetlands, RD complies with the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit conditions, while state regulatory requirements govern non-jurisdictional wetlands. For isolated wetlands outside U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state oversight, RD still evaluates impacts, seeking to avoid and minimize them through an 8-step alternatives analysis as required by EO 11990 and USDA RD's own wetlands guidance.

The Committee recognizes that without this statute change, there are unnecessary burdens imposed on applicants by restricting flexibility in the regulatory process. Further, the Committee is confident that this action will not lessen USDA Rural Development's responsibilities under NEPA and EO 11990 to protect wetlands.

The Committee recognizes the vital role of the Community Facilities Programs in enhancing transportation infrastructure in rural America. The Committee encourages USDA Rural Development to continue to support projects that facilitate the transportation of agricultural goods and essential commodities. These projects can be utilized for loading, unloading, and rail shipment of essential commodities vital to agricultural operations.

Additionally, USDA Rural Development has previously funded animal shelters through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program. The Committee urges the Department to continue to fund these types of projects.

Moreover, the Committee reaffirms that essential services, including those provided by law enforcement, fire departments, and hospitals, are also eligible for funding through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program.

Finally, the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program is also crucial to preserving historic buildings, with the Committee encouraging USDA to collaborate with historic preservation partners to emphasize this funding opportunity for local government and nonprofits.

SUBTITLE E—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936

The Committee recognizes the important work that borrowers under the Rural Electrification Act perform in rural America. Rural telephone companies and cooperatives, electric cooperatives, and broadband providers work to connect all Americans to seamless telecommunications and energy networks.

Currently, under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program, the USDA requires intermediaries without an outstanding loan with the Rural Utilities Service to obtain an irrevocable letter of credit, which can cost tens of thousands of

dollars. These costs are often passed on to loan recipients, reducing the benefit and impact of the intended zero percent interest loan.

The Committee-reported bill provides an alternative by authorizing the Secretary to require other forms of security in place of a letter of credit for zero-interest loan recipients. These alternatives could include assigning the Secretary a security interest in collateral provided to secure the loan or other similar arrangements to the Secretary's satisfaction. The USDA already uses a similar security practice in other programs with even higher loan values.

The Committee intends for this policy change to help reduce costs for borrowers and encourage greater participation in the program.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Title VII of the Farm Bill addresses evolving issues of importance to the agricultural industry, and how those matters can be addressed through both extramural and intramural research, extension, and education activities. The majority of programs within the research title require annual discretionary appropriations, with a small number of programs within the title receiving mandatory funding.

Significant investments in agriculture research funding were included through provisions in H.R. 1, which was passed in the 119th Congress. These investments included funding for several initiatives, including the Research Facilities Act Program, 1890s Scholarships program, Specialty Crop Research Initiative, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, the Assistive Technology for Farmers with Disabilities program, and the Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agriculture Production, Research, Education, and Extension Initiative.

The increase in mandatory funding programs through H.R. 1 enabled the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 to focus on delivering a budget-neutral bill focused on reauthorizing existing programs and authorities in the research title and making programmatic updates to improve delivery and address evolving industry priorities. The Committee remains supportive of the critical role publicly funded research plays and was pleased to bring forward legislation that allows that funding to be stewarded as effectively as possible to maximize returns on this investment.

The Committee-reported legislation aims to keep American agriculture at the forefront of innovation and productivity by thoughtfully directing USDA's research portfolio while also supporting our nation's land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

Support for Land-Grant Institutions

The Committee-reported bill includes a number of provisions to address the unique challenges faced by 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions. The authorization of appropriations for both extension and research at 1890 institutions was increased to not less than 40 percent of the Smith Lever Act (extension) and the Hatch Act of 1887 (Research), raised from the existing benchmark of 30 percent to meet the financial needs of supporting these respective activities at levels that do not allow 1890s to fall behind their 1862 counterparts. The bill additionally requires the Secretary to conduct outreach to state governments regarding their obligations to meet

matching fund requirements and requires that the Governor of each State submits an attestation regarding the State's ability to meet those requirements. These State matching fund requirements are a critical source of funding across the land-grant portfolio, and it is the expectation of this Committee that USDA works closely with Governors and State legislatures to make clear that States shall meet these requirements for all land-grant institutions.

Additionally, the Farm Bill takes multiple steps to support 1994 land-grant institutions by enabling the use of capacity funds to purchase and maintain equipment necessary to carry out agricultural research capabilities; removing the per institution financial cap; and removing the cooperative agreement requirement. The Committee recognizes concerns raised by 1994 land-grant institutions regarding their ability to secure matching funds necessary to support other functions, such as facility maintenance, enabled by the Research Facilities Act program. The Committee encourages USDA to evaluate existing challenges to institutions having meaningful access to these funding opportunities, and to provide recommendations on how access may be improved.

Nutrition education program

The Committee-reported language reaffirms the importance of nutrition education programming carried out through the 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities. It is the expectation of the Committee that the EFNEP program continues to reduce nutrition insecurity of low-income families and youth nationwide.

Veterinary medicine

The Committee acknowledges the severe rural veterinary shortage and the barriers to both producing new veterinarians and attracting veterinarians to rural areas. To address this shortage, Congress has previously created the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program and the Veterinary Services Grant Program. To strengthen these programs, the Committee-reported bill allows the Secretary to engage with State agencies to better identify geographic areas of need, and to develop mechanisms to predict future areas of need. Additionally, the bill streamlines existing burdensome application processes and ensures that participation is not limited to only those Veterinarians who are not also in a comparable State or local program. Further, it expands eligible expenses for VSPG funds. These steps signify the Committees acknowledgement that a robust veterinary medicine network across rural areas, with appropriate Federal supports in place, is critical in maintaining a well-functioning food and agriculture supply chain. The Committee directs USDA to continue to find process efficiencies in the application and program delivery through ongoing reviews to help meet the needs of rural America.

International engagement in agriculture research and extension

The Committee understands and supports the need for partnerships and collaboration across agriculture research, education, and extension portfolio with international entities. To streamline the existing authorities at the Department for conducting these authorities, two existing authorizations that are not currently receiving any funding from the annual appropriations process (Partner-

ships to build capacity in international agricultural research, extension and teaching, and Competitive grants for international agricultural science and education programs) were combined into one authority. Combining these programs will empower a more unified approach to connecting NIFA-funded scientists at U.S. institutions with researchers around the world to address challenges of mutual interest.

Additionally, the Committee-reported bill includes the creation of the BARD Fund Accelerator within the Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) program to fast-track research activities and enable the advancement of projects.

Grants for community college agriculture and natural resource programs

The Committee recognizes that community colleges and two-year programs play a crucial role in supporting a well-prepared agricultural workforce. For this reason, existing authorities were expanded to ensure that USDA can support these programs, lending to a strengthened workforce across agriculture, food, and natural resources.

AgARDA

The Committee sees continued value in strategic federal investment on advanced research projects that address long-term and high-risk food and agriculture challenges that may not be otherwise undertaken through existing means. AgARDA presents a unique opportunity to address these challenges, and the Farm Bill aims to strengthen this program by requiring that elements of the Strategic Plan be used by the Secretary to address the administration of this program. Additionally, to allow the program to encompass future work that is critical to meeting challenges on the horizon in agriculture, the goals of the program were expanded.

High-priority research and extension initiatives

The Committee encourages USDA to more effectively coordinate intramural and extramural research activities that address high-priority research and extension initiatives. To help improve this coordination, the Committee directs USDA to publish a biennial report detailing expenditures by the Department for each high-priority research and extension initiative.

While it is known that biochar has great potential to sequester carbon in the soil, the benefits of biochar are not yet fully recognized and further research is needed. The Committee recognizes the work USDA has already undertaken related to biochar—including the establishment of CHARnet to better coordinate research on biochar and communicate results of that research—and encourages the Department to continue and expand these efforts.

The Committee remains concerned about the introduction and spread of invasive species and the threats they pose for agriculture, natural resources, food security, and the economy. The Committee expects USDA to accelerate research related to invasive species prevention, control, and eradication and improve coordination between land-grant institutions, the Agricultural Research Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Forest Service, and States. While the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) and

the naval orangeworm (*Amyelois transitella*) are currently of particular interest to the Committee, the Committee recognizes that there are additional invasive species that require resources from the Department for prevention, control, and eradication.

The Committee directs the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to issue a notice of funding opportunity under the Secretary's authorities as outlined in 7 U.S.C 5925 to study the efficacy of living soil amendments on soil and plant health, as well as track the progress of crop yields, input reduction, and organic matter in the soil. Projects that partner with working farms to conduct research shall be prioritized.

The Committee recognizes untapped potential in the use of Artificial Intelligence for agricultural purposes. As such, the Committee directs USDA to prioritize grants which develop and evaluate AI for such purposes across their high-priority research and extension initiatives. Specifically, the Committee would like to see projects that incorporate artificial intelligence to improve specialty crop production emphasized.

Centers of excellence

The Committee-reported language directs the Department to establish new Centers of Excellence for the purpose of carrying out research, education, and extension activities related to pressing issues across the food and agriculture supply chain that require enhanced coordination. Additionally, the Farm Bill directs USDA to expand the number of Centers of Excellence at 1890s Institutions to not less than 8 centers and expands the Areas of Focus for those centers. The Committee was intentional in not creating an upper limit for number of Centers of Excellence at 1890s Institutions and is the expectation of this Committee that this language is not interpreted to interrupt current centers.

As the Department looks to create a center of excellence for livestock and poultry as directed under this language, the Committee notes the unique challenges facing the equine industry that could be addressed under that center. This includes health, safety, and regulatory considerations; epidemiology, molecular diagnostics, and bioinformatics related to equine diseases; investigations into infectious diseases impacting equines; the implementation of genomic programs; and reproductive health research.

Codification of existing programs

The Committee recognized the need to codify several existing programs that provide value to U.S. producers and communities. In the Committee-reported language, the Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets) and the Organic Transitions programs were included in statute to continue their long-term viability. These programs have historically received funds through the annual appropriations process but had not been put into law. It is the expectation of the Committee that the Department continues the operations of these programs as they exist today.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The Committee notes stakeholder concerns with the current effectiveness of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) data collection practices and resulting survey data. NASS plays a

critical role in providing timely and objective data that underpin important functions of U.S. markets, with statistical products informing planting decisions, managing risk, allocating capital, and planning logistics.

The Committee further notes the importance of accurate NASS data as a foundational input to the Department's market analysis and forecasting efforts, including the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) produced by the World Agricultural Outlook Board. NASS surveys and reports aid in providing empirical data for which Department supply and demand forecasts are developed and should assist in ensuring that WASDE projections reflect the most current and comprehensive information available. These estimates are followed closely by producers, commodity markers, buyers, and policymakers, and influence domestic and global markets. The Committee notes that maintaining the integrity, frequency, and coverage of NASS data collections is essential in supporting transparent markets, enabling informed decision-making, and reducing uncertainty.

The Committee supports the steps being taken by the Department to ensure that the statistical products being produced are high quality and accurately reflect on farm realities and intends for the NASS Modernization Commission created in Farm Bill to complement those efforts.

As the Department considers appropriate modernization efforts for NASS, the Committee does note specific needs related to data collection that should be considered.

The Committee recognizes the burgeoning natural turf industry and encourages NASS to collect data on acreage, production, and economic impact, including employment, input costs, and retail value of turfgrass production as practicable.

The Committee sees value in data collection activities related to innovative production and urban agriculture; specifically, controlled environment agriculture. The Committee requests that USDA conduct data collection for controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and report on both production and sale of agricultural products grown in a controlled environment, including but not limited to commodities such as lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, and berries. The Committee intends for USDA to consult with stakeholders prior to the data collection to ensure collected data will be useful to advance the sectors and domestic food security. This data will assist the industry in accessing existing programs and moving forward as a robust production option for producers.

Department Reorganization

The Committee recognizes that USDA is evaluating their operations and is seeking to reorganize the Department to achieve greater operational efficiencies and customer service for the agricultural producers and communities that they serve. As a part of this reorganization, the Department held a public comment period in August of 2025 on the Department's proposed reorganization plan, and a summary of those comments was posted in December of 2025. It is the expectation of the Committee that the Department provides additional transparency and analysis for this reorganization to Congress and the public to the maximum extent practicable, including how the Department will retain sufficient staff

expertise to carry out their mission areas. It is also the expectation of this Committee that the reorganization is conducted in a manner that does not disrupt critical USDA research activities.

Commission on Production Agriculture

The Committee recognizes the value that was brought to production agriculture through the Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture, including insight into the Federal Government's role in supporting production agriculture through policy recommendations. It is the recommendation of this Committee that the Department, through the Office of the Chief Economist, explore an updated Commission report, leveraging land-grant institutions with existing institutional capacity and experience conducting comprehensive, objective policy analysis on such matters.

Partnerships

Across USDA's research and education portfolio, the Committee recognizes significant value in the Department engaging with convening bodies representing a cross-section of public and land-grant institutions, private industry, non-profit institutions, and professional societies. As the Department engages in activities to develop and advance a unified research and food and agricultural science agenda to best meet the current and future needs of the food, agriculture, and natural resource industry in a coordinated manner, it is the expectation of this Committee that the Department engage with these entities on a regular and ongoing basis.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 advances effective forest management designed to ensure the health and productivity of Federal, State, and private forests. Additionally, Title VIII fosters public-private partnerships, encourages new market opportunities, and revitalizes rural communities while significantly reducing wildfire risks and improving forest health.

The Committee-reported bill provides the United States Forest Service (USFS) with necessary tools and authorities to effectively overcome challenges in achieving its three primary mission areas: (1) the management of the 193 million acres within the National Forest System (NFS); (2) the advancement of forestry research; and (3) the facilitation of assistance to non-Federal forest owners, including those operating internationally.

The Committee recognizes that healthy and productive Federal, State, and private forests are vital to rural communities. Active forest management is essential to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health.

The Committee also recognizes the extensive devastation that natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, and drought, have on forests across the nation. These events cause widespread destruction and significant challenges for forest health and management due to the accumulation of downed and dead timber. In response to these challenges, the Committee-reported bill provides the USFS with the necessary tools and resources to support active forest management and improve forest health across the nation's Federal, State, and private forests.

Active Forest Management

The Committee recognizes the important relationship between active forest management and stable markets for forest products. Responsible forest management supports a robust market for forest products, generates jobs and economic opportunities, while providing essential resources for Americans. The Committee urges the USFS to prioritize active forest management to foster resilient forests and bolster the markets vital for rural communities.

In 2022, the USFS announced plans to treat approximately 20 million acres of NFS lands and grasslands, along with an additional 30 million acres of Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands. In 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an emergency situation determination requiring immediate action on more than 100 million acres designated for treatment. To achieve these goals, reduce the risk of wildfire, and improve forest health throughout the NFS, the USFS will need to significantly increase the pace and scale of its management and continue to expand partnerships.

The Committee-reported bill expands successful programs and authorities, such as Stewardship End Result Contracting and the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). This expansion will provide the USFS with the opportunity to capitalize on critical partnerships that execute on-the-ground forest management. Specifically, the bill authorizes special districts to be eligible for participation in GNA agreements and codifies the option for up to 20-year contracts for stewardship end result contracting, regardless of the landscape condition.

Furthermore, the Committee-reported bill simplifies the requirements for environmental processes while ensuring environmental protection. It builds on the success of categorical exclusions (CE) and other streamlined authorities. The bill expands collaborative restoration, wildfire resilience, and fuel break CEs to cover up to 10,000 acres. Additionally, it grants the Secretary the authority to create a CE for high-priority hazard tree activities.

The Committee-reported bill also includes a permanent legislative fix to reverse the decision in the 2015 *Cottonwood Environmental Law Center vs. U.S. Forest Service*. The legislative fix will eliminate the need for ongoing consultations on completed land management plans, thereby reducing the risk of frivolous litigation that can prevent or delay urgent forest management activities in National Forests.

Timber Sales

Reduced timber harvest levels on National Forest System (NFS) lands, litigation challenging forest planning decisions, regulatory and permitting delays, and wildfire and forest health issues have all contributed to the rapid decline in domestic timber production. Extended planning and permitting timelines continue to delay critical forest management activities needed to maintain forest health and support timber harvest levels. Further, a reduction in forest health and timber production can play a significant role in the rise of catastrophic wildfires. In recent decades, timber harvesting in the NFS has remained far below historical levels, which has coincided with an increase in the number of acres burned annually and more severe wildfire seasons during the same period. In light of

these trends, the Committee appreciates the USFS's current efforts to increase timber targets across the NFS and encourages the agency to continue doing so where appropriate and consistent with the allowable sale quantity established for each forest.

In addition to supporting forest health, increased timber harvest will also promote the use of domestic forest products and related activities that depend on their availability. For example, the increased demand for larger wood utility poles to sustain and improve storm and fire resiliency to the electric grid has created a supply challenge. The Forest Service is strongly encouraged to prioritize work within the current structure of the existing timber sale program, Stewardship End Result Contracting, the Good Neighbor Authority Program, and other available authorities to foster additional production of wood utility poles that meet modern size specs of the U.S. electric utility industry while ensuring the ecological needs of the landscape.

Forest Health

The Committee recognizes the need to address forest health issues on a landscape scale, as private and public forests often intersect. The Committee amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act to allow the flexible use of funding for the development and implementation of State forest action plans. Additionally, the Committee-reported bill reauthorizes the Landscape Scale Restoration Program and the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program, while modernizing the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Improved cross-boundary management and hazardous fuels reduction projects allow greater forest fire protection for those who live and work in our nation's forests, regardless of jurisdiction.

The Committee acknowledges that healthy and productive Federal, State, and private forests are an important part of many rural communities, and their proper management is vital for our environment and preventing catastrophic forest fires. The Committee believes that ensuring our forests are resilient should be a priority for the USFS. The Committee recognizes prescribed burns as a proactive measure to reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires, enhance ecosystem health, and contribute to the overall resilience of forested areas. As such, the Committee encourages the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to develop and disseminate guidelines for the implementation of prescribed burns. These guidelines shall consider ecological factors, community safety, and best practices for controlled burns.

Additionally, the Committee understands the ongoing challenges relating to white oak conservation and the regeneration of such forest stands. The Forest Service's own Forest Inventory and Analysis data shows that white oak occupies 103 million acres in the eastern U.S. and white oak is not regenerating as it has in the past. White oak is critical for wildlife, biodiversity and certain forest products. The Committee encourages the Forest Service to develop a strategy to naturally regenerate white oak on its national forests and further directs the Forest Service to increase private forest landowner outreach and education to encourage white oak forests for future generations.

Furthermore, illegal cannabis cultivation on Federal lands degrades the natural ecosystem and poses significant health and con-

tamination risks to the surrounding public and wildlife. A structured and federally managed remediation and intervention effort is critical to restore these lands and prevent further environmental damage. This includes detecting, identifying, assessing, investigating, monitoring, and developing solutions for the remediation of contamination caused by illegal cannabis cultivation. The Committee urges the USFS to leverage internal expertise and the expertise of USFS partners to mitigate the adverse effects of illegal cannabis cultivation on NFS lands to restore and protect federal lands.

New and Existing Markets

Productive Federal, State and private forests provide landscape for healthy habitats and economies across the country. The creation and expansion of market opportunities for wood products promote healthy landscapes and communities in rural America. The Committee urges the USFS to continue supporting research and development to promote new markets for wood products, including mass timber. The Committee recognizes product development is just one component of integrating mass timber into commercial and residential projects. The Committee urges the Secretary to emphasize workforce development and product-use education programming at USFS and other relevant Federal agencies.

The Committee supports public-private partnerships that promote fire resilient communities, including efforts to encourage the design, construction, and retrofitting of fire resilient residential homes and commercial buildings. Collaborative efforts between private industry, university-based wildfire researchers, community-based organizations, and local communities are making notable progress in developing construction techniques and identifying building materials and assemblies to actively mitigate fire risk, including in the wildland-urban interface. The Committee encourages efforts at the state and local level, particularly within high-risk fire areas, to support the use of American made materials or assemblies that, based on standardized testing, have demonstrated fire-resilient performance to support and promote fire hardened and resilient communities.

Additionally, the Committee urges the USFS to promote value-added attributes of forest products, especially related to carbon sequestration of wood products in existing and emerging marketplaces. Robust, historical data sets in the Forest Inventory and Analysis program leverage rural investment, product innovation, and competitive price for invested stakeholders.

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes, renames, and enhances the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program, as well as modernizes the Wood Innovation Grant Program (WIG) to include provisions that support innovative wood products. To leverage data sources and tools, the Committee-reported bill establishes a platform to track forest and wood products data and modernizes and standardizes the Forest Inventory Analysis data collection to increase data accessibility, usability, and transparency. Additionally, the bill authorizes a biochar application and demonstration project to facilitate the use of biochar, develop new biochar applications, and support the commercialization of biochar.

Recreation on NFS Lands

The Committee intends the USFS, when designing restoration projects under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act or other forestry title authorities, consider opportunities to restore or enhance sustainable recreational infrastructure or access, or to accomplish other recreation outcomes, where such opportunities are compatible with the primary restoration purpose or purposes of the project. Such opportunities include increasing the resilience of trail systems and other recreation infrastructure to high severity wildfire, enhancing viewsheds and scenic values, rehabilitating recreation infrastructure during project implementation, including recreation data in the Fireshed Risk Map, and incorporating outdoor recreation metrics into project prioritization criteria.

The Committee acknowledges the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), including All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), for recreational purposes within the NFS are an important aspect of many rural and outdoor recreational communities. The Committee also acknowledges there are more than 108,000 miles of trails and thousands of miles of roads on national forests and grasslands that are currently open to motorized vehicle use. The Committee believes that permitting the use of e-bikes and OHVs for recreational purposes increases access opportunities for elderly and disabled visitors who may otherwise be unable to navigate forest trails.

USFS Multiple-Use Mandate

The Committee reminds the USFS that the multiple use, sustained yield mandate found in its foundational statutes, including the Organic Act, Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act, and the National Forest Management Act remain in force. The agency is directed to offer a commercial timber sale program that meets the needs of nearby forest industry, focusing on economically viable products with current, installed manufacturing capacity and viable markets. The Committee-reported bill includes no efforts to restrict the USFS's multiple use mandate by removing additional lands from management, nor any efforts, mission areas, or programs to distract the USFS from the dual wildfire and forest health crises.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

Farm Bill Energy Title programs play a crucial role in diversifying the nation's energy supply, advancing energy efficiency, and creating economic opportunities in rural America. Through these programs, funding is available for energy audits, renewable energy development, and the installation of energy-efficient and renewable energy systems. Additionally, USDA energy programs support the production of advanced biofuels, construction of biorefineries, and other initiatives that drive innovation and resilient energy solutions.

Advanced Biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel

The Committee recognizes that sustainable aviation fuels offer a significant opportunity to broaden markets for U.S. farmers and revitalize rural economies.

The Committee-reported bill amends the definition of an advanced biofuel to affirm sustainable aviation fuel as an advanced biofuel for the purpose of Title IX programs.

To strengthen the American agriculture industry's ability to contribute to sustainable aviation fuel production through USDA programs, the Committee-reported bill establishes a department-wide strategy by facilitating the collaboration between relevant USDA mission areas and leveraging the capabilities of our nation's farmers to capture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market.

The Committee is keenly aware of concerns from various stakeholders about the proportion of certain biofuels being produced with non-crop-based feedstocks. As sustainable aviation fuel production grows, it is vital to leverage crop-based feedstocks to the fullest extent practicable.

Biobased markets and products

To modernize the Biobased Markets Program (BioPreferred Program), the Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and amends the program, requiring the Secretary to issue procurement guidance to agencies to consider the longevity of a product, economic savings, and the efficacy and performance of a product when making procurement decisions. Further, the bill established more robust reporting and accountability procedures for agency procurement of biobased products.

Under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–334), Congress directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce to jointly develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for renewable chemical and biobased product manufacturers. The Economic Classification Policy Committee (ECPC), a group within the Office of Management and Budget responsible for maintaining NAICS, reviewed the need for new NAICS codes for biobased products. Upon review, the ECPC did not recommend creating new NAICS codes for renewable chemical and biobased product manufacturers in the 2022 NAICS revision, citing difficulties in distinguishing these products and their limited market size. Instead, the ECPC suggested using North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) codes, which are better suited for market analysis of biobased products, noting that NAICS was not designed for procurement or regulatory purposes. In preparation for the 2027 NAICS revision, an interagency technical working group requested public input and compiled recommendations to the ECPC, including expanding and creating specific NAICS codes to identify biomanufacturing processes as well as specific NAPCS codes for distinct biobased manufactured products.

Based on the ECPC's recommendation, the Committee-reported bill directs the USDA and Department of Commerce to jointly develop NAICS and NAPCS codes for renewable chemicals manufacturers, biobased product manufacturers, and their respective products. Additionally, the bill requires USDA to provide a report to Congress proposing bioeconomy-related changes for the 2027 revisions of NAICS and NAPCS codes, while also evaluating the development of a national framework to measure the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.

Biorefineries

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and expands the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance program to broaden eligibility for innovative biobased manufacturing technologies. The Committee intends this expansion to open program participation to a wider range of entities, encouraging broader development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products.

Additionally, the bill establishes a technical review agreement outlining the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary will determine the project technically feasible. The Committee intends for this agreement to streamline the demonstration phase of the application process and lead to more successful applications, by ensuring that both the applicant and USDA agree on the goals of the demonstration unit before the unit is designed or constructed.

Bioproduct terminology

Products from American biobased feedstock support the U.S. bioeconomy by driving rural economic growth, creating jobs, promoting energy independence, and supporting U.S. national security. However, the Committee recognizes that inconsistent terminology in the marketplace may hinder consumer trust, certainty, and adoption of these products.

To address this, the Committee-reported bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to implement, within a year of the date of enactment, national uniform labeling standards for certain bioproducts that are not already currently defined in statute. Moreover, the current definitions in 7 CFR Part 4270 (Section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002—7 U.S.C. 8101) for specific terms that are also used in USDA's BioPreferred Program are to be used for the national labeling standards.

In establishing the remaining definitions, the Secretary shall consult with biomanufacturers, researchers, feedstock growers, and other industry stakeholders. The Committee expects USDA to gather public feedback through the *Federal Register* public comment process, and with a focus on proactive outreach to the entities listed. In establishing uniform labeling standards, USDA is encouraged to consider all stakeholder and public feedback received and explore all avenues, including certification processes for standardized chain of custody models, such as mass balance.

Further, nothing in the Committee-reported bill is meant to undermine the BioPreferred Program.

Biofuels

The Committee supports technological advancements in the biofuels sector, specifically emissions reducing technologies coupled with biofuels production and the role that low emissions biofuels play in further development of the bioeconomy and promotion of rural prosperity. Additionally, the Committee supports science-based emissions modeling of biofuels, including biodiesel, renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuel, that utilize the Department of Energy's Argonne National Lab Green House Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET)

model and its associated tools in ways that recognize the agriculture industry's contribution to emissions reductions.

The Committee supports the utilization of intermediate crops, or oilseed crops of renewable biomass that otherwise meet the definition of a "cover crop" and is planted and harvested on land that would otherwise be idle in a rotation pattern between main crops or in a fallow rotation, as a low carbon feedstock for the production of renewable biofuels and chemicals.

Further, the Committee-passed bill reinforces language to strengthen American agriculture's ability to contribute to sustainable aviation fuels through U.S. Department of Agriculture's bioenergy programs and the development of a strategy fostering greater collaboration within USDA mission areas to advance sustainable aviation fuels opportunities for American agriculture.

In acknowledging the vital role that agricultural feedstocks may contribute to sustainable aviation fuels, the Committee-reported bill also establishes a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels by facilitating the collaboration between relevant USDA mission areas, identifying opportunities and leveraging the capabilities of our nation's farmers to capture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market.

Rural energy systems and energy efficiency improvements

The Committee-reported bill reauthorizes and improves the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

Under REAP, applications for energy efficiency projects are scored based on a variety of considerations, including the project's ability to generate, save or replace energy based on the installation of the energy efficiency measure. However, the Committee believes these projects should also consider the energy efficiency measure's ability to improve the operations for the agricultural producer or rural small business. To that end, the Committee-reported bill requires the Secretary to consider the potential improvements to the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business when reviewing loan guarantee or grant applications under REAP.

Additionally, the bill increases the maximum amount for a loan guarantee from $25 million to $50 million. The Committee believes the changes will provide lenders with more opportunities to support additional projects.

Finally, the Committee-reported bill requires the Secretary to ensure, to the extent practicable, that there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees under REAP and establishes a reserve fund within REAP to achieve this. As technology evolves and new sources of energy generation emerge, the Committee supports funding for diverse and underutilized technologies that may not yet have the same recognition as legacy energy generation systems, but can deliver significant benefits to farmers and rural small businesses. These include waste energy recovery technologies, which generate electricity solely from heat or pressure that would otherwise be vented, released, throttled, or discharged from a commercial, residential, or industrial process—such as waste heat to power or waste pressure to power systems. Additionally, the Committee encourages USDA to actively identify and support such technologies through existing energy and rural devel-

opment programs and to prioritize their inclusion in technical assistance and loan or grant initiatives where appropriate.

Solar panel installations on farmland and forestland

The Committee-reported bill directs the USDA to conduct a comprehensive study on the impacts of solar panel installations on farmland and forestland, focusing on both economic and environmental effects. This study should evaluate the economic implications of solar development on crop yields, land values, access to farmland, local economies, and food security. Additionally, it should assess the environmental impacts of solar installation, operation, and decommissioning on soil health, water resources, wildlife, vegetation, and water quality. The Committee also expects an analysis of shared solar and agricultural production, including the compatibility of certain crops and livestock with solar panel systems, and the extent to which financial incentives contribute to the development of covered farmland for solar purposes. The study should include recommendations on shifting installations to the built environment, and an estimation of total farmland production loss due to solar installations. The Committee intends for this report to provide a clearer understanding of the risks and benefits associated with solar installations on agricultural and forest lands.

Further, the bill limits the Secretary's authority to approve financial assistance, including grants, loans, or loan guarantees, for the conversion of covered farmland and forestland for solar energy production in cases where this would remove the land from agricultural or forestland use.

However, the Committee-reported bill provides specific exceptions, including the conversion of up to 5 acres of covered farmland, or up to 50 acres of covered farmland if a majority of the generated energy supports on-farm use and there is local approval, provided a farmland conservation plan is in place and adequate funding is secured to implement the plan. The Committee intends for this local approval to be obtained from the smallest governing entity, whether that be the town, township, municipality, borough, or county.

These limitations are designed to balance the development of renewable energy with the preservation of productive agricultural and forest land, while safeguarding the rights of farmers, ranchers, and foresters to use their land, and at the same time providing flexibility should they be exploring for tangible options to offset one of many input costs, electricity.

Finally, there is a crucial need to bolster the economic stability of America's farmers, while advancing national energy security. Agrivoltaics—the integration of active agricultural production of marketable products (such as grazing, specialty crop cultivation, or animal husbandry) into land generating solar energy—represents a transformative opportunity to diversify farm income while keeping prime agricultural land in production. Ecovoltaics—the integration of pollinator habitat or other practices that improve ecosystem services into solar—can also enhance agricultural production.

The Committee encourages USDA to highlight agrivoltaics innovation to bolster rural economic vitality and drought resilience. As a dual-use model, agrivoltaics provides farmer-landowners with a durable revenue stream through long-term lease agreements or en-

ergy sales. Additionally, agrivoltaics can lower the financial barrier to entry for the next generation of producers and improve land access for established producers seeking to expand their operations, helping to reverse the trend of rural land loss to permanent industrial development.

Other matters

The Committee is concerned with the administrative pause on the acceptance, processing, and awarding of loan guarantee applications for controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and biogas digester projects. While it is vital to investigate potential program risk and performance, review overall portfolio performances, and ensure responsible stewardship of federal resources, the complete pausing of applications has already undermined projects' financing and confidence in these industries, despite there being a limited number of loans at issue. The Committee urges Rural Development to refocus on resolving delinquencies across all portfolios to prevent losses and respond to service requests to ensure there are no response delays. Finally, the Committee requests a report within three months of the date of enactment on losses in various guaranteed programs for the last ten years.

Additionally, the Committee is aware that multiple Biobased Markets and Development Access Grant Program awards are being held. This crucial program provides funding for eligible applicants to prove the commercial viability of biobased technologies through the construction or and operation of Integrated Demonstration Units (IDUs), which replicate the proposed full-size commercial facilities in every way, except size. The IDUs, which applicants have found extremely difficult to finance with private sector investments as the IDUs do not generate revenue, are crucial for validating and derisking the emerging technologies that will be used in commercial facilities. The Committee strongly urges USDA to release the funds as soon as possible.

Nuclear energy is a cornerstone of the global transition toward cleaner energy. With nuclear energy a vital part of the modern energy mix, the Committee strongly urges the Secretary of Agriculture to promote and fund nuclear energy projects through existing USDA Rural Development programs.

The Committee urges USDA to collaborate with nonprofits and other organizations to engage with rural communities as they navigate funding pathways available at Rural Development. For example, controlled environment agriculture could benefit from "circular economy" opportunities by integrating waste heat from data centers to climate-control indoor farms. Rural communities can lower energy costs, create high-tech jobs, and ensure year-round food security.

Finally, the Committee strongly urges the Department to update the 2016 Billion Ton Study and report on the availability of all potential feedstock sources for biofuels, including from forestry and agriculture, and evaluate the true potential of crop-based biofuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel, as well as crop-based aviation fuel. The updated study should explore the potential of biomass-based feedstocks, coupled with carbon capture and sequestration to generate fuels with negative carbon intensities.

First brought forth in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Horticulture title contains provisions intended to support a variety of commodities, such as specialty crops, organic agriculture, locally and regionally produced food, hemp, and other such issues. Additionally, the Horticulture title addresses key provisions impacting the regulatory environment for pesticide products, which are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Committee-reported bill contains budget neutral policy updates that are aimed strengthening the competitiveness of the specialty crop industry, supporting organic production, and streamlining burdensome or duplicative regulations that impact producers' ability to access necessary tools to combat pest and weed pressures.

Specialty Crop Support

Specialty crops play a unique role in providing a supply of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticultural and nursery crops. Given the broad range of commodities that are considered specialty crops, Congress has historically faced challenges in ensuring these producers are adequately supported across all Department activities and has consequentially created unique programs that support these activities in a manner that provides needed flexibility.

In the Committee-reported language, improvements are made to the keystone program that enables specialty crop producers to engage with their State governments in a manner that is tailored to their needs, the Specialty Crop Block Grant program. This program received a substantial investment through H.R. 1, which increased funding by $15 million per year. To compliment this funding, the Farm Bill directs State program administrators to consult annually with their producers. This update reflects Congressional intent that program administrators thoughtfully engage with producer communities, while still allowing crucial flexibility in program priorities to be carried out on a state-by-state basis.

The Committee notes that, when administering any program directed toward specialty crop producers, the Department shall utilize the definition of specialty crops from the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 to the maximum extent practicable so that the resources directed towards these purposes are not expanded or misinterpreted beyond Congressional intent.

Finally, the Committee recognizes the substantial new market opportunities that are presented for specialty crops with the increase in demand for natural food dyes. The Committee encourages the Department to support policies that can enhance specialty crop availability for these purposes, including additional research, pest and disease management, infrastructure needs, and communication and outreach activities.

Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Urban agriculture plays an increasingly important role in not only providing local foods, but also in increasing consumer awareness of agriculture. Through the Farm Bill, the Committee seeks to give the Department ongoing authority to provide grants and cooperative agreements to support such activities by removing the ex-

isting program from its pilot status, and by giving the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production expanded capabilities to help navigate support programs for such practices. It is the expectation of the Committee that the Department puts a renewed focus on the agricultural production that can be accomplished through urban agriculture activities.

Hemp Production

The Committee-reported language recognizes the continued Congressional support for the industrial hemp industry, and maintains the bifurcation of industrial hemp from hemp-derived cannabinoid final form products that was put into statute through the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026. It is the intention of the Committee that the Department work with States and Tribes to implement language included in this bill in such a way that allows States to best support those producers of industrial hemp products while maintaining State authority in making regulatory decisions that best reflect the needs of their constituents. Additionally, the Committee believes that the Department should prioritize their work in coordinating with the DEA to reduce the bottlenecks that occur due to a lack of appropriately accredited labs, as this issue has been an ongoing challenge for the producers of hemp that could impact the sector moving forward if not addressed.

The statutory framework for hemp laid out in this bill recognizes multiple primary agricultural outputs of the hemp plant, including fiber and grain, each of which involves the on-farm separation of the primary product from the cannabinoid-containing floral material of the plant. Terpenes follow this same production model. Terpenes are non-intoxicating aromatic compounds that originate in the flowering tops of the plant and are separated from cannabinoid-containing vegetative material during primary agricultural processing, in the same manner as grain is separated through threshing and fiber is separated through cutting and retting. Therefore, the Committee recognizes the production of the whole plant, or any lawful part thereof, for the extraction, production, or manufacture of any non-cannabinoid essential oil, aromatic compound, terpene, or other non-cannabinoid volatile organic compound derived from such plant as the production of industrial hemp, such that any cannabinoid components of such plant satisfactorily meet all other components of the definition of "hemp" as defined by Pub. L. 119–37.

Organic Support

The Committee recognizes increasing consumer demand for agricultural products produced through organic growing methods, and that domestic demand for such products has outpaced domestic production at an increasing rate. As such, the Committee-reported language includes a number of provisions that assist organic producers with having additional data that is comparable to that which is available to conventional producers to make informed decisions on their operations, and directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to producers who have expressed challenges in navigating the existing organic programs. It should be noted that Committee has also provided support to both current organic pro-

ducers and those who wish to transition to organic production throughout the Farm Bill, including through codifying research initiatives.

The Committee notes interest from stakeholders on addressing barriers to entry for organic agriculture, including, but not limited to, waiting periods for transitioning from conventional to organic. For this reason, the Committee directs USDA to identify such barriers and provide a list of identified barriers to Congress.

Regulatory Reform

The Federal Fungicide, Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is a regulatory statute that governs the sale and use of pesticides in the United States through the registration and labeling of such products, and provides for clarity on how the Environmental Protection Agency shall work with States to further regulate pesticides under specific circumstances as outlined in FIFRA. This regulatory framework provides a comprehensive, science-based process for evaluating product safety, approving product labels to reflect safety findings, and ensuring that pesticide products can be used safely and effectively according to their label instructions. The EPA is responsible for reviewing extensive scientific data and determining the conditions of use necessary to protect human health and the environment before approving a product label.

As new, innovative products are developed that do not fit squarely into an existing definition or regulatory structure, some products have been subjected to regulatory review that is inappropriate for the characteristics and ultimate effect. The Committee included provisions to clarify that certain substances, such as plant incorporated protectants and biostimulants, should not be regulated as pesticide products as they do not have pesticidal claims that require such action.

As the EPA conducts reviews of pesticide products under new actions pursuant to the ESA Workplan, the Committee directs the Agency to continue working with the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy and the ESA Interagency Working Group to ensure that agronomic realities are reflected in Agency decision-making. The Committee remains supportive of the EPA meeting their obligations under the Endangered Species Act.

The Committee is concerned that misinterpretation from the Courts on FIFRA Section 24(b) has created the potential for a patchwork regulatory system that imposes labeling requirements that differ from or are in addition to those approved by EPA under FIFRA. Such inconsistent requirements undermine the uniform national labeling system established by Congress. The Committed-reported text reaffirms Congress' intent that pesticide labeling remains a federally regulated and uniform system and that EPA is the sole authority related to such labels.

The Committee emphasizes that this section does not limit EPA's authority to review, suspend, or cancel pesticide registrations; require updated warnings; or enforce compliance with FIFRA. Nor does it restrict States authority to regulate the sale, use, and distribution of pesticides under sections 24(a) and 24(c) of FIFRA.

The Committee also directs the EPA to, in accordance with the existing statutory requirements, refrain from publishing documents

or guidance to pesticide manufacturers that would be inconsistent with this section.

The Committee is concerned that authority given to States by the EPA may be usurped by localities without sufficient scientific and regulatory expertise. In order to maintain a consistent regulatory framework for pesticides by reaffirming the roles of EPA and State lead agencies in evaluating and regulating pesticide use. By preventing a patchwork of local requirements, the Committee-reported language seeks to promote regulatory certainty for farmers, applicators, and other pesticide users while preserving the existing federal state partnership under FIFRA.

The Committee recognizes that pesticide products undergo a comprehensive review process prior to registration and that duplicative permitting requirements can create regulatory uncertainty for applicators. The Committee-reported text includes clarification to provide consistency in the regulatory framework governing pesticide use and ensure that lawful use of registered pesticides is not subject to additional, duplicative permitting obligations.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

Farm and ranch families from across the country consistently state that Federal Crop Insurance is the cornerstone of the farm safety net. By every metric, Federal Crop Insurance has become a vital risk management tool for producers facing ever escalating financial stakes, including producer participation, insured acres, commodities served, and liability protection in force. These advances are the result of prudent policies put in place since 1980 when delivery was turned over to the private sector. The 1994 reform made further inroads, and the 2000 Agricultural Risk Protection Act greatly enhanced the effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance for all U.S. producers. Improvements made via H.R. 1 (Pub. L. 119–21) in 2025, which become effective in 2026, significantly build on this success.

Not only does Federal Crop Insurance help producers get back on their feet after natural disasters but also enables farm and ranch families to better manage price volatility within a crop year and, through liability protection in force, to invest in their operations, both in the short and long term. Because food security is national security, a strong Federal Crop Insurance is in our national interest.

The Committee-reported bill builds on the achievements made over nearly 50 years. A core component of the Committee-reported bill is enhancing access to quality coverage for specialty crops. While the legislation also provides an improved framework for disaster programs Congress may enact from time to time in response to natural disasters, the larger aim of the legislation is to provide specialty crop farmers with effective crop insurance that they can actually bank on.

To further this objective, the legislation ensures a specialty crop farmer serves on the Federal Crop Insurance Board of Directors and establishes a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee. To ensure input from all perspectives of the industry is heard on the advisory committee, RMA should require one of the growers on the advisory committee to be from the Horticultural industry to provide feed-

back, information, and specialties related to the non-food side of the Specialty Crops industry.

The Committee-reported bill also makes improvements to whole farm insurance coverage, a policy that holds out unique promise for many specialty crop farmers. Additionally, the legislation directs the Risk Management Agency to pursue research and development on policies to better serve specialty crops, including sugar beets, sugar cane, dry edible beans, wine grapes, mushrooms, and coverages that better address perils that especially impact the full range of specialty crops, including index-based policies, policies focused on hurricanes and tropical storms, and coverage for crops not planted on a perennial basis.

The Committee encourages RMA to conduct a program performance evaluation for blueberries, make improvements to the blueberry Actual Production History (APH) policy that accounts for multiple crop types and values, and prioritize the research and development of a revenue-inclusive policy for blueberries.

The Committee is aware that for many years sugar beet farmers have been seeking approval of a revenue insurance policy under the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Despite the challenges, the Committee understands that a revenue insurance policy has been developed that can effectively address the perils unique to sugar beet farmers. Not only are sugar beet farmers subject to yield losses, but also to price declines, low sugar content, and other production-related losses that adversely impact their viability. Sugar beet farmers face depressed prices, high production costs, and a torrent of heavily subsidized foreign imports so timely approval of an effective revenue policy is vitally important as Congress and the Administration weigh additional means of addressing the challenges our sugar beet farmers confront today. The Committee encourages the Risk Management Agency to promptly consider the pending policy submission to ensure that it is made available to sugar beet farmers for the 2027 crop.

The legislation also includes a number of other provisions to enhance the effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance in meeting unique risk management needs on the ground, including coverage of price declines; limits on interest to be paid by producers who may be late in paying premiums to companies, a situation that usually only stems from severe economic hardship; expanded premium benefits for veteran producers; a pilot program to analyze the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits on crops planted during a late planting period; harvest incentives for producers that help bolster industry segments throughout the supply chain; improved quality loss adjustment procedures; as well as improved policies for oilseeds produced under certain double cropping and rotational practices.

Given USDA no longer generates data sufficient to quantify Price Elections for sorghum according to the Grain Sorghum Pricing Methodology and commodity price elections can influence planting decisions in the water-stressed sorghum belt, the Committee urges RMA to develop a new methodology that provides a floor for sorghum equal to the price election for corn and with an ability to increase for sorghum if market prices for sorghum relative to corn would justify a positive differential.

Pub. L. 119–21 also included provisions to enhance the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) insurance policy, a county-based insurance policy that can be purchased in conjunction with an underlying Multi-Peril Crop Insurance policy. The Committee understands insurance policies require robust data to appropriately set premiums and ensure actuarial soundness, however the Committee is deeply concerned by actions taken by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to combine data across multiple counties which reduces the effectiveness of SCO and has resulted in producers not being indemnified for losses, despite widespread destruction within the county they farm.

The Committee urges RMA to routinely review instances where county data is being combined for the administration of SCO and to the maximum extent practicable curtail such practice to ensure SCO is being administered utilizing only data from the county in which a participating farm is located. In instances where combining county data is deemed necessary, RMA should ensure the fewest number of counties and the smallest geographic area necessary are being combined and that the combined counties reflect similar geographic and agronomic properties to ensure losses within the combined unit are consistent across the geographic region.

The Committee is committed to ensuring that all producers, commodities, and regions of the country have access to quality crop insurance coverage. This is not only in the interest of farm and ranch families but also to the nation's supply of food, fiber, and fuel and to the taxpayer, so it is important that private submissions under 508(h) are not unnecessarily delayed or encumbered. Parts of the 508(h) regulatory process require the submitting party to solicit the assistance of Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) due to their specialized expertise. However, the Committee is concerned that this has led to assisting AIPs to be included as submitting parties under the 508(h) process and significantly delayed the approval of new products. Section 508(h) states that any person (including an approved insurance provider, a college or university, a cooperative or trade association, or any other person) may prepare for submission or propose to the Board. The Committee recognizes that talented people across the country involved in U.S. agriculture have ideas to offer in the 508(h) process to make crop insurance serve all producers, commodities, and regions of the country even better and the process ought to remain open to them. The Committee is also aware of situations where policies have elements to them that might make them a fit within either the standard reinsurance agreement or the livestock price reinsurance agreement. The Committee notes there are certain policies that cover both yield and prices risk on an individual level and that those policies should be covered by the Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

The legislation includes important housekeeping provisions, such as ensuring that policies meet actuarial soundness requirements prescribed by statute, clarifying Administrative and Operating reimbursement rates going forward, and requiring examination and report to Congress regarding potential adjustments in the Standard Reinsurance Agreement to help ensure that private sector delivery has the resources necessary to meet the risk management needs of all producers, commodities, and regions through the full range of policies made available under the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

The Committee affirms that the Federal Crop Insurance Program is a federally authorized and administered program designed to operate on a nationally uniform basis through standardized policies, procedures, and dispute resolution mechanisms established by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The Committee is concerned that inconsistent interpretations in litigation have created uncertainty regarding the scope of remedies available under the program and, in some cases, have allowed State law causes of action to be asserted in ways that are inconsistent with the uniform administration of this federal program. These inconsistencies could risk the ability of AIPs to provide continued universal delivery of the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

The Committee therefore encourages RMA to take appropriate administrative or regulatory actions to strengthen and clarify the preemption of State and local law causes of action, including judgments, damages, penalties, and attorney's fees based on State or local law, relating to policies issued under the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The Committee does not intend this clarification to limit a producer's right to arbitration or judicial review of policy determinations, nor to alter coverage levels, indemnity amounts, premium subsidies, or producer eligibility under the federal crop insurance program.

The Committee is concerned by sweeping changes included in the FCIC Final Rule *Removal of Regulatory Overreach and Federal Crop Insurance Policy Provisions*, 90 FR 16151 (April 1, 2026) that, among other things, would downgrade Final Agency Determinations (FADs) from matters of general applicability to mere interpretive guidance. Prior to the rule, FADs served an important role to provide dispositive authority regarding interpretations of policy on all parties, this helped ensure a nationally uniform interpretation of federal policy. This change, in conjunction with changes contained in *Expanding Access to Risk Protection*, 90 FR 54523 (November 28, 2025) that expand the ability of insured producers to seek extra-contractual damages, could result in increased litigation, forum shopping, and inconsistent interpretation of policy terms, undermining the principle of universal delivery. The Committee reprimands the Department for pursuing such changes without appropriate engagement with representatives of insureds, AIPs, and the Committee. The Committee directs RMA to work with appropriate stakeholders to address these concerns and restore consistency and predictability to dispute resolutions under the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

The Crop Insurance Title in the Committee-reported bill is a combination of bipartisan legislation introduced in the House this Congress to better meet the needs of all American farm and ranch families, whatever commodity they produce, and wherever that commodity is raised or grown.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS

The Committee understands the invaluable role animal agriculture plays in maintaining a safe and reliable food supply. The threats animal pests and diseases pose to the rural economy and our nation's food supply cannot be overlooked, as was made abun-

dantly clear in recent years with the catastrophic outbreaks of highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and the ever-present risks of New World screwworm (NWS), African swine fever (ASF), and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Consequently, the Committee strives to ensure USDA and its partners have the tools necessary to prevent and respond to animal pests and diseases that cause harm to the U.S. economy and food security.

More specifically, the Committee believes it is essential that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), State animal health officials, and stakeholders involved in animal agriculture have: (1) early detection, prevention, and rapid response tools to address any potential animal disease outbreak; (2) robust laboratory capacity for surveillance; and (3) a viable stockpile of vaccine to rapidly respond to the intentional or unintentional introduction of a high-consequence disease like FMD.

To that end, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 complements increased funding that was secured in H.R. 1 (Pub. L. 119–21) for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), and National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasure Bank (NAVVCB). The investments from H.R. 1 provide mandatory funding of $233 million for these programs for each of Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030, with $10 million allocated to NAHLN, $70 million allocated to NADPRP, and $153 million allocated to NAVVCB. For subsequent Fiscal Years, $75 million of mandatory funding will be provided, with $45 million set aside for NADPRP, and the remainder to be used at the Secretary's discretion amongst the three components. The Committee is confident that the Secretary and her team of experts are best positioned to determine the highest priority use of such remaining funds based on current and forecasted needs.

State livestock production standards

The Committee believes that livestock producers should be able to make their own animal husbandry decisions based on their individual and unique needs. The Committee is concerned with state mandates that regulate livestock production outside of their own borders, such as California's Proposition 12 (Prop 12). Such state mandates force arbitrary production standards on all producers who want to sell into California, regardless of whether they are raising their animals in California or another state. The Committee recognizes that these restrictions are financially burdensome for both producers and consumers.

As such, the Committee clarifies in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 that states and local governments cannot impose, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption, a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock unless the livestock is physically located within such state or local government. The Committee intends for this provision to only cover production, and does not intend for it to include the movement, harvesting, or further processing of covered livestock.

Finally, the Committee calls attention to the Supreme Court ruling in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, where the justices make clear that it is the role of Congress to decide what the majority sees as moral judgements and economic harms. The Committee

agrees with the justices and believes that Congress must act to ensure that livestock producers are not burdened by one state's misguided decision.

Vaccines for emerging threats

The health and safety of our nation's livestock and poultry populations are paramount to maintaining food security. With the ongoing outbreak of HPAI, and the ubiquitous threats of other foreign animal diseases, the Committee urges USDA to also pursue public-private partnerships to utilize technologies, including anti-viral platforms, that can rapidly create effective, shelf-stable therapeutics designed to swiftly counteract virus mutations. The Committee further urges USDA to ensure that such antivirals are efficiently distributed nationwide with private sector collaboration.

Federal share for state inspection

The Committee is supportive of State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) Programs and recognizes the key role they play in maintaining the integrity of the nation's food supply. The Committee is also aware of the need for additional resources for State MPI program participants to maintain program viability. As the Department carries out its responsibilities in administering State MPI's, the Committee encourages the Department to work with participating states to ensure sufficient federal funds are allocated to each state in a timely manner.

Line speeds

The Committee recognizes that USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is part of a national science-based system focused on protecting public health by preventing illness from meat, poultry, and egg products by ensuring these products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. The Committee affirms that FSIS ensures food safety through the authorities of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, as well as humane animal handling through the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

The Committee appreciates USDA's recently proposed rules, *Maximum Line Speed Under the New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS)—Docket No. FSIS–2025–0009 and Maximum Line Speed Rates for Young Chicken and Turkey Establishments Operating Under the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS)—Docket No. FSIS–2025–0012*. Upon finalization of these rules, the Committee expects USDA to ensure that pork and poultry processing establishments have a permanent method to operate at more efficient speeds based on the establishments' ability to maintain process control and meet food safety standards. The Committee calls attention to the fact that these rules are expected to generate significant cost savings for consumers—up to a 16% reduction in the average retail price for chicken products and a 5% reduction in the average retail price for pork products—while continuing to ensure food safety and effective on-line carcass inspection.

The Committee commends FSIS for its diligent efforts to ensure the U.S. supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe and secure. The Committee believes that these proposed rules ensure con-

tinued protection of the public health of consumers, and the Committee encourages the Department to finalize these regulations.

Amplifying processing of livestock

The Committee supports efforts to expand and diversify processing capacity. To that end, the Committee reaffirms that the thresholds outlined in Section 12111 are intended to provide the option for a daily or yearly slaughter capacity. The Committee does not mean for USDA to prevent an investment if one, but not both, of the slaughter capacities are met for either cattle, sheep, or hogs.

SUBTITLE C—NATIONAL SECURITY

The Committee recognizes that the food and agriculture sector represents a cornerstone of our nation's national security, making the security of the sector a matter of national importance. A stable, productive, and resilient domestic agricultural system is essential to ensuring Americans have consistent access to safe, affordable, and abundant food while maintaining the strength and independence of the U.S. economy.

To address the need for a forward-looking approach to future security threats, the Committee-reported bill directs the Secretary, through the Office of Homeland Security, to conduct risk assessments on a regular basis to identify any vulnerabilities. This work is intended to address risks across a number of issues, including both international and domestic threats; intentional and unintentional attacks; supply chain vulnerability; and any other potential threats. The Committee notes the renewed focus that the Department has taken on matters related to National Security, and encourages USDA to continue work in addressing vulnerabilities.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the importance of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) in promoting transparency and appropriate oversight of foreign ownership of agricultural land. However, AFIDA has historically relied on antiquated systems and paper filings that do not allow for the needed oversight of such activities. Due to this concern, the Committee-reported language directs USDA to undergo a number of modernization efforts to the AFIDA process, including electronic filings and the creation of a public database. The Committee notes that USDA has already made substantial strides in modernizing AFIDA, and supports the Department in their efforts to allow informed decision-making on long-term stewardship and security of U.S. agricultural resources.

Additionally, the Committee is concerned with overall U.S. agricultural competitiveness amongst other countries, including Brazil. To address this concern, the Committee encourages USDA to work through the Economic Research Service (ERS) and other relevant agencies to conduct a comprehensive study comparing the competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector with Brazil, focusing on strategic risk, input costs, environmental impacts, foreign investment, and agricultural market structure.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

U.S. Drought Monitor

The Committee recognizes the important role that the U.S. Drought Monitor plays, particularly in informing Department actions to assist growers which are impacted by drought conditions. The Committee notes stakeholder concerns regarding the availability of consistent, accurate, and reliable data for use in producing the Drought Monitor, and encourages the Department to explore opportunities, such as the creation of a Working Group, to identify potential improvements.

USDA Crop Input Economic Coordinator

The Committee recognizes that crop inputs are essential to U.S. and global food production. Many of these inputs are globally produced, traded, and priced commodities that are subject to significant market volatility. Recent supply chain disruptions to crop input underscore the need for transparent, timely, independent, and authoritative analysis to better inform farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders about conditions in these critical input markets.

The Committee directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a full-time crop input economist coordinator position to be housed within the Office of the Chief Economist to enhance the Department's capacity to analyze and report on domestic and global markets of crop inputs.

The Committee expects this position to serve as a liaison to Congress, stakeholders, and other relevant federal agencies. Additionally, this position should develop routine market reports, including supply and demand trends, pricing indicators, and related market research to promote transparency and resilience in the associated supply chains.

The Committee further expects that any assessments, particularly those that relate to volatility and disruption, include an assessment on the implications for producers within the U.S. Through this work, the Department shall leverage existing university and industry data resources to access timely information. This position should be crafted in such a manner that does not impact existing staff workstreams.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

Sec. 1001. Suspension of permanent price support authority

Section 1001 suspends permanent price support authority through calendar year 2031.

Sec. 1002. Tree assistance program

Section 1002 amends section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the tree assistance program. Subsection (a) amends the definitions section to expand the definition of "eligible orchardist" to include a person who grows trees for commercial purposes on a biannual basis and changes the definition of "natural disaster" to include plant pests for the purposes of the program. Subsection (b) provides orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees

for commercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no longer produce an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster to be eligible for tree assistance, as determined by the Secretary.

Subsection (d) requires that a participant in the program to agree to replant new trees and salvage existing trees within two years of the approval of their application if practicable for tree survival and allows participants to replant an alternative variety of tree, have an alternative stand density, and replant in an alternative location.

Subsection (e) imposes a deadline of 120 days for the Secretary to act upon an application and notify the applicant of the decision.

Subsection (f) establishes initial payments for the tree assistance program that allows an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower to opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to eligible losses before incurring the costs relating to such losses. The initial assistance payment shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses, as determined by the Secretary. Additionally, subsection (f) provides that the authority for the Secretary to make initial payments for the tree assistance program shall terminate on September 30, 2035.

Sec. 1003. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework

Section 1003 amends the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to add at the end of section 196, a new section to establish a framework to provide direct assistance subject to availability of funds to producers of specialty crops impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption). For purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops, the Secretary shall calculate payments based on the producer's sales of specialty crops for a calendar year or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive calendar years that precedes the year in which the adverse event occurred. The total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity may not exceed $155,000 except if a person or legal entity with an average gross income for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities, in which case the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than $900,000.

Sec. 1004. Assistance in the form of block grants

Section 1004 creates a standing block grant authority to States for future supplemental disaster payments authorized by Congress.

Sec. 1005. Dairy-related extensions

Section 1005 extends authorities for Dairy Forward Pricing Contracting, the Dairy farmer indemnity program, and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Sec. 1006. Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs

Section 1006 amends section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to implement a mandatory cost survey conducted by AMS to ensure that the data that is being used to update make allowances accurately reflects the true cost of making dairy products by requiring the manufacturer to report production costs and product yield information for any manufactured product. The section further requires the Secretary to publish a report, not later than two years and every two years thereafter. Any actions taken by the Secretary under section 273 shall not be subject to review under Executive Order 12866 or any successor order.

Sec. 1007. Dairy reports

Section 1007 amends section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 is a technical amendment to allow for 18 months for USDA to submit to Congress a report describing activities conducted under the dairy products promotion and research order.

Sec. 1008. Processing of certain loans

Section 1008 amends section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to require the Secretary to continue the processing of marketing assistance loans and sugar processing loans during a lapse in appropriations.

Sec. 1009. Storage facility loans

Section 1009 amends section 1614 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the storage facility loan program to producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production.

Sec. 1010. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains

Section 1010 amends subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the President to set the preservation and domestic production of covered agricultural commodities from which food ingredients that serve an important function throughout the domestic supply chain are derived as a priority objective.

Sec. 1011. Regulations

Subsection (a) of section 1011 amends section 1601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to include title I of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made by the title under the exemption from notice and comment provisions and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Subsection (b) of section 1011 amends section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to make a technical correction to the implementation section of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Sec. 1012. Restoration of tobacco as an agricultural commodity in the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act

Section 1012 restores tobacco as an eligible agricultural commodity under the Commodity Credit Corporation charter.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

SUBTITLE A—DEFINITIONS

Sec. 2001. Definitions

Section 2001 adds the definitions for "precision agriculture" and "precision agriculture technology" to the definitions section for the Food Security Act of 1985. The section also includes a technical amendment related to the definition of "Indian Tribe."

Sec. 2002. Mitigation Banking

Section 2002 amends section 1222(k) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the mitigation banking program through Fiscal Year 2031.

SUBTITLE B—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Sec. 2101. Conservation Reserve

Section 2101 amends section 1231 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the conservation reserve program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 2102. Farmable Wetland Program

Section 2102 amends section 1231B of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the farmable wetland subprogram through Fiscal Year 2031.

SUBTITLE C—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Sec. 2201. Definitions

Section 2201 amends section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 to include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology in the definition of the term "practice" for the purposes of the environmental quality incentive program (EQIP).

Sec. 2202. Establishment and Administration

Section 2202 amends section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Subsection (a) clarifies that producers who participate in the EQIP program can also receive a loan or loan guarantee under the Conservation Loan Program to cover the costs of the same practices on the same land. The subsection further requires the Secretary to inform producer participating in EQIP of the availability of the loans and loan guarantees for the same practices. The language includes practices that increase carbon sequestration or reduce greenhouse gases and wildlife connectivity and migration corridors as new categories for State-determined practices that can be eligible for increased cost-share. The subsection provides an increased cost-share of 90 percent for the costs of adopting precision agriculture practices or acquiring precision agriculture technology. Finally, the subsection allows for cost-share payments for the cost of installing or maintaining wildlife corridors on certain land that is enrolled in CRP.

Subsection (b) extends the 50 percent reservation of funding from the program for livestock practices as well as the 10 percent reservation of funding for practices benefiting wildlife.

Subsection (c) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to the list of practices for which the Secretary may provide water conservation and system efficiency payments.

Subsection (d) increases the payment limit for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2031 to $200,000.

Subsection (e) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or adoption of precision agriculture technologies to the incentive practice payments.

Subsection (f) establishes the "Southern Boarder Initiative" which authorized the Secretary to enter into one-year contracts to pay for the repair of damages that are accruing on the southern border.

Sec. 2203. Limitation on Payments

Section 2203 amends section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a new 5-year period from Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2031 in which the payment limit of $450,000 is accrued.

Sec. 2204. Conservation Grants and Payments

Section 2204 amends section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) expands the grants for innovative conservation approaches to include the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards.

Subsection (b) adds perennial production systems to the definition of new or innovative conservation approach for the purpose of On-farm Conservation Innovation Trials.

Subsection (c) adds data used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendations for the application of such technologies to the data required to be reported on and made publicly available.

SUBTITLE D—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2301. Conservation Stewardship Program

Section 2301 amends section 1240J of the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for cost-share payments under EQIP for the cost of installing or maintaining wildlife corridors on certain land that is enrolled in CRP.

Sec. 2302. Duties of the Secretary

Section 2302 amends section 1240L of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) clarifies that the increased costs associated with using precision agriculture and related technologies can be considered as costs incurred by the producer when the Secretary determines a producer's annual payment under the program. The subsection further increases the minimum payment under the program to $4,000.

Subsection (b) adds precision agriculture to the list of practices for which producers are eligible to receive supplemental payments under the program.

Subsection (c) establish a new 5-year period from Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2031 in which the payment limit of $200,000 is accrued.

Sec. 2303. State Assistance for Soil Health

Section 2303 creates a new subprogram under CSP for grants to States and Indian Tribes in order to improve soil health on agricultural lands in those states. The language provides for audits and reviews for the expenditures of any grant money. There is $100,000,000 available out of CSP funding to carry out the grant program.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 2401. Conservation of Private Grazing Land

Section 2401 amends section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend the conservation of private grazing land program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec 2402. Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program

Section 2402 moves the feral swine eradication and control pilot program from the 2018 Farm Bill into the Food Security Act of 1985 and makes it a full program. Further, the distribution of funds is amended with 40 percent allocated to NRCS and 60 percent allocated to APHIS. The Secretary is required to enter into contracts with one or more land grant colleges or universities to assist in achieving the goals of the program. The program receives funding at $150,000,000 for the Fiscal Years 2025 through 2031.

Sec. 2403. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act

Section 2403 amends the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Subsection (a) expands the program to cover technical and financial assistance for remedial actions under the program. Such remedial actions include addressing any deterioration of a work of improvement that is occurring at an accelerated rate, a service life of a work that does not meet the planned service life, and structural damage that was caused by a storm event that was greater than the maximum storm event for which the work was designed. Subsection (a) further requires the Secretary to streamline the work occurring under the program by engaging with Federal agencies to reduce barriers to timely completion of projects, provide procedures for reviews and permitting to ensure that the requirements are commensurate with the size and scale of the project, provide for best-practices for internal procedures at USDA, and prioritize agreements and contacts with local organization to carry out the projects.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to collect, maintain, and make publicly available certain data related to the expenditures, contracts, and resulting benefits of the projects carried out under the program. The Secretary is required to keep all data aggregated so to protect the privacy of landowners participating in the program.

Subsection (c) increases the cost share for rehabilitation projects under the program to 90 percent. It further allows for rehabilitation projects to not be subject to the requirement that the project contain benefits directly related to agricultural to provide for the fact that many existing projects under this program we built when an area as primarily rural but has since been changed due to sprawl. It further allows for such projects to not be subject to the requirement that the project contain not less than 50 per centum of the lands situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir. Finally, the subsection extends the authorization of appropriations for the rehabilitation project through 2031.

Sec. 2404. Emergency Conservation Program

Section 2404 amends section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to allow for advanced payments under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). A producer may receive up to 75% of the costs for replacement or rehabilitation under ECP and 50 percent of the costs of repair under ECP in advance of carrying out the replacement, rehabilitation or repair. The section allows for the use of new or emerging technologies when repairing or replacing fencing, as long as such use does not increase the cost of the repair or replacement. Finally, the section further defines wildfires, for the purposes of ECP, to include a fire that was not caused naturally if the damage was caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.

Sec. 2405. Emergency Watershed Program

Section 2405 amends section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978. Subsection (a) provides the Secretary the authority to restore vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The subsection further provides the Secretary the authority to monitor, maintain, and enhance the vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The Secretary may carry out these activities through contracts directly with landowners or by entering into agreements with States, NGOs, or Tribes. Finally, the subsection allows for the landowner to carry out compatible economic use activities on the land if such uses are consistent with the protection of the floodplain easement.

Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to undertake measures that would increase the level of protection of the floodplain easement if necessary to address immediate impairment of the watershed and it is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed.

Sec. 2406. National Agriculture Flood Vulnerability Study

Section 2406 requires the Secretary to submit to Congress a report on the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural lands.

Sec. 2407. Study on Environmental Benefits of Winter Wheat as a Cover Crop

Section 2407 directs the Secretary, acting through the Chief of NRCS, to conduct a study on the environmental benefits of using

winter wheat as a cover crop and report the results of such study to the House Committee on Agriculture.

SUBTITLE F—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation

Section 2501 amends section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) extends and amends the funding for the conservation programs provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Subsection (b) is a conforming amendment to the regional equity provision. Subsection (c) includes conforming amendments related to the acceptance and use of contributions for public-private partnerships. Subsection (d) extends the report on enrollment and assistance, respectively.

Sec. 2502. Delivery of Technical Assistance

Section 2502 amends section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) defines the term "non-Federal certifying entity." Subsection (b) adds the word 'timely' to the purpose of technical assistance. Subsection (c) adds '(including private sector entities)' to the list of entities eligible for non-Federal assistance to clarify their eligibility.

Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to ensure that persons (including commercial entities, non-profits, State or local governments, and other Federal agencies) with certain expertise are eligible to become approved providers of technical assistance. Subsection (d) also provides for how third-party providers may be certified including through a process by the Secretary, by a non-Federal entity, by an Indian Tribe, or a State agency. Subsection (d) further establishes an approval process for a non-Federal certifying entity, including a timeline, and eligibility criteria. The Subsection also provides for the duties of non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides for a thirty-day timeline after which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified. The subsection provides a 10-day timeline for the Secretary to include the name of the certified third-party provider on a registry after the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity. Finally, the subsection directs the Secretary within 180 days to establish a streamlined process for certification of third-party providers that have a relevant professional certification.

Subsection (e) extends the authority to utilize and expend technical assistance funds from all programs administered by the Secretary for third-party provider technical assistance. Subsection (e) further clarifies the term of an agreement with a third-party provider to include non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides new language directing the Secretary, within 1 year of enactment, to review the certification process, make necessary adjustments, conduct outreach and set target utilization rates for delivery of technical assistance through third-party providers. Technical assistance for the design and implementation of conservation practices is adjusted to include technical assistance to program participants on maintenance of established practices. Subsection (e) adds new language providing direction to the Secretary in establishing payment amounts for third-party providers including use of specialized equipment, site visits, necessary travel and transportation,

and other appropriate factors while excluding the payments from being considered as a cost-share calculation to the program participant. Additionally, the new text requires the Secretary to establish, within 1 year following enactment, a transparent, publicly available reporting of the use of third-party providers in the delivery of services and the actual certification process. The final addition to this section requires the Secretary to place emphasis on the use of third-party providers in soil health planning, cover crops, precision agriculture, comprehensive nutrient management planning and other innovative plans.

Subsection (f) provides direction to the Secretary in the establishment and review of conservation practice standards. The subsection is amended to require a complete review of all conservation practice standards within 1 year of enactment and at least every 5 years thereafter. The subsection expands the criteria for the review process to require solicitation of public input, summary of input received, decisions relating to the input, and the revision of the standard following the review. New language is added by subsection (f) describing the process the Secretary shall follow for establishing interim and new conservation practice standards. This language sets 1 year following enactment as the date for the Secretary to develop and describe a streamlined process for interim and new conservation practice standards that ensures public engagement and is responsive to the public. State Technical Committee input, technology success from Conservation Innovation Grants and On-Farm Demonstrations, state and local partnership input, as well as, Native or traditional ecological knowledge or principles will inform the development and establishment of interim and new standards in an open, publicly available, transparent process. The subsection further provides for a priority when reviewing practices for practices that integrate innovative technologies. The Secretary will report these results of these activities and recommendations for improvement to Congress within 2 years of enactment with updates every 2 years thereafter. To ensure USDA's continued responsiveness to the ongoing innovation in agriculture technology and cultural considerations, the subsection establishes and mandates staffing of an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Office of the Chief of NRCS. The funding and staffing of this new office will be through the annual conservation operation appropriations to the agency.

Subsection (g) provides direct hire authority to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for positions providing technical assistance under the conservation programs administered by the agency.

Subsection (h) requires the Secretary to incorporate nonstructural methods to control livestock distribution (such as virtual fencing) into conservation practice standards and ensure there is adequate technical assistance available for the implementation of practices that support wildlife habitat connectivity.

Sec. 2503. Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs

Section 2503 amends section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) is a conforming amendment adding the Forest Conservation Easement Program to the existing tenant protection provisions.

Subsection (b) amends the county cropland acreage limitation for the conservation reserve program and the wetlands reserve easements into a single combined limitation acreage limitation removing the sub-limitation for the wetlands reserve easements. The Subsection revises the exception to waive the limitations when the Secretary determines that exceeding the county cropland acreage limitation will not adversely affect the local economy of a county or addressing producer's highly erodible lands compliance difficulties. Subsection (b) further amends the exclusions from the cropland acreage calculation to include land capability class III soils within the county.

Subsection (c) updates current law for review and guidance for conservation practice costs and payment rates. The Secretary will annually review the actual costs of implementing the practices, account for gaps in available data, consider the variability in costs across the eligible lands in establishing the payment rates. The Subsection further directs the Secretary to monitor and identify significant changes within each year, seek input from the State Technical Committee regarding the significant changes and adopt or adjust current contracts to reflect the accepted change.

Subsection (d) instructs the Secretary to identify a state source water protection coordinator to promote collaborative effort with community water systems in implementing the source water protection provisions of current law. This Subsection adds annual reporting requirements for the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to make publicly available through an interactive map aggregate data with respect to priority areas, conservation programs, numbers of contracts, acres enrolled, practices adopted, and funds obligated and expended in source water protection areas.

Subsection (e) encourages the Secretary to use USDA's conservation program authorities in support of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife movement corridors.

SUBTITLE G—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2601. Definitions

Section 2601 amends section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985. This section amends the program definitions by striking the definition for "buy-protect-sell transactions" and renumbers the paragraphs and makes and additional revision to the "eligible land" definition to conform to striking the previous definition.

Sec. 2602. Agricultural Land Easements

Section 2602 amends section 1265B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the availability of technical assistance to remove buy-protect-sell transactions. Subsection (b) increases the maximum Federal share from 50 to 65 percent and provides the Secretary the authority to increase the maximum Federal share to 90 percent for a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holding an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent. This Subsection also includes a structural change to bring forward the previously authorized grassland exception with respect to the Federal share into the amended structure.

Subsection (b) includes language clarifying the eligible entities responsibility for providing the non-Federal share. Subsection (b)

further provides new language for an option to exclude the Federal right of enforcement from the easement terms and conditions. To exercise this option the eligible entity will receive Federal cost-share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, provide cash contribution of at least 50 percent of the fair market value and use its own easement deed terms with approval of the Secretary. To provide greater opportunities for access to the program, the subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to evaluate and rank applications from entities that include farms or ranches owned by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in separate pools. This subsection includes a restructuring of the text in current law with respect to the easement minimum terms and conditions without changing the base text in current law. The Subsection includes a new provision facilitating the transfer of an easement to another eligible entity if the holding entity ceases to exist or cannot comply with the easement terms and conditions of their agreement with USDA.

With respect to certification of eligible entities, Subsection (b) provides a clear objective for the certification process to promote efficiency and minimize agency oversight. It further reduces the minimum number of acquired easements from 10 to 5 for certification of accredited land trusts and state agencies. New language is provided in this subsection to address certification of eligible entities that are not accredited or a state agency when they hold 10 or more easements. Finally, the Subsection clarifies the easement review requirements for eligible entities to maintain their certification.

Sec. 2603. Wetland Reserve Easements

Section 2603 amends section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) provided socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers the wetlands reserve 30-year contract option in addition to easements. The option is currently available to Indian Tribes and will continue to be an available option. The Subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to maintain separate evaluation and ranking pools specific to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Subsection (b) makes a conforming change in a subsection citation.

Subsection (c) provides new language elevating stewardship of existing wetland reserve easements as a program priority. The Subsection provides authority and parameters for providing financial assistance on existing easements, requires evaluation of needs, prioritization, planning and execution of stewardship activities, payment authority and reporting requirements of the Secretary. The Subsection requires the Secretary to compile and transmit the report to Congress within 2 years of enactment.

Subsection (d) expands the Secretary's existing wetlands reserve easement authority for restoration and enhancement contracts and agreements to include Federal and local agencies or private entities. It further expands the eligible activities to include maintenance, repair, assessment and monitoring of easements.

Subsection (e) instructs the Secretary to use not less than 15 percent of the wetlands reserve easement funds to carry out the wetlands reserve enhancement option through agreements with partnering organizations.

Sec. 2604 Administration

Section 2604 amends section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) breaks out modifications from exchanges and lowers the bar for modifications while keeping exchanges similar to current law. The subsection clarifies that any modification is not to be considered a major Federal action under NEPA. Subsection (a) provides authority to approve and make *de minimis* adjustments to any interest in land. The subsection describes types of de minimis adjustments that would be allowed. It also includes language granting authority to entities to include and modify easement terms and conditions specific to their objectives if such inclusion or modification is not in conflict with the term prescribed by the Secretary. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to AGI limitations under this subtitle. It further exempts income from the acquisition of an easement from AGI.

SUBTITLE G—FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2701 Forest Conservation Easement Program

Section 2701 established a new program called the Forest Conservation Easement Program. The section provides for conforming amendments by redesignating subtitle I as subtitle J and by inserting the program as subtitle I.

Section 1267 is the Establishment and Purposes. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to establish a forest conservation easement program. Subsection (b) provides for the purposes of the program to include protecting the viability and sustainability of working forest land, protecting, and enhancing forest and ecosystems and landscape functions and values, promoting the restoration and protection of habitat species, and carrying out the purpose and functions or the healthy forests reserve program.

Section 1267A is the Definitions. The Section provides for definitions for the subtitle including acreage owned by an Indian tribe, eligible entity, eligible land, forest land easement, forest management plan, forest reserve easement, program, and socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

Section 1267B is the Forest Land Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding for the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements, the development of a forest management plan, and technical assistance to implement the section. Subsection (b) provides for the terms of cost-share assistance including the Federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement with an exception of not more than 75 percent for forests of special environmental significance or land owned by a socially disadvantaged forest owners. Subsection (b) also provides for the non-Federal share which is the equivalent of the remainder of the fair market value. The subsection provides for the permissible forms the non-Federal share may comprise. The subsection also provides for how the Secretary shall determine the fair market value. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection continues by directing the Secretary to enter into agreements with eligible entities and the length of those agreements. The subsection also authorizes eligible entities to use their own minimum terms and conditions if they are con-

sistent with certain conditions, including subsurface. The subsection also allows for substitution of qualified projects and provides for effects of a violation. Finally, Subsection (b) directs the landowner to work with an eligible entity to develop a forest management plan and directs the Secretary to reimburse the landowner for the cost of the plan. Subsection (c) provides for the method of enrollment using permanent easements or easements for the maximum durations allowed by State law. Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary may provide technical assistance to assist in compliance with terms and conditions of forest land easements.

Section 1267C is the Forest Reserve Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible lands through forest reserve easements, related forest reserve easement plans, and technical assistance. Subsection (b) describes the method of enrollment using permanent easements, 30-year easements, and easements for the maximum duration allowed under State law. The subsection also describes the method of enrollment for acreage owned by an Indian Tribe. The subsection sets a limitation on the amount for each fiscal year dedicated to 30-year easements. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection provides for the term and conditions of easements and provides for the ability for a landowner to request certain terms and conditions. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide certain compensation for permanent easements and other compensation for 30-year easements. The subsection also directs the Secretary to determine the fair market value of the easement using certain standards.

Subsection (c) directs the Secretary to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out activities and practices described in the forest reserve easement plan. Subsection (c) describes the amounts the Secretary shall pay for those activities and practices, the costs eligible and the timing of such payments. Finally, the subsection provides for a limitation of the amount of financial assistance the Secretary may provide. Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to owners of eligible land to assist owners in developing a forest reserve easement plan and complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement. The subsection also allows the Secretary to enter into contracts with entities to provide technical assistance. Subsection (e) directs the Secretary to make available to the landowners safe harbor or similar protections under the Endangered Species Act. The subsection also allows for costs associated with additional measures and the cost of a permit to be considered eligible costs for payment under subsection (c)(2).

Subsection (f) allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities under this section to other Federal or State agencies. Subsection (f) also allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management responsibilities to a nonprofit organization if the Secretary determines the organization has the appropriate expertise. Finally, the subsection allows the Secretary to consult with landowners and other entities.

Section 1267D is the Administration. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to not use amounts available to carry out the program on certain ineligible land. Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary

to allow subordination, modification, exchange, and termination under certain conditions. The subsection directs the Secretary to obtain consent, if applicable, from the landowner and eligible entity for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide written notice to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees before taking any termination action. Subsection (c) says that in accordance with provisions of section 2902, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program on the day before enactment shall be considered enrolled in the program.

Sec. 2702. Healthy Forest Reserve Program

Subsection (a) repeals Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The subsection makes a conforming amendment to amend the table of contents to reflect the repeal. Subsection (b) provides for transitional authorities to ensure that it does not affect the validity or terms of contract, agreement, easement, payments, or technical assistance required entered into under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Subsection (b) authorizes the use of prior year funds.

SUBTITLE I—REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2801 Establishment and Purposes

Section 2801 amends section 1271 of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends the purposes of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to include the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought and improvement or expansion of flood resiliency.

Sec. 2802 Definitions

Section 2802 amends section 1271A of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section adds the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I to the list of covered programs.

Sec. 2803 Regional Conservation Partnerships

Section 2803 amends section 1271B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary to enter into partnership agreements with eligible entities to implement projects. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to streamline the partnership agreement process ensuring the partnership agreement process takes less than 180 days and that the agreement contains only information described under (e)(3) to fund and initiate the project and any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f) and any waiver provided under paragraph (3). Finally, subsection (a) directs the Secretary to make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or adjustment.

Subsection (b) provides for a conforming amendment on an annual report on technical assistance funds. The subsection also ensures that payments to eligible partners are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.

Subsection (c) amends section 1271B(e)(3) to add any requests of a waiver or an adjustment to a covered program in the application section.

Sec. 2804 Assistance to Producers

Section 2804 amends section 1271C of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends 1271C(d)(3) to ensure eligible entities under an AFA provide not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the project in direct funding.

Sec. 2805 Funding

Section 2805 amends section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 to make certain conforming amendments. Subsection (b) amends the limitation of administration expenses to allow not more than 10 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the projects. The subsection also clarifies than any remaining amount not reimbursed that is expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses may be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).

Subsection (c) authorizes the Secretary to identify the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance and the share of funds provided to eligible partners. Subsection (c) also clarifies that the Secretary may reimburse partners for the cost of technical assistance including the costs of technical assistance to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit, the costs of providing outreach, the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E), and other costs necessary to support the implementation of the project. The subsection also authorizes the Secretary to advance funds to eligible partners. The subsection also limits the costs of the Secretary for technical assistance. Finally, the subsection directs the Secretary to provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements and advancements, along with strategies for third-party providers to participate in the program.

Sec. 2806 Administration

Section 2806 amends section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the reporting provision to ensure the report is made publicly available.

Subsection (b) adds subsection (f) to 1271E that directs the Secretary to ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program while also authorizing the Secretary to adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program if requested by a partner. The subsection also provides for a limitation on that provision to not adjust statutory requirements. Subsection (b) also provides waiver authority of eligible land considerations for an Agricultural Land Easement. The subsection also ensures that certified eligible entities under the Agricultural Land Easement program shall have the same benefits in RCPP as they do in ACEP. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to the prior irrigation history requirement for an eligible activity under EQIP in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes. The subsection provides that paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to AFAs.

Sec. 2807 Critical Conservation Areas

Section 2807 amends section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the definition of priority resource concerns to include restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors. Subsection (b) makes a conforming amendment to 1271D.

TITLE III—TRADE

SUBTITLE A—FOOD FOR PEACE ACT

Sec. 3101. Transfer of authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture

Section 3101 amends various sections of the Food for Peace Act to transfer the authorities of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Section 3101 also provides that the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses of the USAID Administrator, pursuant to any authority under the Food for Peace Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture. Additionally, other authorities outside of the Food for Peace Act that the USAID Administrator used to implement Food for Peace programs may be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 3101 further allows the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate or amend rules and regulations (including by issuing or reissuing interim final rules) that were previously used by the USAID Administrator to implement programs within the Food for Peace Act. Finally, the section requires the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the authorities under the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3102. Food aid quality assurance

Paragraph (1) of section "narrows the notwithstanding authority to the Food for Peace Act.

Paragraph (2) of section 3102 amends section 202(b)(1) of the Food for Peace Act to clarify that assistance, including in the form of agricultural commodities, may be used for nonemergency assistance.

Paragraph (3) of Section 3102 amends section 202(b)(2) of the Food for Peace Act to update the USAID references to USDA.

Paragraph (4) of section 3102 amends section 202(d) of the Food for Peace Act to provide that a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary, qualifies as an eligible organization.

Paragraph (5) of section 3102 amends section 202(e) of the Food for Peace Act to reserve 50 percent of Food for Peace resources for the procurement of U.S. grown commodities and ocean transportation.

Paragraph (6) of section 3101 amends section 202(h)(3) of the Food for Peace Act to extend the funding limitation for food aid quality oversight through 2031.

Sec. 3103. Minimum levels of assistance

Section 3103 repeals section 204 of the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3104. Food aid consultative group

Section 3104 amends section 205 of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the Food Aid Consultative Group through December 31, 2031, and updates USAID related references accordingly.

Sec. 3105. Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation

This section updates Farm Bill title references, changes USAID references to USDA, and extends existing funding authority through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 3106. International food relief partnership

Section 3106 amends section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act to increase appropriations from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000 for the International Food Relief Partnership program for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 3107. Use of commodity credit corporation

Section 3107 amends section 406(b) of the Food for Peace Act to provide that the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of commodities made available for emergency and private assistance programs and food for development under the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3108. Pre-positioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities

Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) update USAID references to USDA. Paragraph (4) of section 3108 extends existing authority and funding through Fiscal Year 2031.

Paragraph (7) of section 3108 amends section 407(f)(1) of the Food for Peace Act by striking the references to the USAID Administrator.

Paragraph (8) of Section 3108 amends section 407(f)(2) by updating the annual reporting requirements to include a statement of the amount of funds provided to eligible organizations that received assistance and how those funds were used and requires an assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls.

Paragraph (9) of section 3108 is a conforming amendment to the changes made under paragraph (8).

Sec. 3109. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance

Section 3109 amends section 408 of the Food for Peace Act to extend the deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance until December 31, 2031.

Sec. 3110. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance

Paragraph (1) of section 3110 extends the minimum levels of nonemergency food assistance through Fiscal Year 2031.

Paragraph (2) of section 3110 amends section 412 of the Food for Peace Act by providing that not less than $200,000,000 for each fiscal year be available for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods. Such provision shall only be in effect if the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates reports a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5

percent and the annual appropriations under title II is greater than $1,200,000,000.

Sec. 3111. Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs

Section 3111 amends section 415 of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the micronutrient fortification program until 2031 and updates USAID related references to USDA.

Sec. 3112. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter farmer-to-farmer program

Section 3112 extends the authority for the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program and updates USAID references to USDA.

Sec. 3113. Food for Peace Act administration

Section 3113 provides that for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary of Agriculture may use funds made available for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law to pay the administrative expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the implementation of the Food for Peace Act.

SUBTITLE B—AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 3201. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation

Section 3201(a) amends section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide not more than $1,500,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2027 and not more than $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter for the Secretary to enter into contracts with trade organizations or nonprofit organizations with supply chain infrastructure expertise to provide technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure related to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments.

Section 3201(b) amends section 203(e)(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to establish a biennial report that the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, to submit every two years to the Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Ways and Means of the House and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

Section 3201(c) amends section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide the following funding:

- FY26:
  - Total funding: $255M
  - MAP: $200M
  - FMD: $34.5M
  - EMP: $8M
  - TASC: $9M
  - PTF: $3.5M
- FY27:
  - Total funding: $500M
  - MAP: $400M
  - FMD: $70.5M

        - Of this, $1.5M will go towards cold chain storage.
    - EMP: $8M
    - TASC: $9M
    - PTF: $3.5M
- FY28 and each fiscal year thereafter:
    - Total funding: $533M
    - MAP: $410M
    - FMD: $82M
        - Of this, $5M will go towards cold chain storage.
    - EMP: $16M
    - TASC: $18M
    - PTF: $7M

Section 3201(d) repeals the prohibition on using funds to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel to carry out a market promotion/market access program that provides assistance to the United States Mink Export Development Council or any mink industry trade association and the supplemental agricultural trade promotion program.

Sec. 3202. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names

Section 3202(a) amends Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to create a definition for "Common Name", meaning a name that, as determined by the Secretary, is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product, is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product, and the use of the name is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Additionally, the definition excludes examples of names, among others, that shall be considered as common names with respect to food products, wine, and beer.

Section 3202(b) amends the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to add a new section at the end of Title III that requires the Secretary to coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of U.S. agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products. Section 3202(b) also requires the Secretary and the U.S. Trade Representative to provide the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition a briefing, twice annually, on their efforts and success in carrying out negotiations to defend the use of common names.

Sec. 3203. Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group

Section 3203 amends subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the Secretary, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, to jointly establish an interagency working group composed of representatives from each agency to monitor

and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE LAWS

Sec. 3301. Growing American Food Exports

Section 3301 amends Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize the $2,000,000 authorization of appropriations of the Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program for each fiscal year through 2031.

Sec. 3302. Food for Progress Act of 1985

Paragraph (1) of section 3302 amends section 1110(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary to annually enter into two or more agreements with two or more eligible entities to furnish developing countries and countries that are emerging democracies with eligible commodities.

Paragraphs (2) through (5)(A) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the program until 2031.

Paragraph (5)(B) and (6) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to narrow the scope of authority that the Secretary may use proceeds to pay the costs incurred by eligible entities under the Food for Progress Act to development purposes and programs.

Paragraph (7) of section 3302 amends section 1110(n)(2)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3303. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act

Paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 3303 amend section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to reauthorize the trust through 2031.

Paragraph (2) of section 3303 amends section 302(c)(1)(C) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide the Secretary with the authority to determine if funds and commodities held in the trust are available for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act for a fiscal year if funds for such fiscal year are insufficient to meet emergency needs.

Paragraph (3) of section 3303 strikes section 302(c)(1)(D) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act regarding the USAID Administrator's authority to waive minimum tonnage requirements.

Paragraph (4) of section 3303 amends section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of eligible commodities from funds made available to carry out the Food for Peace Act and the funds that shall be available to replenish the trust.

Sec. 3304. Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets

Section 3304 amends section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for the promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 3305. International agricultural education fellowship program

Section 3305 amends section 3307 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize funding for the International Agricultural Fellowship Program through Fiscal Year 2031. Section 3305 also requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years and to ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multi-year.

Sec. 3306. International agricultural cultural immersion and exchange program

Section 3306 amends the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to add a new section at the end of Title III that establishes an International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program, authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031, to develop globally minded citizens of the U.S. and to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the U.S. in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

Sec. 3307. International food security technical assistance

Section 3307 amends section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for international food security technical assistance through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 3308. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Paragraph (1) of section 3308 amends section 3107(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by adding lower-middle income countries as eligible.

Paragraph (2) of section 3308 amends section 3107(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Paragraph (3) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Paragraph (4) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(4) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that of the funds available to carry out the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent, shall be used to purchase agricultural commodities that are produced in and procured from developing countries that are McGovern-Dole recipients.

Sec. 3309. Global Crop Diversity Trust

Section 3309 amends section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to limit the aggregate contribution of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Global Crop Diversity Trust to 33% while also ensuring that the trust is not precluded from receiving additional competitive funding or other funding. Additionally, the section reauthorizes appropriations for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2031.

Sec. 3310. Local and regional food aid procurement projects

Section 3310 amends section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize appropriations for local and regional food aid procurements projects until 2031.

Sec. 3311. Agricultural trade enforcement task force

Section 3311 establishes an Agricultural Trade Enforcement Task Force to identify trade barriers to U.S. agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dispute settlement under the World Trade Organization (WTO) or other trade agreements, develop and implement a strategy for enforcing violations of trade agreements related to those trade barriers, identify like-minded trading partners for specific trade barriers that could act as complainants on disputes that are systemically or economically important to the United States, and submit periodic reports to Congress.

Sec. 3312. Report on international shrimp trade

Section 3312 requires a GAO report provided to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate on policy solutions to address illegal shrimp imports and related inspections, as well as policy solutions to promote and protect the domestic shrimp industry.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER TRADE MATTERS

Sec. 3401. Report on modifications to USMCA

Section 3401 requires the Secretary to report on how any expected or implemented modification or revocation of any part of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will affect the importation and exportation of agricultural commodities.

Sec. 3402. Sense of Congress and report on Argentine beef imports

Section 3402 expresses Congressional concern about increased Argentine beef imports and require a USDA report on their impacts on domestic cattle producers, prices, and rural economies.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 4101. Declaration of Policy

Section 4101 amends section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, adding subsections (b) and (c) relating to Congress's Declaration of Policy on SNAP.

Section 4102. Prohibited Feeds

Section 4102 amends section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to make permanent the prohibition on the imposition of fees by States for EBT transactions including switching or routing such benefits.

Section 4103. SNAP Staffing Flexibility

Section 4103 amends section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (y), allowing a State agency to

hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nutrition assistance program certification or carry out any other function of the State agency under SNAP.

Paragraph (2) stipulates a state agency may only use the authority to hire a contractor when the State experiences an increase in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or an inability to timely process such applications from certain causes, or the State's payment error rate is 6% or greater.

Paragraph (4) requires the State agency to notify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority provided in this section and shall provide any information or data supporting State agency increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or any inability to timely process such applications.

Paragraph (7) directs the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on SNAP Staffing Flexibility.

Paragraph (8) lists when the temporary staffing shortage authorities provided to State agencies by this section expire.

Section 4104. Updates to Administrative Processes for SNAP Retailers

Section 4104 amends Section 9(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act to require food stores that are denied participation in SNAP to have to be denied on two consecutive occasions within three years before the existing six-month waiting period to submit a new application shall apply.

Section 4105. Report on All Identified Payment Errors

Section 4105 amends section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by requiring the Secretary to include all identified payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for SNAP. Such information shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) of such section, currently an amount not greater than $58.

Section 4106. Authorization of Appropriations

Section 4106 amends section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending through 2031 the authorization for appropriations to carry out such Act.

Section 4107. Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking

Section 4107 amends section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 4108. EBT Card Security Regulations

Section 4108 requires the Secretary to promulgate proposed rule regulations to enhance EBT Card security measures not later than six months after the date of enactment of this Act.

Section 4109. Report on SNAP Administrative Expenses

Section 4109 requires the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act on SNAP administrative expenses.

Section 4110. Animal Protein an Eligible Food

Section 4110 amends section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by including "animal protein" in the list of eligible incentive foods.

Section 4111. Permanent Authority for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Online Purchasing

Section 4111 amends section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (l), requiring the Secretary to transition the SNAP online purchasing initiative from pilot status to permanent nationwide program operations.

Section 4112. Emergency Food Assistance Programs

Section 4112(a) amends section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by extending the authorization of appropriations for emergency food program infrastructure grants through 2031.

Subsection (b) amends section 27 of the Food and Nutrition Act, by extending through 2031 the availability of commodities for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Subsection (c) amends section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by adding a new paragraph (3) to allow States to use up to 20 percent of the cost of commodities allocated under that section to order commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Sec. 4113. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Section 4113 amends Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act by extending through 2031 the Traditional and Locally and Regionally-Grown Food Fund within the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

SUBTITLE B—COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Section 4201. Commodity Distribution Program

Section 4201(a) amends Section 4402(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by adding maple syrup and tree nuts as a permitted resource to be provided in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program.

Subsection (b) amends section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out the Commodity Distribution Program through 2031.

Section 4202. Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Section 4202(1) and (2) amends section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out the Commodity Supplemental Food Program through 2031.

Paragraph (3) adds as a new subsection (n) to such section—the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Delivery Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to award grants for the operation of projects that increase the access of low-income elderly persons to commodities through home delivery or other means and to evaluate

such projects. This paragraph authorizes there to be $10,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 for the program.

Section 4203. Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects

Section 4203 amends section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 by extending the Secretary's authority for the program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 4204. Commodity Supplemental Food Program Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations

Section 4204 creates a demonstration project for tribal organizations under which one or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities under the food distribution program for the Indian reservation of that Tribal organization. Paragraph (6) authorizes $1,000,000 to carry out the demonstration project.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to appoint an existing office of the United States Department of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-determination contracts and authorizes $1,200,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Section 4301. Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions

Section 4301 amends section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the purchase of specialty crops through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 4302. Buy American Requirements for Certain School Meals

Section 4302 amends Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by codifying that the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category for each school year. Subparagraph (A)(ii) provides an exception for domestically unavailable foods. Subparagraph (A)(iii) requires the Secretary to make available to school food authorities a list of domestically unavailable products every 2 years. Subparagraph (A)(iv) prohibits school food authorities from purchasing certain foods from China or Russia.

Section 4303. Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program

Section 4303 amends Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Paragraph (1)(A) amends subsection (b)(1)(C) by allowing a waiver to persistent poverty counties from the requirement that the Federal cost-share not exceed 50%.

Paragraph (1)(B) provides that in awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables.

Paragraph (2) expands what an eligible entity must prescribe from just "fresh fruits and vegetables" to "all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes".

Section 4304. Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report

Section 4304 amends Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to make the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report annual and adds required information to be included in the report.

Section 4305. Dairy Nutrition Incentives Projects

Section 4305 amends section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by expanding the program to include all forms of pasteurized fluid milk containing certain levels of vitamins A and D, cheeses made from pasteurized milk that are a good source of protein, and low added-sugar yogurts made from pasteurized milk that are good sources of protein. Paragraph (6) increases the authorization of appropriations for the section from $20,000,000 to $50,000,000.

Section 4306. Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Program

Section 4306 requires the Secretary to establish a program for entering into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to strengthen local and regional food producers, distributors, security, and systems.

Subsections (b) and (c) list how funds may and may not be used by selected entities. Subsection (d) requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance to selected eligible entities.

Subsection (e) requires the Secretary to allocate 10 percent of this section's funding to Tribal Governments, 1 percent to each State, and the remaining amounts to each eligible entity.

Subsection (f) authorizes $200,000,000 in discretionary funding to carry out this section for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031.

Section 4307. Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Section 4307 amends section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act by increasing from $125,000,000 to $135,000,000, the authorization of appropriations for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

Section 4308. Dietary Guidelines

Section 4308 amends section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990. Subsections (a)(1) and (3) require the Secretaries of Agriculture and HHS to jointly publish Dietary Guidelines at least once every 10 years. Current law requires the Guidelines be published at least once every 5 years.

Subsection (a)(2) increases the level of scientific agreement required for information to be included in the report from a mere preponderance of current scientific and medical knowledge to "significant scientific agreement determined by evidence-based review", among other requirements.

Subsection (a)(4) would require the Secretaries to notify and justify to Congress when the Dietary Guidelines are to be updated.

Subsection (a)(5) would create an Independent Advisory Board to assist in updating the Dietary Guidelines as needed.

Subsection (a)(6) excludes the Secretaries from being permitted to publish in the report information or topics not relevant to dietary guidance, including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition.

Subsection (b) clarifies the recently published *2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* shall be the controlling report until a more recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans is published in accordance with the amendments made to this section by this Act.

TITLE V—CREDIT

SUBTITLE A—FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Sec. 5101. Persons eligible for real estate loans

Section 5101 amends section 302(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for direct farm ownership loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with real estate loans.

Sec. 5102. Experience requirements

Section 5102 amends section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to lower the required years of farm or ranch operations experience, from 3 years to 2 years, for farmers and ranchers to be eligible for direct farm ownership loans. Section 5102 also allows Secretary to reduce the requirement to 1 year, if a farmer or rancher meets certain criteria.

Sec. 5103. Refinancing of indebtedness into direct loans

Section 5103 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require the Secretary to promulgate regulations, within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 to allow distressed loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans subject to certain conditions.

Sec. 5104. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program

Section 5104 amends section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the adoption of precision agriculture practices and acquisition of precision agriculture technologies as a priority for guaranteed conservation loans. Section 5103 also reauthorizes the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 5105. Limitations on amount of farm ownership loans

Section 5105 amends section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from $700,000 to $1,750,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in Fiscal Year 2026.

Sec. 5106. Inflation percentage

Section 5106 amends section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the inflation percentage ap-

plicable to the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans to include the average of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year, weighted equally, to exceed the same averages from the prior year.

Sec. 5107. Authority of farm credit system institutions to provide financial support for essential rural community facilities projects

Section 5107 amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to create a new section that expands the authority of Farm Credit institutions to work in conjunction with community banks to provide financing and technical assistance for essential rural community facilities projects.

Sec. 5108. Down payment loan program

Section 5108 amends section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the principal amount of a farm ownership loan made under the down payment loan program to be the lower of 45% the lessor of the purchase price or the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired.

Sec. 5109. Heirs property

Section 5109(a) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Heirs Property Intermediary Relending Program through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 5109(b) amends section 310I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish that the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners and to authorize appropriations of $60,000,000, for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031, to carry out the cooperative agreements.

Section 5109(c) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require the Secretary to annually submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report describing the operation and outcomes of the Heirs Property Intermediary Relending Program, with recommendations on how to strengthen the program.

Sec. 5110. Prompt approval of loans and loan guarantees

Section 5110 amends section 333A(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide to lenders a short, simplified application form to Preferred Certified Lender or Certified Lenders for real estate and operating guaranteed loans of not more than $1,000,000.

Sec. 5111. Expedited approval pilot program

Section 5111 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to add at the end a new section to establish a pilot program for a prior approval process for direct farm ownership loans and farm ownership loans guaranteed by the Secretary

that are serviced by a Preferred Certified Lender and provided to a creditworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred Certified Lender.

SUBTITLE B—OPERATING LOANS

Sec. 5201. Persons eligible for operating loans

Section 5201 amends section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become *bona fide* operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with operating loans.

Sec. 5202. Limitations on amount of operating loans

Section 5202 amends section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from $750,000 to $3,000,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in Fiscal Year 2026.

Sec. 5203. Limitation on microloan amounts

Section 5203 amends section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the limitation amount for microloan indebtedness from $50,000 to $100,000.

Sec. 5204. Cooperative lending pilot projects

Section 5204 amends section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for a pilot project to make loans to cooperative lenders through 2031.

SUBTITLE C—EMERGENCY LOANS

Sec. 5301. Persons eligible for emergency loans

Section 5301 amends section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with emergency loans.

SUBTITLE D—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 5401. Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program

Section 5401 amends section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of $5,000,000 for the program for each fiscal year through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 5402. Loan authorization levels

Section 5402 amends section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for loan programs through 2031.

Sec. 5403. Loan fund set-asides

Section 5403 amends section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the 50% oper-

ating loan funds set aside for qualified beginning farmers and ranchers through 2031.

Sec. 5404. Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions

Section 5404 amends section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through Fiscal Year 2031 for the use of additional funds for direct operating microloans if the Secretary determines that the amount needed for direct operating loans (including microloans) exceeds the aggregate principal amount authorized for that fiscal year.

SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 5501. Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products

Section 5501(a) amends various sections of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand the eligibility of credit and financial services authorized under the Act to include persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic product services directly related to their operating needs.

Sec. 5502. Export finance authority

Section 5502 amends section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to require cooperative banks to guarantee or insure 95% of a loan for export financing if the balance of the loan exceeds 15% of the bank's total assets.

Sec. 5503. Support for rural water and waste systems

Section 5503 amends section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand the Farm Credit Administration's authority to allow for the USDA's guaranteed water and wastewater loan program to be made available in cities and towns with a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.

Sec. 5504. Farmer credit system regulation

Section 5504 amends part D of title IV of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to establish the Farm Credit Administration as the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System institutions with respect to activities subject to the Farm Credit Act, effective on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. Additionally, the section maintains the regulatory authority granted to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation under the Farm Credit Act. The section further provides that a law enacted or rule promulgated after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 shall not be held to modify or supersede the Farm Credit Administration's exclusive authority, except to the extent that the enacted law does so expressly.

Sec. 5505. Loan guarantees

Section 5505 amends section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand charter of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation outside the scope of loan guarantees under the Consoli-

dated Farm and Rural Development Act to also cover loans made under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 5506. Standards for qualified loans

Section 5506 amends section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to establish that the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation's tier 1 capital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

Sec. 5507. State agricultural mediation programs

Section 5507(a) amends section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to establish that the Secretary shall not pay more than $700,000 per year to a single State under the matching grants established under section 502. Section 5508(b) also provides that the Secretary shall permit a State that receives a matching grant for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the grant that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided in subsequent fiscal years.

Section 5507(b) amends section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize appropriations of $7,500,000 for the state agricultural mediation programs for each fiscal year through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 5508. Technical corrections

Section 5508 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to update obsolete and outdated references to terms created or recognized by the Farmers Home Administration, which was replaced by the Farm Service Agency.

Sec. 5509. Report on improving creditworthiness of direct and guaranteed loan borrowers

Section 5509 directs the USDA to evaluate how enhanced risk management practices can improve the financial stability and creditworthiness of producers participating in certain direct and guaranteed farm loan programs.

Sec. 5510. Farm Credit Administration option to examine low risk Farm Credit System institutions on a 24-month cycle

Section 5510 amends section 5.19(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to allow FCA to extend audit periods for small, low-risk Farm Credit System institutions from 18 to 24 months.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBTITLE A—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN RURAL AMERICA

Sec. 6101. Prioritizations for Distance Learning and Telemedicine and Community Facilities Program

Section 6101 amends section 6101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health as priority areas. The section also prioritizes rural health facilities that provide these services.

Sec. 6102. Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants

Section 6102 amends section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

SUBTITLE B—CONNECTING RURAL AMERICANS TO HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Sec. 6201. Rural Broadband Program Loans and Grants

Section 6201 amends section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by directing the Secretary to establish the "ReConnect Rural Broadband Program" to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees.

Paragraph (3) directs the Secretary to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment necessary for delivering broadband service in rural areas. The Secretary is directed to give the highest priority to projects that provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service of at least: (1) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and (2) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

Paragraph (3) further directs the Secretary to prioritize certain rural communities and to consider the affordability of broadband service within a proposed service territory when determining whether that territory qualifies as unserved. Additionally, paragraph (3) establishes fee caps on loan guarantees.

Paragraph (4) specifies the entities eligible and ineligible to receive assistance under the program. It also raises the threshold for eligibility by requiring that at least 75% of households in a proposed service area be unserved or underserved, up from 50% under current law.

Paragraph (5) establishes the broadband buildout standards that projects must meet to be eligible for assistance. Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (7) sunsets the authorities provided under section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 6202. Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure Into Rural Areas

Section 6202 amends section 602 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6203. Innovative Broadband Advancement Program

Section 6203 amends section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish the "Innovative Broadband Advancement Program." Under this program, the Secretary may provide grants, loans, or a combination of both to eligible entities to demonstrate innovative broadband technologies or deployment methods. These projects must significantly reduce the cost of broadband deployment and provide substantially faster broadband speeds in rural areas.

Subsection (b) sets forth the eligibility requirements for assistance. To be eligible, an application must describe a terrestrial broadband demonstration project designed to reduce the cost of broadband deployment and increase broadband speeds to at least the maximum levels required under a broadband project agreement. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate the ability to carry out the project and agree to complete the project build-out within 5 years after receiving assistance.

Subsection (c) creates a satellite broadband demonstration project program whereby the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities to reduce or eliminate the costs associated with the purchase or installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to provide an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. The report must assess the outcomes, effectiveness, an impact of the "Innovative Broadband Advancement Program."

Subsection (e) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6204. Community Connect Grants

Section 6204 amends section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (1) revises the term, "eligible service" to mean an area with broadband service capacity of less than 25 Mbps downstream transmission capacity and 3 Mbps upstream transmission capacity. Paragraph (3) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6205. Rate Regulation

Section 6205 amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding a new section 607 to clarify that nothing in title 6 of the Act authorizes the Secretary to regulate the rates charged for broadband service.

Sec. 6206. Public Notice, Assessments, Technical Assistance, and Reporting Requirements

Section 6206 amends section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (3) establishes additional requirements for the Secretary when determining eligibility for loans, loan guarantees, or grants for retail broadband projects administered by the Department. In making such determinations, the Secretary must verify that each unserved rural community identified in the application is eligible for funding by utilizing the maps developed by the Federal Communications Commission and the Deployment Locations Map.

Paragraph (4) directs the Secretary to provide grants for broadband technical assistance and training to expand access to broadband service in rural communities. Additionally, it defines the entities eligible to receive grants and directs the Secretary to prioritize organizations that have experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural entities. Additionally, not less than three but not more than five percent of the funds appropriated for the program must be set aside for oversight, the implementation of

accountability measures and related authorized activities, and for carrying out the requirements of this section.

Sec. 6207. Limitation on Overbuilding

Section 6207 amends Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding a limitation on overbuilding. The limitation prohibits an area from being treated as "unserved" if another Federal or State broadband program has received funding to provide retail broadband service to that area at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload within the next 5 years.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 6301. Rural Energy Savings Program

Section 6301 amends section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Paragraph (1) clarifies what an eligible entity is and redefines "energy efficiency measures" to include the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances with a substantially similar manufactured housing unit or appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option for energy savings.

Paragraph (2) clarifies that no more than 10% of the total annual amount of budget authority for loans may be used for the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances. It also adds a subsection that provides rules for the Secretary to follow in offering grants under the Rural Energy Savings Program.

Paragraph (3) revises the loan terms for qualified consumers to support energy efficiency measures for the purpose of reducing energy use or costs, while ensuring that loan terms do not impose an undue financial burden on the qualified consumer. Additionally, it clarifies that an eligible entity may provide loans under this program to any qualified consumer within its service territory, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is located in a rural area.

Paragraph (4) provides that between 3 and 5 percent of the funds appropriated for this program may be used for outreach, training, and technical assistance. Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6302. Promoting Precision Agriculture

Section 6302 directs the Secretary to study and develop interconnectivity standards for precision agriculture to expand its use in the United State and strengthen United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set those standards.

Sec. 6303. Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans

Section 6303 amends section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a subsection (f). This subsection establishes guaranteed loans for food supply chain capacity and resilience. The purpose of these loans is to finance new investments in the development or expansion of projects in the United States that will enhance the capacity of the food supply chain to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs.

Paragraph (3) establishes a cap of $40,000,000 for guaranteed loans in the food supply chain. Paragraph (4) requires the Secretary to submit quarterly reports to both the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The report will address the outcomes achieved through the provided assistance, evaluate the recipient's ability to continue meeting performance goals, describe any debt recovery efforts, outline agency projections for the funded projects, and provide any recommendations from the Secretary.

Sec. 6304. New, Mobile, And Expanded Meat Processing and Rendering Grants

Section 6304 allows the Secretary to award grants to expand meat processing and rendering nationwide. Subsection (f) authorizes the appropriation of $3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2031.

Subsection (g) directs the Secretary to submit a quarterly report to both the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The report will address the outcomes achieved through the provided assistance, evaluate the recipient's ability to continue meeting performance goals, assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant, review whether the recipient has adequate financial capacity to carry out the activities funded by the grant, and include any recommendations from the Secretary.

Sec. 6305. Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative

Section 6305 directs the Secretary to establish the "Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative." Subsection (a) defines "childcare" to encompass school-based programs including the migrant and seasonal Head Start program, as well as the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program.

Subsection (c) directs the Secretary to prioritize qualified applicants that propose to use the loan or grant to address the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

Sec. 6306. Technical Assistance for Geographically Underserved and Distressed Area

Section 6306 requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance and enhance local capacity to improve access to rural development programs. This support is aimed at local partners, including local governments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions, particularly in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

Sec. 6307. Establishment of the Rural Development Innovation Center

Section 6307 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by establishing within the Rural Development Mission Areas, a Rural Development Innovation Center to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives. The Innovation Center shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization plan to facilitate innovation in administering and implementing rural development programs and initiatives.

Sec. 6308. Rural Health Liaison Report

Section 6308 amends Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds a requirement for the Liaison to coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, as outlined in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Paragraph (2) requires the Liaison to submit an annual report to Congress.

SUBTITLE D—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

Sec. 6401. Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants

Section 6401 amends section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6402. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

Section 6402 amends section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to codify the purpose, activities, and requirements of the national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.

Sec. 6403. Zero and Low Interest Loans for Distressed Water Systems

Section 6403 amends section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a new paragraph entitled "Assistance for Distressed Water Systems." The purpose is to promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of eligible rural community waste disposal and water facilities through no-interest and low-interest loans.

Sec. 6404. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities

Section 6404 amends section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6405. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program

Section 6405 amends section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6406. Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska

Section 6406 amends Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6407. Rural Decentralized Water Systems

Section 6407 amends Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to enable the Secretary to provide grants to eligible recipients for the purpose of funding loans and subgrants to eligible individuals for water quality testing, water treatment, and technical assistance for the installation of well systems, among

other purposes. The maximum amount for loans or subgrants under this program is capped at $20,000. Additionally, Subsection (e) authorizes $20,000,000 for each fiscal year from 2026 through 2031.

Sec. 6408. Assistance to Rural Entities

Section 6408 amends Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow loans for expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices.

Sec. 6409. Solid Waste Management Grants

Section 6409 amends Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to include Indian tribes as eligible for grants, while also extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6410. Rural Business Development Grants

Section 6410 amends Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6411. Rural Cooperative Development Grants

Section 6411 amends section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by directing the Secretary to prioritize grant applications that provide for the establishment of centers for rural cooperative development that commit to providing greater than at least 25% matching contribution in private funds and in-kind contributions.

Paragraph (3) requires the Secretary to award grant renewals to eligible nonprofit institutions under certain specified circumstances.

Paragraph (4) directs the Secretary to analyze data from the cooperative research program and to incorporate such findings in the annual report submitted by the interagency working group.

Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6412. Lender Fees in Guaranteed Loan Programs

Section 6412 amends sections 310B(g)(5) and 333 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cap fees on guaranteed loans provided by the Secretary at an initial fee of 3% of the principal, and periodic retention fees of no more than 0.75%.

Sec. 6413. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products

Section 6413 amends section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend through fiscal year 2031 the requirement for the Secretary to reserve not less than 5% of the funds made available under this subsection to carry out the loan or loan guarantee program.

Sec. 6414. Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program

Section 6414 amends section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6415. Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones

Section 6415 amends section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the Secretary's authority to carry out rural economic area partnership zones through 2031.

Sec. 6416. Intermediary Relending Program

Section 6416 amends section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6417. Rural Health Care Facility Assistance

Section 6417 amends section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by clarifying requirements for the Secretary to follow in promoting long-term sustainability and financial viability for eligible health care facilities in rural areas.

Subsection (b) creates a rural health care facility technical assistance program and limits the authorization of appropriations for subsection (b) at $2,000,000 a year through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6418. Prohibition on Use of Loan or Grant for Certain Purposes

Section 6418 amends Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The Secretary is prohibited from approving any loan under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland or to engage in any activity that would result in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except if the activity is related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands or if the activity was commenced before 1990.

Sec. 6419. Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training

Section 6419 amends section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6420. National Rural Development Partnership

Section 6420 amends section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations and authority through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6421. Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters

Section 6421 amends Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6422. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

Section 6422 amends section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by increasing the size of a microloan from $50,000 to $75,000. Paragraph (2) increases the permitted Federal

share of a project's cost from 75% to up to 100%. Paragraph (4) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6423. Health Care Services

Section 6423 amends Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6424. Strategic Economic and Community Development

Section 6424 amends Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6425. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program

Section 6425 amends section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by expanding the RISE grant program to allow the Secretary to award grants to carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities. Section 6425 further clarifies that the grant program should address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities, and promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.

Paragraph (2) requires the Secretary to ensure geographic diversity of recipients of grants. Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6426. Limitation on Rural Business Investment Companies Controlled by Farm Credit System Institutions

Section 6426 amends section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by prohibiting a rural business investment company from providing equity investments in entities not otherwise eligible to receive financing from the Farm Credit System if a Farm Credit System institution holds more than 75% of the shares of the rural business investment company. This is an increase from 50%.

Sec. 6427. Rural Business Investment Program

Section 6427 amends section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations for the subtitle through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 6428. Technical Corrections

Section 6428 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by replacing "urbanized" with "urban" in various sections.

Sec. 6429. Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Programs

Section 6429 amends Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by expanding eligible uses of assistance to include disaster and recover assistance.

SUBTITLE E—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936

Sec. 6501. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Utility Infrastructure Purposes

Section 6501 amends section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 extending the authority provided under the section through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 6502. Extension of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

Section 6502 amends section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding that the Secretary shall not require a letter of credit or other similar guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan if the borrower assigns the Secretary a security interest in any collateral provided to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this section, or makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

Sec. 6503. Expansion of 911 Access

Section 6503 amends Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by extending the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977

Sec. 7101. National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

Section 7101 amends section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123). It adds an insular area representative to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB). Additionally, it reduces the number of members on the NAREEEAB executive committee from seven to three and reauthorizes the NAREEEAB through September 20, 2031.

Sec. 7102. Specialty Crop Committee

Section 7102 amends section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a). It makes a technical correction by requiring the Secretary to appoint members of the Specialty Crop Committee, rather than the current practice where the executive committee of the NAREEEAB makes the appointments. Additionally, section 7102 reauthorizes the Citrus Disease Subcommittee of the Specialty Crop Committee through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7103. Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment

Paragraph (1) of section 7103 amends Section 1415A(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a). It allows the Secretary to consider geographic areas with a shortage of veterinarians, as well as specific areas of veterinary practice identified by appropriate State agencies, when determining veterinarian shortage situations under the

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Additionally, paragraph (1) directs the Secretary to develop quantitative methods for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations and to share these methods with relevant State agencies.

Paragraph (2) directs the Secretary to establish streamlined application procedures for the VMLRP and clarifies that veterinarians who participate in a comparable State or local loan repayment program are also eligible for the VMLRP.

Sec. 7104. Veterinary Services Grant Program

Section 7104 amends the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151b). It updates the eligibility requirements for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSPG) to include entities that can expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas. Additionally, it directs the Secretary to establish a streamlined application process for the VSPG.

Paragraph (4) allows these entities to use VSPG funds for expanding, retaining, or attracting additional veterinary practices in rural areas, including covering expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices.

Sec. 7105. Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education

Section 7105 amends section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) by extending the authorization of appropriations for grants and fellowships in food and agriculture sciences education through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7106. Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers

Section 7106 amends section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(e)) by extending the authorization of appropriations for agricultural and food policy research centers through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7107. Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

Section 7107 amends section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156) to permit educational grants for Alaska Native-Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions to be awarded for a duration of more than one year but not exceeding five years.

Paragraph (2) extends the authorization of appropriations for these grants through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7108. Nutrition Education Program

Section 7108 amends section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175(g)) by extending the authorization of appropriations for the Nutrition Education Program through September 30, 2031

Sec. 7109. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

Section 7109 amends section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) to allow unspent funds from a fiscal year for ongoing animal health and disease research programs to be carried over into the next fiscal year. Additionally, it extends the authorization of appropriations for these programs through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7110. Extension and Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

Section 7110 amends section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) to increase the minimum required level of appropriations for cooperative extension at 1980 land-grant institutions to not less than 40% of the amount appropriated under the Smith-Lever Act.

Subsection (b) amends subsection 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221) to increase the minimum required level of appropriations for each fiscal year for agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges to 40% of the amount appropriated under the Hatch Act of 1887. This subsection also makes technical corrections by replacing the term "research director" with "agricultural research director".

Sec. 7111. Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions (Commonly Known as the David A. Scott Scholarship Program for Students at 1890 Institutions)

Section 7111 amends section 1446(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a) by extending the authorization of appropriations for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

Section 7112 amends section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7113. Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment and Support Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research at Insular Area Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

Section 7113 amends section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area land-grant institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7114. Matching Funds Requirement for Research and Extension Activities at Eligible Institutions

Section 7114 amends section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. This section clarifies the existing requirement for states to provide matching funds for agricultural research and extension activities at 1980 land-grant institutions. Additionally, it directs these institutions to submit an annual report to the Secretary detailing the sources and amounts of non-Federal funds that the state has allocated to meet the matching requirement outlined in this section.

Sec. 7115. New Beginning for Tribal Students

Section 7115 amends section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. It establishes that 1994 institutions, as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, are exempt from the requirement to provide matching funds in order to receive a grant. Additionally, it removes the limitation on the maximum amount each State can receive under the new beginning for tribal students' program and extends the authorization of appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7116. Education Grants Programs for Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Section 7116 amends section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for education grants to Hispanic-serving institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7117. Binational Agricultural Research and Development

Section 7117 amends section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to ensure that activities carried out under the Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund promote and support agricultural research and development that are of mutual benefit to the United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration. Additionally, section 7117 directs the BARD Fund to establish an accelerator program to support and accelerate mid-stage research.

Sec. 7118. Grants and Partnerships for International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education

Section 7118 amends section 1458(A) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to repeal the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs and to merge the program with the section authorizing the Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Program. Additionally, Section 7118 changes the name of the new merged program to "Grants and Partnerships for International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education" and extends the authorization pf appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7119. Research Equipment Grants

Section 7119 amends section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) by extending the authorization of appropriations for research equipment grants through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7120. University Research

Section 7120 amends section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for various agricultural research programs, including research at State agricultural experiment stations, through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7121. Extension Service

Section 7121 amends section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the USDA extension program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7122. Supplemental and Alternative Crops

Section 7122 amends section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to require the Secretary to include agreements, grants, or other arrangements to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-plated rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops) under the supplemental and alternative crops competitive grant program. Section 7122 also reauthorizes appropriations for supplement and alternative crops through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7123. Grants for Community College Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs

Section 7123 amends section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to change the name of the "New Era Rural Technology Program" to "Grants for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs" and to expand the program to make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities to food and agricultural sciences.

Paragraph (3) directs the Secretary to prioritize grants to eligible entities that coordinate with local agriculture industry operators or conservation districts that provide work-based learning, experiential training, and other opportunities for students.

Paragraph (4) extends the authorization of appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7124. Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions

Section 7124 amends section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for capacity building grants for Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7125. Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority

Section 7125 amends section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add "precision agriculture" to the definition of agricultural technology for the purpose of the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA) and to expand the goals of the program to include research on water conservation, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests. Additionally, section 7125 directs the Secretary to use the AgARDA strategic plan to inform administration of the program, reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031, and extends the termination of authority under this program by 13 years.

Sec. 7126. Aquaculture Assistance Programs

Section 7126 amends section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the aquaculture assistance programs through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7127. Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response

Section 7127 amends section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the special authorization for biosecurity planning and response through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7128. Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program

Section 7128 repeals the Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center; Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity, Planning, Preparedness, and Response; Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures; and Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program. It also amends section 1485 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to merge the programs with the Agricultural Research Facility Expansion and Security Upgrades Program. Additionally, section 7128 changes the name of the newly merged program to the Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7129. Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas

Section 7129 amends section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for distance education grants for insular areas through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7130. Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas

Section 7130 amends section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 by extending the authorization of appropriations for resident instruction grants for insular areas through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7131. Repeals

Section 7131 repeals section 1410, section 1419C, section 1447A, and subtitle M of title XIV of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

SUBTITLE B—FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

Sec. 7201. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Section 7201 amends subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, including best utilization of biological applications, integrated management systems, the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program, and a National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture, through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7202. National Genetics Resources Program

Section 7202 amends section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the National Genetic Resources Program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7203. Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

Section 7203 amends section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the agricultural genome to phenome initiative through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7204. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives

Section 7204 amends section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to repeal the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific Region Initiative, Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research Initiative, the Coffee Plant Health Initiative, and the Macadamia Tree Health Initiative and to authorize a new Tropical Plant Health Initiative that includes research on coffee plants, macadamia trees, cacao trees, plantains and bananas, mangos, vanilla plants, tropical floriculture, and other tropical plants. It also repeals the Corn, Soybean Meal, Cereal Grains, and Grain Byproducts Research and Extension Initiative and authorizes a new Agricultural Byproducts Research Initiative that includes converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products. Further, it repeals the Fertilizer Management Initiative and the Nutrient Management Initiative and authorizes a new Fertilizer and Nutrient Management Initiative.

Section 7204 expands the Algae Agriculture Research Program to include harmful algal blooms. It also establishes several new initiatives, including the Biochar Research Initiative, the Wildfire Smoke Exposure Research Initiative, the Invasive Species Research Initiative, the Microplastics and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances on Farmland Initiative, the Soil Health Research Initiative, the White Oak Research Initiative, the Alternative Growing Media Research Initiative, the Rangeland Research Initiative, and the Specialty

Crop Mechanization and Automation Research Initiative. Additionally, it authorizes funding for the Pulse Crop Health Initiative, training coordination for food and agriculture protection, pollinator protection, and other high-priority research and extension initiatives through September 30, 2031.

Additionally, section 7204 requires the Secretary to submit a biennial report to Congress describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in this section for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative.

Sec. 7205. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

Section 7205 amends section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to remove outdated paragraphs authorizing appropriations for the organic agriculture research and extension initiative (OREI) for Fiscal Years 2003 through 2007 and Fiscal Year 2013, to retain the authorization of mandatory funding at $50,000,000 per year, and to extend the authorization of appropriations for OREI through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7206. Farm Business Management

Section 7206 amends section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2)) by extending the authorization of appropriations for farm business management through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7207. Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative

Section 7207 amends section 1672(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to add a requirement for consultation with the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production when awarding grants under this Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative (UIE) and to add a reference to the description of emerging agricultural production practices in section 222(a)(3) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

Paragraph (5) adds the management of waste streams of production practices to improve the environmental footprint and advising land-grant colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, junior or community colleges, and vocational schools with respect to career and technical education to the list of eligible activities.

Sec. 7208. Centers of Excellence

Section 7208 amends section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish a new process for the Secretary to identify at least 15 centers of excellence to carry out research, extension, and education activities for several focus areas. Section 7208 also increases the minimum number of 1890 Centers of Excellence to no less than 8; amends some of the existing focus areas for 1890 Centers of Excellence; adds additional focus areas for Forest Health and Conservation and Food Safety, Bioprocessing, and Value-Added Agriculture; and reauthorizes appropriations for the 1890 Centers of Excellence through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7209. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers With Disabilities

Section 7209 amends section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031, with no more than 15 percent of the amounts made available under this program shall be used to carry out a National Grant for Technical Assistance, Training and Dissemination.

Sec. 7210. Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach

Section 7210 amends section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers and to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Additionally, Section 7210 clarifies that the Program may support organizations and programs that provide budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises.

Sec. 7211. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

Section 7211 amends section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7212. Repeal

Section 7212 repeals subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

Sec. 7213. Researching the Transition to Organic

Section 7213 authorize the Researching the Transition to Organic Program. Under this program, the Secretary of Agriculture is to, in consultation with the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities related to the transition of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural production systems. For this program, $7,500,000 is authorized to be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026 and each year thereafter.

SUBTITLE C—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

Sec. 7301. National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program

Section 7301 amends section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to remove the requirement for coordination with the discontinued National Integrated Food Safety Initiative. It also extends the authorization for appropriations for the National Food Safety Training, Education,

Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7302. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program

Section 7302 amends section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 by extending the authorization of appropriations for integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7303. Support for Research Regarding Diseases of Wheat, Triticale, and Barley Caused by Fusarium Graminearum or by Tilletia Indica

Section 7303 amends section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica* through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7304. Grants for Youth Organizations

Section 7304 amends section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 by extending the authorization of appropriations for grants for youth organizations through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7305. Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Section 7305 amends section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. It introduces a waiver for the matching funds requirement, establishes a research and extension program focused on specialty crop mechanization and automation, and allocates $20 million per year for this research and extension. Additionally, it extends the authorization of appropriations for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7306. Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services

Section 7306 amend title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to codify the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) Program that has been receiving appropriations since Fiscal Year 2017.

Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

Section 7307 amends section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the food animal residue avoidance database program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7308. Office of Pest Management Policy

Section 7308 amends section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to extend the authorization of appropriations for the office of pest management policy through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7309. Forestry Products Advanced Utilization Research

Section 7309 amends section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 by extending the authorization of appropriations for forestry products advanced utilization research through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7310. Repeals

Section 7310 repeals section 404 and section 411 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

SUBTITLE D—FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

Sec. 7401. Grazinglands Research Laboratory

Section 7401 amends section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to prevent the Federal land and facilities administered as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory from being declared excess or surplus Federal property.

Sec. 7402. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

Section 7402 amends section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish grants to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling through farm telephone helplines and websites, including crisis hotlines. Section 7402 also establishes referrals to providers to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, as well as extend the authorization of appropriations for the network through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7403. Sun Grant Program

Section 7403 amends section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the scope of the program to ensure bioproducts are eligible, increases the amount of administrative expenses allowed under the program to 30 percent, and to extend the authorization of appropriations for the sun grant program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7404. Repeals

Section 7404 repeals section 7521 and section 7525 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

SUBTITLE E—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

Sec. 7501. Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

Section 7501 amends the Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 to remove the $100,000 cap per institution for payments to the 1994 institutions and to remove the requirement that grant applications for research grants to 1994 institutions be performed under a cooperative agreement with ARS or another land-grant, non-land-grant, or cooperating forestry school. Section 7501 also extends the authorization of appropriations for the endowment for 1994 institutions, 1994 institutional capacity building grants, and research grants for 1994 institutions through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7502. Research Facilities Act

Section 7502 amends Sections 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act by extending the authorization of appropriations to be made in sums, as necessary, through 2031 for the study, plan, design, structure, and related costs of agricultural research facilities under this subchapter.

Sec. 7503. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Section 7503 amends subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to update priority areas to include regionally adapted cultivars, breeding for environmental resilience, methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish, controlled environment agriculture, supply chain coordination and capacity building, and workforce training and development. Additionally, section 7503 adds career and technical education schools as an eligible entity and extends the authorization of appropriations for the agriculture and food research initiative through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7504. Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative

Section 7504 amends subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act by extending the authorization of appropriations for the extension design and demonstration initiative through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7505. Biomass Research and Development

Section 7505 amends section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by extending the authorization of appropriations for biomass research and development through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7506. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978

Section 7506 amends section 6 and section 8 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7507. National Aquaculture Act of 1980

Section 7507 amends section 4 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to require the Secretary to review, and appropriately amend, the National Aquaculture Development Plan and undertake a continuing aquaculture assessment not less than once every 3 years. Section 7507 also adds a catalog of new and existing capital constraints and Federal or State regulatory barriers to the continuing aquaculture assessment.

Additionally, section 7507 amends section 5 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to create an Aquaculture Advisory Committee at USDA and to direct the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress related to actions undertaken related to aquaculture.

Section 7507 also amends section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 by extending the authorization of appropriations for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7508. Reports on Disbursement of Funds for Agricultural Research and Extension at 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

Section 7508 amends section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Secretary to conduct outreach to Governors and State legislatures regarding the matching requirement for 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges. Additionally, section 7508 directs the Governor of each State to submit an attestation regarding the States ability to fulfill the matching requirements and requires the Secretary to publish a report describing the attestations received.

Sec. 7509. Repeal

Section 7509 repeals section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985.

Sec. 7510. Amendments to Smith-Lever Act

Section 7510 amends the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)) by expanded the use of appropriated funds by 1194 Institutions. It would allow 1994 Institutions to use Smith-Lever funds to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of 1994 Institutions.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 7601. Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

Section 7601 amends section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to identify unmet and emerging agricultural research needs after reviewing the national research policies and priorities and to require members of the Board of Directors for the foundation to be selected from candidates provided by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and national farm, producer, or research organizations. Additionally, section 7601 adds reporting requirements to the annual report the foundation shall submit to Congress.

Sec. 7602. Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program

Section 7602 amends section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add a waiver to the board of directors' requirement for eligible entities if the Secretary determines an existing board of directors is sufficient and extends the authorization of appropriations for the agriculture innovation center demonstration program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 7603. Livestock Insects Laboratory

Section 7603 amends the Act of December 23, 1987, to rename the Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory as the Knipling-Bushland Research Center.

Sec. 7604. U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center

Section 7604 designated the U.S. National Poultry Research Center of the Department of Agriculture located in Athens, Georgia as the "U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center."

Sec. 7605. Hatch Act of 1887

Section 7605 amends section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 to make technical corrections to replace the term "director" with "experiment station director".

Sec. 7606. Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization

Section 7606 establishes the Commission on National Agricultural Statistic Service Modernization (the "Commission").

Subsection (b) directs the Commission to conduct a study of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide recommendations on how data collection can be modernized and streamlined and recommendations for implementation.

Subsection (c) establishes that the Commission should be composed of 11 members who should be appointed no later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act. The members will be appointed for the life of the Commission, and any vacancy should not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

Subsection (f) directs the Commission to establish a report not later than three years after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall be submitted to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

Subsection (n) establishes that the Commission shall terminate on September 30, 2031. Subsection (o) directs the Secretary to use $1,000,000 in funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 2026 and until expended.

Sec. 7607. Restoration of 4–H Name and Emblem Authority

Section 7607 restores the Federal protections for the 4–H Name and Emblem that were inadvertently repealed in the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (enacted as part of the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations, 2021).

Sec. 7608. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics

Section 7608 amends section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by directing the Secretary to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on joint advancement of the mission requirements and priorities of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies.

Sec. 7609. Agricultural Innovation Corps

Section 7609 directs the Secretary to establish an Agriculture Innovation Corps (Ag I–Corps) to promote technology transfer and enhance the economic impact of federally funded research. This initiative supports agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education in exploring the potential of technologies developed in laboratories through a standardized entrepreneurial training program. Additionally, it aims to bring together Agriculture Research Service researchers and institutions of higher education within a distinct geographical region to collaborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial training curriculum.

Sec. 7610. Study on Technical Assistance With Respect to Transfer of Agricultural Land and Assets

Section 7610 directs the Secretary to conduct a study on ways to increase opportunities for 1890 Institutions to conduct educational programs and provide technical assistance with respect to issues relating to the transfers of agricultural land and assets, including heirs property, to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. The section also defines and outlines the requirements of the term, "heirs property."

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

SUBTITLE A—COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 8101. Support for State Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources

Section 8101 amends Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031. It also allows the Secretary to utilize additional funds made available under the Act to develop and implement the required state-wide assessment and strategy, provided that total combined funding for these purposes does not exceed $10,000,000 in any fiscal year.

Sec. 8102. Forest Legacy Program Technical Correction

Section 8102 amends Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by striking from the statute "Vermont".

Sec. 8103. State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restorations

Section 8103 amends Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8104. Rural Fire Prevention and Control

Section 8104 amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106) by granting the Secretary the authority to waive federal funding share requirements for rural volunteer fire departments.

Paragraph (2) of Section 8104 raises the qualifying population threshold from 10,000 to 15,000. Additionally, it adjusts the percentage of volunteer firefighting personnel from 80% to 70% to allow the Secretary discretion in waiving match requirements.

SUBTITLE B—HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

Sec. 8201. Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation

Section 8201 amends Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8202. Authorization of Appropriations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land

Section 8202 amends Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to extend the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8203. Water Source Protection Program

Section 8203 amends Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by defining the term "adjacent land." In Paragraph (2), it outlines the requirements for the projects conducted under the program, which aim to protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, municipal or agricultural water supply systems, and water-related infrastructure. Additionally, under the requirements, it states the need to protect and restore forest health from infection infestation, disease, and wildfire. This paragraph further specifies the Secretary's priorities in selecting watershed protection and restoration projects and requires written agreements from adjacent landowners demonstrating their willingness to engage as active partners in carrying out projects or activities on adjacent lands under the program.

Paragraph (3) amends the Water Source Investment Projects provision to include Good Neighbor Agreements entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) as eligible forms of partnership agreements. The paragraph also directs the Secretary to coordinate with Federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning, project design, and implementation of the projects.

Paragraph (4) reduces redundancy in the program by allowing the use of existing watershed plans or other watershed planning documents as the foundation for a water source management plan.

Paragraph (6) establishes a matching funds requirement by directing the Secretary to require non-Federal partners to contribute funds or in-kind support equal to at least 50% of the Federal funding provided.

Paragraph (7) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031 and caps the amount of funds that the Secretary may use for planning and technical assistance related to water source management plans to 10% for non-Federal partners.

Sec. 8204. Watershed Condition Framework Technical Corrections

Section 8204 amends Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to make a technical change by striking "protection and".

Sec. 8205. Authorization of Appropriations to Combat Insect Infestations and Related Disease

Section 8205 amends section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the termination date to October 1, 2031.

Sec. 8206. Insect and Disease Infestation

Section 8206 amends section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the Secretary's existing authority to identify, prioritize, and treat insect and disease affected forest lands through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 8207. Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects

Section 8207 amends section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. It includes the retention and expansion of forest products infrastructure as an authorized objective of stewardship

end result contracting projects to ensure that there is necessary support for executing associated agreements or contracts.

Paragraph (2) increases the maximum term of a stewardship contract from 10 years to 20 years.

Paragraph (3) establishes a special rule for long-term stewardship contracts, providing that if the Forest Service cancels or terminates a long-term stewardship contract (also referred to as "multi-year contract"), the agency is responsible for compensating the contracting entity with a cancellation or termination payment equal to the lesser of: (1) 10% of the total multi-year contract value; or (2) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract (including the term canceled).

SUBTITLE C—OTHER FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Sec. 8301. National and Regional Agroforestry Centers

Section 8301 amends Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to rename the "Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center" as the "National and Regional Agroforestry Centers."

Paragraph (3) adds a definition of "agroforestry," identifying recognized productive and sustainable land use practices, including riparian forest buffers, alley cropping, silvopasture, forest farming and multistory cropping, windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and, where applicable, field borders, and living snow fences.

Paragraph (5) directs the Secretary to establish one or more regional agroforestry centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption. It provides for the appointment of a director, sets criteria for site selection, and specifies that the regional centers shall be administered by the National Agroforestry Center.

Paragraph (6) adds the recognized productive and sustainable land use practices under the definition of "agroforestry" to the goals and purposes of the agroforestry centers. Paragraph (8) adds two new subsections that direct the Secretary to provide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects and requires the Secretary to conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey every five years.

Paragraph (9) increases the authorization of appropriations by $5,000,000 to $7,000,000 annually for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 8302. National Forest Foundation Act

Section 8302(a) amends section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act by extending the authority through Fiscal Year 2031.

Subsection (b) amends section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act by creating a White Oak Restoration Fund that may accept gifts and bequests for the purpose of reestablishing white oak forests.

Sec. 8303. Conveyances and leases of Forest Service Administrative Sites

Section 8303(a)–(b) amends Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 by extending authority through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8304. Forest Inventory and Analysis

Section 8304 amends Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978. Paragraph (1) requires the Secretary to carry out, as a data collection method, a national timber products output survey and a national woodland owner survey.

Paragraph (4) adds reporting requirements and requires that the strategic plan include procedures for tracking changes in land cover and use, as well as procedures necessary to sample and evaluate carbon-related variables.

Paragraph (5) adds new paragraphs (7) through (11), requiring the Secretary to prepare and update a strategic plan within 180 days of the passage of this Act. It includes that the strategic plan should be updated once every 5 years. Paragraph (9) requires the Secretary to prepare and publicly post a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics, along with relevant geospatial products.

Subsection (b) updates section 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to clarify remote sensing technologies and include examples such as a microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products.

Sec. 8305. Reforestation, Nursery, and Seed Orchard Support

Section 8305(a) requires the Secretary to partner with entities and collaborate to promote and support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (d) authorizes $5,000,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031.

SUBTITLE D—FOREST MANAGEMENT

PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Sec. 8401. Categorical Exclusion for High Priority Hazard Trees

Section 8401(a) establishes a categorical exclusion for high priority hazard trees and limits the size of a project to 6,000 acres. Additionally, it defines "high-priority hazard tree" and "high-priority hazard tree activity."

Section 8402. Collaborative Restoration Projects

Section 8402 amends Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase the collaborative forest project size from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8403. Wildfire Resilience Project Size

Section 8403 amends Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase the wildfire resilience project categorical exclusion size from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8404. Fuel Breaks in Forests and Other Wildland Vegetation

Section 8404 amends section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's fuel break categorical exclusion from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8405. Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Dule Habitat

Section 8405 amends Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. Paragraph (2) clarifies covered management activities are meant to cover habitat for greater sage-grouse or mule deer, and not necessarily both concurrently.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (g), increasing the categorical exclusion project size limitation from 4,500 acres to 7,500 acres.

Sec. 8406. Categorical Exclusion for Electric Utility Lines Rights-Of-Way

Section 8406(a) creates a categorical exclusion for certain forest management activities to be excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Subsection (b) designates as categorically: (1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and (2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan.

Subsection (d) provides that the categorical exclusion does not apply to activities conducted on areas that are within the National Wilderness Preservation System or on National Forest System lands where Congress has restricted or prohibited vegetation removal.

Subsection (e) provides that to carry out the project subject to the categorical exclusion, the establishment of permanent roads is prohibited, but necessary maintenance and improvements to existing permanent roads are permitted, and that any temporary roads constructed must be decommissioned within three years of the project completion.

Subsection (f) provides that a forest management activity under this section shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Sec. 8407. Forest Management Activities on National Forest System Lands

Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to, as appropriate, coordinate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across the National Forest System lands. Impacted parties are defined under this section as: (1) State, local, and Tribal governments; local fire departments; and other relevant volunteer groups.

Subsection (c) establishes objectives for forest management activities on National Forest System land, directing the Secretary to attain multiple ecosystem benefits, including reducing forest fuels, maintaining plant and animal diversity, improving soil and water resources (including riparian areas), and increasing resilience to changing water temperature and precipitation regimes.

Subsection (d) requires the Secretary, consistent with applicable Federal law and forest plans, to establish post-activity ground condition criteria for projects that result in ground disturbance and to monitor those conditions to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved.

Subsection (e) establishes a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for certain forest fuel-reduction activities on National Forest System land, provided that the forest management activity: (1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning; (2) is developed in coordination with impacted parties, including local government representatives; and (3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

Subsection (f) authorizes the Secretary to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with impacted parties to carry out fuel reduction, restoration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restoration, revegetation, and similar management activities on Federal land and non-Federal land.

Sec. 8408. Suppression of Wildfires

Section 8408 establishes requirements for wildfire suppression and management activities carried out by the Forest Service.

Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to use available resources to contain wildfires within 24 hours of detection, consistent with interagency agreements and applicable firefighter safety standards. The Secretary may not inhibit the suppression efforts of State or local firefighting agencies that are authorized to respond to wildfire on such lands. Additionally, backfires or burnouts may be initiated only at the order of the responsible incident commander, in consultation with the appropriate Forest Service line officer, or when necessary to protect firefighter health and safety.

Subsection (b) limits the scope of subsection (a) to National Forest System lands that meet heightened wildfire risk conditions, including lands where: (1) the National Interagency Fire Center has established as a National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level of 5; (2) the U.S. Drought Monitor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity; or the Secretary has identified as being located in a fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire exposure.

PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 8411. No Additional Consultation Required

Subsection (a) amends Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to provide that the Secretary is not required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, for a land management plan

approved, amended, or revised under this section when, after the date of such approval, amendment, or revision: (1) a species is listed as a threatened or endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; (2) a critical habitat for a threatened or endangered species is designated under that section; or (3) new information concerning a threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for such a species becomes available.

Subsection (b) amends section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to establish a parallel provision for the Bureau of Land Management land use plans.

Sec. 8412. Good Neighbor Authority

Subsection (a) amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to expand and modify Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Also, the definition of "special district" is added which is defined as a political subdivision of a State that has significant budgetary autonomy, was created under State law to perform limited governmental or proprietary function, and is distinct from any other local government unit within the State.

Paragraph (3) expands the entities eligible to participate in GNA to include Indian Tribes and special districts. This subsection further amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by expanding which officials or entities shall keep funds received from the sale of timber under a GNA from only a "governor" to also include Indian Tribes or counties.

This subsection also repeals the limitation that sale funds be used only on authorized restoration services on Federal land under a good neighbor agreement, so that such funds may be used on land also held by Indian Tribes or counties with a good neighbor agreement.

Furthermore, this subsection adds "Indian Tribes" alongside Governor or county as an official or entity that shall not have delegated to it the power to make a decision required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regarding authorized restoration services provided by good neighbor agreements on Federal land.

Sec. 8413. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

Section 8413 amends section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Paragraph (1) amends subsection (b)(3) to add that a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal should describe plans to prevent or control pathogens and address standardized monitoring questions and indicators.

Paragraph (2) amends subsection (d) by adding criteria to the selection process. Paragraph (2) also limits the Secretary from selecting not more than four proposals in any one region of the National Forest System.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (f)(6) to extend the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8414. Public-Private Wildfire Technology Deployment and Testbed Partnership

Section 8414 requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to create a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

Subsection (c) lists the functions of the pilot program and subsection (d) describes the application process for covered entities to participate in the pilot program.

Subsection (e) directs the Secretaries to give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

Subsection (g) requires the Secretaries to submit reports and recommendations to Congress on the pilot program. Subsection (h) terminates the pilot program on September 30, 2031.

Sec. 8415. Forest Service Participation In Experienced Services Program

Section 8415 amends section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by renaming the ACES program the Experienced Services Program. Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (b), the termination of effectiveness clause.

Sec. 8416. Timber Sales on National Forest System Land

Section 8416 amends section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 by increasing in subsection (d) the threshold by which the value of a timber sale must meet before requiring advertising from $10,000 to $55,000.

Paragraph (2) adds a new subsection (j) providing that in the event of extreme risks to a unit of National Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees, or forest products located on such unit of National Forest System lands.

Sec. 8417. Permits and Agreements With Electrical Utilities

Section 8417(a) provides the Secretary the ability to give permission to electric utility company holders of national forest system land permits or easements to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

Subsection (b) requires that if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

Subsection (c) states that there is no requirement that material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation be sold.

Sec. 8418. Utilizing Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction

Section 8418 directs the Secretary, in coordination with holders of permits to graze livestock on Federal land, to develop and implement a strategy aimed at increasing the use of livestock grazing and related rangeland improvements as a wildfire risk reduction strategy.

Sec. 8419. Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program

Section 8419 amends Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reports from the Joint Chiefs at least once every two years and extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8420. Tribal Forest Management Program Technical Corrections

Section 8420 amends section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by renaming it the Tribal Forest Management Program.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

Sec. 8431. Community Wood Facilities Program

Section 8431 amends Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and renames the program the Community Wood Facilities Program.

Paragraph (2) amends the definition of community wood energy system, in part, as an energy system that uses primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals. Paragraph (4) increases the cap for a grant award from $1,000,000 to $5,000,000.

Paragraph (5) strikes subsection (e)(1) of the selection criteria, and adds in (e)(1), as redesignated, that market competitiveness should be a factor to consider.

Paragraph (6) amends subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting in paragraph (2), as redesignated, that the Secretary shall give grant priorities to proposals that include the construction, use or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing facilities in areas with high unemployment.

Paragraph (7) amends subsection (g) by increasing the thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy capacity limit from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts and increases from 25% to 50% the amount of funds provided as grants that may go to applicants proposing innovative wood products facilities.

Paragraph (8) amends subsection (h) by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8432. Wood Innovation Grant Program

Section 8432(a) amends section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding that the grant may be used for the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized.

Subsection (b) amends Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, providing for the priority the Secretary may give to proposals for grants.

Subsection (c) amends section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by lowering the eligible entity non-Federal fund-matching requirement from a 100% match to 50%.

Sec. 8433. Forest and Wood Products Data Tracker

Section 8433(a) requires the Secretary, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

Sec. 8434. Biochar Application Demonstration Project

Section 8434 requires the Secretary to conduct performance-driven research and development, education, technical assistance, outreach, and demonstration projects for the purpose of facilitating the use of biochar, developing additional biochar applications, and commercializing biochar.

Subsection (c) amends section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by lowering the eligible entity non-Federal fund-matching requirement from a 100% match to 50%.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 8501. Rural Revitalization Technologies

Section 8501 amends section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 8502. Resource Advisory Committees

Section 8502 amends Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Paragraph (1) allows for appointments to resource advisory committees by the applicable regional forester.

Paragraph (2) extends the termination of authority date to October 1, 2031. Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (g), the Resource Advisory Committee Appointment Pilot Program.

Sec. 8503. Accurate Hazardous Fuels Reduction Reports

Section 8503 requires the inclusion of hazardous fuels reduction reports in materials submitted in support of the President's budget, including the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuel reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year.

Subsection (a) requires that each acre recorded as having hazardous fuels reduction activities completed on it may only be recorded once, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during that year.

Sec. 8504. Special Use Authorization Rental Fee Waiver

Section 8504 allows the Chief of the Forest Service to waive all or part of the programmatic administrative fee, and any fees related to the special use authorization, when equitable and in the

public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land by specified governmental, non-profit, or amateur radio stations.

Sec. 8505. Charges and Fees for Harvest of Forest Botanical Products

Section 8505 codifies a program to charge and collect fees for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

Subsection (b) provides that the fees collected by the Secretary shall be based on the fair market value of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with the granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of the forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

Subsection (c) provides that The Secretary may not permit the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960.

Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary shall establish a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product below that level by a person for personal use shall not be subject to charges and fees.

Sec. 8506. Forest Service Legacy Road use and Trail Remediation Program Transparency

Section 8506 amends section 8 of Public Law 88–657 by clarifying how the annual selection of project for funding should be advertised, and public comments considered.

Paragraph (1) requires the Forest Service to publish on its website for each region, a list of each project considered under the Program, public comments received, the ranking within the region of each project, and the proposed outcome of each project.

Sec. 8507. Direct Hire Authority

Section 8507 enables the Secretary to appoint Job Corps graduates, as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, to competitive service positions within the Forest Service. This process does not require that the Secretary adhere to the provisions outlined in subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, except for sections 3303 and 3328.

Sec. 8508. Improving the Emergency Forest Restoration Program

Section 8508 amends Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 by inserting a new subsection (e) for advance payments, specifying that The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures.

Subsection (e) of section 407 would require that if the funds provided are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

Sec. 8509. Exemption for Previously Analyzed Areas of National Forest System Lands

Subsection (a) of section 8509 exempts the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code to an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System lands, including National Forest System lands on which authorized utilities, communications facilities, powerline facilities or roads have been installed if the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure, or the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands.

Subsection (b) provides that the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes available.

Sec. 8510. Release of Reversionary Interest in Black River State Forest

Section 8510 allows for the conditional release of a reversionary interest held by the United States on approximately 31.83 acres of Wisconsin State Forest land. This release is contingent upon the State of Wisconsin offering to transfer that land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for approximately 37.27 acres, which will be added to the Black River State Forest.

Sec. 8511. Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act

Section 8511 amends the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101 note) by providing an alternative name for the program, the "Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act."

Sec. 8512. Minor Range Improvements Under Forest Service Grazing Permits

Sec. 8512 would streamline the approval of minor range improvements on Forest Service grazing allotments by allowing permittees to proceed after notification and requiring timely agency responses.

SUBTITLE F—WHITE OAK RESILIENCE

Sec. 8601. Short Title

Section 8601 names the subtitle the "White Oak Resilience Act."

Sec. 8602. White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition

Section 8602 establishes the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition, composed of a voluntary group of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, as well as private and non-governmental organizations. The Coalition is tasked with coordinating white oak restoration efforts across Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private partners in the United States. Additionally, the Coalition is responsible for making programmatic and policy recommendations that

are consistent with applicable forest management plans. The section further directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to provide personnel to support the Coalition in carrying out its duties, including providing administrative support, technical services, and deployment and dissemination of education materials.

Sec. 8603. Forest Service Pilot Program

Section 8603 directs the Secretary to establish and carry out five pilot projects in National Forests to restore white oak through restoration and natural regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable forest management plans,

Sec. 8604. White Oak Regeneration and Upland Oak Habitat

Section 8604 directs the Secretary to establish a non-regulatory program known as the "White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program." In directing the program, the Secretary is directed to draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak. Additionally, the Secretary is directed to collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives.

Subsection (b) also directs the Secretary to adopt a white oak restoration strategy that supports the implementation of science-based restoration and conservation activities, focuses on cost-effective projects, maximizes restoration outcomes, and establishes voluntary grant and technical assistance programs.

Subsection (e) directs the Secretary to establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program with the available funds. Under this grant program, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (the "Foundation") to manage and administer the grant program.

The authority granted under Section 8604 will terminate seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 8605. Tree Nursery Shortages

Section 8605 directs the Secretary to develop and implement a national strategy to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of tree seedlings.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

Section 9001. Definition of advanced biofuel

Section 9001 amends section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 9002 to provide in statute that "advanced biofuel" includes sustainable aviation fuel derived from renewable biomass, including vegetable oil and animal fat.

Sec. 9002. Biobased markets program

Paragraph (1) of section 9002 amends section 9002(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a guidance process, conducted by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, to consider biobased products lifespan, savings, and efficacy

when making federal procurement decisions. Paragraph (1) also requires each procuring agency to submit an annual federal biobased product procurement implementation report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, as well as requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to collect, document, and make publicly available through the review of the annual reports that each procuring agency has established a procurement program.

Paragraph (2) of section 9002 amends section 9003(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce to jointly development North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Product Classification System codes for renewable chemicals, biobased products, and manufacturers of renewable chemicals and biobased products. Paragraph (2) further provides that the Secretary shall submit a report, within enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry that provides (1) the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data; (2) recommendations to implement any bioeconomy related changes as part of the 2027 revisions of the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes; and (3) an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Products Classification System codes would have on the agency's measurement of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.

Paragraph (3) of section 9001 amends section 9002(k)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the biobased markets program through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 9003. Biorefinery assistance

Paragraph (1) of section 9003(a) amends section 9003(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of "biobased product manufacturing" to include technologically new or innovative commercial-scale processing and manufacturing equipment. Paragraph (1) also requires facilities to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, renewable chemicals, or biobased products on a commercial scale.

Paragraph (2) of section 9003(a) amends section 9003(d)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a technical review agreement between the Secretary and approved loan guarantee applicants that outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions for successful technical feasibility of a biorefinery, renewable chemical, or biobased product project.

Paragraph (3) of section 9003(a) amends section 9003(i)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to adjust the funding for biofuel infrastructure and agriculture product market expansion electric loans for renewable energy to remain available until September 30, 2031.

Section 9003(b) rescinds $18,000,000 of unobligated balances made under section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9004. Bioproduct labeling terminology

Section 9004 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish that the Secretary shall issue rules implementing national uniform labeling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the labeling and marketing of bio-attributed plastics, bio-attributed products, biobased plastics, and plant-based products. In implementing the national uniform labeling standards, the Secretary shall include the following terms, as defined in section 9001 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002: biobased product, intermediate ingredient or feedstock, renewable biomass, and renewable chemical. In defining those terms, the Secretary must consult with biomanufacturers, entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts, feedstock growers, and other industry stakeholders.

Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels

Section 9005 amends section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the bioenergy program for advanced biofuels through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 9006. Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

Section 9006 repeals section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9007. Rural Energy for America Program

Paragraph (1) of section 9007 provides technical drafting updates to improve the implementation of the program.

Paragraph (2) of section 9007 amends section 9007(b)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the selection criteria for competitive grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to include the potential of a proposed program to produce cost savings and to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of agricultural producers or small rural businesses. Paragraph (2) also adds agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500 employees as qualified entities under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Paragraph (3)(A) of section 9007 amends section 9007(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the award consideration for determining the amount of a loan guarantee or grant provided under the Rural Energy for America Program to include the expected cost savings of an agricultural producer or rural small business from the purchasing of renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements.

Paragraph (3)(B) of section 9007 amends section 9007(c)(3)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase the amount of a loan guaranteed under the Rural Energy for America Program from $25,000,000 to $50,000,000.

Paragraph (4) of section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to streamline the application process for the Rural Energy for America Program.

Paragraph (5) of section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to enhance outreach and technical assistance for Rural Energy for America Program applicants and grantees.

Paragraph (6) of Section 9007 amends section 9007(f)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (7) of section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a REAP reserve fund.

Paragraph (8) of section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to require the Secretary to ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 9008. Feedstock flexibility

Section 9008 amends section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Secretary to purchase eligible commodities from eligible entities and sell such commodities to bioenergy producers, and to notify eligible entities and bioenergy producers of the quantity of eligible commodities available for purchase and sale, to produce bioenergy through the 2031 crop year.

Sec. 9009. Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Section 9009 amends section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations of $25,000,000 for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program for each fiscal year through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 9010. Carbon utilization and biogas education program

Section 9010 repeals section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9011. Study on effects of solar panel installations on prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland

Section 9011 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that studies on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland and nonindustrial private forest land out of agricultural production.

Sec. 9012. Limitation on USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems

Section 9012 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that creates a limitation on USDA funding projects that would result in the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland, or nonindustrial private forest land, for solar energy production, unless a project results in the conversion of less than 5 acres, or results in the conversion of less than 50 acres of covered farmland if the majority of the energy produced is for on-farm use and has received a resolution of approval or support, or other similar in-

strument from each county and municipality in which the project is sited. Projects that receive local approval must develop and implement a farmland conservation protection plan. Additionally, financial assistance may not be provided to projects that procures a solar energy component produced, manufactured, or assembled in a foreign country of concern.

Sec. 9013. Sustainable aviation fuels strategy

Section 9013 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that requires the USDA to create a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels.

Sec. 9014. Leveraging efficiency awareness for pumping systems

Section 9014 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to make available information to educate farmers on the cost savings, energy savings, and water conservation that can be achieved through efficient pumping systems.

Sec. 9015. Adding waste energy recovery to the Rural Energy for America Program

Section 9015 amends section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of renewable energy under the Rural Energy for America Program to include waste heat energy recovery.

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

SUBTITLE A—HORTICULTURE

Sec. 10001. Specialty crop block grants

Section 10001 amends section 101 of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 to extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through Fiscal Year 2031; direct the State program administrators to establish priorities for the program in consultation with specialty crop producer and producer groups; require the State program administrators to include in the State plan how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved.

Sec. 10002. Specialty crop market news allocation

Section 10002 amends section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to extend the authorization of appropriations for the specialty crop market news allocation through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 10003. Office of urban agriculture and innovative production

Section 10003 amends section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to add controlled-environment agriculture to the list of emerging agricultural production practices; direct the Office to use resources of the Department to provide technical assistance, promote conservation techniques, and assist producers in navigating policies and regulations that impact business operations; extend the reporting requirements and authorization for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee; allow for subgrants to support the growth of the farm

or farm business; authorizes the use of cooperative agreements to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production; remove the pilot status and extend reporting requirements for the Urban and Suburban County Committees and Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; add development of food waste-to-energy operations as an eligible activity for the Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 10004. National plant diagnostic network

Section 10004 amends section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the authorization of appropriations for the National Plant Diagnostics Network through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 10005. Hemp production

Section 10005 amends subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Subsection (a) amends section 297B to require State and Tribal plans to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent to produce industrial hemp for producers under a State or Tribal plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails to provide required documentation; require the State or Tribe to report a producer of industrial to the Attorney General and applicable law enforcement officers if that producer violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp; and ban any person who knowingly produced a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp from obtaining a hemp license for 5 years.

Subsection (b) amends section 297C to require a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent to produce industrial hemp for producers under a Department of Agriculture plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails

to provide required documentation; and requires the Secretary to collect information related to the designation of the type of production of hemp producers and the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of.

Subsection (c) amends section 297D to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp.

Sec. 10006. Pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties

Section 10006 amends the Plant Protection Act by adding a new section 420A to direct the Secretary to create a pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.

Subsection (a) of the new section defines terms used in the pilot program including covered microorganism, covered unauthorized release, pilot program, plant pest risk, responsible party, and responsible party biocontainment facility.

Subsection (b) of the new section directs the Secretary to establish the pilot program for no more than 75 responsible parties within 100 days of enactment.

Subsection (c) of the new section outlines the application process for the pilot program.

Subsection (d) of the new section outlines the process for approving or denying applications for the pilot program and the process for appealing a denial.

Subsection (e) of the new section outlines requirements that the party responsible shall agree to as a condition of enrollment in the pilot program.

Subsection (f) of the new section prohibits the Secretary from taking action or promulgating any regulation that treats genetically engineered covered microorganisms less favorably than non-genetically engineered covered microorganisms or limiting the quantity or type of covered microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot program.

Subsection (g) of the new section requires responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program to submit a quarterly report to the Secretary.

Subsection (h) of the new section provides guidance for responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program in the case of a covered unauthorized release.

Subsection (i) of the new section outlines the process by which the Secretary may terminate the enrollment of a responsible party enrolled in the pilot program.

Subsection (j) of the new section terminates the pilot program three years after the date on which the Secretary completes the application selection process.

Subsection (k) of the new section directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress no later than 6 months after the termination of the pilot program.

SUBTITLE B—MARKETING

Sec. 10101. Marketing orders

Section 10101 amends section 8(e) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to add mandarin oranges and almonds to and remove the prohibition on dates for processing from the list of imported agricultural products the Secretary has the authority to subject to marketing order terms and conditions regulating grade, size, quality, and maturity.

Sec. 10102. Local agriculture market program

Section 10102 amends section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act to define the term food hub; add regional food chain coordination to the purpose of the local agriculture market program; direct the Secretary to provide technical assistance and outreach to stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program; extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through fiscal year 2031; clarify that purchase of special purpose equipment is an eligible activity; add food hubs as an eligible entity for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP); establish a simplified application process for applications to FMLFPP that request less than $100,000 for specific activities; clarify that the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program can be used for regional food coordination projects and regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation projects; and requires that no less than 10 percent of funds made available for FMLFPP shall be used for simplified applications.

Sec. 10103. Acer access and development program

Section 10103 amends section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to direct the Secretary to solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 10104. Organic production and market data initiative

Section 10104 amends section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk; reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 10105. Organic Certification

Section 10105 amends the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. Subsection (a) extends the reporting requirements for the report describing National Organic Program activities with respect to all domestic and overseas investigations and compliance actions through March 30, 2031.

Subsection (b) adds a new section 2122B to allow the Secretary to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs implemented by a covered agency.

Subsection (c) reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the National Organic Program through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 10106. Report on procurement

Section 10106 directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that examines the process by which domestic commodities or products are procured, barriers to entry into such procurement process, the diet quality and accessibility of commodities or products that are procured, and the Secretary's recommendations to improve such procurement process.

Sec. 10107. Definition of Risk to Organic Integrity and Oversight Protocols

Section 10107 amends section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to provide definitions for "oversight protocols" and "risk to organic integrity."

Sec. 10108. Modernization of Inspection Requirements

Section 10108 amends section 2107 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to maintain the annual on-site inspections of organic facilities for sites located outside of the United States. For U.S.-based sites an on-site inspection shall occur every three years, with additional inspections conducted either on-site or virtually depending on the operations risk to organic integrity. In the case of an operation that does not physically handle organic products, the language provides for inspection methods for sufficient assurances of compliance, including virtual inspection methods.

Sec. 10109. Study and Reform of National Organic Program Oversight Protocols

Section 10109 amends the Organic Food Production Act of 1990 to add a new section related to the study and reform of the national organic program oversight protocols. Subsection (a) of the new section requires the Secretary conduct a study to determine whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to organic integrity are necessary.

Subsection (b) enumerates different metrics related to oversight protocols and requires the Secretary to examine the feasibility, opportunities, and implications of implementing such protocols. The subsection also enumerates different factors related to farms, handling operations, and certifying agents the Secretary shall consider when conducting the study. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to submit the report to Congress and make publicly available not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the section. Subsection (d) requires consultation with the National Organic Standards Board, certifying agents, certified organic farms and handling operations, organic consumers, and other relevant stakeholders.

Subsection (e) gives the Secretary authority to promulgate regulations that establish or modify oversight protocols based on the findings of the report, as long as such protocols maintain strong organic integrity, support a resilient domestic organic sector, and are consistent with other requirements under the Organic Food Production Act of 1990.

Subsection (f) defines "appropriate congressional committees." Subsection (g) is a rule of construction.

Section 10201. Exclusions of Certain Substances

Section 10201 amends section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Subsection (a) amends the definition of "plant regulator" to exclude substances intended be produced and used within a plant and certain plant biostimulants; amends the definition of "nitrogen stabilizer" to make technical corrections and exclude plant biostimulants and nutritional chemicals; and adds definitions for "plant biostimulant", "nutritional chemical", "vitamin hormone product", and "plant-incorporated protectant".

Subsection (b) clarifies when and how the Administrator of the EPA may exempt pesticides from the requirements of FIFRA, including a statutory exemption of certain plant-incorporated protectants.

Subsection (c) consists of conforming amendments to section 17(c) of FIFRA.

Section 10202. Coordination

Section 10202 amends section 3 of FIFRA by adding a new subsection "(j) Coordination" that requires the Administrator of the EPA to develop risk mitigation measures required by FIFRA with the Secretary of Agriculture, and to conduct an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures. This section also requires the Administrator to coordinate sharing of data and information with regard to pesticide registration and registration reviews, including agronomic use data and information related to the availability and economic viability of alternatives. Additionally, this section requires the Administrator to coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce regarding implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide. This section also allows for these coordination requirements to be waived if agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registration of such pesticide.

Section 10203. Interagency Working Group

Section 10203 amends section 3(c)(11) of FIFRA by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all interagency working group meetings. This section also extends the reporting requirements, decreases the frequency of such reports, and directs the reports to be published on the website of the EPA. Additionally, this section amends the consultation requirements to ensure the interagency working group meets with stakeholders at least once per year and to ensure the Administrator consults with the interagency working group before implementing any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act to the processes for registration and registration review of a pesticide.

Section 10204 Registration Review

Section 10204 extends the deadline under Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii)(I) of FIFRA for initial pesticide registration to 2031.

Section 10205. Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements

Section 10205 affects how FIFRA is to be applied. Subsection (a) mandates that section 24(b) of FIFRA be applied to require nationwide uniformity in pesticide labeling and prohibits states or other authorities from penalizing entities for failing to label pesticides in a manner different from the label approved by the Administrator under FIFRA.

Subsection (b) clarifies that this section does not alter the authority of States under sections 24(a) or (c) of FIFRA.

Section 10206. Authority of States

Section 10206 amends section 24 of FIFRA by prohibiting political subdivisions of a state from imposing requirements relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide subject to regulation by a State or the Administrator of the EPA under FIFRA.

Section 10207. Lawful Use of Authorized Pesticides

Section 10207 amends section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act by adding a new paragraph (6), which provides that the use, application, or discharge of a registered pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under FIFRA shall be permitted and considered lawful, without further permitting or approval requirements.

PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM PROVISIONS

Section 10211. Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey

Section 10211 amends section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy to obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of the Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey.

Section 10212. Safe Harbor for Certain Discharges of Wildland Fire Chemicals

Section 10212 would prohibit a court from enjoining a covered entity under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act from the aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention if such application is in accordance with the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the EPA and the U.S. Forest Service, and occurred before the effective date of a permit issued by the EPA or a State, under section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act authorizing the aerial application of fire retardant. This provision sunsets 5 years after the effective date of this Act.

Section 10213. Office of Biotechnology Policy

Section 10213 adds a new section to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 that creates an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture related to bio-

technology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies, while taking into account the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies. This new section provides an authorization of appropriations for $1,000,000 through Fiscal Year 2031.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

Sec. 11001. Specialty crop advisory committee

Section 11001(a) amends section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee to advise the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (the Corporation) on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies, provide input to the Board of the Corporation on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies, review available educational programs and make recommendations to the Corporation on how to enhance the effectiveness of programs for specialty crop producers, provide recommendations to the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board of the Corporation, and advise the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out various research and development activities.

Section 11001(b) amends section 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crops Coordinator to address the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advise, in connection with activities of the Corporation, to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

Section 11001(c) amends section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to consult with the Secretary in conducting an annual review of new and specialty crops.

Sec. 11002. Identification of holders of substantial interests

Paragraph (1) of section 11002 amends section 506(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide an extension to crop insurance policyholders to provide the Corporation with the identification of holders of beneficial interest in the policyholder at any time during the applicable crop year.

Paragraph (2) of section 11002 amends section 506(m)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to define "substantial beneficial interest" as not less than 10 percent of all beneficial interests in the policyholder.

Sec. 11003. Actuarial soundness of certain new products

Section 11003 amends section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to review each crop insurance policy or product developed for submission of policies and materials to the Corporation's Board of Directors for actuarial soundness.

Sec. 11004. Coverage of revenue losses

Section 11004 amends section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend crop insurance coverage of revenue losses to a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary).

Sec. 11005. Limitation on farm program participation

Section 11005 amends section 508B(f) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years, a farm shall not be eligible for the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton for a crop year for which the farm is enrolled in coverage for seed cotton under price loss coverage or agricultural risk coverage.

Section 11005 also amends section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to conform with the amendment made above to provide that beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop year under price loss coverage or agricultural risk coverage.

Sec. 11006. Limitation on interest accrual

Section 11006 amends Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying a premium or administrative fee, an approved insurance provider may charge such producer with respect to such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to exceed 60-consecutive months) the producer is so delinquent.

Sec. 11007. Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers

Section 11007(a) amends section 502(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish, among other criteria, that a veteran farmer or rancher, are farmers or ranchers that have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years.

Section 11007(b) amends section 508(e)(9) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide the crop insurance policy premium to 15 percentage points greater than premium assistance otherwise available for each of the first and second reinsurance years that a veteran farmer or rancher participates as a beginning farmer or rancher or veteran farmer or rancher in the applicable policy or plan of insurance, 13 percentage points greater during the third reinsurance year, 11 percentage points greater for the fourth reinsurance year, and 10 percentage points greater for the fifth reinsurance year.

Sec. 11008. Marketability

Section 11008 amends Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish that any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1, shall not be implemented for such reinsurance year unless at least 90 days prior to the sales closing date for such policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary, as determined by the Board, handbooks, training materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other material. Section 1109 further provides that prior to the approval of a product, any approved insurance provider that submitted a let-

ter of support for the product shall provide information and analysis to the Board on the marketability of such product, which the Board shall review and deem marketable if at least one approved insurance provider expresses support.

Sec. 11009. Reimbursement rates for administrative and operating costs

Section 11009 amends section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that for the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established by the Federal Crop Insurance Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents with respect to each policy made available under this Act shall be equal to the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.

Sec. 11010. Quality loss adjustment coverage

Section 11010 amends section 508(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require, the Corporation, beginning in calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years thereafter, to contract with a qualified person to conduct a review, to be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation. The review must include engagement from regionally diverse industry stakeholders, and the Corporation shall submit a report to Congress on the findings of the review.

Sec. 11011. Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty

Section 11011 amends the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new section to require, beginning with the 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation to establish a pilot program, to be conducted in not less than 10 counties located within or adjacent to the High Plains Groundwater Conservation District in Texas, to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period.

Sec. 11012. Whole farm improvements

Section 11012 amends section 522(c)(7(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and annually thereafter, review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture) to ensure such limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and to submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report that includes a summary of the most recent review conducted and any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.

Sec. 11013. Program compliance and integrity

Section 11013 amends section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the re-

sponsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections) an approved insurance provider of any error, omission, or failure to follow Corporation regulations or procedures for which the approved insurance provider may be responsible and which may result in a debt owed the Corporation. The section also establishes an appeals process for approved insurance providers after the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider of an initial finding. The finding shall be subject to a final finding within 90 days of an approved insurance provider's appeal, followed by a final administrative determination upon the written request by an approved insurance provider and a final determination made by the Corporation.

Sec. 11014. Research and development priorities

Section 11014(a) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development or offer to enter 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to expand the availability of policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue. Subsection (a) also requires the Corporation to determine the feasibility of creating a pricing library for agents and approved insurance providers using data from alternative sources, as determined by the Secretary. Further, subsection (a) directs the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to evaluate creating a state or regional endorsement policy to cover soybean revenue losses caused by quality-related discounts. It also requires consideration of an alternative to assigning a "zero-market value" when a salvage market exists.

Section 11014(b) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

Section 11014(c) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to ensure the production of mushroom growing media and the production of mushrooms.

Section 11014(d) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of offering insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes made available regardless of underlying crop insurance policy (or lack thereof).

Section 11014(e) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including table grapes, wine grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries, and any other

crop) on a nationally-available basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather event.

Section 11014(f) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding with respect to insurance policies for covered oilseed crops, meaning rapeseed, canola and other oilseed crops, under double cropping and rotational cropping practices.

Section 11014(g) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

Section 11014(h) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding prevented planting coverage for insurance policies for specialty crops that are not planted on a perennial basis.

Section 11014(i) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires USDA to conduct research and development on a policy to insure swine producers against financial losses resulting from a catastrophic disease event.

Sec. 11015. Report on standard reinsurance agreement

Section 11015 requires, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Corporation to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agreement that are necessary to expand the availability of policies and plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.

Sec. 11016. Hurricane insurance protection-wind index report

Section 11016 requires, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Corporation to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this section that caused NOAA weather radio station outages.

Sec. 11017. Risk management study for lamb

Section 11017 directs the USDA to study the feasibility of an insurance or risk management program for domestic lamb producers to protect against market and input cost volatility.

Sec. 11018. Study on livestock risk protection policy with respect to producers of feeder cattle affected by adverse weather events

Section 11018 directs the USDA to study the feasibility of allowing cattle producers with Livestock Risk Protection policies to sell cattle outside the standard contract window without penalty due to adverse weather events, such as wildfires, force early sales.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS

PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

Sec. 12001. Animal Disease Prevention and Management

Section 12001 amends section 10409 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) expands the program activities to include improving animal disease traceability and clarifies that additional activities previously approved by the Secretary shall continue to be appropriate program activities.

Subsection (b) extends all of the authorization of appropriations for the program. The subsection further expands the funds available for eligible entities' administrative costs to include funds available to carry out the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and increases the cap on administrative costs for eligible entities from 10 percent to 15 percent.

Sec. 12002. Cattle Tick Fever Eradication Program Review and Report

Section 12002 requires the Secretary to enter into a contract with either a land-grant university or other institution with a college of agriculture to conduct a review of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program within a year of enactment of this Act. At which point such university or institution shall submit to Congress the results of such review and any recommendations for improvements to the program. The Secretary is required to use funds made available for food policy research centers to carry out this section.

Sec. 12003. Additional Training Facilities for National Dog Detection Training Center

Section 12003 amends the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 to provide the Secretary with the authority to establish additional training centers as well as off-site training programs.

Sec. 12004. Regionalization, Zoning, and Compartmentalization Agreements

Section 12004 amends section 1045 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) provides authority to the Administrator of APHIS, the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture, and the Administrator FSIS, in consultation with USTR, to negotiate in advance regionalization, compartmentalization, and other agreements related to outbreak of known animal disease threats with the governments of countries with livestock export markets from the United States. Subsection (b) is a rule of construction that the provision does not alter the authorities of USTR.

Sec. 12005. Importation of Live Dogs

Section 12005 adds a new section to the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) of the new section is the definitions. Subsection (b) prohibits the importation of a dog into the U.S. unless the importer submits to USDA electronic documentation, before the dog arrives in the U.S., that demonstrates the dog is in good health, it has all necessary vaccinations and parasite treatment, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian, and, if the dog is going to be transferred, proof that the dog is at least 6 months old and is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary. The subsection exempts from such requirement, a dog that is a pet of a person returning the U.S., a U.S. military working dog retuning to the U.S., a dog transported for research purposes, a dog transferred for veterinary treatment, a dog less than 6 months old lawfully being transported to Hawaii.

Subsection (d) is a rule of construction related to funding under the Act. Subsection (e) provides the Secretary with enforcement authority and subjects an importer or import transporter to penalties under the Act.

Subsection (b) of section 12005 provides for the continuation of existing regulations during a transition period before the final regulations promulgated for the new section are finalized.

Sec. 12006. Ensuring the Free Movement of Livestock-Derived Products in Interstate Commerce

Section 12006 establishes, for producers of meat and poultry, a Federal right to raise and market livestock in interstate commerce. Consequently, the section prohibits any State or subdivision from enacting or enforcing as a condition for sale of meat and poultry products any condition or standard other than standards for covered livestock within the state.

The term "covered-livestock" means domestic animals raised for slaughter for human consumption and dairy producing animals. The term does not include animals raised for egg production. Further, the section only addresses standards and conditions related to the breeding and raising of livestock. It does not prohibit standards or conditions related to the movement, harvesting, or further processing.

Sec. 12007. Report on Support for Livestock and Poultry Producers During a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak

Section 12007 requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress documenting the Department's ability to protect producers from significant economic losses due to a foreign animal disease outbreak. The report should include an assessment of all existing programs and USDA's capacity to effectively use those programs for the benefit of effected producers, a determination of existing gaps in USDA's ability to provide financial support, and recommendations for changes to the laws to improve protections for producers.

Sec. 12008. Protection of Greyhounds

Section 12008 amends the Animal Welfare Act by adding a new section related to the protection of greyhounds. Subsection (a) of the new section makes it unlawful to: knowingly engage in com-

mercial greyhound racing, live lure training, or open field coursing events in which any greyhound is moved in interstate or foreign commerce; to conduct any commercial greyhound racing or racing meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds occurs; to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or foreign commerce; and to knowingly sell, buy, possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any greyhound for purposes of having the greyhound participate in commercial greyhound racing, live lure training, or open field coursing events.

Subsection (b) gives the Secretary authority to investigate instances of violations of the new provision and allows for cooperative agreements with other law enforcement agencies. Subsection (c) imposes penalties of a fine, or not more than 7 years of prison for each individual violation. Subsection (d) is the definitions.

Sec. 12009. Animal Fighting

Section 12009 amends section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act to add a provision that makes it unlawful to gamble on an animal fighting venture, including in-person or at a broadcast event.

PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECTION

Sec. 12111. Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A–Plus)

Subsection (a) of section 12111 require the Secretary to revise the regulations related to financial interest in the livestock industry to allow livestock market agencies to hold an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of a meat packer with a cumulative slaughter capacity of (1) less than 2,000 animals per day or 700,000 animals per year for cattle and sheep, and (2) less than 10,000 animals per day or 3 million animals per year for hogs. Subsection (b) is a saving clause related to the Secretary's authority under the Packers and Stockyard's Act.

Sec. 12112. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Guidance and Resources for Small and Very Small Poultry and Meat Establishments

Section 12112 amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act to include a new section related to HACCP guidance for small and very small meat and poultry establishments.

Sec. 12113. Outreach on Cooperative Interstate Shipment

Section 12113 amends section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The section requires the Secretary to, during the periods of 2027 through 2031, conduct outreach to state meat and poultry product inspection programs but not have an establishment selected for interstate shipment. After the 5-year period, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities and results of the outreach conducted.

Sec. 12114. Pilot Program to Support Custom Slaughter Facilities

Section 12114 provides the authority for the State Department of agriculture to operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (referred to in this

section as "meat products") directly to consumers within the State. In the absence of a state program, an establishment may request the Secretary to operate a pilot program operated by the Secretary. A State may operate more than 5 such facilities within the State. A program operated by the Secretary may approve not more than 10 facilities nationwide. The section includes the authority to add more facilities if there has been no emergency action taken in relation to the initial pilot facilities.

The program requires that the meat sold under the pilot program be sold directly to consumers within the State from the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived or the custom exempt facility at which the meat products were processed. The products are not subject to resale. The meat products must further be clearly labeled to indicate the name and address of the facility at which the meat products were processed, the name and address of the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived, the location where animals from which such meat products are derived were raised, the date of slaughter of such animals and the period of time over which the owner raised such animals, that such meat products were not subject to Federal inspection, and that such meat products shall not be resold.

The facilities participating in the pilot program must comply with the requirements of the Human Slaughter Methods Act, adulteration and misbranding provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and applicable state and local laws. Such facilities must also be subject to onsite inspection by USDA, as the Secretary determines necessary, to ensure compliance and onsite inspection, at least annually, by applicable local authorities.

Facilities that are already subject to Federal inspection are not eligible to participate in the program. The Secretary maintains the authority to take emergency actions if meat products produced under the pilot are found to be adulterated. The section requires State departments of agriculture participating in the pilot to submit to USDA a detailed report related to their pilot programs. Not less than 2 years after initiating the pilot, the Secretary shall report to Congress regarding the pilot program.

SUBTITLE B—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1994

Section 12201. Office of Homeland Security

Section 12201 amends section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds an additional duty to the Executive Director of Homeland Security to conduct annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption. Paragraph (2) adds two new subsections ((f) and (g)) to section 221. New subsection 221(f) permits the Secretary to detail employees to and from the USDA and the intelligence community to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security. New subsection 221(g) requires the Secretary to conduct and submit to Congress reports on the risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

Section 12202. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Section 12202 amends section 226B of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by reauthorizing appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 12203. Burden of Proof

Section 12203 amends section 227 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, switching the burden of proof for national appeals division hearings from the appellant needing to show the adverse decision of the agency was erroneous, to requiring the agency to bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the adverse decision was valid.

Section 12204. Termination of Authority

Section 12204 amends section 296 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide the Secretary with the authority to reorganize the Department of Agriculture pursuant to amendments made by the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

Section 12205. Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations

Section 12205 amends section 309 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to allow the Secretary to oversee self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts entered into between the Secretary and Indian tribes.

SUBTITLE C—NATIONAL SECURITY

Sec. 12301. Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Improvements

Section 12301 includes improvement to the AFIDA disclosures at USDA. Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to enter into an MOU with CIFUS to provide CIFUS with all relevant information related to the reports on foreign ownership in agricultural land in the U.S. the Secretary conducts pursuant to AFIDA. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to update the most recent version of the FSA handbook entitle "Foreign Investment Disclosure: and incorporate the recommendations made by the GAO report entitled "Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks." After the initial update, the Secretary shall carry out an update of the handbook every 10 years.

Subsection (d) amends section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. The subsection expands the actions for which a person can be subject to a civil penalty to include knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all the required information. The subsection further adds a penalty floor of not less than 5 percent but not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all the required information or contains information that is misleading or false. It maintains the penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for failing to file a report.

Subsection (e) adds a new subsection to section that requires the Secretary to publicly disclose the name of any person who has paid a civil penalty after the completion of an appeal if there was one. Subsection (f) adds a new subsection to section 3 requiring the Secretary to carry out a nationwide outreach program to increase public awareness of the reporting requirements an provide education.

Sec. 12302. Report on Agricultural Land Purchasing Activities in the United States by Countries Designated as State Sponsors of Terrorism and Certain Other Countries

Subsection (a) of section 12302 is the definition section, including the definitions for "covered foreign country" and "state sponsor of terrorism." Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress describing the national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

Sec. 12303. Investigative Actions

Section 12303 amends section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. Subsection (a) expands the requirements for investigative actions under section 4. Subsection (a) of the new section 4 requires the Secretary to appoint an employee of USDA to serve as Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions who, in turn, shall hire additional employees to monitor compliance with AFIDA.

Subsection (b) of the new section 4 provides that the Chief of Operations may serve in another position at USDA concurrently. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to provide classified storage and meeting space and assist personnel in obtaining security clearance.

Subsection (d) of the new section 4 enumerates the duties of the Chief of Operations, including monitoring compliance with AFIDA, referring noncompliance to FSA, conducting investigations with DOJ, FBI, Treasury, and the National Security Council, conduct annual audits, refer transactions to CIFUS, and publish reports. Subsection (e) establishes that the Chief of Operations reports to the Secretary or, if delegated by the Secretary to the Administrator of FSA or the Director of the Department of Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.

Subsection (b) of section 12302 amends section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to provide for new definitions for AFIDA, including the term "foreign entity of concern" and "malign effort."

Sec. 12304. Digitization and Consolidation of Foreign Land Ownership Data Collection and Publication

Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to develop a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons. Subsection (c) requires that each entry in the database includes pertinent information about the transaction except for the name of the filer and the purchase or lease price of the transaction. Subsection (d) requires the Chief of Operations to annually audit the database and submit a report to Congress evaluating the accuracy of the data and describing recommendations for improving compliance with AFIDA reporting.

Sec. 12305. CFIUS Consideration of Certain Agricultural Land Transactions

Subsection (a) amends section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the CFIUS Committee for covered transactions that involve agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry.

Subsection (b) amends section 721(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to instruct the CFIUS Committee on how to proceed after receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture on a reportable agricultural land transaction. The subsection includes a provision that terminates the authority as it relates to a specific foreign country on the date that such country is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 12401. Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050

Section 12401 amends section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, making changes to study and reporting requirements, and extends the Commission through 2031.

Sec. 12402. Report on Personnel

Section 12402 amends Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by extending the years a report on personnel is required through 2031.

Section 12403. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor

Section 12403 amends Section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, extending authorization of appropriations to enhance the U.S. Drought Monitor through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 12404. Reports on Land Access and Farmland Ownership Data Collection

Section 12404 amends Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Paragraph (1)(A) requires that a Report be submitted to Congress at least once every 2 years. Paragraph (1)(B) adds information required to be addressed in the Report.

Paragraph (2) extends the authorization of appropriations through Fiscal Year 2031.

Section 12405. Increasing Transparency Regarding Detention of Imported Plants

Section 12405 requires the Secretary to issue guidance to clarify the process by which an importer of plants that has been denied entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain additional information on such denial and detention.

Sec. 12406. Enhancement of Pet Protections

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that evaluates the enforcement standards under the Animal Welfare Act for effectiveness and efficiency, the efforts by the Secretary to educate and advise dealers of the standards a requirements of that Act, the capacity of the Secretary to enforce the

standards of that Act, and to make recommendations on how to improve while considering the impact and costs. Subsection (b) allows for visual dental examination when practicable.

Sec. 12407. Protecting Animals With Shelter

Section 12407 amends section 12502 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to extend the PAWS Act through Fiscal Year 2031.

Sec. 12408. Report on Available Assistance to Agricultural Producers in the State of Texas That Have Suffered Losses Due to the Failure of Mexico to Deliver Water

Section 12408 required the Secretary to submit to Congress a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within USDA that could be used to provide assistance to agricultural producers in Texas that have losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the U.S. in accordance with international treaty obligations.

Sec. 12409. Qualified Renewable Biomass

Section 12409 requires the Secretary to consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.

Section 12410. Whole Milk Under the School Breakfast Program

Section 12410 is a technical correction to section 9 of the Richard B. Russel National School Lunch Act to ensure that the recently enacted Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act applies to school breakfasts.

Section 12411. Spotted Lanternfly Awareness Campaign

Section 12412 requires the Secretary to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted lanternflies.

Section 12412. Rio Grande Valley Agricultural Water Interagency Working Group

Subsection (a) direct the Secretary to establish an interagency working group to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of United States agricultural producers impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.

Subsection (b) lists the duties of the working group. Subsection (c) lists the composition of the working group. Subsection (d) lists the meeting requirements of the working group. Subsection (e) requires the working group to submit annually to Congress a report on its findings and recommendations.

Section 21413. Cost Share Grants for Rollover Protection Structures

Subsection (a) lists definitions for this section. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to award grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing, transporting, and installing on eligible equipment approved rollover protection structures, with certain limitations.

Subsection (c) describes how and by whom the program is to be administered. Subsection (d) describes the grant application and approval or denial process. Subsection (f) authorizes $725,000 for the program through Fiscal Year 2031.

RELATED COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 7567:

On June 11, 2025, the full Committee held a hearing entitled "For the purpose of receiving testimony from the Honorable Brook L. Rollins, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture." In the hearing, the Committee received testimony from the Honorable Brook L. Rollins, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture on a wide range of subjects and issues addressed or represented in H.R. 7567.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee on Agriculture met, pursuant to notice, with a quorum present on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, to consider H.R. 7567, the "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026."

Chairman Glenn 'GT' Thompson offered an opening statement as did Ranking Member Craig. Without objection, H.R. 7567 was placed before the Committee for consideration, and the first reading of the measure was waived. Chairman Thompson informed members that pursuant to committee Rule III(i) and House Rule XI, Clause 2, the Chair may postpone further proceedings on the question of approving any measure, matter, or adoption of an amendment on which a recorded vote is ordered. Without objection the Committee agreed to vote on amendments using an electronic voting system.

Chairman Thompson offered a manager's amendment and without objection the first reading was waived. The manager's amendment was adopted by a voice vote. After general debate, the bill was open for amendment on a title-by-title basis and subsequently for amendment at any point. 108 amendments were offered.

Chairman Thompson opened Title I for amendment.

Ms. Budzinski offered amendment #2 which would require a mandatory base acre update. Ms. Budzinski withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Carbajal offered amendment #24 which would establish eligibility criteria as well as requirements to improve uniformity, accountability, and transparency for when the Secretary of Agriculture provides assistance for covered losses in the form of block grants under Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Mr. Carbajal withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Crawford offered amendment #137 which would give farmers the option to receive a 50% partial payment months in advance for their regularly scheduled price loss coverage (PLC) or Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) payment if the Secretary projects payments will trigger. Mr. Crawford withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Rouzer offered amendment 132 which would restore tobacco as an agricultural commodity under the Commodity Credit Corporation charter. Mr. Rouzer's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title I and opened Title II for amendment.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #122 which would strengthen USDA programs to support wildlife habitat connectivity and migration corridors, increase payment limits for private land owners, and provide technical support for voluntary practices that improve landscape resilience while maintaining producer flexibility, like the Habitat Connectivity on Working Lands Act. Mr. Vazquez's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Costa offered amendment #61 which would improve and increase flexibility in the Conservation Reserve Program in a manner consistent with the Conservation Reserve Program Improvement and Flexibility Act. Mr. Costa withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Finstad offered amendment #18 which would modernize the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by incentivizing enrollment of marginal lands and emphasizing state partnerships. Mr. Finstad withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Johnson offered amendment #10 which clarifies that technology-neutral modernization is eligible for fencing repair or replacement under the Emergency Conservation program, provided the update does not increase costs. Mr. Johnson's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Budzinski offered amendment #54 which removes the $1.055 billion cut from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Ms. Budzinski called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Sorensen offered amendment #106 which would direct NRCS, in collaboration with experts, to conduct a systematic review of existing USDA and Federal soil carbon monitoring methodologies in order to develop a standardized soil carbon monitoring methodology that is reflective of current best practices and ensures scientific rigor necessary to accurately measure and monitor soil carbon stocks and fluctuations over time and across regions, soil types, and various production systems. It would also develop a Soil Carbon Monitoring Network grounded in shared data measurements and standards to enable large-scale data analysis and insights. Mr. Sorensen called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. Davids of Kansas offered amendment #69 which would direct the Natural Resources Conservation Service to study the impacts of winter wheat as a cover crop through harvest and report their findings to the House Committee on Agriculture. Ms. Davids of Kansas' amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Brown offered amendment #134 on behalf of Mr. Jackson of Illinois which expands the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program to explicitly include certain urban, suburban, and municipal private lands. Ms. Brown withdrew the amendment.

Chairman Thompson closed Title II and opened Title III for amendment.

Ms. Tokuda offered amendment #107 which would reset and cap tariffs on agricultural inputs from countries with normal trade relations at the rates in effect on January 19, 2025, preventing any future increases above that level. Mr. Bacon reserved a point of

order. Following debate, Mr. Bacon insisted on his point of order that the amendment contains language relating to subject matter within Rule X jurisdiction of another committee. The Chairman ruled that the amendment violates Rule X. Ms. Tokuda appealed the ruling of the Chair and Mr. Rouzer made a motion to lay the appeal on the table. Ms. Tokuda called for a recorded vote and the motion to lay the appeal on the table was agreed to by a vote of 26 yeas and 21 nays.

Mr. Gray offered amendment #75 which would require the Secretary to report on how any expected or implemented modification or revocation of any part of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will affect the importation and exportation of agricultural commodities. Mr. Gray's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Brown offered amendment #127 which would require a public report on the economic outlook for a tariff before an agricultural import tariff is issued. Ms. Brown called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #141 which would express congressional concern about increased Argentine beef imports and require a USDA report on their impacts on domestic cattle producers, prices, and rural economies. Mr. Vasquez's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title III.

The Committee then recessed subject to the call of the chair until 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4.

The Committee resumed consideration of amendments on Wednesday, March 4, with a quorum present.

Chairman Thompson opened Title IV for amendment.

Mr. Crawford offered amendment #6 which would add hot rotisserie chicken as an eligible food item to be purchased through the SNAP program. Mr. Crawford withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Vindman offered amendment #98 which would restore SNAP access to Afghan Allies arriving under Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) and Ukrainians arriving under the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program. Mr. Vindman called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. McDonald Rivet offered amendment #58 which increases funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) to $150 million. Ms. McDonald Rivet withdrew her amendment.

Ms. Brown offered amendment #30 which would strike the expanded work requirement provisions that were enacted in H.R. 1. Ms. Brown withdrew her amendment.

Mrs. Hayes offered amendment #28 which would repeal the SNAP cuts in H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Law. Mrs. Hayes called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Harris offered amendment #39 which would eliminate broad-based categorical eligibility in SNAP, prohibiting states from bypassing federally established income and asset limits to determine beneficiary eligibility. Mr. Harris withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Gray offered amendment #74 which would allow states to reallocate up to 20% of their TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) funds toward their DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Mr. Gray's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Wied offered amendment #11 which would include low added sugar yogurt to the Dairy Nutrition Incentives Programs. Mr. Wied's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Adams offered amendment #92 which reinstates the annual U.S. Household Food Security Report at the USDA. Ms. Adams called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Rouzer offered amendment #133 which increases the authorization level for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Mr. Rouzer withdrew his amendment.

Ms. Brown offered amendment #29 which would delay the SNAP Administrative and Benefit Cost Shifts enacted in H.R. 1. Ms. Brown requested a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #140 which would exempt veterans from SNAP work requirements to improve access to nutrition assistance for those who have served. Mr. Vasquez called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. Tokuda offered amendment #128 which would allocate $660,100,000 to reinstate the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). Ms. Tokuda called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mrs. Cammack offered amendment #126 which would require that SNAP benefits used to purchase meat, seafood, dairy products, eggs, and fresh fruits and vegetables be spent only on foods produced in the United States, with limited exemptions for availability, quality, or undue burden, and establishes retailer compliance and enforcement mechanisms. Mrs. Cammack withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Figures offered amendment #88 which would create a hardship exception to ensure that if a state cannot meet the new SNAP cost-share requirement, the Federal Government covers the difference. Mr. Figures called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Riley offered amendment #43 which would address fraud by directing USDA to update its cybersecurity regulations to ensure SNAP benefits cannot be easily stolen by criminals. Mr. Riley called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Thanedar offered amendment #117 which would reverse the elimination of SNAP Ed in H.R. 1 and fund the program at FY25 levels. Mr. Thanedar called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mrs. Hayes offered amendment #126 which would strike the cost share provisions for SNAP administration in H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill, and direct the Food and Nutrition Service to pay SNAP state agencies 100% of SNAP administrative personnel costs.

Mrs. Hayes called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. Adams offered amendment #139 which would ensure that earnings form employment and training programs do not decrease Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits as well as require a GAO study. Ms. Adams' amendment was not adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Davids of Kansas offered amendment #72 which would codify self-determination authority for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Ms. Davids of Kansas withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Riley offered amendment #45 which would establish the Elderly Simplified Application Project as a permanent state option. Mr. Riley withdrew his amendment.

Chairman Thompson closed Title IV and opened Title V for amendment.

Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia offered amendment #12 which would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate how enhanced risk management practices can improve the financial stability and creditworthiness of producers participating in certain direct and guaranteed farm loan programs. Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title V and opened Title VI for amendment.

Ms. McDonald Rivet offered amendment #144 which would ensure Head Start is a qualified provider under the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative. Ms. McDonald Rivet's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Mann offered amendment #16 which would insert "rural health facilities" in section 6101(1)(B)(i), to prioritize rural health facilities offering these services. Mr. Mann's amendment was agreed to by a voice vote.

Mrs. McClain Delaney offered amendment #81 which would require the Secretary to consider the affordability of broadband service when determining what constitutes an unserved household of service territory for grant purposes. Mrs. McClain Delaney's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Salinas offered amendment #34 which would expand Federal support and investment in rural communities and help ensure their long-term success. The amendment would create a grant program providing multiyear, flexible awards to communities to be used to address urgent needs, including but not limited to affordable child care, housing, and job training; provide technical assistance grants to help rural communities navigate existing Federal funding opportunities and ensure they get their fair share of private and Federal investments; and improve supportive services offered by the Federal government to rural communities. Ms. Salinas withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Mannion offered amendment #129 which would increase the annual authorization for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program from $20 million to $25 million. Mr. Mannion withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Davis of North Carolina offered amendment #90 which would lower the non-Federal cost share for the Rural Microentrepreneur

Assistance Program (RMAP) to five percent for Microenterprise Organizations serving persistent poverty counties. Mr. Davis of North Carolina's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Figures offered amendment #87 which would create a targeted loan and loan-guarantee program to help financially distressed rural health care facilities keep their doors open and preserve essential services. Mr. Figures' amendment was not adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title VI and opened Title VII for amendment.

Mr. Costa offered amendment #60 which would amend Sec. 7502, the "Research Facilities Act," by striking "125,000,000" and inserting "500,000,000" and extended dates to 2031. Mr. Costa's amendment was not adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Finstad offered amendment #19 which clarifies that the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program may support organizations and programs that provide budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises. Mr. Finstad's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. David Scott of Georgia offered amendment #22 which would permanently authorize the Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions and would increase funding by $5 million. Mr. David Scott of Georgia called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Harris offered amendment #38 which would strike language directing the USDA Secretary to encourage U.S. research institutions to partner with international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, regional development banks, and international agricultural research centers. Mr. Harris called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. Pingree offered amendment #49 which would add "reducing food loss and waste" as a priority area under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Ms. Pingree's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Adams offered amendment #91 which specifies the number of Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions as no more than 10 as well as authorizes funding at $50 million for each of the Fiscal Years 2027 to 2031. Ms. Adams called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Van Orden offered amendment #124 which would ensure 15% of funding for grants related to agricultural conservation education and workforce development be awarded to 2-year institutions. The amendment would clarify the priority for funding allocation to ensure community colleges can access this category of grants. Mr. Van Orden withdrew his amendment.

Mrs. McClain Delaney offered amendment #84 which strengthens the Grant for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs by explicitly prioritizing agricultural conservation and work-based learning opportunities, tailoring these initiatives to organizations that hire graduates in these fields. Mrs. McClain Delaney's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Figures offered amendment #76 which would include 1890 land-grant institutions as eligible entities and prioritize their projects, recognizing their critical role in veterinary medicine, animal health, and disease prevention. Mr. Figures' amendment was not adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson offered amendment #151 which names the program for scholarships for students at 1890 Institutions as the "David A. Scott Scholarship Program for Students at 1890 Institutions." Chairman Thompson's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title VII and opened Title VIII for amendment.

Mr. DesJarlais offered amendment #145 which would establish the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to encourage the Forest Service to work alongside private and state partners at no cost to the taxpayer. The amendment asks the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to regenerate white oak through a series of pilot projects on national parks and volunteered private lands. The amendment also allows the Forest Service to enter memorandums of understanding with land grant institutions to conduct much-needed research on white oak. Mr. DesJarlais' amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Rose offered amendment #17 which would modernize the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program by: (1) changing the qualifying population threshold from 10,000 to 15,000; (2) changing the percent of volunteer firefighting personnel from 80% to 70%; and (3) allowing for Secretarial discretion on waiving match requirements, similar to other private forestry programs. Mr. Rose's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Newhouse offered amendment #4 which would reauthorize the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program. Mr. Newhouse withdrew his amendment.

Ms. Salinas offered amendment #35 which would establish the Wood Building Accelerator Grant Program to fund programs that support the critical elements of designing and building with wood, including traditional wood products, mass timber and other advanced wood products; and establish the Rural Infrastructure and Building Pilot Program to fund pilot programs that demonstrate the use of innovative wood products in the construction and renovation of rural infrastructure and building projects, such as affordable, modular housing. Ms. Salinas called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Chairman Thompson offered amendment #5 which would name the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" the "Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act." Chairman Thompson's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title VIII and opened Title IX for amendment.

Mr. Sorensen offered amendment #149 which would apply the waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure requirements that is applicable to gasoline blended with 10% ethanol (E10) to gasoline blended with up to 15% ethanol (E15). Mr. Lucas reserved a point of order. Following debate, Mr. Lucas insisted on his point of order that the amendment contains language relating to subject matter within

Rule X jurisdiction of another committee. The Chairman ruled that the amendment violates Rule X. Mr. Sorensen appealed the ruling of the Chair and Mr. Lucas made a motion to lay the appeal on the table. Mr. Sorensen called for a recorded vote and the motion to lay the appeal on the table was agreed to by a vote of 25 yeas and 21 nays.

Ms. Budzinski offered amendment #53 which removes the ban on USDA funding for ground mounted solar systems. Ms. Budzinski withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Johnson offered amendment #1 which adds agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500 employees as qualified entities under the Rural Energy for America Program. Mr. Johnson's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Vindman offered amendment #100 which improves REAP by streamlining the application process, enhancing outreach and TA for applicants and grantees, and establishing a REAP reserve fund. Mr. Vindman's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Riley offered amendment #42 which would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to make available information to educate farmers on the cost savings, energy savings, and water conservation that can be achieved through efficient pumping systems. Mr. Riley's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title IX and opened Title X for amendment.

Mr. Wied offered amendment #123 which would define "risk to organic integrity" and modernize USDA inspection requirements for U.S.-based organic operations to require on-site inspections at least every 3 years with annual virtual inspections for low-risk operations. International operations would continue to have annual on-site inspections. Additionally, it would authorize a USDA study on risk-based oversight protocols and examine the feasibility of reforms. USDA would be authorized to make regulations on risk-based oversight based on the study and consultation with Congress. Mr. Wied's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Craig offered amendment #15 on behalf of Mr. Baird which would delay the redefining of "hemp" by 2 years in section 781 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act of 2026. Ms. Craig withdrew the amendment.

Ms. Pingree offered amendment #51 which would strike Sections 10205, 10206, and 10207. Ms. Pingree called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #147 which would provide one-time payments to specialty crop producers to help expand domestic and new markets and require a GAO report on the impacts of tariffs and trade barriers on specialty crop exports. Mr. Vazquez withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Thanedar offered amendment #120 which would provide $50 million in mandatory funding per year from Fiscal Years 2027–2031 for the USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Mr. Thanedar withdrew his amendment.

Chairman Thompson closed Title X and opened Title XI for amendment.

Mr. Kelly offered amendment #7 which directs the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to evaluate creating a state or regional endorsement policy to cover soybean revenue losses caused by quality-related discounts. It also requires consideration of an alternative to assigning a "zero-market value" when a salvage market exists. Mr. Kelly's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. McDonald Rivet offered amendment #57 which would require USDA to create a new revenue insurance product for sugar beet growers starting in 2028 that protects both individual yield losses and reductions in cooperative payments caused by lower production, lower sugar content, or falling sugar prices. Ms. McDonald Rivet withdrew her amendment.

Mrs. Hayes offered amendment #27 which would address the lack of safety nets for small farms by amending the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program and the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program. Mrs. Hayes called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Finstad offered amendment #20 which would require USDA to conduct research and development on a policy to insure swine producers against financial losses resulting from a catastrophic disease event. Mr. Finstad's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Salinas offered amendment #33 which would remove the statutory cap on the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP). Ms. Salinas withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Jackson of Texas offered amendment #8 which would direct the USDA to study the feasibility of an insurance or risk management program for domestic lamb producers to protect against market and input cost volatility. Mr. Jackson of Texas' amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Jackson of Texas offered amendment #14 which would direct the USDA to study the feasibility of allowing cattle producers with Livestock Risk Protection policies to sell cattle outside the standard contract window without penalties due to adverse weather events, such as wildfires, force early sales. Mr. Jackson of Texas' amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Chairman Thompson closed Title XI and opened Title XII for amendment.

Mr. Costa offered amendment #59 which would strike Section 12006 and make such conforming changes as may be necessary. Mr. Costa withdrew his amendment.

Ms. De La Cruz offered amendment #3 which would establish an interagency working group led by the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of south Texas producers impacted by Mexico's failure to deliver water under the 1944 Water Treaty. Ms. De La Cruz withdrew her amendment.

Ms. Adams offered amendment #135 on behalf of Mr. Jackson of Illinois which would establish civil rights accountability measures for USDA employees. Ms. Adams requested a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Carbajal offered amendment #25 which would prohibit commercial greyhound racing, live lure training, open field coursing, simulcast betting or wagering on greyhound races, and trafficking of

greyhounds for these purposes. Mr. Carbajal's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Davids of Kansas offered amendment #68 which would require USDA to rehire or hire a replacement for all qualified Federal employees that were separated from service as part of a mass termination by the Department beginning on January 20, 2025. It prohibits NRCS, FSA, and RD office closures. Ms. Davids of Kansas called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Vindman offered amendment #104 which would require USDA to carry out a public PSA campaign to ensure that Americans in affected states are aware that they should kill spotted lanternflies. Mr. Vindman's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. De La Cruz offered amendment #153 which would establish an interagency working group led by the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of south Texas producers impacted by Mexico's failure to deliver water under the 1944 Water Treaty. Ms. De La Cruz's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mr. Thanedar offered amendment #119 which would insert the text of H.R. 3946, the "FIGHT Act of 2025," at the end of Part I of subtitle A of Title XII of the "Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026." Mr. Mann offered a second-degree amendment which would strike all provisions of Mr. Thanedar's Amendment other than (b). A recorded vote was requested and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Nunn offered amendment #138 which would strike subsection (c) of section 12406. Mr. Nunn's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mrs. McClain Delaney offered amendment #130 which would require the Secretary of Agriculture to meet specific requirements, including conducting a benefit-cost analysis and soliciting public comment, before proceeding with a USDA reorganization. It would also require a report detailing how any reorganization would retain staff expertise, improve efficiency, and enhance customer service. Mrs. McClain Delaney withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Jackson of Texas offered amendment #13 which would cap administrative overhead at 15 percent for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program funding to ensure Federal resources are primarily directed to frontline animal disease, testing surveillance, and mitigation. Mr. Jackson of Texas' amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Ms. Craig offered amendment #146 which provides support to hungry Americans who could see their SNAP food assistance change due to changes in the law, and provides economic assistance to family farmers struggling with high input costs and market losses. Ms. Craig called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Harris offered amendment #36 which would strike the creation of the Office of the Ombudsman within the USDA, authorized at $1 million per year. Mr. Harris called for a recorded vote and

pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #32 which would prohibit the listing or trading of sports and casino-style event contracts on federally-regulated commodity exchanges to ensure these markets remain focused on agricultural risk management. Mr. Vasquez withdrew his amendment.

Chairman Thompson closed Title XII and opened H.R. 7567, in its entirety, for amendment.

Mr. Johnson offered amendment #152 which would strengthen Tribal 1994 land-grant Institutions by expanding their ability to acquire land, modernize facilities, and invest in equipment to support agricultural research and extension. Mr. Johnson's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mrs. Hayes offered amendment #142 which would set out a process for transitioning Puerto Rico from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Mrs. Hayes withdrew her amendment.

Ms. Tokuda offered amendment #108 which would authorize funding within the Community Facilities program to be used to reimburse hospitals for revenue loss due to temporary reductions in patient volume or service delivery and support staffing costs necessary to maintain essential services. Ms. Tokuda called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Chairman Thompson offered an en bloc amendment which would: (1) expand the definition of "renewable energy" under USDA REAP to include waste heat energy recovery (amendment #46); (2) allow FCA to extend audit periods for small, low-risk Farm Credit institutions from 18 to 24 months (amendment #103); (3) strengthen land-grant universities' ability to provide heirs property education and succession planning support so farming families can secure clear title, access USDA programs, and pass their land on to the next generation (amendment #89); (4) authorize the Researching the Transition to Organic Program (amendment #102), and; (5) continue operation of the ROPS Rebate Program under USDA, establishing cost-share grants for retrofitting agricultural tractors with rollover protection structures (amendment #31). Chairman Thompson's en bloc amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mrs. McClain Delaney offered amendment #86 which would make it unlawful for any non-authorized entity to access sensitive financial systems overseen by USDA including databases managed by the Farm Service Agency. Mrs. McClain Delaney called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Ms. McDonald Rivet offered amendment #56 which amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to raise the population limit from 2,500 to 10,000 for rural housing assistance for homebuyers. Ms. McDonald Rivet withdrew her amendment.

Ms. Davids of Kansas offered amendment #70 which would provide $100 million per year for FY 2027–2031 for the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority. Ms. Davids of Kansas withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Vasquez offered amendment #47 which would streamline approval of minor range improvements on Forest Service Grazing al-

lotments by allowing permittees to proceed after notification and requiring timely agency responses. Mr. Vasquez's amendment was adopted by a voice vote.

Mrs. Hayes offered amendment #143 which would allow SNAP benefits to be used at grocery retailers to purchase hot food products that are ready for immediate consumption. Mrs. Hayes withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Vindman offered amendment #105 which would authorize funding for FFAR. Mr. Vindman called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Mr. Thanedar offered amendment #118 which would adjust the minimum acceptable level of broadband service from 50/25 Mbps to a 50/50 Mbps symmetrical speed standard. Mr. Thanedar called for a recorded vote and pursuant to Committee Rule III(i)(2) further proceedings on the amendment were postponed.

Chairman Thompson closed consideration of H.R. 7567 for additional amendment.

The Committee considered the proceedings of the amendments that were postponed and Members recorded their votes by electronic device.

Amendment #54, offered by Ms. Buzinski of Illinois, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #106, offered by Mr. Sorensen of Illinois, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #127, offered by Ms. Brown of Ohio, was not adopted by a vote of 25 yeas and 26 nays.

Amendment #98, offered by Mr. Vindman of Virginia, was not adopted by a vote of 25 yeas and 26 nays.

Amendment #28, offered by Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #92, offered by Ms. Adams of North Carolina, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #29, offered by Ms. Brown of Ohio, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #140, offered by Mr. Vasquez of New Mexico, was not adopted by a vote of 25 yeas and 26 nays.

Amendment #128, offered by Ms. Tokuda of Hawaii, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #88, offered by Mr. Figures of Alabama, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #43, offered by Mr. Riley of New York, was not adopted by a vote of 25 yeas and 26 nays.

Amendment #117, offered by Mr. Thanedar of Michigan, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #26, offered by Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #22, offered by Mr. David Scott of Georgia, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #38, offered by Mr. Harris of North Carolina, was adopted by a vote of 26 yeas and 25 nays.

Amendment #91, offered by Ms. Adams of North Carolina, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #35, offered by Ms. Salinas of Oregon, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #51, offered by Ms. Pingree of Maine, was not adopted by a vote of 22 yeas and 28 nays.

Amendment #27, offered by Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #135, offered by Mr. Jackson of Illinois, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #68, offered by Ms. Davids of Kansas, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Second Degree Amendment to Amendment #119, offered by Mr. Mann of Kansas, was adopted by a vote of 29 yeas and 22 nays.

Amendment #119, as amended by the Second Degree Amendment, offered by Mr. Thanedar of Michigan, was adopted by a vote of 51 yeas and 0 nays.

Amendment #146, offered by Ms. Craig of Minnesota, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #36, offered by Mr. Harris of North Carolina, was adopted by a vote of 27 yeas and 24 nays.

Amendment #108, offered by Ms. Tokuda of Hawaii, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #86, offered by Mrs. McClain Delaney of Maryland, was not adopted by a vote of 25 yeas and 26 nays.

Amendment #105, offered by Mr. Vindman of Virginia, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Amendment #118, offered by Mr. Thanedar of Michigan, was not adopted by a vote of 24 yeas and 27 nays.

Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia made a motion to report H.R. 7567, as amended, favorably to the House with the recommendation that it pass. A recorded vote was requested, and H.R. 7567, as amended, was ordered to be reported favorably to the House with the recommendation that it pass by a vote of 34 yeas and 17 nays.

Chairman Thompson advised Members that, consistent with Committee and House rules, Members would have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026, to file any additional, dissenting, or minority views. Without objection, staff were given the authority to make any necessary clerical, technical, or conforming changes without changing the substance of the legislation.

Chairman Thompson thanked the Members and the Committee was adjourned.

COMMITTEE VOTES

In compliance with clause 3 (b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth the record of the following roll call votes taken with respect to H.R. 7567:

Roll Call No. 1

Summary: Motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

Offered By: Representative David Rouzer of North Carolina.

Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 26 yeas, 21 nays, and 6 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Van Orden
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NAYS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. Costa
3. Ms. Adams
4. Mrs. Hayes
5. Ms. Brown
6. Ms. Davids of Kansas
7. Ms. Salinas
8. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
9. Ms. Tokuda
10. Ms. Budzinski
11. Mr. Sorensen
12. Mr. Vasquez
13. Mr. Thanedar
14. Mr. Gray
15. Ms. McDonald Rivet
16. Mr. Figures
17. Mr. Riley
18. Mr. Mannion
19. Mrs. McClain Delaney
20. Ms. Pingree
21. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Ms. De La Cruz
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Mr. Jackson of Illinois
6. Mr. Vindman

Roll Call No. 2

Summary: Motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.
Offered By: Representative Frank Lucas of Oklahoma.
Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 21 nays, and 7 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Ms. De La Cruz
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Newhouse
21. Mr. Wied
22. Mr. Bresnahan
23. Mr. Messmer
24. Mr. Harris
25. Mr. Taylor

NAYS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Thanedar
15. Mr. Gray
16. Ms. McDonald Rivet
17. Mr. Figures
18. Mr. Riley
19. Mr. Mannion
20. Mrs. McClain Delaney
21. Ms. Pingree

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Texas
3. Mr. Van Orden
4. Mr. Vasquez
5. Mr. Jackson of Illinois
6. Mr. Vindman
7. Mr. Carbajal

Roll Call No. 3

Summary: Amendment #54.
Offered By: Representative Nikki Budzinski of Illinois.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 4

Summary: Amendment #106.
Offered By: Representative Eric Sorensen of Illinois.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 5

Summary: Amendment #127.
Offered By: Representative Shontel Brown of Ohio.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 26 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Bacon
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bost
9. Mr. Johnson
10. Mr. Mann
11. Mr. Feenstra
12. Mrs. Miller
13. Mr. Moore
14. Mrs. Cammack
15. Mr. Finstad
16. Mr. Rose
17. Mr. Jackson of Texas
18. Ms. De La Cruz
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Van Orden
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 6

Summary: Amendment #98.
Offered By: Representative Eugene Vindman of Virginia.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 26 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Bacon
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bost
9. Mr. Johnson
10. Mr. Mann
11. Mr. Feenstra
12. Mrs. Miller
13. Mr. Moore
14. Mrs. Cammack
15. Mr. Finstad
16. Mr. Rose
17. Mr. Jackson of Texas
18. Ms. De La Cruz
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Van Orden
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 7

Summary: Amendment #28.
Offered By: Representative Jahana Hayes of Connecticut.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 8

Summary: Amendment #92.
Offered By: Representative Alma Adams of North Carolina.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 9

Summary: Amendment #29.
Offered By: Representative Shontel Brown of Ohio.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 10

Summary: Amendment #140.
Offered By: Representative Gabe Vasquez of New Mexico.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 26 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Van Orden
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 11

Summary: Amendment #128.
Offered By: Representative Jill Tokuda of Hawaii.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 12

Summary: Amendment #88.
Offered By: Representative Shomari Figures of Alabama.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 13

Summary: Amendment #43.
Offered By: Representative Josh Riley of New York.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 26 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Van Orden
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 14

Summary: Amendment #117.

Offered By: Representative Shri Thanedar of Michigan.

Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 15

Summary: Amendment #26.
Offered By: Representative Jahana Hayes of Connecticut.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 16

Summary: Amendment #22.
Offered By: Representative David Scott of Georgia.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 17

Summary: Amendment #38.
Offered By: Representative Mark Harris of North Carolina.
Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 26 yeas, 25 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NAYS

1. Mr. Newhouse
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 18

Summary: Amendment #91.
Offered By: Representative Alma Adams of North Carolina.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 19

Summary: Amendment #35.
Offered By: Representative Andrea Salinas of Oregon.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 23 yeas, 27 nays, and 3 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Vasquez
14. Mr. Thanedar
15. Mr. Gray
16. Ms. McDonald Rivet
17. Mr. Figures
18. Mr. Vindman
19. Mr. Riley
20. Mr. Mannion
21. Mrs. McClain Delaney
22. Ms. Pingree
23. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Sorensen
3. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 20

Summary: Amendment #51.
Offered By: Representative Chellie Pingree of Maine.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 22 yeas, 28 nays, and 3 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Vasquez
14. Mr. Thanedar
15. Ms. McDonald Rivet
16. Mr. Figures
17. Mr. Vindman
18. Mr. Riley
19. Mr. Mannion
20. Mrs. McClain Delaney
21. Ms. Pingree
22. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor
28. Mr. Gray

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Sorensen
3. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 21

Summary: Amendment #27.

Offered By: Representative Jahana Hayes of Connecticut.

Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 22

Summary: Amendment #135.
Offered By: Representative Jonathan Jackson of Illinois.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 23

Summary: Amendment #68.
Offered By: Representative Sharice Davids of Kansas.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 24

Summary: Second Degree Amendment to Amendment #119.
Offered By: Representative Tracey Mann of Kansas.
Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 yeas, 22 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bost
9. Mr. Johnson
10. Mr. Mann
11. Mr. Feenstra
12. Mrs. Miller
13. Mr. Moore
14. Mrs. Cammack
15. Mr. Finstad
16. Mr. Rose
17. Mr. Jackson of Texas
18. Ms. De La Cruz
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Newhouse
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor
27. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
28. Mr. Vindman
29. Mrs. McClain Delaney

NAYS

1. Mr. Bacon
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Riley
20. Mr. Mannion
21. Ms. Pingree
22. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 25

Summary: Amendment #119, as amended by the Second Degree Amendment.

Offered By: Representative Shri Thanedar of Michigan.

Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 51 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor
28. Ms. Craig
29. Mr. David Scott
30. Mr. Costa
31. Mr. McGovern
32. Ms. Adams
33. Mrs. Hayes
34. Ms. Brown
35. Ms. Davids of Kansas
36. Ms. Salinas
37. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
38. Ms. Tokuda
39. Ms. Budzinski
40. Mr. Sorensen
41. Mr. Vasquez
42. Mr. Thanedar
43. Mr. Gray
44. Ms. McDonald Rivet
45. Mr. Figures
46. Mr. Vindman
47. Mr. Riley
48. Mr. Mannion
49. Mrs. McClain Delaney
50. Ms. Pingree
51. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 26

Summary: Amendment #146.
Offered By: Representative Angie Craig of Minnesota.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 27

Summary: Amendment #36.
Offered By: Representative Mark Harris of North Carolina.
Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 27 yeas, 24 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NAYS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 28

Summary: Amendment #108.
Offered By: Representative Jill Tokuda of Hawaii.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 29

Summary: Amendment #86.

Offered By: Representative April McClain Delaney of Maryland.

Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 25 yeas, 26 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Bacon
2. Ms. Craig
3. Mr. David Scott
4. Mr. Costa
5. Mr. McGovern
6. Ms. Adams
7. Mrs. Hayes
8. Ms. Brown
9. Ms. Davids of Kansas
10. Ms. Salinas
11. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
12. Ms. Tokuda
13. Ms. Budzinski
14. Mr. Sorensen
15. Mr. Vasquez
16. Mr. Thanedar
17. Mr. Gray
18. Ms. McDonald Rivet
19. Mr. Figures
20. Mr. Vindman
21. Mr. Riley
22. Mr. Mannion
23. Mrs. McClain Delaney
24. Ms. Pingree
25. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bost
9. Mr. Johnson
10. Mr. Mann
11. Mr. Feenstra
12. Mrs. Miller
13. Mr. Moore
14. Mrs. Cammack
15. Mr. Finstad
16. Mr. Rose
17. Mr. Jackson of Texas
18. Ms. De La Cruz
19. Mr. Nunn
20. Mr. Van Orden
21. Mr. Newhouse
22. Mr. Wied
23. Mr. Bresnahan
24. Mr. Messmer
25. Mr. Harris
26. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 30

Summary: Amendment #105.
Offered By: Representative Eugene Vindman of Virginia.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 31

Summary: Amendment #118.
Offered By: Representative Shri Thanedar of Michigan.
Results: Failed by a recorded vote of 24 yeas, 27 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. Costa
4. Mr. McGovern
5. Ms. Adams
6. Mrs. Hayes
7. Ms. Brown
8. Ms. Davids of Kansas
9. Ms. Salinas
10. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
11. Ms. Tokuda
12. Ms. Budzinski
13. Mr. Sorensen
14. Mr. Vasquez
15. Mr. Thanedar
16. Mr. Gray
17. Ms. McDonald Rivet
18. Mr. Figures
19. Mr. Vindman
20. Mr. Riley
21. Mr. Mannion
22. Mrs. McClain Delaney
23. Ms. Pingree
24. Mr. Carbajal

NAYS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

Roll Call No. 32

Summary: Motion to report H.R. 7567, as amended, favorably to the House with the recommendation that it pass.
Offered By: Representative Austin Scott of Georgia.
Results: Adopted by a recorded vote of 34 yeas, 17 nays, and 2 not voting.

YEAS

1. Mr. Thompson
2. Mr. Lucas
3. Mr. Austin Scott
4. Mr. Crawford
5. Mr. DesJarlais
6. Mr. Rouzer
7. Mr. Kelly
8. Mr. Bacon
9. Mr. Bost
10. Mr. Johnson
11. Mr. Mann
12. Mr. Feenstra
13. Mrs. Miller
14. Mr. Moore
15. Mrs. Cammack
16. Mr. Finstad
17. Mr. Rose
18. Mr. Jackson of Texas
19. Ms. De La Cruz
20. Mr. Nunn
21. Mr. Van Orden
22. Mr. Newhouse
23. Mr. Wied
24. Mr. Bresnahan
25. Mr. Messmer
26. Mr. Harris
27. Mr. Taylor
28. Mr. Costa
29. Ms. Davids of Kansas
30. Mr. Davis of North Carolina
31. Mr. Vasquez
32. Mr. Gray
33. Ms. McDonald Rivet
34. Mr. Riley

NAYS

1. Ms. Craig
2. Mr. David Scott
3. Mr. McGovern
4. Ms. Adams
5. Mrs. Hayes
6. Ms. Brown
7. Ms. Salinas
8. Ms. Tokuda
9. Ms. Budzinski
10. Mr. Sorensen
11. Mr. Thanedar
12. Mr. Figures
13. Mr. Vindman
14. Mr. Mannion
15. Mrs. McClain Delaney
16. Ms. Pingree
17. Mr. Carbajal

NOT VOTING

1. Mr. Baird
2. Mr. Jackson of Illinois

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office an estimate. However, pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, once an estimate has been prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, as required by sections 308 and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1973, the Committee will adopt as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of House rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 7567 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House Representatives.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(4) of Rule XIII, the performance goals and objectives of H.R. 7567 are to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and of other purposes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1004(b), H.R. 7567 establishes an Independent Advisory Board for the purpose of assisting in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans process in section 4308. H.R. 7567 also creates an Aquaculture Advisory Committee in section 7507 to advise the USDA on aquaculture matters. H.R. 7567 further requires the establishment of a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee under section 11001.

The functions of the proposed Advisory Committees cannot be performed by agency or advisory committees already in existence.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

FEDERAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office an estimate of the Federal and intergovernmental mandates pursuant to section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The Committee will adopt the estimate once it has been prepared by the Director.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111—139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Pursuant to section 423(e) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, H.R. 7567 establishes the Farm Credit Administration, in section 5504, as the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System with respect to activities subject to the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended by H.R. 7567.

H.R. 7567 also clarifies the original congressional intent and prior interpretation that section 24(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) shall be applied to require nationwide uniformity in pesticide labeling and prohibits states or other authorities from penalizing entities for failing to label pesticides in a manner different from the label approved by the Administrator under such Act, in section 10205. H.R. 7567 further amends section 24 of FIFRA by prohibiting political subdivisions of a state from imposing requirements relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide subject to regulation by a State or the Administrator of the EPA under FIFRA, in section 10206.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Act of 2014".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

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TITLE I—COMMODITIES

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Subtitle C—Sugar

Sec. 1301. Sugar policy.
Sec. 1302. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.

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Subtitle E—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

Sec. 1501. Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.
Sec. 1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.

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TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

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Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Provisions

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Sec. 8302. Forest service participation in [ACES] *experienced services* program.

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TITLE I—COMMODITIES

Subtitle A—Repeals and Reforms

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PART II—COMMODITY POLICY

* * * * * * *

SEC. 1115. PRODUCER ELECTION.

(a) ELECTION REQUIRED.—For the 2014 through 2018 crop years (except as provided in subsection (g)) and for the 2019 through 2031 crop years (subject to subsection (h)), all of the producers on a farm shall make a 1-time, irrevocable election to obtain—

(1) price loss coverage under section 1116 on a covered commodity-by-covered-commodity basis; or

(2) agriculture risk coverage under section 1117.

(b) COVERAGE OPTIONS.—In the election under subsection (a) or (h), as applicable, the producers on a farm that elect to obtain agriculture risk coverage shall unanimously select whether to receive agriculture risk coverage payments based on—

(1) county coverage applicable on a covered commodity-by-covered-commodity basis; or

(2) individual coverage applicable to all of the covered commodities on the farm.

(c) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO MAKE UNANIMOUS ELECTION.—If all the producers on a farm fail to make a unanimous election under subsection (a) for the 2014 crop year, the 2019 crop year, or the 2026 crop year, as applicable—

(1) the Secretary shall not make any payments with respect to the farm for the 2014 crop year, the 2019 crop year, or the 2026 crop year, as applicable, under section 1116 or 1117; and

(2) subject to subsection (h), the producers on the farm shall be deemed to have elected, as applicable—

(A) price loss coverage for all covered commodities on the farm for the 2015 through 2018 crop years;

(B) the same coverage for each covered commodity on the farm for the 2020 through 2023 crop years as was applicable for the 2015 through 2018 crop years; and

(C) the same coverage for each covered commodity on the farm for the 2027 through 2031 crop years as was applicable for the 2025 crop year.

(d) EFFECT OF SELECTION OF COUNTY COVERAGE.—If all the producers on a farm select county coverage for a covered commodity under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may not make price loss coverage payments under section 1116 to the producers on the farm with respect to that covered commodity.

(e) EFFECT OF SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE.—If all the producers on a farm select individual coverage under subsection (b)(2), in addition to the selection and election under this section applying to each producer on the farm, the Secretary shall consider, for purposes of making the calculations required by subsections (b)(2) and (c)(3) of section 1117, the producer's share of all farms in the same State—

(1) in which the producer has an interest; and

(2) for which individual coverage has been selected.

(f) PROHIBITION ON RECONSTITUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that producers on a farm do not reconstitute the farm to void or change an election or selection made under this section.

(g) SPECIAL ELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of acres allocated to seed cotton on a farm, for the 2018 crop year, all of the producers on the farm shall be given the opportunity to make a new 1-time election under subsection (a) to reflect the designation of seed cotton as a covered commodity for that crop year under section 1111(6)(B).

(2) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO MAKE UNANIMOUS ELECTION.—If all the producers on a farm fail to make a unanimous election under paragraph (1), the producers on the farm shall be deemed to have elected price loss coverage under section 1116 for acres allocated on the farm to seed cotton.

(h) OPTION TO CHANGE ELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 2021 crop year and each crop year thereafter, all of the producers on a farm may change the election under subsection (a), subsection (c), or this subsection, as applicable, to price loss coverage or agriculture risk coverage, as applicable.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—An election change under paragraph (1) shall apply to—

(A) the crop year for which the election change is made; and

(B) each crop year thereafter until another election change is made under that paragraph.

(i) HIGHER OF PRICE LOSS COVERAGE PAYMENTS AND AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE PAYMENTS.—For the 2025 crop year, the Secretary shall, on a covered commodity-by-covered commodity basis, make the higher of price loss coverage payments under section 1116 and agriculture risk coverage county coverage payments under section 1117 to the producers on a farm for the payment acres for each covered commodity on the farm.

(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop year under—

(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

(2) agriculture risk coverage under section 1117.

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Subtitle B—Marketing Loans

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SEC. 1204. REPAYMENT OF LOANS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall permit the producers on a farm to repay a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 for a loan commodity (other than upland cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, extra long staple cotton, peanuts and confectionery and each other kind of sunflower seed (other than oil sunflower seed)) at a rate that is the lesser of—

(1) the loan rate established for the commodity under section 1202, plus interest (determined in accordance with section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283));

(2) a rate (as determined by the Secretary) that—

(A) is calculated based on average market prices for the loan commodity during the preceding 30-day period; and

(B) will minimize discrepancies in marketing loan benefits across State boundaries and across county boundaries; or

(3) a rate that the Secretary may develop using alternative methods for calculating a repayment rate for a loan commodity that the Secretary determines will—

(A) minimize potential loan forfeitures;

(B) minimize the accumulation of stocks of the commodity by the Federal Government;

(C) minimize the cost incurred by the Federal Government in storing the commodity;

(D) allow the commodity produced in the United States to be marketed freely and competitively, both domestically and internationally; and

(E) minimize discrepancies in marketing loan benefits across State boundaries and across county boundaries.

(b) REPAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON, LONG GRAIN RICE, AND MEDIUM GRAIN RICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall permit producers to repay a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 for upland cotton, long grain rice, and medium grain rice at a rate that is the lesser of—

(A) the loan rate established for the commodity under section 1202, plus interest (determined in accordance with section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283)); or

(B)(i) in the case of long grain rice and medium grain rice, the prevailing world market price for the commodity, as determined and adjusted by the Secretary in accordance with this section; or

(ii) in the case of upland cotton, the prevailing world market price for the commodity, as determined and adjusted by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(2) REFUND FOR UPLAND COTTON.—In the case of a repayment for a marketing assistance loan for upland cotton at a rate described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), the Secretary shall provide to the producer a refund (if any) in an amount equal to

the difference between the lowest prevailing world market price, as determined and adjusted by the Secretary in accordance with this section, during the 30-day period following the date on which the producer repays the marketing assistance loan and the repayment rate.

(c) REPAYMENT RATES FOR EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON.—Repayment of a marketing assistance loan for extra long staple cotton shall be at a rate that is the lesser of—

(1) the loan rate established for the commodity under section 1202, plus interest (determined in accordance with section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283)); and

(2) the prevailing world market price for the commodity, as determined and adjusted by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(d) PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section and section 1207, the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation—

(A) a formula to determine the prevailing world market price for each of upland cotton, long grain rice, medium grain rice, and extra long staple cotton; and

(B) a mechanism by which the Secretary shall announce periodically those prevailing world market prices.

(2) UPLAND COTTON.—In the case of upland cotton, for any period when price quotations for Middling (M) 1$\frac{3}{32}$-inch cotton are available, the formula under paragraph (1)(A) shall be based on the average of the 3 lowest-priced growths that are quoted.

(e) ADJUSTMENT OF PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON, EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON, LONG GRAIN RICE, AND MEDIUM GRAIN RICE.—

(1) RICE.—The prevailing world market price for long grain rice and medium grain rice determined under subsection (d) shall be adjusted to United States quality and location.

(2) UPLAND COTTON.—The prevailing world market price for upland cotton determined under subsection (d)—

(A) shall be adjusted to United States quality and location, with the adjustment to include—

(i) a reduction equal to any United States Premium Factor for upland cotton of a quality higher than Middling (M) 1$\frac{3}{32}$-inch; and

(ii) the average costs to market the commodity, including average transportation costs, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) may be further adjusted, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on July 31, 2032, if the Secretary determines the adjustment is necessary—

(i) to minimize potential loan forfeitures;

(ii) to minimize the accumulation of stocks of upland cotton by the Federal Government;

(iii) to ensure that upland cotton produced in the United States can be marketed freely and competitively, both domestically and internationally; and

(iv) to ensure an appropriate transition between current-crop and forward-crop price quotations, except that the Secretary may use forward-crop price quotations prior to July 31 of a marketing year only if—

(I) there are insufficient current-crop price quotations; and

(II) the forward-crop price quotation is the lowest such quotation available.

(3) EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON.—The prevailing world market price for extra long staple cotton determined under subsection (d)—

(A) shall be adjusted to United States quality and location, with the adjustment to include the average costs to market the commodity, including average transportation costs, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) may be further adjusted, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14" (119th Congress) and ending on July 31, 2032, if the Secretary determines the adjustment is necessary—

(i) to minimize potential loan forfeitures;

(ii) to minimize the accumulation of stocks of extra long staple cotton by the Federal Government;

(iii) to ensure that extra long staple cotton produced in the United States can be marketed freely and competitively; and

(iv) to ensure an appropriate transition between current-crop and forward-crop price quotations, except that the Secretary may use forward-crop price quotations prior to July 31 of a marketing year only if—

(I) there are insufficient current-crop price quotations; and

(II) the forward-crop price quotation is the lowest such quotation available.

(4) GUIDELINES FOR ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS.—In making adjustments under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a mechanism for determining and announcing the adjustments in order to avoid undue disruption in the United States market.

(f) REPAYMENT RATES FOR CONFECTIONERY AND OTHER KINDS OF SUNFLOWER SEEDS.—The Secretary shall permit the producers on a farm to repay a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 for confectionery and each other kind of sunflower seed (other than oil sunflower seed) at a rate that is the lesser of—

(1) the loan rate established for the commodity under section 1202, plus interest (determined in accordance with section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283)); or

(2) the repayment rate established for oil sunflower seed.

(g) PAYMENT OF COTTON STORAGE COSTS.—

(1) CROP YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2025.—Effective for each of the 2014 through 2025 crop years, the Secretary shall make cotton storage payments available in the same manner, and at the

same rates as the Secretary provided storage payments for the 2006 crop of cotton, except that the rates shall be reduced by 10 percent.

(2) PAYMENT OF COTTON STORAGE COSTS.—Effective for each of the 2026 through 2031 crop years, the Secretary shall make cotton storage payments for upland cotton and extra long staple cotton available in the same manner as the Secretary provided storage payments for the 2006 crop of upland cotton, except that the payment rate shall be equal to the lesser of—

(A) the submitted storage charge for the current marketing year; and

(B) in the case of storage in—

(i) California or Arizona, a payment rate of $4.90; and

(ii) any other State, a payment rate of $3.00.

(h) REPAYMENT RATE FOR PEANUTS.—The Secretary shall permit producers on a farm to repay a marketing assistance loan for peanuts under section 1201 at a rate that is the lesser of—

(1) the loan rate established for peanuts under subsection (a)(20) or (b)(20), as applicable, of section 1202, plus interest (determined in accordance with section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283)); or

(2) a rate that the Secretary determines will—

(A) minimize potential loan forfeitures;

(B) minimize the accumulation of stocks of peanuts by the Federal Government;

(C) minimize the cost incurred by the Federal Government in storing peanuts; and

(D) allow peanuts produced in the United States to be marketed freely and competitively, both domestically and internationally.

(i) AUTHORITY TO TEMPORARILY ADJUST REPAYMENT RATES.—

(1) ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.—In the event of a severe disruption to marketing, transportation, or related infrastructure, the Secretary may modify the repayment rate otherwise applicable under this section for marketing assistance loans under section 1201 for a loan commodity.

(2) DURATION.—Any adjustment made under paragraph (1) in the repayment rate for marketing assistance loans for a loan commodity shall be in effect on a short-term and temporary basis, as determined by the Secretary.

(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.

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Subtitle C—Sugar

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SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal policy that would impact the administration of the programs described in this subtitle or any rule, policy, or guidance issued pursuant to such programs, the preservation and strengthening of the domestic production described in subsection (b) shall be a priority objective of the President.

(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The domestic production described in this subsection is the production of an agricultural commodity—

(1) described in this subtitle; and

(2) from which a food ingredient that serves an important function throughout the domestic food production supply chain is derived.

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Subtitle E—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

SEC. 1501. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term "covered producer" means an eligible producer on a farm that is—

(A) as determined by the Secretary—

(i) a beginning farmer or rancher;

(ii) a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher; or

(iii) a limited resource farmer or rancher; or

(B) a veteran farmer or rancher, as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)).

(2) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER ON A FARM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "eligible producer on a farm" means an individual or entity described in subparagraph (B) that, as determined by the Secretary, assumes the production and market risks associated with the agricultural production of crops or livestock.

(B) DESCRIPTION.—An individual or entity referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

(i) a citizen of the United States;

(ii) a resident alien;

(iii) an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(iv) a partnership of citizens of the United States; or

(v) a corporation, limited liability corporation, or other farm organizational structure organized under State law.

(3) FARM-RAISED FISH.—The term "farm-raised fish" means any aquatic species that is propagated and reared in a controlled environment.

(4) LIVESTOCK.—The term "livestock" includes—

(A) cattle (including dairy cattle);

(B) bison;
(C) poultry;
(D) sheep;
(E) swine;
(F) horses; and
(G) other livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.—

(1) PAYMENTS.—For fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make livestock indemnity payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred livestock death losses in excess of the normal mortality, sold livestock for a reduced sale price, or both as determined by the Secretary, due to—

(A) attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government or protected by Federal law, including wolves and avian predators;

(B) adverse weather, as determined by the Secretary, during the calendar year, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold, on the condition that in the case of the death loss of unweaned livestock due to that adverse weather, the Secretary may disregard any management practice, vaccination protocol, or lack of vaccination by the eligible producer on a farm; or

(C) disease that, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) is caused or transmitted by a vector; and

(ii) is not susceptible to control by vaccination or acceptable management practices.

(2) PAYMENT RATES.—

(A) LOSSES DUE TO PREDATION.—Indemnity payments to an eligible producer on a farm under paragraph (1)(A) shall be made at a rate of 100 percent of the market value of the affected livestock on the applicable date, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) LOSSES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER OR DISEASE.—Indemnity payments to an eligible producer on a farm under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) shall be made at a rate of 75 percent of the market value of the affected livestock on the applicable date, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) DETERMINATION OF MARKET VALUE.—In determining the market value described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary may consider the ability of eligible producers to document regional price premiums for affected livestock that exceed the national average market price for those livestock.

(D) APPLICABLE DATE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term "applicable date" means, with respect to livestock, as applicable—

(i) the day before the date of death of the livestock; or

(ii) the day before the date of the event that caused the harm to the livestock that resulted in a reduced sale price.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR PAYMENTS MADE DUE TO DISEASE.—The Secretary shall ensure that payments made to an eligible producer under paragraph (1) are not made for the same livestock losses for which compensation is provided pursuant to section 10407(d) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8306(d)).

(4) PAYMENT REDUCTIONS.—A payment made under paragraph (1) to an eligible producer on a farm that sold livestock for a reduced sale price shall—

(A) be made if the sale occurs within a reasonable period following the event, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) be reduced by the amount that the producer received for the sale.

(5) ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR UNBORN LIVESTOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of unborn livestock death losses incurred on or after January 1, 2024, the Secretary shall make an additional payment to eligible producers on farms that have incurred such losses in excess of the normal mortality due to a condition specified in paragraph (1).

(B) PAYMENT RATE.—Additional payments under subparagraph (A) shall be made at a rate—

(i) determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) less than or equal to 85 percent of the payment rate established with respect to the lowest weight class of the livestock, as determined by the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency.

(C) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of a payment to an eligible producer that has incurred unborn livestock death losses shall be equal to the payment rate determined under subparagraph (B) multiplied, in the case of livestock described in—

(i) subparagraph (A), (B), or (F) of subsection (a)(4), by 1;

(ii) subparagraph (D) of such subsection, by 2;

(iii) subparagraph (E) of such subsection, by 12; and

(iv) subparagraph (G) of such subsection, by the average number of birthed animals (for one gestation cycle) for the species of each such livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(D) UNBORN LIVESTOCK DEATH LOSSES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term "unborn livestock death losses" means losses of any livestock described in subparagraph (A), (B), (D), (E), (F), or (G) of subsection (a)(4) that was gestating on the date of the death of the livestock.

(c) LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term "covered livestock" means livestock of an eligible livestock producer that, during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire

condition, as determined by the Secretary, the eligible livestock producer—

(I) owned;

(II) leased;

(III) purchased;

(IV) entered into a contract to purchase;

(V) is a contract grower; or

(VI) sold or otherwise disposed of due to qualifying drought conditions during—

(aa) the current production year; or

(bb) subject to paragraph (3)(B)(ii), 1 or both of the 2 production years immediately preceding the current production year.

(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term "covered livestock" does not include livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot, on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire condition, as a part of the normal business operation of the eligible livestock producer, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) DROUGHT MONITOR.—The term "drought monitor" means a system for classifying drought severity according to a range of abnormally dry to exceptional drought, as defined by the Secretary.

(C) ELIGIBLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term "eligible livestock producer" means an eligible producer on a farm that—

(I) is an owner, cash or share lessee, or contract grower of covered livestock that provides the pastureland or grazing land, including cash-leased pastureland or grazing land, for the livestock;

(II) provides the pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-leased pastureland or grazing land that is physically located in a county affected by drought;

(III) certifies grazing loss; and

(IV) meets all other eligibility requirements established under this subsection.

(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term "eligible livestock producer" does not include an owner, cash or share lessee, or contract grower of livestock that rents or leases pastureland or grazing land owned by another person on a rate-of-gain basis.

(D) NORMAL CARRYING CAPACITY.—The term "normal carrying capacity", with respect to each type of grazing land or pastureland in a county, means the normal carrying capacity, as determined under paragraph (3)(D)(i), that would be expected from the grazing land or pastureland for livestock during the normal grazing period, in the absence of a drought or fire that diminishes the production of the grazing land or pastureland.

(E) NORMAL GRAZING PERIOD.—The term "normal grazing period", with respect to a county, means the normal grazing period during the calendar year for the county, as determined under paragraph (3)(D)(i).

(2) PROGRAM.—For fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide compensation for losses to eligible livestock producers due to grazing losses for covered livestock due to—

(A) a drought condition, as described in paragraph (3); or

(B) fire, as described in paragraph (4).

(3) ASSISTANCE FOR LOSSES DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS.—

(A) ELIGIBLE LOSSES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible livestock producer may receive assistance under this subsection only for grazing losses for covered livestock that occur on land that—

(I) is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover; or

(II) is planted to a crop planted specifically for the purpose of providing grazing for covered livestock.

(ii) EXCLUSIONS.—An eligible livestock producer may not receive assistance under this subsection for grazing losses that occur on land used for haying or grazing under the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).

(B) MONTHLY PAYMENT RATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the payment rate for assistance under this paragraph for 1 month shall, in the case of drought, be equal to 60 percent of the lesser of—

(I) the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible livestock producer, as determined under subparagraph (C); or

(II) the monthly feed cost calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer.

(ii) PARTIAL COMPENSATION.—In the case of an eligible livestock producer that sold or otherwise disposed of covered livestock due to drought conditions in 1 or both of the 2 production years immediately preceding the current production year, as determined by the Secretary, the payment rate shall be 80 percent of the payment rate otherwise calculated in accordance with clause (i).

(C) MONTHLY FEED COST.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The monthly feed cost shall equal the product obtained by multiplying—

(I) 30 days;

(II) a payment quantity that is equal to the feed grain equivalent, as determined under clause (ii); and

(III) a payment rate that is equal to the corn price per pound, as determined under clause (iii).

(ii) FEED GRAIN EQUIVALENT.—For purposes of clause (i)(II), the feed grain equivalent shall equal—

(I) in the case of an adult beef cow, 15.7 pounds of corn per day; or

(II) in the case of any other type of weight of livestock, an amount determined by the Secretary that represents the average number of pounds of corn per day necessary to feed the livestock.

(iii) CORN PRICE PER POUND.—For purposes of clause (i)(III), the corn price per pound shall equal the quotient obtained by dividing—

(I) the higher of—

(aa) the national average corn price per bushel for the 12-month period immediately preceding March 1 of the year for which the disaster assistance is calculated; or

(bb) the national average corn price per bushel for the 24-month period immediately preceding that March 1; by

(II) 56.

(D) NORMAL GRAZING PERIOD AND DROUGHT MONITOR INTENSITY.—

(i) FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the normal carrying capacity and normal grazing period for each type of grazing land or pastureland in the county served by the applicable committee.

(II) CHANGES.—No change to the normal carrying capacity or normal grazing period established for a county under subclause (I) shall be made unless the change is requested by the appropriate State and county Farm Service Agency committees.

(ii) DROUGHT INTENSITY.—

(I) D2.—An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland that is physically located in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity in any area of the county for not less than—

(aa) 4 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B); or

(bb) 7 of the previous 8 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph in an amount equal to 2 monthly payments using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B).

(II) D3.—An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland that is

physically located in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having at least a D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period for the county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph—

(aa) in an amount equal to 3 monthly payments using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B);

(bb) if the county is rated as having a D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period for the county, or is rated as having a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period, in an amount equal to 4 monthly payments using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B); or

(cc) if the county is rated as having a D4 (exceptional drought) intensity in any area of the county for at least 4 weeks during the normal grazing period, in an amount equal to 5 monthly payments using the monthly rate determined under subparagraph (B).

(4) ASSISTANCE FOR LOSSES DUE TO FIRE ON PUBLIC MANAGED LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible livestock producer may receive assistance under this paragraph only if—

(i) the grazing losses occur on rangeland that is managed by a Federal agency; and

(ii) the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a fire.

(B) PAYMENT RATE.—The payment rate for assistance under this paragraph shall be equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the total number of livestock covered by the Federal lease of the eligible livestock producer, as determined under paragraph (3)(C).

(C) PAYMENT DURATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), an eligible livestock producer shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph for the period—

(I) beginning on the date on which the Federal agency excludes the eligible livestock producer from using the managed rangeland for grazing; and

(II) ending on the last day of the Federal lease of the eligible livestock producer.

(ii) LIMITATION.—An eligible livestock producer may only receive assistance under this paragraph for losses that occur on not more than 180 days per year.

(5) NO DUPLICATIVE PAYMENTS.—An eligible livestock producer may elect to receive assistance for grazing or pasture

feed losses due to drought conditions under paragraph (3) or fire under paragraph (4), but not both for the same loss, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall use the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, that are not covered under subsection (b) or (c).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to reduce losses caused by feed or water shortages, disease, or other factors as determined by the Secretary, including inspections of cattle tick fever.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds made available under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

(4) PAYMENT RATE FOR COVERED PRODUCERS.—In the case of a covered producer that is eligible to receive assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(5) ASSISTANCE FOR LOSSES DUE TO BIRD DEPREDATION.—

(A) DEFINITION OF FARM-RAISED FISH.—In this paragraph, the term "farm-raised fish" means fish propagated and reared in a controlled fresh water environment.

(B) PAYMENTS.—Eligible producers of farm-raised fish, including fish grown as food for human consumption, shall be eligible to receive payments under this subsection to aid in the reduction of losses due to piscivorous birds.

(C) PAYMENT RATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The payment rate for payments under subparagraph (B) shall be determined by the Secretary, taking into account—

(I) costs associated with the deterrence of piscivorous birds;

(II) the value of lost fish and revenue due to bird depredation; and

(III) costs associated with disease loss from bird depredation.

(ii) MINIMUM RATE.—The payment rate for payments under subparagraph (B) shall be not less than $600 per acre of farm-raised fish.

(D) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of a payment under subparagraph (B) shall be the product obtained by multiplying—

(i) the applicable payment rate under subparagraph (C); and

(ii) 85 percent of the total number of acres of farm-raised fish farms that the eligible producer has in production for the calendar year.

(e) TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ORCHARDIST.—The term "eligible orchardist" means a person that produces annual *or biennial* crops from trees for commercial purposes.

(B) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term "natural disaster" means plant disease, insect *or pest* infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, earthquake, lightning, or other occurrence, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) NURSERY TREE GROWER.—The term "nursery tree grower" means a person who produces nursery, ornamental, fruit, nut, or Christmas trees for commercial sale, as determined by the Secretary.

(D) TREE.—The term "tree" includes a tree, bush, and vine.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) LOSS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), for fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation [to provide assistance—] *to provide assistance under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no longer produce an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary.*

[(i) under paragraph (3) to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary; and

[(ii) under paragraph (3)(B) to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers that have a production history for commercial purposes on planted or existing trees but lost the trees as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary.]

(B) LIMITATION.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall qualify for assistance under subparagraph (A) only if the tree mortality of the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower, as a result of damaging weather or related condition, exceeds normal mortality.

(3) ASSISTANCE.—Subject to paragraphs (4) [and (5)]*, (5), (6), and (7)*, the assistance provided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for losses described in paragraph (2) shall consist of—

(A)(i) reimbursement of 65 percent of the cost of replanting trees lost due to a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, in excess of normal mortality; or

(ii) at the option of the Secretary, sufficient seedlings to reestablish a stand; and

(B) reimbursement of 65 percent of the cost of pruning, removal, and other costs incurred by an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower to salvage existing trees or, in the case of tree mortality, to prepare the land to replant trees as a result of damage or tree mortality due to a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, in excess of normal tree damage or mortality.

(4) LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE.—

(A) DEFINITIONS OF LEGAL ENTITY AND PERSON.—In this paragraph, the terms "legal entity" and "person" have the meaning given those terms in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)).

(B) ACRES.—The total quantity of acres planted to trees or tree seedlings for which a person or legal entity shall be entitled to receive payments under this subsection may not exceed 1,000 acres.

(5) PAYMENT RATE FOR BEGINNING AND VETERAN PRODUCERS.—Subject to paragraph (4), in the case of a beginning farmer or rancher or a veteran farmer or rancher (as those terms are defined in subsection (a) of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279)) that is eligible to receive assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide reimbursement of 75 percent of the costs under subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B) of paragraph (3).

(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a condition on receipt of assistance under this subsection, to carry out any replacement and rehabilitation activities for which such assistance is provided not later than—

(A) 2 years after the application for such assistance is approved; or

(B) if the period specified in subparagraph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at such time as is necessary to ensure tree survival.

(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower receiving assistance under this subsection with respect to tree loss may use such assistance to replant using—

(i) an alternative variety from the variety used prior to the loss;

(ii) an alternative stand density from the stand density used prior to the loss; and

(iii) an alternative location than was used prior to the loss.

(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance provided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers—

(i) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(i), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the variety lost;

(ii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the stand density lost; and

(iii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(iii), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the location in which the loss occurred.

(8) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving an application for assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) approve or deny such application; and

(B) notify the applicant of such approval or denial.

(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) before incurring the costs described in paragraph (3) relating to such losses.

(B) AMOUNT.—An initial assistance payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs described in paragraph (3) that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), as determined by the Secretary.

(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower that opts to receive an initial payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after providing such initial payment, provide a subsequent payment to the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower in an amount equal to—

(I) the payment amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received with respect to such losses under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

(II) the initial payment amount provided to such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower under subparagraph (B) with respect to such losses.

(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial payment under subparagraph (B) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) is greater than the amount an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall repay the Secretary the excess amount.

(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make payments under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2035.

(f) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS OF LEGAL ENTITY AND PERSON.—In this subsection, the terms "legal entity" and "person" have the meaning given those terms in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)).

(2) AMOUNT.—The total amount of disaster assistance payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (excluding a joint venture or general partnership) under subsection (c) may not exceed $125,000 for any crop year.

(3) DIRECT ATTRIBUTION.—Subsections (e) and (f) of section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308) or any successor provisions relating to direct attribution shall apply with respect to assistance provided under this section.

SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional funds made available after the date of the enactment of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such losses available in the form of block grants.

(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term "covered losses" means losses—

(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops, trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a consequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary); and

(2) for which assistance is not available pursuant to any other Federal law.

Subtitle F—Administration

SEC. 1601. ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY.

(a) USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—The Secretary shall use the funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this title.

(b) DETERMINATIONS BY SECRETARY.—A determination made by the Secretary under this title shall be final and conclusive.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Commodity Credit Corporation, as appropriate, shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this title and the amendments made by this title.

(2) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the regulations and administration of this title and the amendments made by ❲this title, sections 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act❳ *a covered provision of law* shall be made without regard to—

(A) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act").

(3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "covered provision of law" means—

(A) this title and sections 11003 and 11017;

(B) title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act; and

(C) title I of the Farm Food and National Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made by that title.

(d) ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY RELATED TO TRADE AGREEMENTS COMPLIANCE.—

(1) REQUIRED DETERMINATION; ADJUSTMENT.—If the Secretary determines that expenditures under this title that are

subject to the total allowable domestic support levels under the Uruguay Round Agreements (as defined in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501)) will exceed such allowable levels for any applicable reporting period, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make adjustments in the amount of such expenditures during that period to ensure that such expenditures do not exceed the allowable levels.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Before making any adjustment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the determination made under that paragraph and the extent of the adjustment to be made.

SEC. 1602. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITY.

(a) AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1938.—The following provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 shall not be applicable to the 2014 through [2023] *2031* crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111), cotton, and sugar and shall not be applicable to milk during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act through December 31, [2023] *2031*:

(1) Parts II through V of subtitle B of title III (7 U.S.C. 1326 et seq.).

(2) In the case of upland cotton, section 377 (7 U.S.C. 1377).

(3) Subtitle D of title III (7 U.S.C. 1379a et seq.).

(4) Title IV (7 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

(b) AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1949.—The following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949 shall not be applicable to the 2014 through [2023] *2031* crops of covered commodities (as defined in section 1111), cotton, and sugar and shall not be applicable to milk during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and through December 31, [2023] *2031*:

(1) Section 101 (7 U.S.C. 1441).

(2) Section 103(a) (7 U.S.C. 1444(a)).

(3) Section 105 (7 U.S.C. 1444b).

(4) Section 107 (7 U.S.C. 1445a).

(5) Section 110 (7 U.S.C. 1445e).

(6) Section 112 (7 U.S.C. 1445g).

(7) Section 115 (7 U.S.C. 1445k).

(8) Section 201 (7 U.S.C. 1446).

(9) Title III (7 U.S.C. 1447 et seq.).

(10) Title IV (7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), other than sections 404, 412, and 416 (7 U.S.C. 1424, 1429, and 1431).

(11) Title V (7 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.).

(12) Title VI (7 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.).

(c) SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN QUOTA PROVISIONS.—The joint resolution entitled "A joint resolution relating to corn and wheat marketing quotas under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended", approved May 26, 1941 (7 U.S.C. 1330 and 1340), shall not be applicable to the crops of wheat planted for harvest in the calendar years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

* * * * * * *

SEC. 1614. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) MAINTENANCE OF BASE ACRES AND PAYMENT YIELDS.—The Secretary shall maintain, for each covered commodity and upland cotton, base acres and payment yields on a farm established under sections 1001 and 1301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702, 8751), as adjusted pursuant to sections 1101, 1102, 1108, and 1302 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 8711, 8712, 8718, 8752), as in effect on September 30, 2013, and as adjusted pursuant to sections 1112 and 1113.

(b) STREAMLINING.—In implementing this title and the amendments made by this title, the Secretary shall—

(1) continue to reduce administrative burdens and costs to producers by streamlining and reducing paperwork, forms, and other administrative requirements, to ensure that—

(A) a producer (or an agent of a producer) may report information, electronically (including geospatial data) or conventionally, to the Department of Agriculture, subject to the Secretary—

(i) establishing reasonable levels of tolerance that reflect the differences in accuracy between measures of common land units and geospatial data; and

(ii) ensuring that discrepancies that occur within the levels of tolerance established under clause (i) shall not be used to penalize a producer (or an agent of a producer) under any program administered by the Department of Agriculture;

(B) on the request of a producer (or an agent of a producer), the Department of Agriculture electronically shares with the producer (or agent) in real time and without cost to the producer (or agent) the common land unit data, related farm level data, conservation practices, and other information of the producer through a single Department of Agriculture-wide login;

(C) not later than September 30, 2020, the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency and the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency shall implement a consistent method for determining crop acreage, acreage yields, farm acreage, property descriptions, and other common informational requirements, including measures of common land units;

(D) except in the case of misrepresentation, fraud, or scheme and device, no crop insurance agent, approved insurance provider, or employee or contractor of a crop insurance agency or approved insurance provider bears responsibility or liability under the Acreage Crop Reporting and Streamlining Initiative (or any successor or similar initiative) for the eligibility of a producer for a program administered by the Department of Agriculture, not including a policy or plan of insurance offered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); and

(E) on request of a crop insurance agent or approved insurance provider required to deliver policies and plans of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) the crop insurance agent or approved insurance provider receives, in a timely manner, any informa-

tion held by the Farm Service Agency that is necessary to ensure effective crop insurance coverage for farmer customers;

(2) continue to improve coordination, information sharing, and administrative work among the Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agencies, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) continue to take advantage of new technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of Department of Agriculture programs to producers, including by developing and making publicly available data standards and security procedures to allow third-party providers to develop applications that use or feed data (including geospatial and precision agriculture data) into the datasets and analyses of the Department of Agriculture; and

(4) reduce administrative burdens on producers participating in price loss coverage or agriculture risk coverage by offering—

(A) those producers an option to remotely and electronically sign annual contracts for that coverage; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, an option to sign a multiyear contract for that coverage.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this title $100,000,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—

(A) INITIAL DETERMINATION.—If, by September 30, 2014, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that the Farm Service Agency has made substantial progress toward implementing the requirements of subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this title $10,000,000 on October 1, 2014. The amount made available under this subparagraph is in addition to the amount made available under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION.—If, by September 30, 2015, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that the requirements of subsection (b)(1) have been fully implemented and those Committees provide written concurrence to the Secretary, the Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this title $10,000,000 on the date the written concurrence is provided or October 1, 2015, whichever is later. The amount made available under this subparagraph is in addition to the amount made available under paragraph (1) and any amount made available under subparagraph (A).

(3) PRODUCER EDUCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide $3,000,000 to State extension services for the purpose of educating farmers and ranchers on the options made available under subtitles A, D, and E of this title and under section 196 of the

Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(B) WEB-BASED DECISION AIDS.—

(i) USE OF QUALIFIED UNIVERSITIES.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use $3,000,000 to support qualified universities (or university-based organizations) that represent a diversity of regions and commodities (including dairy), possess expertise regarding the programs authorized by this Act, have a history in the development of decision aids and producer outreach initiatives regarding farm risk management programs, and are able to meet the deadline established pursuant to clause (ii) to develop web-based decision aids to assist producers in understanding available options described in subparagraph (A) and to train producers to use these decision aids.

(ii) DEADLINES.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall—

(I) obligate the funds made available under clause (i) within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(II) require the products described in clause (i) to be made available to producers on the internet within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary, after the implementation of the first rule implementing programs required under subtitle A of this title.

(4) AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018.—The Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title $15,500,000.

(5) FURTHER FUNDING.—The Secretary shall make available to carry out subtitle C of title I of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14" (119th Congress) and the amendments made by that subtitle $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(A) not less than $5,000,000 shall be used to carry out paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b);

(B) $3,000,000 shall be used for activities described in paragraph (3)(A);

(C) $3,000,000 shall be used for activities described in paragraph (3)(B);

(D) $9,000,000 shall be used—

(i) to carry out mandatory surveys of dairy production cost and product yield information to be reported by manufacturers required to report under section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b), for all products processed in the same facility or facilities; and

(ii) to publish the results of such surveys biennially; and

(E) $1,000,000 shall be used to conduct the study under subsection (d) of section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359kk).

(d) LOAN IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any crop year in which an order is issued pursuant 2 U.S.C. 901(a), the Secretary shall use such sums as necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation for such crop year to fully restore the support, loan, or assistance that is otherwise required under [subtitle B or C, under the amendments made by subtitle B or C, or under the amendments made by subtitle B or C of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, except with respect to the assistance provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208.] *a covered provision of law.*

(2) REPAYMENT.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that when a producer repays a loan at a rate equal to the loan rate plus interest in accordance with the repayment provisions [of subtitles B or C] that the repayment amount shall include the portion of the loan amount provided under paragraph (1), except that this paragraph shall not affect or reduce marketing loan gains, loan deficiency payments, or forfeiture benefits provided for [under subtitles B or C] *under the repayment provisions* and as supplemented in accordance with paragraph (1).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The term "covered provision of law" means—

(i) subtitle B or C or the amendments made by subtitle B or C;

(ii) the amendments made by subtitle B or C of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, except with respect to the assistance provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208; and

(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term "repayment provisions" means the repayment requirements under—

(i) subtitle B or C; or

(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

(e) DEOBLIGATION OF UNLIQUIDATED OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), any payment obligated or otherwise made available by the Secretary under this title on or after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 that is not disbursed to the recipient by the date that is 5 years after the date on which the payment is obligated or otherwise made available shall—

(A) be deobligated; and

(B) revert to the Treasury.

(2) OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), any payment obligated or otherwise made available by the Farm Service Agency (or any predecessor agency of the Department of Agriculture) under the laws described in subparagraph (B) before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improve-

ment Act of 2018, that is not disbursed by the date that is 5 years after the date on which the payment is obligated or otherwise made available shall—

(i) be deobligated; and

(ii) revert to the Treasury.

(B) LAWS DESCRIBED.—The laws referred to in subparagraph (A) are any of the following:

(i) This title.

(ii) Title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702 et seq.).

(iii) Title I of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.).

(iv) The Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.).

(v) Titles I through XI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 104 Stat. 3374) and the amendments made by those titles.

(vi) Titles I through X of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1362) and the amendments made by those titles.

(vii) Titles I through XI of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98; 95 Stat. 1218) and the amendments made by those titles.

(viii) Titles I through X of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–113; 91 Stat. 917) and the amendments made by those titles.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may delay the date of the deobligation and reversion under paragraph (1) or (2) of any payment—

(A) that is the subject of—

(i) ongoing administrative review or appeal;

(ii) litigation; or

(iii) the settlement of an estate; or

(B) for which the Secretary otherwise determines that the circumstances are such that the delay is equitable.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2020, and each January 1 thereafter through January 1, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the tilled native sod acreage that was subject to a reduction in benefits under section 196(a)(4)(B) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(a)(4)(B) and section 508(o)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(o)(2))—

(1) as of the date of submission of the report; and

(2) by State and county, relative to the total acres of cropland in the State or county.

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TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

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Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Board of Directors described in subsection (e).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term "Foundation" means the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research established under subsection (b).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a nonprofit corporation to be known as the "Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research".

(2) STATUS.—The Foundation shall not be an agency or instrumentality of the United States Government.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Foundation shall be—

(1) to advance the research mission of the Department by supporting agricultural research activities focused on addressing key problems of national and international significance including—

(A) plant health, production, and plant products;

(B) animal health, production, and products;

(C) food safety, nutrition, and health;

(D) renewable energy, natural resources, and the environment;

(E) agricultural and food security;

(F) agriculture systems and technology; and

(G) agriculture economics and rural communities; and

(2) to foster collaboration with agricultural researchers from the Federal Government, State (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) governments, institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), industry, and nonprofit organizations.

(d) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall—

(A) award grants to, or enter into contracts, memoranda of understanding, or cooperative agreements with, scientists and entities, which may include agricultural research agencies in the Department, university consortia, public-private partnerships, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and industry, to efficiently and effectively advance the goals and priorities of the Foundation;

(B) in consultation with the Secretary—

(i) identify existing and proposed Federal intramural and extramural research and development programs relating to the purposes of the Foundation described in subsection (c); and

(ii) coordinate Foundation activities with those programs so as to minimize duplication of existing efforts and to avoid conflicts, specifically at the Department [of Agriculture; and]*;*

[(iii) document the consultation process and include a summary of the results in the annual report required in subsection (f)(3)(B)]

(C) identify unmet and emerging agricultural research needs after reviewing [the roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension authorized by section 7504 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7614a)] *the national research policies and priorities set forth in section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101)*;

(D) facilitate technology transfer and release of information and data gathered from the activities of the Foundation to the agricultural research community and agriculture stakeholders;

(E) promote and encourage the development of the next generation of agricultural research scientists; and

(F) carry out such other activities as the Board determines to be consistent with the purposes of the Foundation.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in paragraph (1) shall be supplemental to any other activities at the Department and shall not preempt any authority or responsibility of the Department under another provision of law.

(e) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Foundation shall be governed by a Board of Directors.

(2) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be composed of appointed and ex-officio, nonvoting members.

(B) EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex-officio members of the Board shall be the following individuals or designees of such individuals:

(i) The Secretary.

(ii) The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

(iii) The Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.

(iv) The Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

(v) The Director of the National Science Foundation.

(C) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The ex-officio members of the Board (as specified in subparagraph (B)) shall, by majority vote, appoint to the Board 15 individuals, of whom—

(I) 8 shall be selected from a list of candidates to be provided by the [National Academy of Sciences] *National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board*

established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123); and

(II) 7 shall be selected from lists of candidates provided by [industry] *national farm, producer, or research organizations*.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—

(I) EXPERTISE.—The ex-officio members shall ensure that a majority of the appointed members of the Board have actual experience in agriculture or agricultural research and, to the extent practicable, represent diverse sectors of agriculture.

(II) LIMITATION.—No employee of the Federal Government may serve as an appointed member of the Board under this subparagraph.

(III) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—Appointment to the Board under this subparagraph shall not constitute Federal employment.

(iii) AUTHORITY.—All appointed members of the Board shall be voting members.

(D) CHAIR.—The Board shall, from among the members of the Board, designate an individual to serve as Chair of the Board.

(3) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the ex-officio members of the Board—

(A) to incorporate the Foundation; and

(B) to appoint the members of the Board in accordance with paragraph (2)(C)(i).

(4) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall—

(i) establish bylaws for the Foundation that, at a minimum, include—

(I) policies for the selection of future Board members, officers, employees, agents, and contractors of the Foundation;

(II) policies, including ethical standards, for—

(aa) the acceptance, solicitation, and disposition of donations and grants to the Foundation; and

(bb) the disposition of assets of the Foundation, including appropriate limits on the ability of donors to designate, by stipulation or restriction, the use or recipient of donated funds;

(III) policies that would subject all employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including members of the Board) to conflict of interest standards in the same manner as Federal employees are subject to the conflict of interest standards under section 208 of title 18, United States Code;

(IV) policies for writing, editing, printing, publishing, and vending of books and other materials;

(V) policies for the conduct of the general operations of the Foundation, including a cap on administrative expenses for recipients of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement from the Foundation; and

(VI) specific duties for the Executive Director;

(ii) prioritize and provide overall direction for the activities of the Foundation;

(iii) evaluate the performance of the Executive Director;

(iv) actively solicit and accept funds, gifts, grants, devises, or bequests of real or personal property made to the Foundation, including from private entities; and

(v) carry out any other necessary activities regarding the Foundation.

(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF BYLAWS.—In establishing bylaws under subparagraph (A)(i), the Board shall ensure that the bylaws do not—

(i) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Foundation to carry out the duties of the Foundation in a fair and objective manner; or

(ii) compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of any governmental agency or program, or any officer or employee employed by, or involved in, a governmental agency or program.

(5) TERMS AND VACANCIES.—

(A) TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of each member of the Board appointed under paragraph (2)(C) shall be 5 years, except that of the members initially appointed, 8 of the members shall each be appointed for a term of 3 years and 7 of the members shall each be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(ii) PARTIAL TERMS.—If a member of the Board does not serve the full term applicable under clause (i), the individual appointed to fill the resulting vacancy shall be appointed for the remainder of the term of the predecessor of the individual.

(iii) TRANSITION.—A member of the Board may continue to serve after the expiration of the term of the member until a successor is appointed.

(B) VACANCIES.—After the initial appointment of the members of the Board under paragraph (2)(C), any vacancy in the membership of the Board shall be filled as provided in the bylaws established under paragraph (4)(A)(i).

(6) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board may not receive compensation for service on the Board but may be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the Board.

(7) MEETINGS AND QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting the business of the Board.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall hire an Executive Director who shall carry out such duties and responsibilities as the Board may prescribe.

(B) SERVICE.—The Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Board, acting through the Executive Director, may—

(i) adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal, which shall be judicially noticed;

(ii) hire, promote, compensate, and discharge 1 or more officers, employees, and agents, as may be necessary, and define the duties of the officers, employees, and agents;

(iii) solicit and accept funds, gifts, grants, devises, or bequests of real or personal property made to the Foundation, including such support from private entities;

(iv) prescribe the manner in which—

(I) real or personal property of the Foundation is acquired, held, and transferred;

(II) general operations of the Foundation are to be conducted; and

(III) the privileges granted to the Board by law are exercised and enjoyed;

(v) with the consent of the applicable executive department or independent agency, use the information, services, and facilities of the department or agency in carrying out this section on a reimbursable basis;

(vi) enter into contracts with public and private organizations for the writing, editing, printing, and publishing of books and other material;

(vii) hold, administer, invest, and spend any funds, gifts, grant, devise, or bequest of real or personal property made to the Foundation;

(viii) enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, and other transactions as the Board considers appropriate to conduct the activities of the Foundation;

(ix) modify or consent to the modification of any contract or agreement to which the Foundation is a party or in which the Foundation has an interest;

(x) take such action as may be necessary to obtain and maintain patents for and to license inventions (as defined in section 201 of title 35, United States Code) developed by the Foundation, employees of the Foundation, or derived from the collaborative efforts of the Foundation;

(xi) sue and be sued in the corporate name of the Foundation, and complain and defend in courts of competent jurisdiction;

(xii) appoint other groups of advisors as may be determined necessary to carry out the functions of the Foundation; and

(xiii) exercise such other incidental powers as are necessary to carry out the duties and functions of the Foundation in accordance with this section.

(B) LIMITATION.—No appointed member of the Board or officer or employee of the Foundation or of any program established by the Foundation (other than ex-officio members of the Board) shall exercise administrative control over any Federal employee.

(3) RECORDS.—

(A) AUDITS.—The Foundation shall—

(i) provide for annual audits of the financial condition of the Foundation; and

(ii) make the audits, and all other records, documents, and other papers of the Foundation, available to the Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States for examination or audit.

(B) REPORTS.—

(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON FOUNDATION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 months following the end of each fiscal year, the Foundation shall publish [and post online] *online and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate* a report for the preceding fiscal year that includes—

(aa) a description of Foundation activities, including accomplishments and how those activities align to the challenges identified in the strategic plan under clause (iv);

(bb) a comprehensive statement of the operations and financial condition of the Foundation; [and]

(cc) a description of available agricultural research programs and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year[.]*;*

(dd) the source and a description of all gifts to the Foundation of real or personal property;

(ee) the source and amount of each gift to the Foundation of money, including a specification of any restrictions on the purposes for which a gift to the Foundation may be used;

(ff) the source and amount of any Federal or State grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded to the Foundation;

(gg) an accounting of the use of funds made available under subsection (g)(1);

(hh) a description of the Foundation's outreach activities to agricultural stakeholders and potential research partners; and

(ii) a description of the Foundation's consultation process with the Department under subsection (d)(1)(B).

[(II) FINANCIAL CONDITION.—Each report under subclause (I) shall include a description of all gifts, grants, devises, or bequests to the Founda-

tion of real or personal property or money, which shall include—

[(aa) the source of the gifts, grants, devises, or bequests; and

[(bb) any restrictions on the purposes for which the gift, grant, devise, or bequest may be used.

[(III) AVAILABILITY.—The Foundation shall—

[(aa) make copies of each report submitted under subclause (I) available for public inspection; and

[(bb) on request, provide a copy of the report to any individual.]

[(IV)] *(II)* PUBLIC MEETING.—The Board shall hold an annual public meeting to summarize the activities of the Foundation.

(ii) GRANT REPORTING.—Any recipient of a grant under subsection (d)(1)(A) shall provide the Foundation with a report at the conclusion of any research or studies conducted that describes the results of the research or studies, including any data generated.

(iii) STAKEHOLDER NOTICE.—The Foundation shall publish an annual notice with a description of agricultural research priorities under this section for the upcoming fiscal year, including—

(I) a schedule for funding competitions;

(II) a discussion of how applications for funding will be evaluated; and

(III) how the Foundation will communicate information about funded awards to the public to ensure that grantees and partners understand the objectives of the Foundation.

(iv) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Foundation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a strategic plan describing a path for the Foundation to become self-sustaining, including—

(I) a forecast of major agricultural challenge opportunities identified by the scientific advisory councils of the Foundation and approved by the Board, including short- and long-term objectives;

(II) an overview of the efforts that the Foundation will take to be transparent in each of the processes of the Foundation, including—

(aa) processes relating to grant awards, including the selection, review, and notification processes;

(bb) communication of past, current, and future research priorities; and

(cc) plans to solicit and respond to public input on the opportunities identified in the strategic plan;

(III) a description of financial goals and benchmarks for the next 10 years, including a detailed plan for—

(aa) raising funds in amounts greater than the amounts required under subsection (g)(1)(B);

(bb) soliciting additional resources pursuant to subsections (e)(4)(A)(iv) and (f)(2)(A)(iii); and

(cc) managing and leveraging such resources pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(A)(vii); and

(IV) other related issues, as determined by the Board.

(4) INTEGRITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To ensure integrity in the operations of the Foundation, the Board shall develop and enforce procedures relating to standards of conduct, financial disclosure statements, conflicts of interest (including recusal and waiver rules), audits, and any other matters determined appropriate by the Board.

(B) FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Any individual who is an officer, employee, or member of the Board is prohibited from any participation in deliberations by the Foundation of a matter that would directly or predictably affect any financial interest of—

(i) the individual;

(ii) a relative (as defined in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code) of that individual; or

(iii) a business organization or other entity in which the individual has an interest, including an organization or other entity with which the individual is negotiating employment.

(5) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Board shall adopt written standards to govern the ownership and licensing of any intellectual property rights derived from the collaborative efforts of the Foundation.

(6) LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any debts, defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation nor shall the full faith and credit of the United States extend to any obligations of the Foundation.

(g) FUNDS.—

(1) FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ESTABLISHMENT FUNDING.—On the date of the enactment of this Act, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall transfer to the Foundation to carry out this section $200,000,000, to remain available until expended under the conditions described in subparagraph (B).

(ii) ENHANCED FUNDING.—On the date on which the strategic plan described in subsection (f)(3)(B)(iv) is submitted, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall transfer to the Founda-

tion to carry out this section $185,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(iii) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this clause, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall transfer to the Foundation to carry out this section $37,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(iv) FURTHER FUNDING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this clause, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall transfer to the Foundation to carry out this section $37,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(B) CONDITIONS ON EXPENDITURE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may use the funds made available under subparagraph (A) to carry out the purposes,duties, and powers of the Foundation only to the extent that the Foundation secures an equal amount of matchingfunds from a non-Federal source, including an agriculturalcommodity promotion, research, andinformation program.

(ii) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section requires the Foundation to require a matching contribution from an individual grantee as a condition of receiving a grant under this section.

(C) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—None of the funds made available under subparagraph (A) may be used for construction.

(2) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—The Executive Director shall ensure that any funds received under paragraph (1) are held in separate accounts from funds received from nongovernmental entities as described in subsection (f)(2)(A)(iii).

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TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

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Subtitle C—Reauthorization of Other Forestry-Related Laws

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SEC. 8206. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED RESTORATION SERVICES.—The term "authorized restoration services" means similar and complementary forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services carried out—

(A) on Federal land, non-Federal land, and land owned by an Indian tribe; and

(B) by either the Secretary or a Governor*, Indian Tribe, special district,* or county, as applicable, pursuant to a good neighbor agreement.

(2) COUNTY.—The term "county" means—

(A) the appropriate executive official of an affected county; or

(B) in any case in which multiple counties are affected, the appropriate executive official of a compact of the affected counties.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Federal land" means land that is—

(i) National Forest System land; or

(ii) public land (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)); or

(iii) National Park System land; or

(iv) National Wildlife Refuge Land.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "Federal land" does not include—

(i) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(ii) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation (including the applicable implementation plan); or

(iii) a wilderness study area.

(4) FOREST, RANGELAND, AND WATERSHED RESTORATION SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services" means—

(i) activities to treat insect- and disease-infected trees;

(ii) activities to reduce hazardous fuels; and

(iii) any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services" does not include—

(i) construction, reconstruction, repair, or restoration of paved or permanent roads or parking areas, other than the reconstruction, repair, or restoration of a National Forest System, Bureau of Land Management, National ParkService, or National Wildlife Refuge managed road that is—

(I) necessary to carry out authorized restoration services pursuant to a good neighbor agreement; and

(II) in the case of a National Forest System road that is determined to be unneeded in accordance with section 212.5(b)(2) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Wildfire SuppressionFunding and Forest Management Activities Act), decommissioned in accordance with subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(aa) in a manner that is consistent with the applicable travel management plan; and

(bb) not later than 3 years after the date on which the applicable authorized restoration services project is completed; or

(ii) construction, alteration, repair or replacement of public buildings or works.

(5) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT.—The term "good neighbor agreement" means a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) entered into between the Secretary and a Governor*, Indian Tribe, special district,* or county, as applicable, to carry out authorized restoration services under this section.

(6) GOVERNOR.—The term "Governor" means the Governor or any other appropriate executive official of an affected State [or Indian tribe] or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(7) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROAD.—The term "National Forest System road" has the meaning given the term in section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Wildfire Suppression Fundingand Forest Management Activities Act).

(9) ROAD.—The term "road" has the meaning given the term in section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(10) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Bureau of Land Management land.

(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term "special district" means a political subdivision of a State that—

(A) has significant budgetary autonomy or control;

(B) was created by or pursuant to the laws of the State for the purpose of performing a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function; and

(C) is distinct from any other local government unit within the State.

(b) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.—

(1) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a good neighbor agreement with a Governor*, Indian Tribe, special district,* or county to carry out authorized restoration services in accordance with this section.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make each good neighbor agreement available to the public.

(2) TIMBER SALES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d) and (g)) shall not apply to services performed under a good neighbor agreement.

(B) APPROVAL OF SILVICULTURE PRESCRIPTIONS AND MARKING GUIDES.—The Secretary shall provide or approve all silviculture prescriptions and marking guides to be ap-

plied on Federal land in all timber sale projects conducted under this section.

(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received from the sale of timber by a Governor, Indian Tribe, *special district,* or county under a good neighbor agreement shall be retained and used by the Governor, Indian Tribe, *special district,* or county, as applicable—

(I) to carry out authorized restoration services **[**on**]** under the good neighbor agreement**[**; and**]***;*

(II) if there are funds remaining after carrying out clause (i), to carry out—

(aa) authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements; or

(bb) authorized recreation services under the Good Neighbor Authority for Recreation Act**[**.**]***;*

(III) to construct new permanent roads on Federal lands that are—

(aa) necessary to implement authorized restoration activities; and

(bb) approved by the Federal agency through environmental analysis or categorical exclusion decision;

(IV) to complete new permanent road construction to replace and decommission an existing permanent road that is adversely impacting forest, rangeland, or watershed health; and

(V) if there are funds remaining after carrying out subclauses (I) through (IV), to carry out authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements and for the administration of a good neighbor authority program by a Governor, Indian Tribe, special district, or county.

(ii) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided under this subparagraph terminates effective October 1, **[**2028**]** *2030*.

(3) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any authorized restoration services to be provided under this section on Federal land shall not be delegated to a Governor*, Indian Tribe, special district,* or county.

[(4) RECEIPTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any payment made by a county to the Secretary under a project conducted under a good neighbor agreement shall not be considered to be monies received from National Forest System, Bureau of Land Management, National ParkSystem, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land, as applicable.**]**

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 8302. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN [ACES] *EXPERIENCED SERVICES* PROGRAM.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—]The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may use funds derived from conservation-related programs executed on National Forest System land to utilize the [Agriculture Conservation] Experienced Services Program established pursuant to section 1252 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851) to provide technical*, professional, or administrative* services for conservation-related programs and authorities carried out by the Secretary on National Forest System land.

[(b) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided to the Secretary to carry out this section terminates effective October 1, 2023.]

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TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS

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Subtitle C—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

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SEC. 12306. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make competitive grants to States, tribal governments, and research institutions to support the efforts of such States, tribal governments, and research institutions to promote the domestic maple syrup industry through the following activities:

(1) Promotion of research and education related to maple syrup production.

(2) Promotion of natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry.

(3) Market promotion for maple syrup and maple-sap products.

(4) Encouragement of owners and operators of privately held land containing species of trees in the genus Acer—

(A) to initiate or expand maple-sugaring activities on the land; or

(B) to voluntarily make the land available, including by lease or other means, for access by the public for maple-sugaring activities.

(b) APPLICATION.—In submitting an application for a competitive grant under this section, a State, tribal government, or research institution shall include—

(1) a description of the activities to be supported using the grant funds;

(2) a description of the benefits that the State, tribal government, or research institution intends to achieve as a result of engaging in such activities; and

(3) an estimate of the increase in maple-sugaring activities or maple syrup production that the State, tribal government, or research institution anticipates will occur as a result of engaging in such activities.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to preempt a State or tribal government law, including a State or tribal government liability law.

(d) DEFINITION OF MAPLE-SUGARING.—In this section, the term "maple-sugaring" means the collection of sap from any species of tree in the genus Acer for the purpose of boiling to produce food.

(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first request for applications under this section that occurs at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 6 months before such a request for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall consider the information provided through the consultation required under paragraph (1) when making grants under this section.

[(e)**]** *(f)* REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

[(f)**]** *(g)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through **[**2023**]** *2031*.

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FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT AND REFORM ACT OF 1996

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TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL MARKET TRANSITION ACT

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Subtitle D—Other Commodities

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CHAPTER 2—SUGAR

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SEC. 156. SUGAR PROGRAM.

(a) SUGARCANE.—The Secretary shall make loans available to processors of domestically grown sugarcane at a rate equal to—

(1) 18.00 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for the 2008 crop year;

(2) 18.25 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for the 2009 crop year;

(3) 18.50 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for the 2010 crop year;

(4) 18.75 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for each of the 2011 through 2018 crop years;

(5) 19.75 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for each of the 2019 through 2024 crop years; and

(6) 24.00 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for each of the 2025 through 2031 crop years.

(b) SUGAR BEETS.—The Secretary shall make loans available to processors of domestically grown sugar beets at a rate equal to—

(1) 22.9 cents per pound for refined beet sugar for the 2008 crop year;

(2) a rate that is equal to 128.5 percent of the loan rate per pound of raw cane sugar for the applicable crop year under subsection (a) for each of the 2009 through 2024 crop years; and

(3) a rate that is equal to 136.55 percent of the loan rate per pound of raw cane sugar under subsection (a)(6) for each of the 2025 through 2031 crop years.

(c) TERM OF LOANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan under this section during any fiscal year shall be made available not earlier than the beginning of the fiscal year and shall mature at the earlier of—

(A) the end of the 9-month period beginning on the first day of the first month after the month in which the loan is made; or

(B) the end of the fiscal year in which the loan is made.

(2) SUPPLEMENTAL LOANS.—In the case of a loan made under this section in the last 3 months of a fiscal year, the processor may repledge the sugar as collateral for a second loan in the subsequent fiscal year, except that the second loan shall—

(A) be made at the loan rate in effect at the time the first loan was made; and

(B) mature in 9 months less the quantity of time that the first loan was in effect.

(d) LOAN TYPE; PROCESSOR ASSURANCES.—

(1) NONRECOURSE LOANS.—The Secretary shall carry out this section through the use of nonrecourse loans.

(2) PROCESSOR ASSURANCES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall obtain from each processor that receives a loan under this section such assurances as the Secretary considers adequate to ensure that the processor will provide payments to producers that are proportional to the value of the loan received by the processor for the sugar beets and sugarcane delivered by producers to the processor.

(B) MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may establish appropriate minimum payments for purposes of this paragraph.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In the case of sugar beets, the minimum payment established under clause (i) shall not exceed the rate of payment provided for under the applicable contract between a sugar beet producer and a sugar beet processor.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may not impose or enforce any prenotification requirement, or similar administra-

tive requirement not otherwise in effect on May 13, 2002, that has the effect of preventing a processor from electing to forfeit the loan collateral (of an acceptable grade and quality) on the maturity of the loan.

(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a loan under this section by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.

(e) LOANS FOR IN-PROCESS SUGAR.—

(1) DEFINITION OF IN-PROCESS SUGARS AND SYRUPS.—In this subsection, the term "in-process sugars and syrups" does not include raw sugar, liquid sugar, invert sugar, invert syrup, or other finished product that is otherwise eligible for a loan under subsection (a) or (b).

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make nonrecourse loans available to processors of a crop of domestically grown sugarcane and sugar beets for in-process sugars and syrups derived from the crop.

(3) LOAN RATE.—The loan rate shall be equal to 80 percent of the loan rate applicable to raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the source material for the in-process sugars and syrups.

(4) FURTHER PROCESSING ON FORFEITURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the forfeiture of in-process sugars and syrups serving as collateral for a loan under paragraph (2), the processor shall, within such reasonable time period as the Secretary may prescribe and at no cost to the Commodity Credit Corporation, convert the in-process sugars and syrups into raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar of acceptable grade and quality for sugars eligible for loans under subsection (a) or (b).

(B) TRANSFER TO CORPORATION.—Once the in-process sugars and syrups are fully processed into raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar, the processor shall transfer the sugar to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(C) PAYMENT TO PROCESSOR.—On transfer of the sugar, the Secretary shall make a payment to the processor in an amount equal to the amount obtained by multiplying—

(i) the difference between—

(I) the loan rate for raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar, as appropriate; and

(II) the loan rate the processor received under paragraph (3); by

(ii) the quantity of sugar transferred to the Secretary.

(5) LOAN CONVERSION.—If the processor does not forfeit the collateral as described in paragraph (4), but instead further processes the in-process sugars and syrups into raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar and repays the loan on the in-process sugars and syrups, the processor may obtain a loan under subsection (a) or (b) for the raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar, as appropriate.

(6) TERM OF LOAN.—The term of a loan made under this subsection for a quantity of in-process sugars and syrups, when

combined with the term of a loan made with respect to the raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar derived from the in-process sugars and syrups, may not exceed 9 months, consistent with subsection (c).

(f) AVOIDING FORFEITURES; CORPORATION INVENTORY DISPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d)(3), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall operate the program established under this section at no cost to the Federal Government by avoiding the forfeiture of sugar to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(2) INVENTORY DISPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To carry out paragraph (1), the Commodity Credit Corporation may accept bids to obtain raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar in the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation from (or otherwise make available such commodities, on appropriate terms and conditions, to) processors of sugarcane and processors of sugar beets (acting in conjunction with the producers of the sugarcane or sugar beets processed by the processors) in return for the reduction of production of raw cane sugar or refined beet sugar, as appropriate.

(B) BIOENERGY FEEDSTOCK.—If a reduction in the quantity of production accepted under subparagraph (A) involves sugar beets or sugarcane that has already been planted, the sugar beets or sugarcane so planted may not be used for any commercial purpose other than as a bioenergy feedstock.

(C) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this paragraph is in addition to any authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation under any other law.

(g) INFORMATION REPORTING.—

(1) DUTY OF PROCESSORS AND REFINERS TO REPORT.—A sugarcane processor, cane sugar refiner, and sugar beet processor shall furnish the Secretary, on a monthly basis, such information as the Secretary may require to administer sugar programs, including the quantity of purchases of sugarcane, sugar beets, and sugar, and production, importation, distribution, and stock levels of sugar.

(2) DUTY OF PRODUCERS TO REPORT.—

(A) PROPORTIONATE SHARE STATES.—As a condition of a loan made to a processor for the benefit of a producer, the Secretary shall require each producer of sugarcane located in a State (other than the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) in which there are in excess of 250 producers of sugarcane to report, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary, the sugarcane yields and acres planted to sugarcane of the producer.

(B) OTHER STATES.—The Secretary may require each producer of sugarcane or sugar beets not covered by subparagraph (A) to report, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary, the yields of, and acres planted to, sugarcane or sugar beets, respectively, of the producer.

(3) DUTY OF IMPORTERS TO REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require an importer of sugars, syrups, or molasses to be used for human consumption or to be used for the extraction of sugar for human consumption to report, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary, the quantities of the products imported by the importer and the sugar content or equivalent of the products.

(B) TARIFF-RATE QUOTAS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to sugars, syrups, or molasses that are within the quantities of tariff-rate quotas that are subject to the lower rate of duties.

(4) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON MEXICO.—

(A) COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall collect—

(i) information on the production, consumption, stocks, and trade of sugar in Mexico, including United States exports of sugar to Mexico; and

(ii) publicly available information on Mexican production, consumption, and trade of high fructose corn syrups.

(B) PUBLICATION.—The data collected under subparagraph (A) shall be published in each edition of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

(5) PENALTY.—Any person willfully failing or refusing to furnish the information required to be reported by paragraph (1), (2), or (3), or furnishing willfully false information, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each such violation.

(6) MONTHLY REPORTS.—Taking into consideration the information received under this subsection, the Secretary shall publish on a monthly basis composite data on production, imports, distribution, and stock levels of sugar.

(h) SUBSTITUTION OF REFINED SUGAR.—For purposes of Additional U.S. Note 6 to chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and the reexport programs and polyhydric alcohol program administered by the Secretary, all refined sugars (whether derived from sugar beets or sugarcane) produced by cane sugar refineries and beet sugar processors shall be fully substitutable for the export of sugar and sugar-containing products under those programs.

(i) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—This section shall be effective only for the 2008 through 2031 crops of sugar beets and sugarcane.

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Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Commodity Provisions

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SEC. 196A. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a framework to provide direct assistance to producers of specialty crops the production of which was impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with this section.

(b) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the Secretary shall calculate payments based on—

(1) the producer's sales of specialty crops for a calendar year that precedes the year in which the adverse event described in such subsection occurred or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive calendar years that precedes the year in which such adverse event occurred, as determined by the Secretary; multiplied by

(2) a payment factor the Secretary determines, subject to the availability of funds, to address losses of such specialty crops from such adverse event.

(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (d), in providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the higher value of specialty crops;

(2) the greater input costs required to grow specialty crops; and

(3) diverse types of legal entities and structures used by specialty crop producers.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a qualified pass-through entity) (as such terms are defined in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year under this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308), as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such section 1001.

(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person or legal entity with an average gross income (as calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities—

(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and

(ii) the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than $900,000.

(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGIBILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a producer of a specialty crop under this section in the same manner as such sections apply to a person or legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, except to the extent such sections relate to the application of subsections (b) through (d) of section 1001A.

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FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985

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TITLE X—GENERAL COMMODITY PROVISIONS

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SEC. 1001D. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—In this section, the term "average adjusted gross income", with respect to a person or legal entity, means the average of the adjusted gross income or comparable measure of the person or legal entity over the 3 taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN PERSONS AND LEGAL ENTITIES.—In the case of a legal entity that is not required to file a Federal income tax return or a person or legal entity that did not have taxable income in 1 or more of the taxable years used to determine the average under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide, by regulation, a method for determining the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity for purposes of this section.

(3) ALLOCATION OF INCOME.—On the request of any person filing a joint tax return, the Secretary shall provide for the allocation of average adjusted gross income among the persons filing the return if—

(A) the person provides a certified statement by a certified public accountant or attorney that specifies the method by which the average adjusted gross income would have been declared and reported had the persons filed 2 separate returns; and

(B) the Secretary determines that the method described in the statement is consistent with the information supporting the filed joint tax return.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON COMMODITY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), a person or legal entity shall not be eligible to receive any benefit described in paragraph (2) during a crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, if the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity exceeds $900,000.

(2) COVERED BENEFITS.—Paragraph (1) applies with respect to the following:

(A) A payment or benefit under subtitle A or E of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(B) A marketing loan gain or loan deficiency payment under subtitle B of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(C) Starting with fiscal year 2015, a payment or benefit under title II of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, title II of the Agricultural Act of 2014, title II of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, title II of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985.

(D) A payment or benefit under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)).

(E) A payment or benefit under section 196 *or 196A* of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the limitation established by paragraph (1) with respect to a payment pursuant to a covered benefit described in paragraph (2)(C), on a case-by-case basis, if the Secretary determines that environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected as a result of such waiver.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN OPERATIONS.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) EXCEPTED PAYMENT OR BENEFIT.—The term "excepted payment or benefit" means—

(I) a payment or benefit under subtitle E of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.);

(II) a payment or benefit under section 196 *or 196A* of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333); and

(III) a payment or benefit described in paragraph (2)(C) received on or after October 1, 2024.

(ii) FARMING, RANCHING, OR SILVICULTURE ACTIVITIES.—The term "farming, ranching, or silviculture activities" includes agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products, the sale of agricultural equipment owned by the person or legal entity, and other agriculture-related activities, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an excepted payment or benefit, the limitation established by paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person or legal entity during a crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, if greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average gross income of the person or legal entity derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities.

(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the adjusted gross income of a person or legal entity that is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section 1265A) shall not include any income received as compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To comply with subsection (b), at least once every 3 years a person or legal entity shall provide to the Secretary—

(A) a certification by a certified public accountant or another third party that is acceptable to the Secretary that the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity does not exceed the applicable limitation specified in that subsection; or

(B) information and documentation regarding the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity through other procedures established by the Secretary.

(2) DENIAL OF PROGRAM BENEFITS.—If the Secretary determines that a person or legal entity has failed to comply with this section, the Secretary shall deny the issuance of applicable payments and benefits specified in subsection (b)(2) to the person or legal entity, under similar terms and conditions as described in section 1001B.

(3) AUDIT.—The Secretary shall establish statistically valid procedures under which the Secretary shall conduct targeted audits of such persons or legal entities as the Secretary determines are most likely to exceed the limitations under subsection (b).

(d) COMMENSURATE REDUCTION.—In the case of a payment or benefit described in subsection (b)(2) made in a crop, program, or fiscal year, as appropriate, to an entity, the amount of the payment or benefit shall be reduced by an amount that is commensurate with the direct and indirect ownership interest in the entity of each person who has an average adjusted gross income in excess of the applicable limitation specified in subsection (b).

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TITLE XI—TRADE

Subtitle A—Public Law 480 and Use of Surplus Commodities in International Programs

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FOOD FOR PROGRESS

SEC. 1110. (a) This section may be cited as the "Food for Progress Act of 1985".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COOPERATIVE.—The term "cooperative" has the meaning given the term in section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732).

(2) CORPORATION.—The term "Corporation" means the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(3) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term "developing country" has the meaning given the term in section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732).

(4) ELIGIBLE COMMODITY.—The term "eligible commodity" means an agricultural commodity, or a product of an agricultural commodity, in inventories of the Corporation or acquired by the Secretary or the Corporation for disposition through commercial purchases under a program authorized under this section.

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) the government of an emerging agricultural country;

(B) an intergovernmental organization;

(C) a private voluntary organization;

(D) a nonprofit agricultural organization or cooperative;

(E) a nongovernmental organization;

(F) a college or university (as such terms are defined in section 1404(4) of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(4)); and

(G) any other private entity.

(6) FOOD SECURITY.—The term "food security" means access by all people at all times to sufficient food and nutrition for a healthy and productive life.

(7) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—The term "nongovernmental organization" has the meaning given the term in section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732).

(8) PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION.—The term "private voluntary organization" has the meaning given the term in section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732).

(9) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means a food assistance or development initiative proposed by an eligible entity and approved by the Secretary under this section.

(10) RATE OF RETURN.—For purposes of applying subsection (j)(3), the rate of return for an eligible commodity shall be equal to the proportion that—

(A) the proceeds eligible entities generate through monetization of such commodity, bears to

(B) the cost to the Federal Government to procure and ship the commodity to the country where it is monetized.

(11) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) PROGRAM.—In order to use the food resources of the United States more effectively in support of developing countries, and countries that are emerging democracies that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies through changes in commodity pricing, marketing, input availability, distribution, and private sector involvement, the Secretary shall [enter into] *annually enter into two or more* agreements with *two or more* eligible entities to furnish to the countries eligible commodities made available under subsections (e) and (f).

(d) CONSIDERATION FOR AGREEMENTS.—In determining whether to enter into an agreement under this section, the Secretary shall consider whether a potential recipient country is committed to carry out, or is carrying out, policies that promote economic freedom, private, domestic production of eligible commodities for domestic consumption, and the creation and expansion of efficient domestic markets for the purchase and sale of such eligible commodities. Such policies may provide for, among other things—

(1) access, on the part of farmers in the country, to private, competitive markets for their products;

(2) market pricing of eligible commodities to foster adequate private sector incentives to individual farmers to produce food on a regular basis for the country's domestic needs;

(3) establishment of market-determined foreign exchange rates;

(4) timely availability of production inputs (such as seed, fertilizer, or pesticides) to farmers;

(5) access to technologies appropriate to the level of agricultural development in the country; and

(6) construction of facilities and distribution systems necessary to handle perishable products.

(e) FUNDING OF ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES.—(1) The Corporation shall make available to the Secretary such eligible commodities as

the Secretary may request for purposes of furnishing eligible commodities under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation may use funds appropriated to carry out title I of the Food for Peace Act in carrying out this section with respect to eligible commodities made available under that Act, and subsection (g) does not apply to eligible commodities furnished on a grant basis or on credit terms under that title.

(3) The Corporation may finance the sale and exportation of eligible commodities, made available under the Food for Peace Act, which are furnished under this section. Payment for eligible commodities made available under that Act which are purchased on credit terms under this section shall be on the same basis as the terms provided in section 106 of that Act.

(4) In the case of eligible commodities made available under the Food for Peace Act for purposes of this section, section 406 of that Act shall apply to eligible commodities furnished on a grant basis under this section and sections 402, 403(a), 403(c), and 403(i) of that Act shall apply to all eligible commodities furnished under this section.

(5) NO EFFECT ON DOMESTIC PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall not make an eligible commodity available for disposition under this section in any amount that will reduce the amount of the eligible commodity that is traditionally made available through donations to domestic feeding programs or agencies, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) PROVISION OF ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.—(1) The Corporation may provide for—

(A) grants, or

(B) sales on credit terms,

of eligible commodities made available under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 for use in carrying out this section.

(2) In carrying out section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the Corporation may purchase eligible commodities for use under this section if—

(A) the Corporation does not hold stocks of such eligible commodities; or

(B) Corporation stocks are insufficient to satisfy commitments made in agreements entered into under this section and such eligible commodities are needed to fulfill such commitments.

(3) No funds of the Corporation in excess of $40,000,000 (exclusive of the cost of eligible commodities) may be used for each of fiscal years 1996 through [2023] *2031* to carry out this section with respect to eligible commodities made available under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 unless authorized in advance in appropriation Acts.

(4) The cost of eligible commodities made available under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 which are furnished under this section, and the expenses incurred in connection with furnishing such eligible commodities, shall be in addition to the level of assistance programmed under the Food for Peace Act and may not be considered expenditures for international affairs and finance.

(5) SALE PROCEDURE.—In making sales of eligible commodities under this section, the Secretary shall follow the sale procedure described in section 403(l) of the Food for Peace Act.

(g) MINIMUM TONNAGE.—Subject to subsection (f)(3), not less than 400,000 metric tons of eligible commodities may be provided under this section for the program for each of fiscal years 2002 through [2023] *2031*.

(h) PROHIBITION ON RESALE OR TRANSSHIPMENT OF ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES.—An agreement entered into under this section shall prohibit the resale or transshipment of the eligible commodities provided under the agreement to other countries.

(i) DISPLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SALES.—In entering into agreements under this section, the Secretary shall take reasonable steps to avoid displacement of any sales of United States commodities that would otherwise be made to such countries.

(j) MULTICOUNTRY OR MULTIYEAR BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary, on request and subject to the availability of eligible commodities, is encouraged to approve agreements that provide for eligible commodities to be made available for distribution or sale by the recipient on a multicountry or multiyear basis if the agreements otherwise meet the requirements of this section.

(2) DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Before the beginning of any fiscal year, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) make all determinations concerning program agreements and resource requests for programs under this section; and

(B) announce those determinations.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate—

(A) a list of programs, countries, and eligible commodities, and the total amount of funds for transportation and administrative costs, approved during the prior fiscal year under this section;

(B) a description of the actual rate of return for each commodity made available under this section for the previous fiscal year including—

(i) factors that influenced the rate of return; and

(ii) with respect to the commodity, the costs of bagging or further processing, ocean transportation, inland transportation, storage costs, and any other information that the Secretary determines to be necessary; and

(C) for each instance in which a commodity was made available under this section at a rate of return less than 70 percent, an explanation for the rate of return realized.

(k) EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES.—This section shall be effective during the period beginning October 1, 1985, and ending December 31, [2023] *2031*.

(l) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—(1) To enhance the development of private sector agriculture in countries receiving assistance under this section the Secretary may, in each of the fiscal years 1996

through [2023] *2031*, use in addition to any amounts or eligible commodities otherwise made available under this section for such activities, not to exceed $15,000,000 (or, in the case of fiscal year 1999, $12,000,000) of Corporation funds (or eligible commodities of an equal value owned by the Corporation), to provide assistance in the administration, sale, and monitoring of food assistance programs, and to provide technical assistance for monetization programs, to strengthen private sector agriculture in recipient countries.

(2) To carry out this subsection, the Secretary may provide eligible commodities under agreements entered into under this section in a manner that uses the commodity transaction as a means of developing in the recipient countries a competitive private sector that can provide for the importation, transportation, storage, marketing and distribution of such eligible commodities.

(3) The Secretary may use the assistance provided under this subsection and proceeds derived from the sale of eligible commodities under paragraph (2) to design, monitor, and administer activities undertaken with such assistance, for the purpose of strengthening or creating the capacity of recipient country private enterprises to undertake commercial transactions, with the overall goal of increasing potential markets for United States agricultural eligible commodities.

(4) [HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT] *DEVELOPMENT* PURPOSES.—The Secretary may authorize the use of proceeds to pay the costs incurred by an eligible entity under this section for—

(A)(i) programs targeted at hunger and malnutrition; or

(ii) development programs involving food security;

(B) transportation, storage, and distribution of eligible commodities provided under this section; and

(C) administration, sales, monitoring, and technical assistance.

(m) SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall approve, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, agreements with agricultural trade organizations, intergovernmental organizations, private voluntary organizations, and cooperatives that provide for—

(1) the sale of eligible commodities, including the marketing of these eligible commodities through the private sector; and

(2) the use of the proceeds generated in the [humanitarian and] development programs of such agricultural trade organizations, intergovernmental organizations, private voluntary organizations, and cooperatives.

(n) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that each eligible entity participating in 1 or more programs under this section—

(A) uses eligible commodities made available under this section—

(i) in an effective manner;

(ii) in the areas of greatest need; and

(iii) in a manner that promotes the purposes of this section;

(B) in using eligible commodities, assesses and takes into account the needs of recipient countries and the target populations of the recipient countries;

(C) works with recipient countries, and indigenous institutions or groups in recipient countries, to design and carry out mutually acceptable programs authorized under this section; and

(D) monitors and reports on the distribution or sale of eligible commodities provided under this section using methods that, as determined by the Secretary, facilitate accurate and timely reporting.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall review and, as necessary, make changes in regulations and internal procedures designed to streamline, improve, and clarify the application, approval, and implementation processes pertaining to agreements under this section.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the review, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) revising procedures for submitting proposals;

(ii) developing criteria for program approval that separately address the objectives of the program;

(iii) pre-screening organizations and proposals to ensure that the minimum qualifications are met;

(iv) implementing e-government initiatives and otherwise improving the efficiency of the proposal submission and approval processes;

(v) upgrading information management systems;

(vi) improving commodity and transportation procurement processes; and

(vii) ensuring that evaluation and monitoring methods are sufficient.

(C) CONSULTATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with the Committee on Agriculture, and the [Committee on International Relations] *Committee on Foreign Affairs*, of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on changes made in regulations and procedures.

(3) REPORTS.—Each eligible entity that enters into an agreement under this section shall submit to the Secretary, at such time as the Secretary may request, a report containing such information as the Secretary may request relating to the use of eligible commodities and funds furnished to the eligible entity under this section.

(o) PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES.—In entering into agreements described in subsection (c), the Secretary—

(1) shall enter into agreements with eligible entities described in subparagraphs (C) and (G) of subsection (b)(5); and

(2) shall not discriminate against such eligible entities.

(p) PILOT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations pursuant to the au-

thorization in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more pilot agreements with 1 or more eligible entities through which the Secretary shall provide financial assistance to the eligible entities to carry out activities consistent with subsection (l)(4)(A).

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—In each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing, with respect to the previous fiscal year—

(A) the amount provided to eligible entities under each pilot agreement pursuant to paragraph (1) and how the funds were used;

(B) the activities carried out under each pilot agreement;

(C) the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of those activities; and

(D) the effectiveness of the pilot agreements, including as applicable the impact on food security and agricultural productivity.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out pilot agreements pursuant to this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

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TITLE XII—CONSERVATION

SUBTITLE A—DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 1201. (a) For purposes of [subtitles A through I:] *subtitles A through J:*

(1) The term "agricultural commodity" means—

(A) any agricultural commodity planted and produced in a State by annual tilling of the soil, including tilling by one-trip planters; or

(B) sugarcane planted and produced in a State.

(2) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "beginning farmer or rancher" has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(8) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(8)).

(3) CONSERVATION PLAN.—The term "conservation plan" means the document that—

(A) applies to highly erodible cropland;

(B) describes the conservation system applicable to the highly erodible cropland and describes the decisions of the person with respect to location, land use, tillage systems, and conservation treatment measures and schedule; and

(C) is approved by the local soil conservation district, in consultation with the local committees established under section 8(b)(5) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)) and the Secretary, or by the Secretary.

(4) CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The term "conservation system" means a combination of 1 or more conservation measures or management practices that—

(A) are based on local resource conditions, available conservation technology, and the standards and guidelines contained in the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office technical guides; and

(B) are designed to achieve, in a cost effective and technically practicable manner, a substantial reduction in soil erosion or a substantial improvement in soil conditions on a field or group of fields containing highly erodible cropland when compared to the level of erosion or soil conditions that existed before the application of the conservation measures and management practices.

(5) The term "conservation district" means any district or unit of State or local government formed under State or territorial law for the express purpose of developing and carrying out a local soil and water conservation program. Such district or unit of government may be referred to as a "conservation district", "soil conservation district", "soil and water conservation district", "resource conservation district", "natural resource district", "land conservation committee", or a similar name.

(6) The term "cost sharing payment" means a payment made by the Secretary to an owner or operator of a farm or ranch containing highly erodible cropland under the provisions of section 1234 (b) of this Act.

(7)(A) The term "converted wetland" means wetland that has been drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated (including any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water) for the purpose or to have the effect of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible if—

(i) such production would not have been possible but for such action; and

(ii) before such action—

(I) such land was wetland; and

(II) such land was neither highly erodible land nor highly erodible cropland.

(B) Wetland shall not be considered converted wetland if production of an agricultural commodity on such land during a crop year—

(i) is possible as a result of a natural condition, such as drought; and

(ii) is not assisted by an action of the producer that destroys natural wetland characteristics.

(8) FARM.—The term "farm" means a farm that—

(A) is under the general control of one operator;

(B) has one or more owners;

(C) consists of one or more tracts of land, whether or not contiguous;

(D) is located within a county or region, as determined by the Secretary; and

(E) may contain lands that are incidental to the production of perennial crops, including conserving uses, forestry, and livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(9) FIELD.—The term "field" means a part of a farm that is separated from the balance of the farm by permanent boundaries such as fences, roads, permanent waterways, or other similar features. At the option of the owner or operator of the farm, croplines may also be used to delineate a field if farming practices make it probable that the croplines are not subject to change. Any highly erodible land on which an agricultural commodity is produced after December 23, 1985, and that is not exempt under section 1212, shall be considered as part of the field in which the land was included on December 23, 1985, unless the owner and Secretary agree to modification of the boundaries of the field to carry out this title.

(10) The term "highly erodible cropland" means highly erodible land that is in cropland use, as determined by the Secretary.

(11)(A) The term "highly erodible land" means land—

(i) that is classified by the Soil Conservation Service as class IV, VI, VII, or VIII land under the land capability classification system in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) that has, or that if used to produce an agricultural commodity, would have an excessive average annual rate of erosion in relation to the soil loss tolerance level, as established by the Secretary, and as determined by the Secretary through application of factors from the universal soil loss equation and the wind erosion equation, including factors for climate, soil erodibility, and field slope.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the land capability class or rate of erosion for a field shall be that determined by the Secretary to be the predominant class or rate of erosion under regulations issued by the Secretary.

(C) EQUATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register the universal soil loss equation and wind erosion equation used by the Department of Agriculture as of that date. The Secretary may not change the equations after that date except following notice and comment in a manner consistent with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(12) The term "hydric soil" means soil that, in its undrained condition, is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during a growing season to develop an anaerobic condition that supports the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

(13) The term "hydrophytic vegetation" means a plant growing in—

(A) water; or

(B) a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen during a growing season as a result of excessive water content.

(14) INDIAN TRIBE.—The [term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term] *terms "Indian tribe" and "Indian Tribe" have the meaning given those terms* in section 4(e) of the In-

dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(15) The term "in-kind commodities" means commodities that are normally produced on land that is the subject of an agreement entered into under subtitle D.

(16) INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.—The term "integrated pest management" means a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.

(17) LIVESTOCK.—The term "livestock" means all animals raised on farms, as determined by the Secretary.

(18) NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—The term "nonindustrial private forest land" means rural land, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and

(B) is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity that has definitive decisionmaking authority over the land.

(19) PERSON AND LEGAL ENTITY.—For purposes of applying payment limitations under subtitle D, the terms "person" and "legal entity" have the meanings given those terms in section 1001(a) of this Act (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)).

(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term "precision agriculture" means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The term "precision agriculture technology" means any technology (including targeted inputs and the equipment that is necessary for the deployment of such technology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

(A) Global Positioning System-based or geospatial mapping technology;

(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

(C) yield monitors;

(D) soil mapping technology;

(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, or livestock conditions;

(F) Internet of Things and telematics technologies;

(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

(H) network connectivity products and solutions;

(I) Global Positioning System guidance or auto-steer systems;

(J) variable rate technology for applying inputs, such as section control; and

(K) any other technology, as determined by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use of crop or livestock production inputs,

which may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amendments, chemicals, water, and time.

[(20)] *(22)* The term "rental payment" means a payment made by the Secretary to an owner or operator of a farm or ranch containing highly erodible cropland to compensate the owner or operator for retiring such land from crop production and placing such land in the conservation reserve in accordance with subtitle D.

[(21)] *(23)* The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

[(22)] *(24)* The term "shelterbelt" means a vegetative barrier with a linear configuration composed of trees, shrubs, and other approved perennial vegetation.

[(23)] *(25)* SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" has the meaning given the term in section 2501(e)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(2)).

[(24)] *(26)* The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

[(25)] *(27)* TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The term "technical assistance" means technical expertise, information, and tools necessary for the conservation of natural resources on land active in agricultural, forestry, or related uses. The term includes the following:

(A) Technical services provided directly to farmers, ranchers, and other eligible entities, such as conservation planning, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices.

(B) Technical infrastructure, including activities, processes, tools, and agency functions needed to support delivery of technical services, such as technical standards, resource inventories, training, data, technology, monitoring, and effects analyses.

[(26)] *(28)* The term "vegetative cover" means—

(A) perennial grasses, legumes, forbs, or shrubs with an expected life span of 5 or more years; or

(B) trees.

[(27)] *(29)* The term "wetland", except when such term is part of the term "converted wetland", means land that—

(A) has a predominance of hydric soils;

(B) is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and

(C) under normal circumstances does support a prevalence of such vegetation. For purposes of this Act, and any other Act, this term shall not include lands in Alaska identified as having high potential for agricultural development which have a predominance of permafrost soils.

(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—The term "wildlife habitat connectivity" means the degree to which landscape or

habitat elements facilitate native species movement among seasonal habitats.

(b) The Secretary shall develop—

(1) criteria for the identification of hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation; and

(2) lists of such soils and such vegetation.

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Subtitle C—Wetland Conservation

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SEC. 1222. DELINEATION OF WETLANDS; EXEMPTIONS.

(a) DELINEATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and paragraph (6), the Secretary shall delineate, determine, and certify all wetlands located on subject land on a farm.

(2) WETLAND DELINEATION MAPS.—The Secretary shall delineate wetlands on wetland delineation maps. On the request of a person, the Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to make an on-site wetland determination prior to delineation.

(3) CERTIFICATION.—On providing notice to affected persons, the Secretary shall—

(A) certify whether a map is sufficient for the purpose of making a determination of ineligibility for program benefits under section 1221; and

(B) provide an opportunity to appeal the certification prior to the certification becoming final.

(4) DURATION OF CERTIFICATION.—A final certification made under paragraph (3) shall remain valid and in effect as long as the area is devoted to an agricultural use or until such time as the person affected by the certification requests review of the certification by the Secretary.

(5) REVIEW OF MAPPING ON APPEAL.—In the case of an appeal of the Secretary's certification, the Secretary shall review and certify the accuracy of the mapping of all land subject to the appeal to ensure that the subject land has been accurately delineated. Prior to rendering a decision on the appeal, the Secretary shall conduct an on-site inspection of the subject land on a farm.

(6) RELIANCE ON PRIOR CERTIFIED DELINEATION.—No person shall be adversely affected because of having taken an action based on a previous certified wetland delineation by the Secretary. The delineation shall not be subject to a subsequent wetland certification or delineation by the Secretary, unless requested by the person under paragraph (4).

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—No person shall become ineligible under section 1221 for program loans or payments under the following circumstances:

(1) As the result of the production of an agricultural commodity on the following lands:

(A) A converted wetland if the conversion of the wetland was commenced before December 23, 1985.

(B) Land that is a nontidal drainage or irrigation ditch excavated in upland.

(C) A wet area created by a water delivery system, irrigation, irrigation system, or application of water for irrigation.

(D) A wetland on which the owner or operator of a farm or ranch uses normal cropping or ranching practices to produce an agricultural commodity in a manner that is consistent for the area where the production is possible as a result of a natural condition, such as drought, and is without action by the producer that destroys a natural wetland characteristic.

(E) Land that is an artificial lake or pond created by excavating or diking land (that is not a wetland) to collect and retain water and that is used primarily for livestock watering, fish production, irrigation, wildlife, fire control, flood control, cranberry growing, or rice production, or as a settling pond.

(F) A wetland that is temporarily or incidentally created as a result of adjacent development activity.

(G) A converted wetland if the original conversion of the wetland was commenced before December 23, 1985, and the Secretary determines the wetland characteristics returned after that date as a result of—

(i) the lack of maintenance of drainage, dikes, levees, or similar structures;

(ii) a lack of management of the lands containing the wetland; or

(iii) circumstances beyond the control of the person.

(H) A converted wetland, if—

(i) the converted wetland was determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to have been manipulated for the production of an agricultural commodity or forage prior to December 23, 1985, and was returned to wetland conditions through a voluntary restoration, enhancement, or creation action subsequent to that determination;

(ii) technical determinations regarding the prior site conditions and the restoration, enhancement, or creation action have been adequately documented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(iii) the proposed conversion action is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to implementation; and

(iv) the extent of the proposed conversion is limited so that the conditions will be at least equivalent to the wetland functions and values that existed prior to implementation of the voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation action.

(2) For the conversion of the following:

(A) An artificial lake or pond created by excavating or diking land that is not a wetland to collect and retain water and that is used primarily for livestock watering, fish production, irrigation, wildlife, fire control, flood control, cranberry growing, rice production, or as a settling pond.

(B) A wetland that is temporarily or incidentally created as a result of adjacent development activity.

(C) A wetland on which the owner or operator of a farm or ranch uses normal cropping or ranching practices to produce an agricultural commodity in a manner that is consistent for the area where the production is possible as a result of a natural condition, such as drought, and is without action by the producer that destroys a natural wetland characteristic.

(D) A wetland previously identified as a converted wetland (if the original conversion of the wetland was commenced before December 23, 1985), but that the Secretary determines returned to wetland status after that date as a result of—

(i) the lack of maintenance of drainage, dikes, levees, or similar structures;

(ii) a lack of management of the lands containing the wetland; or

(iii) circumstances beyond the control of the person.

(E) A wetland, if—

(i) the wetland was determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to have been manipulated for the production of an agricultural commodity or forage prior to December 23, 1985, and was returned to wetland conditions through a voluntary restoration, enhancement, or creation action subsequent to that determination;

(ii) technical determinations regarding the prior site conditions and the restoration, enhancement, or creation action have been adequately documented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(iii) the proposed conversion action is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to implementation; and

(iv) the extent of the proposed conversion is limited so that the conditions will be at least equivalent to the wetland functions and values that existed prior to implementation of the voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation action.

(c) ON-SITE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No program loans, payments, or benefits shall be withheld from a person under this subtitle unless the Secretary has conducted an on-site visit of the subject land,which, except as provided in paragraph (2), shall be conductedin the presence of the affected person.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may conduct an on-site visit under paragraph (1) without the affected person present if the Secretary has made a reasonable effort to include the presence of the affected person at the on-site visit.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF MINIMAL EFFECT EXEMPTIONS.—For purposes of applying the minimal effect exemption under subsection (f)(1), the Secretary shall identify by regulation categorical minimal effect exemptions on a regional basis to assist persons in avoiding a violation of the ineligibility provisions of section 1221. The Secretary shall ensure that employees of the Department of Agri-

culture who administer this subtitle receive appropriate training to properly apply the minimal effect exemptions determined by the Secretary.

(e) NONWETLANDS.—The Secretary shall exempt from the ineligibility provisions of section 1221 any action by a person upon lands in any case in which the Secretary determines that any one of the following does not apply with respect to such lands:

(1) Such lands have a predominance of hydric soils.

(2) Such lands are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

(3) Such lands, under normal circumstances, support a prevalence of such vegetation.

(f) MINIMAL EFFECT; MITIGATION.—The Secretary shall exempt a person from the ineligibility provisions of section 1221 for any action associated with the production of an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland, or the conversion of a wetland, if 1 or more of the following conditions apply, as determined by the Secretary:

(1) The action, individually and in connection with all other similar actions authorized by the Secretary in the area, will have a minimal effect on the functional hydrological and biological value of the wetlands in the area, including the value to waterfowl and wildlife.

(2) The wetland and the wetland values, acreage, and functions are mitigated by the person through the restoration of a converted wetland, the enhancement of an existing wetland, or the creation of a new wetland, and the restoration, enhancement, or creation is—

(A) in accordance with a wetland conservation plan;

(B) in advance of, or concurrent with, the action;

(C) not at the expense of the Federal Government;

(D) in the case of enhancement or restoration of wetlands, on not greater than a 1-for-1 acreage basis unless more acreage is needed to provide equivalent functions and values that will be lost as a result of the wetland conversion to be mitigated;

(E) in the case of creation of wetlands, on greater than a 1-for-1 acreage basis if more acreage is needed to provide equivalent functions and values that will be lost as a result of the wetland conversion that is mitigated;

(F) on lands in the same general area of the local watershed as the converted wetland; and

(G) with respect to the restored, enhanced, or created wetland, made subject to an easement that—

(i) is recorded on public land records;

(ii) remains in force for as long as the converted wetland for which the restoration, enhancement, or creation to be mitigated remains in agricultural use or is not returned to its original wetland classification with equivalent functions and values; and

(iii) prohibits making alterations to the restored, enhanced, or created wetland that lower the wetland's functions and values.

(3) The wetland was converted after December 23, 1985, but before November 28, 1990, and the wetland values, acreage, and functions are mitigated by the producer through the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2).

(4) The action was authorized by a permit issued under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and the wetland values, acreage, and functions of the converted wetland were adequately mitigated for the purposes of this subtitle.

(g) MITIGATION APPEALS.—A person shall be afforded the right to appeal, under section 1243, the imposition of a mitigation agreement requiring greater than one-to-one acreage mitigation to which the person is subject.

(h) GOOD FAITH EXEMPTION.—

(1) EXEMPTION DESCRIBED.—The Secretary may waive a person's ineligibility under section 1221 for program loans, payments, and benefits as the result of the conversion of a wetland subsequent to November 28, 1990, or the production of an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland, if the Secretary determines that the person has acted in good faith and without intent to violate this subtitle.

(2) ELIGIBLE REVIEWERS.—A determination of the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, under paragraph (1) shall be reviewed by the applicable—

(A) State Executive Director, with the technical concurrence of the State Conservationist; or

(B) district director, with the technical concurrence of the area conservationist.

(3) PERIOD FOR COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall provide a person who the Secretary determines has acted in good faith and without intent to violate this subtitle with a reasonable period, but not to exceed 1 year, during which to implement the measures and practices necessary to be considered to be actively restoring the subject wetland.

(i) RESTORATION.—Any person who is determined to be ineligible for program benefits under section 1221 for any crop year shall not be ineligible for such program benefits under such section for any subsequent crop year if, prior to the beginning of such subsequent crop year, the person has fully restored the characteristics of the converted wetland to its prior wetland state or has otherwise mitigated for the loss of wetland values, as determined by the Secretary, through the restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetland values in the same general area of the local watershed as the converted wetland.

(j) DETERMINATIONS; RESTORATION AND MITIGATION PLANS; MONITORING ACTIVITIES.—Technical determinations, the development of restoration and mitigation plans, and monitoring activities under this section shall be made by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(k) MITIGATION BANKING.—

(1) MITIGATION BANKING PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using authorities available to the Secretary, the Secretary shall operate a program or work with third parties to establish mitigation banks to assist per-

sons in complying with the provisions of this section while mitigating any loss of wetland values and functions.

[(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.]

(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (f)(2)(C) shall not apply to this subsection.

(3) POLICY AND CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop the appropriate policy and criteria that will allow willing persons to access existing mitigation banks, under this section or any other authority, that will serve the purposes of this section without requiring the Secretary to hold an easement, in whole or in part, in a mitigation bank.

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Subtitle D—Agricultural Resources Conservation Program

CHAPTER 1—COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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Subchapter B—Conservation Reserve

SEC. 1231. CONSERVATION RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Through the [2023] *2031* fiscal year, the Secretary shall formulate and carry out a conservation reserve program under which land is enrolled through the use of contracts to assist owners and operators of land specified in subsection (b) to conserve and improve the soil, water, and wildlife resources of such land and to address issues raised by State, regional, and national conservation initiatives.

(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary may include in the program established under this subchapter—

(1) highly erodible cropland that—

(A)(i) if permitted to remain untreated could substantially reduce the agricultural production capability for future generations; or

(ii) cannot be farmed in accordance with a plan that complies with the requirements of subtitle B; and

(B) the Secretary determines had a cropping history or was considered to be planted for 4 of the 6 years preceding [the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018] *the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, on the condition that the Secretary shall consider to be planted cropland enrolled in the conservation reserve program;

(2) marginal pasture land to be devoted to appropriate vegetation, including trees, in or near riparian areas, or devoted to similar water quality purposes (including marginal

pastureland converted to wetland or established as wildlife habitat);

(3) grasslands that—

(A) contain forbs or shrubland (including improved rangeland and pastureland) for which grazing is the predominant use;

(B) are located in an area historically dominated by grasslands; and

(C) could provide habitat for animal and plant populations of significant ecological value if the land is retained in its current use or restored to a natural condition;

(4) cropland, marginal pasture land, and grasslands that will have a positive impact on water quality and will be devoted to—

(A) a grass sod waterway;

(B) a contour grass sod strip;

(C) a prairie strip;

(D) a filterstrip;

(E) a riparian buffer;

(F) a wetland or a wetland buffer;

(G) a saturated buffer;

(H) a bioreactor; or

(I) another similar water quality practice, as determined by the Secretary;

(5) cropland that is otherwise ineligible if the Secretary determines that—

(A) if permitted to remain in agricultural production, the land would—

(i) contribute to the degradation of soil, water, or air quality; or

(ii) pose an on-site or off-site environmental threat to soil, water, or air quality;

(B) the land is a—

(i) newly-created, permanent grass sod waterway; or

(ii) a contour grass sod strip established and maintained as part of an approved conservation plan;

(C) the land will be devoted to newly established living snow fences, permanent wildlife habitat, windbreaks, shelterbelts, salt tolerant vegetation, field borders, or practices to benefit State or federally identified wellhead protection areas;

(D) the land poses an off-farm environmental threat, or a threat of continued degradation of productivity due to soil salinity, if permitted to remain in production; or

(E) enrollment of the land would facilitate a net savings in groundwater or surface water resources of the agricultural operation of the producer;

(6) the portion of land in a field not enrolled in the conservation reserve in a case in which—

(A) more than 50 percent of the land in the field is enrolled as a buffer or filterstrip, or more than 75 percent of the land in the field is enrolled as a conservation practice other than as a buffer or filterstrip; and

(B) the remainder of the field is—

(i) infeasible to farm; and

(ii) enrolled at regular rental rates; or

(7) as determined by the Secretary, land—

(A) that was enrolled in the conservation reserve program under a 15-year contract that expired on ⟦September 30, 2017, or September 30, 2018⟧ *September 30, 2025, or September 30, 2026*;

(B) for which there was no opportunity for additional enrollment in that program; and

(C) on which the conservation practice under the expired contract under subparagraph (A) is maintained.

(c) PLANTING STATUS OF CERTAIN LAND.—For purposes of determining the eligibility of land to be placed in the conservation reserve established under this subchapter, land shall be considered to be planted to an agricultural commodity during a crop year if, during the crop year, the land was devotedto a conserving use.

(d) ENROLLMENT.—

(1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—The Secretary may maintain in the conservation reserve at any one time during—

(A) fiscal year 2019, not more than 24,000,000 acres;

(B) fiscal year 2020, not more than 24,500,000 acres;

(C) fiscal year 2021, not more than 25,000,000 acres;

(D) fiscal year 2022, not more than 25,500,000 acres; and

(E) ⟦fiscal year 2023⟧ *each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031*, not more than 27,000,000 acres.

(2) GRASSLANDS.—

(A) LIMITATION.—For purposes of applying the limitations in paragraph (1)—

(i) the Secretary shall enroll and maintain in the conservation reserve not fewer than 2,000,000 acres of the land described in subsection (b)(3) by September 30, 2023; and

(ii) in carrying out clause (i), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maintain in the conservation reserve at any one time during—

(I) fiscal year 2019, 1,000,000 acres;

(II) fiscal year 2020, 1,500,000 acres; and

(III) fiscal years 2021 through ⟦2023⟧ *2031*, 2,000,000 acres.

(B) PRIORITY.—In enrolling acres under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may give priority to land, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) with expiring conservation reserve contracts;

(ii) at risk of conversion or development; or

(iii) of ecological significance, including land that—

(I) may assist in the restoration of threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(II) may assist in preventing a species from being listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(III) improves or creates wildlife habitat corridors.

(C) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In enrolling acres under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make the program available to owners or operators of eligible land on an annual enrollment basis with one or more ranking periods.

(ii) TIMING OF GRASSLAND RANKING PERIOD.—For purposes of grasslands described in subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall announce at least 1 ranking period subsequent to the announcement of general enrollment offers.

(D) RESERVATION OF UNENROLLED ACRES.—If the Secretary is unable in a fiscal year to enroll enough acres of land described in subsection (b)(3) to meet the number of acres described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year—

(i) the Secretary shall reserve the remaining number of acres for that fiscal year for the enrollment of land described in subsection (b)(3); and

(ii) that number of acres shall not be available for the enrollment of any other type of eligible land.

(3) WATER QUALITY PRACTICES TO FOSTER CLEAN LAKES, ESTUARIES, AND RIVERS (CLEAR INITIATIVE).—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give priority within continuous enrollment under paragraph (6) to the enrollment of land described in subsection (b)(4).

(B) SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT LOADINGS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to the implementation of practices on land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) ACREAGE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the acres maintained in the conservation reserve in accordance with paragraph (1), to the maximum extent practicable, not less than 40 percent of acres enrolled in the conservation reserve using continuous enrollment under paragraph (6) shall be of land described in subsection (b)(4).

(ii) LIMITATION.—The acres described in clause (i) shall not include grasslands described in subsection (b)(3).

(D) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

(i) in the monthly publication of the Secretary describing conservation reserve program statistics, include a description of enrollments through the priority under this paragraph; and

(ii) publish on the website of the Farm Service Agency an annual report describing a summary of, with respect to the enrollment priority under this paragraph—

(I) new enrollments;

(II) expirations;

(III) geographic distribution; and

(IV) estimated water quality benefits.

(4) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—At the beginning of each of fiscal years ⟦2019 through 2023⟧ *2026 through 2031*, to the

maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall allocate to the States proportionately 60 percent of the available number of acres each year for enrollment in the conservation reserve, in accordance with historical State enrollment rates, taking into consideration—

(A) the average number of acres of all land enrolled in the conservation reserve in each State during each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016;

(B) the average number of acres of all land enrolled in the conservation reserve nationally during each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016; and

(C) the acres available for enrollment during each of fiscal years ⟦2019 through 2023⟧ *2026 through 2031*, excluding acres described in paragraph (2).

(5) FREQUENCY.—In carrying out this subchapter, for contracts that are not available on a continuous enrollment basis, the Secretary shall hold a signup and enrollment not less often than once each year.

(6) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall allow producers to submit applications on a continuous basis for enrollment in—

(i) the conservation reserve of—

(I) marginal pasture land described in subsection (b)(2);

(II) land described in subsection (b)(4); and

(III) cropland described in subsection (b)(5); and

(ii) the conservation reserve enhancement program under section 1231A.

⟦(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of applying the limitations in paragraph (1)—

⟦(i) the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by September 30, 2023; and

⟦(ii) in carrying out clause (i), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maintain in the conservation reserve at any one time during—

⟦(I) fiscal year 2019, 8,000,000 acres;

⟦(II) fiscal year 2020, 8,250,000 acres;

⟦(III) fiscal year 2021, 8,500,000 acres; and

⟦(IV) fiscal years 2022 and 2023, 8,600,000 acres.⟧

(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of applying the limitations in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by September 30, 2031.

(e) DURATION OF CONTRACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall enter into contracts of not less than 10, nor more than 15, years.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN LAND.—In the case of land devoted to hardwood trees, shelterbelts, windbreaks, or wildlife corridors under a contract entered into under this subchapter,

the owner or operator of the land may, within the limitations prescribed under paragraph (1), specify the duration of the contract.

(f) CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—On application by the appropriate State agency, the Secretary shall designate areas of special environmental sensitivity as conservation priority areas.

(2) ELIGIBLE AREAS.—Areas eligible for designation under this subsection shall include areas with actual and significant adverse water quality or habitat impacts related to agricultural production activities.

(3) EXPIRATION.—Conservation priority area designation under this subsection shall expire after 5 years, subject to redesignation, except that the Secretary may withdraw an area's designation if the Secretary finds thatthe area no longer contains actual and significant adversewater quality or habitat impacts related to agricultural productionactivities.

(4) DUTY OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall attempt to maximize water quality and habitat benefits in the watersheds described in paragraph (1) by promoting a significant level of enrollment of land within the watersheds in the program under this subchapter by whatever means the Secretary determines are appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

(g) MULTI-YEAR GRASSES AND LEGUMES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subchapter, alfalfa and other multi-year grasses and legumes in a rotation practice, approved by the Secretary, shall be considered agricultural commodities.

(2) CROPPING HISTORY.—Alfalfa, when grown as part of a rotation practice, as determined by the Secretary, is an agricultural commodity subject to the cropping history criteria under subsection (b)(1)(B) for the purpose of determining whether highly erodible cropland has been planted or considered planted for 4 of the 6 years referred to in such subsection.

(h) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the expiration of a contract entered into under this subchapter, the lan d subject to the contract shall be eligible to be considered for reenrollment in the conservation reserve.

(2) REENROLLMENT LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), land subject to a contract entered into under this subchapter shall be eligible for only one reenrollment in the conservation reserve under paragraph (1) if the land is devoted to hardwood trees.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

(i) riparian forested buffers;

(ii) forested wetlands enrolled under subsection (d)(3) or the conservation reserve enhancement program under section 1231A; and

(iii) shelterbelts.

(i) BALANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCE PURPOSES.—In determining the acceptability of contract offers under this subchapter, the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, an equi-

table balance among the conservation purposes of soil erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

* * * * * * *

SEC. 1231B. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 2008 through [2023] *2031* fiscal years, the Secretary shall carry out a farmable wetland program in each State under which the Secretary shall enroll eligible acreage described in subsection (b).

(2) PARTICIPATION AMONG STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that owners and operators in each State have an equitable opportunity to participate in the program established under this section.

(b) ELIGIBLE ACREAGE.—

(1) WETLAND AND RELATED LAND.—Subject to subsections (c) and (d), an owner or operator may enroll in the conservation reserve, pursuant to the program established under this section, land—

(A) that is wetland (including a converted wetland described in section 1222(b)(1)(A)) that had a cropping history during at least 3 of the immediately preceding 10 crop years;

(B) on which a constructed wetland is to be developed that will receive surface and subsurface flow from row crop agricultural production and is designed to provide nitrogen removal in addition to other wetland functions;

(C) that was devoted to commercial pond-raised aquaculture in any year during the period of calendar years 2002 through 2007; or

(D) that, after January 1, 1990, and before December 31, 2002, was—

(i) cropped during at least 3 of 10 crop years; and

(ii) subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland.

(2) BUFFER ACREAGE.—Subject to subsections (c) and (d), an owner or operator may enroll in the conservation reserve, pursuant to the program established under this section, buffer acreage that—

(A) with respect to land described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1)—

(i) is contiguous to such land;

(ii) is used to protect such land; and

(iii) is of such width as the Secretary determines is necessary to protect such land, taking into consideration and accommodating the farming practices (including the straightening of boundaries to accommodate machinery) used with respect to the cropland that surrounds such land; and

(B) with respect to land described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1), enhances a wildlife benefit to the extent practicable in terms of upland to wetland ratios, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) PROGRAM LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ACREAGE LIMITATION.—The Secretary may enroll in the conservation reserve, pursuant to the program established under this section, not more than—

(A) 100,000 acres in any State; and

(B) a total of 750,000 acres.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), any acreage enrolled in the conservation reserve under this section shall be considered acres maintained in the conservation reserve.

(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ENROLLED ACREAGE.—Acreage enrolled in the conservation reserve under this section shall not affect for any fiscal year the quantity of—

(A) acreage enrolled to establish conservation buffers as part of the program announced on March 24, 1998 (63 Fed. Reg. 14109); or

(B) acreage enrolled into the conservation reserve enhancement program announced on May 27, 1998 (63 Fed. Reg. 28965).

(4) REVIEW; POTENTIAL INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT ACREAGE.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the program established under this section with respect to each State that has enrolled land in the conservation reserve pursuant to the program. As a result of the review, the Secretary may increase the number of acres that may be enrolled in a State under the program to not more than 200,000 acres, notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A).

(d) OWNER OR OPERATOR ENROLLMENT LIMITATIONS.—

(1) WETLAND AND RELATED LAND.—

(A) WETLANDS AND CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS.—The maximum size of any land described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1) that an owner or operator may enroll in the conservation reserve, pursuant to the program established under this section, shall be 40 contiguous acres.

(B) FLOODED FARMLAND.—The maximum size of any land described in subparagraph (D) of subsection (b)(1) that an owner or operator may enroll in the conservation reserve, pursuant to the program established under this section, shall be 20 contiguous acres.

(C) COVERAGE.—All acres described in subparagraph (A) or (B), including acres that are ineligible for payment, shall be covered by the conservation contract.

(2) BUFFER ACREAGE.—The maximum size of any buffer acreage described in subsection (b)(2) that an owner or operator may enroll in the conservation reserve under this section shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

(3) TRACTS.—Except for land described in subsection (b)(1)(C) and buffer acreage related to such land, the maximum size of any eligible acreage described in subsection (b)(1) in a tract of an owner or operator enrolled in the conservation reserve under this section shall be 40 acres.

(e) DUTIES OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—During the term of a contract entered into under the program established under this section, an owner or operator shall agree—

(1) to restore the hydrology of the wetland within the eligible acreage to the maximum extent practicable, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) to establish vegetative cover (which may include emerging vegetation in water and bottomland hardwoods, cypress, and other appropriate tree species) on the eligible acreage, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) to a general prohibition of commercial use of the enrolled land; and

(4) to carry out other duties described in section 1232.

(f) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), in return for a contract entered into under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) make payments to the owner or operator based on rental rates for cropland; and

(B) provide assistance to the owner or operator in accordance with sections 1233 and 1234.

(2) CONTRACT OFFERS AND PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall use the method of determination described in section 1234(d) to determine the acceptability of contract offers and the amount of rental payments under this section.

(3) INCENTIVES.—The amounts payable to owners and operators in the form of rental payments under contracts entered into under this section shall reflect incentives that are provided to owners and operators to enroll filterstrips in the conservation reserve under section 1234.

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CHAPTER 4—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM AND CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Subchapter A—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

* * * * * * *

SEC. 1240A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subchapter:

(1) CONSERVATION PLANNING ASSESSMENT.—The term "conservation planning assessment" means a report, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) is developed by—

(i) a State or unit of local government (including a conservation district);

(ii) a Federal agency; or

(iii) a third-party provider certified under section 1242(e) (including a certified rangeland professional);

(B) assesses rangeland or cropland function and describes conservation activities to enhance the economic and ecological management of that land; and

(C) can be incorporated into a comprehensive planning document required by the Secretary for enrollment in a conservation program of the Department of Agriculture.

(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "eligible land" means land on which agricultural commodities, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "eligible land" includes the following:

(i) Cropland.

(ii) Grassland.

(iii) Rangeland.

(iv) Pasture land.

(v) Nonindustrial private forest land.

(vi) Other agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, environmentally sensitive areas, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which identified or expected resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed through a contract under the program, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) INCENTIVE PRACTICE.—The term "incentive practice" means a practice or set of practices approved by the Secretary that, when implemented and maintained on eligible land, address 1 or more priority resource concerns.

(4) ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN.—The term "organic system plan" means an organic plan approved under the national organic program established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

(5) PAYMENT.—The term "payment" means financial assistance provided to a producer for performing practices under this subchapter, including compensation for—

(A) incurred costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training; and

(B) income forgone by the producer.

(6) PRACTICE.—The term "practice" means 1 or more improvements and conservation activities that are consistent with the purposes of the program under this subchapter, as determined by the Secretary, including—

(A) improvements to eligible land of the producer, including—

(i) structural practices;

(ii) land management practices;

(iii) vegetative practices;

(iv) forest management;

(v) soil testing;

(vi) soil remediation to be carried out by the producer; and

(vii) other practices that the Secretary determines would further the purposes of the program; and

(B) conservation activities involving the development of plans appropriate for the eligible land of the producer, including—

(i) comprehensive nutrient management planning;

(ii) planning for resource-conserving crop rotations (as defined in section 1240L(d)(1));

(iii) soil health planning, including increasing soil organic matter and the use of cover crops;

(iv) a conservation planning assessment;

(v) precision conservation management planning *(including the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)*; and

(vi) other plans that the Secretary determines would further the purposes of the program under this subchapter.

(7) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term "priority resource concern" means a natural resource concern or problem, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) is identified at the national, State, or local level as a priority for a particular area of a State; and

(B) represents a significant concern in a State or region.

(8) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the environmental quality incentives program established by this subchapter.

(9) SOIL REMEDIATION.—The term "soil remediation" means scientifically based practices that—

(A) ensure the safety of producers from contaminants in soil;

(B) limit contaminants in soil from entering agricultural products for human or animal consumption; and

(C) regenerate and sustain the soil.

(10) SOIL TESTING.—The term "soil testing" means the evaluation of soil health, including testing for—

(A) the optimal level of constituents in the soil, such as organic matter, nutrients, and the potential presence of soil contaminants, including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or other contaminants; and

(B) the biological and physical characteristics indicative of proper soil functioning.

SEC. 1240B. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—During each of the 2002 through 2031 fiscal years, the Secretary shall provide payments to producers that enter into contracts with the Secretary under the program.

(b) PRACTICES AND TERM.—

(1) PRACTICES.—A contract under the program may apply to the performance of one or more practices.

(2) TERM.—A contract under the program shall have a term that does not exceed 10 years.

(c) BIDDING DOWN.—If the Secretary determines that the environmental values of two or more applications for payments are comparable, the Secretary shall not assign a higher priority to the application only because it would present the least cost to the program.

(d) PAYMENTS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Payments are provided to a producer to implement one or more practices under the program.

(2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—A payment to a producer for performing a practice may not exceed, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) 75 percent of the costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training;

(B) 100 percent of income foregone by the producer; or

(C) in the case of a practice consisting of elements covered under subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

(i) 75 percent of the costs incurred for those elements covered under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) 100 percent of income foregone for those elements covered under subparagraph (B).

(3) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR FOREGONE INCOME.—In determining the amount and rate of payments under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary may accord great significance to a practice that, as determined by the Secretary, promotes—

(A) soil health;

(B) water quality and quantity improvement;

(C) nutrient management;

(D) pest management;

(E) air quality improvement;

(F) wildlife habitat development, including pollinator habitat *and wildlife habitat connectivity*; or

(G) invasive species management.

(4) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRODUCERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), in the case of a producer that is a limited resource, socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))), or a beginning farmer or rancher, the Secretary shall increase the amount that would otherwise be provided to a producer under this subsection—

(i) to not more than 90 percent of the costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training; and

(ii) to not less than 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate.

(B) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—On an election by a producer described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide at least 50 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph (A) in advance for all costs related to purchasing materials or contracting.

(ii) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If funds provided in advance are not expended during the 90-day period beginning on the date of receipt of the funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

(iii) NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(I) notify each producer described in subparagraph (A), at the time of enrollment in the program, of the option to receive advance payments under clause (i); and

(II) document the election of each producer described in subparagraph (A) to receive advance payments under clause (i) with respect to each practice that has costs described in that clause.

(5) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any payments received by a producer from a State or private organization or person for the implementation of one or more practices on eligible land of the producer shall be in addition to the payments provided to the producer under this subsection.

(6) OTHER PAYMENTS.—**[**A producer shall**]**

(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—Except as provided in paragraph (9), a producer shall not be eligible for payments for practices on eligible land under the program if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same practice on the same land under another program under this subtitle.

(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 the same practices on the same land.

(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing that they may apply to receive 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.

(7) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR *STATE-DETERMINED* HIGH-PRIORITY PRACTICES.—

(A) STATE DETERMINATION.—Each State, in consultation with the State technical committee established under section 1261(a) for the State, may designate not more than 10 practices to be eligible for increased payments under subparagraph (B), on the condition that the practice, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) addresses specific causes of impairment relating to excessive nutrients in groundwater or surface water;

(ii) addresses the conservation of water to advance drought mitigation and declining aquifers;

(iii) meets other environmental priorities and other priority resource concerns identified in habitat or other area restoration plans; **[**or**]**

(iv) is geographically targeted to address a natural resource concern in a specific watershed**[**.**]***;*

(v) addresses the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat, including wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors; or

(vi) increases carbon sequestration or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.

(B) INCREASED PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), in the case of a practice designated under subparagraph (A), 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 planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training.

(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICES.—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 for the purpose of implementing conservation practices.

(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a practice if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same practice on the same land under this title.

(e) MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS.—

(1) VOLUNTARY MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION.—The Secretary may modify or terminate a contract entered into with a producer under the program if—

(A) the producer agrees to the modification or termination; and

(B) the Secretary determines that the modification or termination is in the public interest.

(2) INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate a contract under the program if the Secretary determines that the producer violated the contract.

(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(1) LIVESTOCK.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through ⟦2023⟧ *2031*, at least 50 percent of the funds made available for payments under the program shall be targeted at practices relating to livestock production, including grazing management practices.

(2) WILDLIFE HABITAT.—

(A) FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2018.—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, at least 5 percent of the funds made available for payments under the program shall be targeted at practices benefitting wildlife habitat under subsection (g).

(B) FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2031.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, at least 10 percent of the funds made available for payments under the program shall be targeted at practices benefitting wildlife habitat under subsection (g).

(g) WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide payments under the environmental quality incentives program for conservation practices that support the restoration, development, protection, and improvement of wildlife habitat on eligible land, including—

(A) upland wildlife habitat;

(B) wetland wildlife habitat;

(C) habitat for threatened and endangered species;

(D) fish habitat;

(E) habitat on pivot corners and other irregular areas of a field; and

(F) other types of wildlife habitat, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.—In determining the practices eligible for payment under paragraph (1) and targeted for funding under subsection (f), the Secretary shall consult with the relevant State technical committee not less often than once each year.

(3) MAXIMUM TERM.—In the case of a contract under the program entered into solely for the establishment of 1 or more annual management practices for the benefit of wildlife as described in paragraph (1), notwithstanding any maximum contract term established by the Secretary, the contract shall have a term that does not exceed 10 years.

(4) INCLUDED PRACTICES.—For the purpose of providing seasonal wetland habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds, a practice that is eligible for payment under paragraph (1) and targeted for funding under subsection (f) may include—

(A) a practice to carry out postharvest flooding; or

(B) a practice to maintain the hydrology of temporary and seasonal wetlands of not more than 2 acres to maintain waterfowl and migratory bird habitat on working cropland.

(h) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PRACTICE.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary may provide water conservation and system efficiency payments under this subsection to an entity described in paragraph (2) or a producer for—

(A) water conservation scheduling, water distribution efficiency, soil moisture monitoring, or an appropriate combination thereof;

(B) irrigation-related structural or other measures that conserve surface water or groundwater, including managed aquifer recovery practices**[**; or**]***;*

(C) a transition to water-conserving crops, water-conserving crop rotations, or deficit irrigation**[**.**]***; or*

(D) the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to achieve water conservation and energy efficiency.

(2) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1001(f)(6), the Secretary may enter into a contract under this subsection with a State, irrigation district, groundwater management district, acequia, land-grant mercedes, or similar entity under a streamlined contracting process to implement water conservation or irrigation practices under a watershed-wide project that will effectively conserve water, provide fish and wildlife habitat, or provide for drought-related environmental mitigation, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Water conservation or irrigation practices that are the subject of a contract entered into under subparagraph (A) shall be implemented on—

(i) eligible land of a producer; or

(ii) land that is—

(I) under the control of an irrigation district, groundwater management district, acequia, land-grant mercedes, or similar entity; and

(II) adjacent to eligible land described in clause (i), as determined by the Secretary.

(C) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive the applicability of the limitations in section 1001D(b) or section 1240G for a payment made under a contract entered into under this paragraph if the Secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to fulfill the objectives of the project.

(D) CONTRACT LIMITATIONS.—If the Secretary grants a waiver under subparagraph (C), the Secretary may impose a separate payment limitation for the contract with respect to which the waiver applies.

(3) PRIORITY.—In providing payments under this subsection for a water conservation or irrigation practice, the Secretary shall give priority to applications in which—

(A) consistent with the law of the State in which the land on which the practices will be implemented is located, there is a reduction in water use in the operation on that land; or

(B) except in the case of an application under paragraph (2), the producer agrees not to use any associated water savings to bring new land, other than incidental land needed for efficient operations, under irrigated production, unless the producer is participating in a watershed-wide project that will effectively conserve water, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to modify the process for determining the annual allocation of funding to States under the program.

(i) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—

(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall provide payments under this subsection for conservation practices, on some or all of the operations of a producer, related—

(A) to organic production; and

(B) to the transition to organic production.

(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition for receiving payments under this subsection, a producer shall agree—

(A) to develop and carry out an organic system plan; or

(B) to develop and implement conservation practices for certified organic production that are consistent with an organic system plan and the purposes of this subchapter.

(3) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Payments under this subsection to a person or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed, in the aggregate—

(i) through fiscal year 2018—

(I) $20,000 per year; or

(II) $80,000 during any 6-year period; and

(ii) during the period of fiscal years ⟦2019 through 2023, $140,000⟧ *2027 through 2031, $200,000*.

(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In applying the limitations under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall not take into account payments received for technical assistance.

(4) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COSTS.—Payments may not be made under this subsection to cover the costs associated with organic certification that are eligible for cost-share payments under section 10606 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523).

(5) TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may cancel or otherwise nullify a contract to provide payments under this subsection if the Secretary determines that the producer—

(A) is not pursuing organic certification; or

(B) is not in compliance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq).

(j) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS FOR STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the applicable State technical committee established under section 1261(a), shall identify watersheds (or other appropriate regions or areas within a State) and the corresponding priority resource concerns for those watersheds or other regions or areas that are eligible to be the subject of an incentive contract under this subsection.

(B) LIMITATION.—For each of the relevant land uses within the watersheds, regions, or other areas identified under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall identify not more than 3 eligible priority resource concerns.

(2) CONTRACTS.—

(A) AUTHORITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with producers under this subsection that require the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance of incentive practices *(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the*

acquisition of precision agriculture technology) that effectively address at least 1 eligible priority resource concern identified under paragraph (1) for the term of the contract.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—Through a contract entered into under clause (i), the Secretary may provide—

(I) funding, through annual payments, for certain incentive practices to attain increased levels of conservation on eligible land; or

(II) assistance, through a practice payment, to implement an incentive practice.

(B) TERM.—A contract under this subsection shall have a term of not less than 5, and not more than 10, years.

(C) PRIORITIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 1240C, the Secretary shall develop criteria for evaluating incentive practice applications that—

(i) give priority to applications that address eligible priority resource concerns identified under paragraph (1); and

(ii) evaluate applications relative to other applications for similar agriculture and forest operations.

(3) INCENTIVE PRACTICE PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide payments to producers through contracts entered into under paragraph (2) for—

(i) adopting and installing incentive practices; and

(ii) managing, maintaining, and improving the incentive practices for the duration of the contract, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(B) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount of payments under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider, to the extent practicable—

(i) the level and extent of the incentive practice to be installed, adopted, completed, maintained, managed, or improved;

(ii) the cost of the installation, adoption, completion, management, maintenance, or improvement of the incentive practice;

(iii) income foregone by the producer, including payments, as appropriate, to address—

(I) increased economic risk;

(II) loss in revenue due to anticipated reductions in yield; and

(III) economic losses during transition to a resource-conserving cropping system or resource-conserving land use; and

(iv) the extent to which compensation would ensure long-term continued maintenance, management, and improvement of the incentive practice.

(C) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—In making payments under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable—

(i) in the case of annual payments under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I), make those payments as soon as practicable after October 1 of each fiscal year for which in-

creased levels of conservation are maintained during the term of the contract; and

(ii) in the case of practice payments under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(II), make those payments as soon as practicable on the implementation of an incentive practice.

(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide payments under the program to producers to implement conservation practices on covered lands of such producers that address and repair covered damage that may contribute to a natural resource concern or problem.

(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a contract under the program entered into for the implementation of practices described in paragraph (1), such contract shall have a term of 1 year.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term "covered damage" means damage to agricultural land or farming infrastructure.

(B) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means eligible land in a county at or near the southern border of the United States, as determined by the Secretary.

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SEC. 1240G. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.

Not including payments made under section 1240B(j), a person or legal entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, cost-share or incentive payments under this subchapter that, in aggregate, exceed $450,000 for all contracts entered into under this subchapter by the person or legal entity during the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, or the period of fiscal years **[**2019 through 2023**]** *2027 through 2031*, regardless of the number of contracts entered into under this subchapter by the person or legal entity.

SEC. 1240H. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAYMENTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACHES.—

[(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may pay the cost of competitive grants that are intended to stimulate innovative approaches to leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management, through the program.**]**

(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may award competitive grants that are intended to stimulate development and evaluation of new and innovative approaches to leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management, through the program, including grants for the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards.

(2) USE.—The Secretary may provide grants under this subsection to governmental and non-governmental organizations and persons, on a competitive basis, to carry out projects that—

(A) involve producers who are eligible for payments or technical assistance under the program or community colleges (as defined in section 1473E(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319e(a))) carrying out demonstration projects on land of the community college;

(B) leverage Federal funds made available to carry out the program under this subchapter with matching funds provided by State and local governments and private organizations to promote environmental enhancement and protection in conjunction with agricultural production;

(C) ensure efficient and effective transfer of innovative technologies and approaches demonstrated through projects that receive funding under this section, such as market systems for pollution reduction and practices for the storage of carbon in soil;

(D) provide environmental and resource conservation benefits through increased participation by producers of specialty crops;

(E) partner with farmers to develop innovative practices for urban, indoor, or other emerging agricultural operations;

(F) utilize edge-of-field and other monitoring practices on farms—

(i) to quantify the impacts of practices implemented under the program; and

(ii) to assist producers in making the best conservation investments for the operations of the producers;

(G) facilitate on-farm conservation research and demonstration activities; and

(H) facilitate pilot testing of new technologies or innovative conservation practices *(including precision agriculture practices and precision agriculture technologies)*.

(b) AIR QUALITY CONCERNS FROM AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide payments under this subsection to producers to implement practices to address air quality concerns from agricultural operations and to meet Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. The funds shall be made available on the basis of air quality concerns in a State and shall be used to provide payments to producers that are cost effective and reflect innovative technologies.

(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary shall carry out this subsection using $37,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031.

(c) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION TRIALS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) a third-party private entity the primary business of which is related to agriculture;

(ii) a nongovernmental organization with experience working with agricultural producers; or

(iii) a governmental organization.

(B) NEW OR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACH.—The term "new or innovative conservation approach" means—

(i) new or innovative—

(I) precision agriculture technologies;

(II) enhanced nutrient management plans, nutrient recovery systems, and fertilization systems;

(III) soil health management systems, including systems to increase soil carbon levels;

(IV) water management systems;

(V) resource-conserving crop rotations (as defined in section 1240L(d)(1));

(VI) cover crops; [and]

(VII) irrigation systems; and

(VIII) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and

(ii) any other conservation approach approved by the Secretary as new or innovative.

(2) TESTING NEW OR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACHES.—Using $25,000,000 of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, the Secretary shall carry out on-farm conservation innovation trials, on eligible land of producers, to test new or innovative conservation approaches—

(A) directly with producers; or

(B) through eligible entities.

(3) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

(A) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Secretary shall enter into agreements with producers (either directly or through eligible entities) on whose land an on-farm conservation innovation trial is being carried out to provide payments (including payments to compensate for foregone income, as appropriate to address the increased economic risk potentially associated with new or innovative conservation approaches) to the producers to assist with adopting and evaluating new or innovative conservation approaches to achieve conservation benefits.

(B) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Adjusted gross income requirements under section 1001D(b)(1) shall—

(I) apply to producers receiving payments under this subsection; and

(II) be enforced by the Secretary.

(ii) REPORTING.—An eligible entity participating in an on-farm conservation innovation trial under this subsection shall report annually to the Secretary on the amount of payments made to individual farm operations under this subsection.

(C) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—None of the funds made available to carry out this subsection may be used to pay for the administrative expenses of an eligible entity.

(D) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) shall be for a period determined by the Secretary that is—

(i) not less than 3 years; and

(ii) if appropriate, more than 3 years, including if such a period is appropriate to support—

(I) adaptive management over multiple crop years; and

(II) adequate data collection and analysis by a producer or eligible entity to report the natural resource and agricultural production benefits of the new or innovative conservation approaches to the Secretary.

(4) FLEXIBLE ADOPTION.—The scale of adoption of a new or innovative conservation approach under an on-farm conservation innovation trial under an agreement under paragraph (2) may include multiple scales on an operation, including whole farm, field-level, or sub-field scales.

(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance—

(A) to each producer or eligible entity participating in an on-farm conservation innovation trial under paragraph (2) with respect to the design, installation, and management of the new or innovative conservation approaches; and

(B) to each eligible entity participating in an on-farm conservation innovation trial under paragraph (2) with respect to data analyses of the on-farm conservation innovation trial.

(6) GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE.—The Secretary shall identify a diversity of geographic regions of the United States in which to establish on-farm conservation innovation trials under paragraph (2), taking into account factors such as soil type, cropping history, and water availability.

(7) SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION TRIAL.—Using funds made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall carry out a soil health demonstration trial under which the Secretary coordinates with eligible entities—

(A) to provide incentives to producers to implement conservation practices that—

(i) improve soil health;

(ii) increase carbon levels in the soil; or

(iii) meet the goals described in clauses (i) and (ii);

(B) to establish protocols for measuring carbon levels in the soil and testing carbon levels on land where conservation practices described in subparagraph (A) were applied to evaluate gains in soil health as a result of the practices implemented by the producers in the soil health demonstration trial; and

(C)(i) not later than September 30, 2020, to initiate a study regarding changes in soil health and, if feasible, economic outcomes, generated as a result of the conservation practices described in subparagraph (A) that were applied by producers through the soil health demonstration trial; and

(ii) to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate annual re-

ports on the progress and results of the study under clause (i).

(d) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30, 2019, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the status of activities funded under this section, including—

(A) funding awarded;

(B) results of the activities, including, if feasible, economic outcomes;

(C) incorporation of findings from the activities, such as new technology and innovative approaches, into the conservation efforts implemented by the Secretary; and

(D) on completion of the study required under subsection (c)(7)(C), the findings of the study.

(2) CONSERVATION PRACTICE DATABASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the data reported under paragraph (1) to establish and maintain a publicly available conservation practice database that provides—

(i) a compilation and analysis of effective conservation practices*, including both management and structural conservation practices,* for soil health, nutrient management, and source water protection in varying soil compositions, cropping systems, slopes, and landscapes; **[**and**]**

(ii) data that may be used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendations for State and regional applications of such new and emerging technologies; and

[(ii)**]** *(iii)* a list of recommended new and effective conservation practices *for consideration under the streamlined process developed under section 1242(h)(3).*

(B) PRIVACY.—Information provided under subparagraph (A) shall be transformed into a statistical or aggregate form so as to not include any identifiable or personal information of individual producers.

Subchapter B—Conservation Stewardship Program

SEC. 1240I. DEFINITIONS.

In this subchapter:

(1) AGRICULTURAL OPERATION.—The term "agricultural operation" means all eligible land, whether or not contiguous, that is—

(A) under the effective control of a producer at the time the producer enters into a contract under the program; and

(B) operated with equipment, labor, management, and production or cultivation practices that are substantially separate from other agricultural operations, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "conservation activities" means conservation systems, practices, or management measures.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "conservation activities" includes—

(i) structural measures, vegetative measures, and land management measures, including agriculture drainage management systems *and energy-efficient pumping systems*, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) planning needed to address a priority resource concern;

(iii) development of a comprehensive conservation plan, as defined in section 1240L(e)(1);

(iv) soil health planning, including planning to increase soil organic matter; and

(v) activities that will assist a producer to adapt to, or mitigate against, increasing weather volatility.

(3) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PLAN.—The term "conservation stewardship plan" means a plan that—

(A) identifies and inventories priority resource concerns;

(B) establishes benchmark data and conservation objectives;

(C) describes conservation activities to be implemented, managed, or improved; and

(D) includes a schedule and evaluation plan for the planning, installation, and management of the new and existing conservation activities.

(4) ELIGIBLE LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "eligible land" means—

(i) private or tribal land on which agricultural commodities, livestock, or forest-related products are produced; and

(ii) lands associated with the land described in clause (i) on which priority resource concerns could be addressed through a contract under the program.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "eligible land" includes—

(i) cropland;

(ii) grassland;

(iii) rangeland;

(iv) pasture land;

(v) nonindustrial private forest land; and

(vi) other land in agricultural areas (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used or capable of being used for the production of livestock), as determined by the Secretary.

(5) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term "priority resource concern" means a natural resource concern or problem, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) is identified at the national, State, or local level as a priority for a particular area of a State;

(B) represents a significant concern in a State or region; and

(C) is likely to be addressed successfully through the implementation of conservation activities under this program.

(6) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the conservation stewardship program established by this subchapter.

(7) STEWARDSHIP THRESHOLD.—The term "stewardship threshold" means the level of management required, as determined by the Secretary, to conserve and improve the quality and condition of a natural resourcethrough the use of—

(A) quality criteria under a resource management system;

(B) predictive analytics tools or models developed or approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(C) data from past and current enrollment in the program; and

(D) other methods that measure conservation and improvement in priority resource concerns, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 1240J. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—During each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, the Secretary shall carry out a conservation stewardship program to encourage producers to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and condition of natural resources in a comprehensive manner—

(1) by undertaking additional conservation activities; and

(2) by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

(1) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—Subject to paragraph (2), *and except as provided in paragraph (3),* the following land (even if covered by the definition of eligible land) is not eligible for enrollment in the program:

(A) Land enrolled in the conservation reserve program, unless—

(i) the conservation reserve contract will expire at the end of the fiscal year in which the land is to be enrolled in the program; and

(ii) conservation reserve program payments for land enrolled in the program cease before the first program payment is made to the applicant under this subchapter.

(B) Land enrolled in a wetland reserve easement through the agricultural conservation easement program.

(2) CONVERSION TO CROPLAND.—Eligible land used for crop production after the date of enactment of Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, that had not been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production for at least 4 of the 6 years preceding that date shall not be the basis for any payment under the program, unless the land does not meet such requirement because—

(A) the land had previously been enrolled in the conservation reserve program;

(B) the land has been maintained using long-term crop rotation practices, as determined by the Secretary; or

(C) the land is incidental land needed for efficient operation of the farm or ranch, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a conservation activity if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same conservation activity on the same land under this title.

(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource concern, practice, or incentive pertaining to restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on the acres described above will prevent or alter emergency grazing and haying access for grassland acres enrolled in the conservation reserve program.

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SEC. 1240L. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the conservation goals of a contract under the conservation stewardship program, the Secretary shall—

(1) make the program available to eligible producers on a continuous enrollment basis with 1 or more ranking periods, 1 of which shall occur in the first quarter of each fiscal year;

(2) identify not less than 5 priority resource concerns in a particular watershed or other appropriate region or area within a State; and

(3) establish a science-based stewardship threshold for each priority resource concern identified under paragraph (2).

(b) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall allocate funding to States for enrollment, based—

(1) primarily on each State's proportion of eligible land to the total acreage of eligible land in all States; and

(2) also on consideration of—

(A) the extent and magnitude of the conservation needs associated with agricultural production in each State;

(B) the degree to which implementation of the program in the State is, or will be, effective in helping producers address those needs; and

(C) other considerations to achieve equitable geographic distribution of funds, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide annual payments under the program to compensate the producer for—

(A) installing and adopting additional conservation activities; and

(B) improving, maintaining, and managing conservation activities in place at the agricultural operation of the pro-

ducer at the time the contract offer is accepted by the Secretary.

(2) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of the annual payment shall be determined by the Secretary and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the following factors:

(A) Costs incurred by the producer associated with planning, design, materials, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training *(including increased costs associated with planning and adopting precision agriculture conservation activities and acquiring precision agriculture technology)*.

(B) Income forgone by the producer.

(C) Expected conservation benefits.

(D) The extent to which priority resource concerns will be addressed through the installation and adoption of conservation activities on the agricultural operation.

(E) The level of stewardship in place at the time of application and maintained over the term of the contract.

(F) The degree to which the conservation activities will be integrated across the entire agricultural operation for all applicable priority resource concerns over the term of the contract.

(G) Such other factors as are determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer under this subsection shall not be provided for—

(A) the design, construction, or maintenance of animal waste storage or treatment facilities or associated waste transport or transfer devices for animal feeding operations; or

(B) conservation activities for which there is no cost incurred or income forgone to the producer.

(4) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—In making payments under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable—

(A) prorate conservation performance over the term of the contract so as to accommodate, to the extent practicable, producers earning equal annual payments in each fiscal year; and

(B) make such payments as soon as practicable after October 1 of each fiscal year for activities carried out in the previous fiscal year.

(5) PAYMENT FOR COVER CROP ACTIVITIES.—The amount of a payment under this subsection for cover crop activities shall be not less than 125 percent of the annual payment amount determined by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an annual payment under the program shall be not less than $4,000.

(d) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS **[**AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT**]**, *ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE*.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—The term"advanced grazing management" means the use of a combinationof grazing practices (as determined by the Sec-

retary),which may include management-intensive rotationalgrazing, that provide for—

(i) improved soil health and carbon sequestration;

(ii) drought resilience;

(iii) wildlife habitat;

(iv) wildfire mitigation;

(v) control of invasive plants; and

(vi) water quality improvement.

(B) MANAGEMENT-INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING.—The term "management-intensive rotational grazing" means a strategic, adaptively managed multipasture grazing system in which animals are regularly and systematically moved to fresh pasture in a manner that—

(i) maximizes the quantity and quality of forage growth;

(ii) improves manure distribution and nutrient cycling;

(iii) increases carbon sequestration from greater forage harvest;

(iv) improves the quality and quantity of cover for wildlife;

(v) provides permanent cover to protect the soil from erosion; and

(vi) improves water quality.

(C) RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTATION.—The term"resource-conserving crop rotation" means a crop rotation that—

(i) includes at least 1 resource-conserving crop (as defined by the Secretary);

(ii) reduces erosion;

(iii) improves soil fertility and tilth;

(iv) interrupts pest cycles;

(v) builds soil organic matter; and

(vi) in applicable areas, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide additional payments to producers that, in participating in the program, agree to adopt or improve,manage, and maintain—

(A) resource-conserving crop rotations**[**; or**]***;*

(B) advanced grazing management**[**.**]***; or*

(C) precision agriculture conservation activities.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a payment described in paragraph (2), a producer shall agree to adopt or improve, manage, and maintain resource-conserving crop rotations **[**or advanced grazing management**]***, advanced grazing management, or precision agriculture conservation activities* for the term of the contract.

(4) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—An additional payment provided under paragraph (2) shall be not less than 150 percent of the annual payment amount determined by the Secretary under subsection (c)(2).

(e) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN.—In this subsection, the term "comprehensive conservation plan" means a conservation plan that meets or exceeds the steward-

ship threshold for each priority resource concern identified by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2).

(2) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN.—The Secretary shall provide a 1-time payment to a producer that develops a comprehensive conservation plan.

(3) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall determine the amount of payment under paragraph (2) based on—

(A) the number of priority resource concerns addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan; and

(B) the number of types of land uses included in the comprehensive conservation plan.

(f) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—A person or legal entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, payments under the program that, in the aggregate, exceed $200,000 under all contracts entered into during fiscal years ⟦2019 through 2023⟧ *2027 through 2031*, excluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes, regardless of the number of contracts entered into under the program by the person or legal entity.

(g) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRODUCERS.—The Secretary shall ensure that outreach and technical assistance are available, and program specifications are appropriate to enable specialty crop and organic producers to participate in the program.

(h) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.—

(1) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish a transparent means by which producers may initiate organic certification under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) while participating in a contract under the program.

(2) ALLOCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available for the program for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, the Secretary shall allocate funding to States to support organic production and transition to organic production through paragraph (1).

(B) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall determine the allocation to a State under subparagraph (A) based on—

(i) the number of certified and transitioning organic operations within the State; and

(ii) the number of acres of certified and transitioning organic production within the State.

(i) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations that—

(1) prescribe such other rules as the Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure a fair and reasonable application of the limitations established under subsection (f); and

(2) otherwise enable the Secretary to carry out the program.

(j) STREAMLINING AND COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary shall provide for streamlined and coordinated procedures for the program and the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A, including applications, contracting, conservation planning, conservation practices, and related administrative procedures.

(k) SOIL HEALTH.—To the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary shall manage the program to enhance soil health.

(l) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the payment rates for conservation activities offered to producers under the program and an analysis of whether payment rates can be reduced for the most expensive conservation activities.

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SEC. 1240L–2. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "eligible Indian Tribe" means an Indian Tribe that is—

(A) implementing a soil health program for the area over which the Indian Tribe has jurisdiction; and

(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the Indian Tribe for the soil health program.

(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term "eligible State" means a State that is—

(A) implementing a soil health program for the State; and

(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the State for the soil health program.

(3) SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term "soil health program" means a program to improve soil health on agricultural land that—

(A) is broadly consistent with the soil health principles of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) may include—

(i) technical assistance;

(ii) financial assistance;

(iii) on-farm research and demonstration;

(iv) education, outreach, and training;

(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

(vi) such other components as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health programs.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such a manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall require, which shall include—

(A) a description of performance measures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal soil health program and the results of any activities carried out using grant funds received under this section; and

(B) an assurance that grant funds received under this section will supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal

funds in support of soil health, rather than replace such funds.

(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an eligible State.

(d) GRANTS.—

(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this section for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—

(A) $5,000,000; or

(B) as applicable—

(i) 50 percent of the cost of implementing the State soil health program in the fiscal year; or

(ii) 75 percent of the cost of implementing the Tribal soil health program in the fiscal year.

(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall be for 1 year, and may be renewed annually.

(e) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary—

(1) for each year for which the State or Indian Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall establish, a review and evaluation of the State or Tribal soil health program.

(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary, after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of future grants under this section.

(g) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, $100,000,000 shall be available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.

(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

(2) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section may not use more than 7 percent of the granted funds for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

CHAPTER 5—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 1240M. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to authorize the Secretary to provide a coordinated technical, educational, and related assistance program to conserve and enhance private grazing land resources and provide related benefits to all citizens of the United States by—

(1) establishing a coordinated and cooperative Federal, State, and local grazing conservation program for management of private grazing land;

(2) strengthening technical, educational, and related assistance programs that provide assistance to owners and managers of private grazing land;

(3) conserving and improving wildlife habitat on private grazing land;

(4) conserving and improving fish habitat and aquatic systems through grazing land conservation treatment;

(5) protecting and improving water quality;

(6) improving the dependability and consistency of water supplies;

(7) identifying and managing weed, noxious weed, and brush encroachment problems on private grazing land; and

(8) integrating conservation planning and management decisions by owners and managers of private grazing land, on a voluntary basis.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(2) PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.—The term "private grazing land" means private, State-owned, tribally-owned, and any other non-federally owned rangeland, pastureland, grazed forest land, and hay land.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) PRIVATE GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—

(1) ASSISTANCE TO GRAZING LANDOWNERS AND OTHERS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary program to provide technical, educational, and related assistance to owners and managers of private grazing land and public agencies, through local conservation districts, to enable the landowners, managers, and public agencies to voluntarily carry out activities that are consistent with this section, including—

(A) maintaining and improving private grazing land and the multiple values and uses that depend on private grazing land;

(B) implementing grazing land management technologies;

(C) managing resources on private grazing land, including—

(i) planning, managing, and treating private grazing land resources;

(ii) ensuring the long-term sustainability of private grazing land resources;

(iii) harvesting, processing, and marketing private grazing land resources; and

(iv) identifying and managing weed, noxious weed, and brush encroachment problems;

(D) protecting and improving the quality and quantity of water yields from private grazing land;

(E) maintaining and improving wildlife and fish habitat on private grazing land;

(F) enhancing recreational opportunities on private grazing land;

(G) maintaining and improving the aesthetic character of private grazing land;

(H) identifying the opportunities and encouraging the diversification of private grazing land enterprises; and

(I) encouraging the use of sustainable grazing systems, such as year-round, rotational, or managed grazing.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

(A) FUNDING.—If funding is provided to carry out this section, it shall be provided through a specific line-item in the annual appropriations for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION.—Personnel of the Department trained in pasture and range management shall be made available under the program to deliver and coordinate technical assistance and education to owners and managers of private grazing land, at the request of the owners and managers.

(C) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Secretary shall provide education and outreach activities through partnerships with—

(i) land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

(ii) nongovernmental organizations.

(d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SELF-HELP.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) there is a severe lack of technical assistance for farmers and ranchers that graze livestock;

(B) Federal budgetary constraints preclude any significant expansion, and may force a reduction of, current levels of technical support; and

(C) farmers and ranchers have a history of cooperatively working together to address common needs in the promotion of their products and in the drainage of wet areas through drainage districts.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAZING DEMONSTRATION.—In accordance with paragraph (3), the Secretary may establish 2 grazing management demonstration districts at the recommendation of the grazing land conservation initiative steering committee.

(3) PROCEDURE.—

(A) PROPOSAL.—Within a reasonable time after the submission of a request of an organization of farmers or ranchers engaged in grazing, the Secretary shall propose that a grazing management district be established.

(B) FUNDING.—The terms and conditions of the funding and operation of the grazing management district shall be proposed by the producers.

(C) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve the proposal if the Secretary determines that the proposal—

(i) is reasonable;

(ii) will promote sound grazing practices; and

(iii) contains provisions similar to the provisions contained in the beef promotion and research order

issued under section 4 of the Beef Research and Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2903) in effect on April 4, 1996.

(D) AREA INCLUDED.—The area proposed to be included in a grazing management district shall be determined by the Secretary on the basis of an application by farmers or ranchers.

(E) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may use authority under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to operate, on a demonstration basis, a grazing management district.

(F) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of a grazing management district shall be scientifically sound activities, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with a technical advisory committee composed of ranchers, farmers, and technical experts.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control program (in this section referred to as the "program") to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health.

(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) study and assess the nature and extent of damage to the threatened areas caused by feral swine;

(2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas;

(3) develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine; and

(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in threatened areas.

(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to agricultural producers under the program to implement methods to—

(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas; and

(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for purposes of this section through State technical committees established under section 1261(a).

(e) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

(f) THREATENED AREA DEFINED.—In this section, the term "threatened area" means an area of a State in which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agriculture, native ecosystems, or human and animal health, as determined by the Secretary.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $75,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and $150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1)—

(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out the program, including the provision of financial assistance to producers for on-farm trapping and technology related to capturing and confining feral swine; and

(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carry out the program, including the use of established, and testing of innovative, population reduction methods.

(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made available under this section may be used for administrative expenses of the program.

(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or universities to assist with the program in achieving its goals.

(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1) if such college or university—

(A) has developed and implemented a system of evaluating damages from feral swine and effectiveness of control efforts in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334);

(B) shows evidence of a strong working relationship with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-Federal Wildlife Services program that has an active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the structure of the Land Grant University System.

(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university that enters into a contract under paragraph (1) shall, as a condition on entering into such a contract, assist the program by acting as a strategic, neutral entity that is able to advance the program beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve the stated goals of the program by—

(A) identifying and carrying out research on novel methods of feral swine control and land remediation;

(B) assisting in establishing strategic areas for feral swine control based on data collected in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;

(C) coordinating and collaborating between field staff, programmatic staff, and research staff within the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(D) establishing and consulting with the Department on research goals and priorities in the program.

(4) FUNDING.—Funding made available under (g)(2) shall be available to fund activities under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "land-grant college or university" has the meaning given the term "land-grant colleges and universities" in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

* * * * * * *

Subtitle E—Funding and Administration

SEC. 1241. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2031, the Secretary shall use the funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the following programs under this title (including the provision of technical assistance):

(1) The conservation reserve program under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, including, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) $12,000,000 for the period of fiscal years [2019 through 2023] *2027 through 2031* to provide payments under section 1234(c); and

(B) $50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years [2019 through 2023] *2027 through 2031*, including not more than $5,000,000 to provide outreach and technical assistance, to carry out section 1235(f) to facilitate the transfer of land subject to contracts from contract holders to covered farmers or ranchers, as defined in section 1235(f)(1).

(2) The agricultural conservation easement program under subtitle H using to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) $625,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
(B) $650,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
(C) $675,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
(D) $700,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
(E) $700,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
(F) $700,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

(3) The programs under chapter 4, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) for the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of that chapter—

[(i) $2,655,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
[(ii) $2,855,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
[(iii) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
[(iv) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
[(v) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
[(vi) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and]

(i) $2,530,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
(ii) $2,730,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
(iii) $3,130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
(iv) $3,175,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
(v) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and

(B) for the conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of that chapter—

(i) $1,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
(ii) $1,325,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
(iii) $1,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
(iv) $1,375,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
(v) $1,375,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
(vi) $1,375,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

(4) The conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018), using such sums as are necessary to administer contracts entered into before that date of enactment.

(5) The forest conservation easement program under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
(E) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

(6) The regional conservation partnership program under subtitle J, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
(B) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
(C) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;
(D) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and
(E) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available by subsection (a) for fiscal years 2014 through 2031 shall be used by the Secretary to carry out the programs specified in such subsection and shall remain available until expended.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—Commodity Credit Corporation funds made available for a fiscal year for each of the programs specified in subsection (a)—

(A) shall be available for the provision of technical assistance for the programs for which funds are made available as necessary to implement the programs effectively;

(B) except for technical assistance for the conservation reserve program under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, shall be apportioned for the provision of technical assistance in the amount determined by the Secretary, at the sole discretion of the Secretary; and

(C) shall not be available for the provision of technical assistance for conservation programs specified in subsection (a) other than the program for which the funds were made available.

(2) PRIORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the delivery of technical assistance under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act

(16 U.S.C. 590a et seq.), the Secretary shall give priority to producers who request technical assistance from the Secretary in order to comply for the first time with the requirements of subtitle B and subtitle C of this title as a result of the amendments made by section 2611 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report regarding the extent to which the conservation compliance requirements contained in the amendments made by section 2611 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 apply to and impact specialty crop growers, including national analysis and surveys to determine the extent of specialty crop acreage that includes highly erodible land and wetlands.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2014, the Secretary shall submit (and update as necessary in subsequent years) to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report—

(A) detailing the amount of technical assistance funds requested and apportioned in each program specified in subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year; and

(B) any other data relating to this provision that would be helpful to such Committees.

(4) COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Not later than November 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

(A) a description of the extent to which the requests for highly erodible land conservation and wetland compliance determinations are being addressed in a timely manner;

(B) the total number of requests completed in the previous fiscal year;

(C) the incomplete determinations on record; and

(D) the number of requests that are still outstanding more than 1 year since the date on which the requests were received from the producer.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—The use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds under subsection (c) to provide technical assistance shall not be considered an allotment or fund transfer from the Commodity Credit Corporation for purposes of the limit on expenditures for technical assistance imposed by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i).

(e) REGIONAL EQUITY.—

(1) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—When determining funding allocations each fiscal year, the Secretary shall, after considering available funding and program demand in each State, provide a distribution of funds for conservation programs under subtitle D (excluding the conservation reserve program under subchapter B of chapter 1), subtitle H, and [subtitle I] *subtitle J*

to ensure equitable program participation proportional to historical funding allocations and usage by all States.

(2) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—In determining the specific funding allocations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) ensure that during the first quarter of each fiscal year each State has the opportunity to establish that the State can use an aggregate allocation amount of at least 0.6 percent of the funds made available for those conservation programs; and

(B) for each State that can so establish, provide an aggregate amount of at least 0.6 percent of the funds made available for those conservation programs.

(f) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall establish the necessary accounts and process to accept contributions of private funds for the purposes of addressing the changing climate, sequestering carbon, improving wildlife habitat, protecting sources of drinking water, and addressing other natural resource priorities identified by the Secretary.

(2) DEPOSIT AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Contributions of non-Federal funds received for a covered program shall be deposited into the account established under this subsection for the program and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, to carry out the program.

(3) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept under this subsection contributions of such funds as the Secretary determines appropriate, taking into consideration—

(i) the source of the funds to be contributed;

(ii) the natural resource concerns to be addressed through the use of the funds;

(iii) the amount of funds to be contributed;

(iv) whether the activities proposed to be carried out using the funds are consistent with the priorities of the Secretary; and

(v) any other factors the Secretary determines to be relevant.

(B) DETERMINATION.—A determination of whether to accept private funds under this subsection shall be at the sole discretion of the Secretary.

(4) MATCH OF CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may provide matching Federal funds, and determine the level of such match, which shall not exceed 75 percent, for the private funds contributed under this subsection, subject to the availability of funding for the applicable covered program.

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR STATES.—The Secretary may not provide any matching Federal funds pursuant to subparagraph (A) in a manner that would result in a substantial reduction in the historical

distribution of Federal funding to any State for any covered program.

(C) LIMITATION.—No funds made available pursuant to Public Law 117–169 may be used to provide matching Federal funds pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(5) ROLE OF CONTRIBUTING ENTITY.—An entity contributing funds under this subsection may—

(A) designate the covered program for which the contributed funds are intended to be used;

(B) specify the geographic area in which the contributed funds are intended to be used;

(C) identify a natural resource concern the contributed funds are intended to be used to address;

(D) with respect to an activity funded pursuant to this subsection that may result in environmental services benefits to be sold through an environmental services market, subject to the approval of the Secretary, prescribe the terms for ownership of the entity's share of such environmental services benefits resulting from such activity; and

(E) work with the Secretary to promote the activities funded pursuant to this subsection.

(6) PRODUCER PARTICIPATION.—

(A) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall establish a process to provide notice to producers—

(i) of activities that may be carried out, through a covered program, pursuant to this section; and

(ii) *of* any terms prescribed by the contributing entity under paragraph (5)(D) with respect to such activities.

(B) RETENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall not claim or impede any action of a producer with respect to the environmental services benefits they accrue through activities funded pursuant to this subsection.

(7) CONSISTENCY WITH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall ensure that the terms and conditions of activities carried out using funds contributed under this subsection are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program.

(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program, or related guidance, as it applies to an activity carried out using funds contributed under this subsection—

(I) to provide a simplified process; or

(II) to better reflect unique local circumstances and to address a specific priority of the contributing entity.

(ii) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not adjust the application of statutory requirements for a covered program, including requirements governing appeals, payment limits, and conservation compliance.

(8) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2024, and each year thereafter through December 31, 2031, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

(A) the name and a description of each entity contributing private funds under this subsection that took an action under paragraph (5), and a description of each such action;

(B) the name and a description of each entity contributing private funds under this subsection for which the Secretary has provided matching Federal funds, and the level of that match, including the amount of such matching Federal funds; and

(C) the total amounts of—

(i) private funds contributed under this subsection; and

(ii) matching Federal funds provided by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

(9) COVERED PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "covered program" means a program carried out by the Secretary under—

[(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B of such subtitle), subtitle H, or subtitle I;**]**

(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B of chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, subtitle I, or subtitle J;

(B) section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203)**[**;**]***; or*

[(C) title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.); or**]**

[(D)**]** *(C)* the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), except for any program established by the Secretary to carry out section 14 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1012).

(10) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection shall expire, with respect to each covered program, on the date on which the authority of the covered program expires.

(g) ALLOCATIONS REVIEW AND UPDATE.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, shall conduct a review of conservation programs and authorities under this title that utilize annual allocation formulas to determine the sufficiency of the formulas in accounting for relevant data on local natural resource concerns, resource inventories, evaluations and reports, recommendations from State technical committees established under section 1261(a), State-level economic factors, level of agricultural infrastructure, or related factors that affect conservation program costs.

(2) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall improve conservation program allocation formulas as necessary to ensure that—

(A) the formulas adequately reflect the costs of carrying out the conservation programs;

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, local natural resource concerns are considered a leading factor in determining annual funding allocation to States;

(C) the process used at the national level to evaluate State budget proposals and to allocate funds is reviewed annually to assess the effect of allocations in addressing identified natural resource priorities and objectives; and

(D) the allocation of funds to States addresses priority natural resource concerns and objectives.

(h) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCHERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—

(1) ASSISTANCE.—

(A) FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2018.—Of the funds made available for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2018 to carry out the environmental quality incentives program and the acres made available for each of such fiscal years to carry out the conservation stewardship program, the Secretary shall use, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) 5 percent to assist beginning farmers or ranchers; and

(ii) 5 percent to assist socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(B) FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2031.—Of the funds made available for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031 to carry out the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D and the conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D, the Secretary shall use, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) 5 percent to assist beginning farmers or ranchers; and

(ii) 5 percent to assist socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(2) REPOOLING OF FUNDS.—In any fiscal year, amounts not obligated under paragraph (1) by a date determined by the Secretary shall be available for payments and technical assistance to all persons eligible for payments or technical assistance in that fiscal year under the environmental quality incentives program and, in the case of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, under the conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D.

(3) REPOOLING OF ACRES.—In any fiscal year through fiscal year 2018, acres not obligated under paragraph (1)(A) by a date determined by the Secretary shall be available for use in that fiscal year under the conservation stewardship program.

(4) PREFERENCE.—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to a veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))) that qualifies under, as applicable, clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) or clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(i) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND ASSISTANCE.—Not later than December 15 of each of calendar years [2019 through

2023] *2027 through 2031*, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report containing statistics by State related to enrollments in conservation programs under this title, as follows:

(1) The annual and current cumulative activity reflecting active agreement and contract enrollment statistics.

(2) Secretarial exceptions, waivers, and significant payments, including—

(A) payments made under the agricultural conservation easement program for easements valued at $250,000 or greater;

(B) payments made under the regional conservation partnership program subject to the waiver of adjusted gross income limitations pursuant to section 1271C(c)(3);

(C) waivers granted by the Secretary under section 1001D(b)(3);

(D) exceptions and activity associated with section 1240B(h)(2); and

(E) exceptions provided by the Secretary under [section 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)] *section 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)*.

(j) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this title, the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall serve as the lead agency in developing and establishing technical standards and requirements for conservation programs carried out under this title, including—

(A) standards for conservation practices under this title;

(B) technical guidelines for implementing conservation practices under this title, including the location of the conservation practices; and

(C) standards for conservation plans.

(2) CONSISTENCY OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND PAYMENT RATES.—The Administrator of the Farm Service Agency shall ensure that—

(A) technical standards of programs administered by the Farm Service Agency are consistent with the technical standards established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service under paragraph (1); and

(B) payment rates, to the extent practicable, are consistent between the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

SEC. 1242. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term "eligible participant" means a producer, landowner, or entity that is participating in, or seeking to participate in, programs in which the producer, landowner, or entity is otherwise eligible to participate under this title or the agricultural management assistance program under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)).

(2) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The term "non-Federal certifying entity" means a non-Federal entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency described in subparagraph (B), (C), or

(D) of subsection (e)(4) that has entered into an agreement under subsection (e)(5)(D).

⟦(2)⟧ *(3)* THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER.—The term "third-party provider" means a commercial entity (including a farmer cooperative, agriculture retailer, or other commercial entity (as defined by the Secretary)), a nonprofit entity, a State or local government (including a conservation district), or a Federal agency, that has expertise in the technical aspect of conservation planning, including nutrient management planning, watershed planning, or environmental engineering.

(b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The purpose of technical assistance authorized by this section is to provide eligible participants with consistent, *timely,* science-based, site-specific practices designed to achieve conservation objectives on land active in agricultural, forestry, or related uses.

(c) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance under this title to an eligible participant—

(1) directly;

(2) through an agreement with a third-party provider; or

(3) at the option of the eligible participant, through a payment, as determined by the Secretary, to the eligible participant for an approved third-party provider, if available.

(d) NON-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may request the services of, and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with, other agencies within the Department or non-Federal entities *(including private sector entities)* to assist the Secretary in providing technical assistance necessary to assist in implementing conservation programs under this title.

(e) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the third-party provider program is to increase the availability and range of technical expertise available to eligible participants to plan and implement conservation measures.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the ⟦Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008⟧ *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

(3) EXPERTISE.—In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

⟦(A) ensure that persons with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation planning, watershed planning, and environmental engineering, including commercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or local governments or agencies, and other Federal agencies, are eligible to become approved providers of the technical assistance;⟧

(A) ensure that persons (including commercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or local governments or agencies, and other Federal agencies) with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation planning, watershed planning, environmental engineering, conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation, and any other technical skills determined appropriate by the Secretary, are eligible to become approved providers of the technical assistance;

(B) provide national criteria for the certification of third-party providers; and

(C) approve any unique certification standards established at the State level.

[(4) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall certify a third-party provider through—

[(A) a certification process administered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; or

[(B) a non-Federal entity approved by the Secretary to perform the certification.

[(5) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide a streamlined certification process for a third-party provider that has an appropriate specialty certification, including a sustainability certification.]

(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider may be certified to provide technical assistance under this section only—

(A) through a certification process administered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(B) by a non-Federal entity (other than a State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider;

(C) by an Indian Tribe approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider; or

(D) by a State agency that—

(i) has statutory authority to certify, administer, or license professionals in one or more fields of natural resources, agriculture, or engineering; and

(ii) is approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider.

(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a process to approve a non-Federal entity (including a State agency and an Indian Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application by a non-Federal entity to certify third-party providers under this section, the Secretary shall make a decision on whether to approve such application.

(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(i) the ability of the applicable non-Federal entity to assess the qualifications of a third-party provider and to certify third-party providers at scale;

(ii) the experience of the applicable non-Federal entity in working with third-party providers and eligible participants;

(iii) the expertise of the applicable non-Federal entity in the technical skills described in paragraph (3)(A); and

(iv) such other qualifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an application under this paragraph, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the non-Federal entity to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party providers under this section, a non-Federal certifying entity shall—

(i) assess the ability of a third-party provider to appropriately provide technical assistance to eligible participants for specified practices and conservation activities;

(ii) provide training to ensure that a third-party provider is qualified to provide technical assistance upon certification by the non-Federal certifying entity; and

(iii) submit to the Secretary, in a timely manner, information on—

(I) each third-party provider certified by the non-Federal certifying entity, for inclusion on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary; and

(II) each third-party provider the certification of which is withdrawn by the non-Federal certifying entity.

(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

(A) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified under the process described in paragraph (4)(A) for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall—

(i) make a final decision with respect to such application; and

(ii) if the final decision is to certify the third-party provider, include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

(B) CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity that a third-party provider was certified, pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (4), for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

(7) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for the Secretary and non-Federal certifying entities to use to certify under this section a third-party provider that has a relevant professional certification for particular practices and conservation activities, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) FUNDING.—Effective for fiscal year 2008 and each subsequent fiscal year, funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation made available to carry out technical assistance for [each of the programs specified in section 1241] *conservation programs administered by the Secretary* shall be available for the provision of technical assistance from third-party providers under this section.

(2) TERM OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement with a third-party provider *or a non-Federal certifying entity* under this section shall have a term that—

(A) at a minimum, is equal to the period beginning on the date on which the agreement is entered into and ending on the date that is 1 year after the date on which all activities performed pursuant to the agreement have been completed;

(B) does not exceed 3 years; and

(C) can be renewed, as determined by the Secretary.

[(3) REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall—

[(A) review certification requirements for third-party providers; and

[(B) make any adjustments considered necessary by the Secretary to improve participation.]

(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) review the certification processes under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection (e);

(B) make any adjustments considered necessary by the Secretary to—

(i) increase the number of third-party providers delivering technical assistance; and

(ii) improve the quality of technical assistance delivered by third-party providers;

(C) conduct outreach to, and receive input on the barriers for third-party providers to become certified under this section from—

(i) third-party providers that are, or have been, certified under this section; and

(ii) other interested parties associated with eligible participants; and

(D) set a target rate of utilization of third-party providers to deliver technical assistance across all conservation programs administered by the Secretary.

(4) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

(A) INCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may include as activities eligible for payments to a third-party provider—

(i) technical services provided directly to eligible participants, such as conservation planning, education and outreach, and assistance with design and implementation *(including maintenance)* of conservation practices; and

(ii) related technical assistance services that accelerate conservation program delivery.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall not designate as an activity eligible for payments to a third-party provider any service that is provided by a business, or equivalent, in connection with conducting business and that is customarily provided at no cost.

[(5) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall establish fair and reasonable amounts of payments for technical services provided by third-party providers.]

(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments provided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall determine payment amounts for technical assistance provided by third-party providers, which shall be at rates equivalent to, but that do not exceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing technical assistance directly to an eligible participant.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider specialized equipment, frequency of site visits, training, travel and transportation, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from calculations relating to any cost-sharing requirements of the applicable conservation program under which the payment was provided.

(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available information on—

(A) funds obligated to third-party providers through—

(i) contracts entered into between eligible participants and individual third-party providers; and

(ii) agreements with public and private sector entities to secure third-party technical assistance;

(B) the certification process under this section, including—

(i) the number of third-party providers certified by the Secretary;

(ii) the number of non-Federal certifying entities approved by the Secretary;

(iii) the number of third-party providers certified by non-Federal certifying entities (other than State agencies and Indian Tribes);

(iv) the number of third-party providers certified by Indian Tribes;

(v) the number of third-party providers certified by State agencies; and

(vi) the number of third-party providers certified through the streamlined certification process described in subsection (e)(7);

(C) how third-party providers contribute to the quality and effectiveness of conservation practices implemented and

adopted through conservation programs administered by the Secretary, and what improvements are needed; and

(D) the target rate of utilization of third-party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and how actual rate of utilization compares to the target rate.

(7) 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 agriculture practices, comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other innovative plans.

(g) AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the programs under this title and the agricultural management assistance program under section 524 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524), the Secretary shall make technical services available to all eligible participants who are installing an eligible practice.

(2) TECHNICAL SERVICE CONTRACTS.—In any case in which financial assistance is not provided under a program referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into a technical service contract with the eligible participant for the purposes of assisting in the planning, design, or installation of an eligible practice.

(h) **[**REVIEW**]** *ESTABLISHMENT AND REVIEW* OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall—

[(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, complete a review of each conservation practice standard, including engineering design specifications, in effect on the day before the date of enactment of that Act;**]**

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years thereafter, complete a review of each conservation practice standard, including engineering design specifications;

(B) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the completeness and relevance of the standards to local agricultural, forestry, and natural resource needs, including specialty crops, native and managed pollinators, bioenergy crop production, forestry, and such other needs as are determined by the Secretary;

(C) ensure that the standards provide for the optimal balance between meeting site-specific conservation needs and minimizing risks of design failure and associated costs of construction and installation; **[**and**]**

[(D) evaluate opportunities to increase flexibility in conservation practice standards in a manner that ensures equivalent natural resource benefits.**]**

(D) evaluate opportunities to increase flexibility in conservation practice standards in a manner that integrates new and innovative technologies that provide equivalent or improved natural resource benefits compared to the standards in effect at the time of the review;

(E) provide a process for public input on each conservation practice standard under such review, including a process for consideration of State and local input;

(F) publicly post a summary of any input received under subparagraph (E) and any decisions made relating to such input; and

(G) revise any conservation practice standard based on the results of such review, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and publish any such revised standard.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with eligible participants, State technical committees established under section 1261(a), crop consultants, cooperative extension and land grant universities, nongovernmental organizations, and other qualified entities.

[(3) EXPEDITED REVISION OF STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Secretary shall develop for the programs under this title an administrative process for—

[(A) expediting the establishment and revision of conservation practice standards;

[(B) considering conservation innovations and scientific and technological advancements with respect to any establishment or revision under subparagraph (A);

[(C) allowing local flexibility in the creation of—

[(i) interim practice standards and supplements to existing practice standards to address the considerations described in subparagraph (B); and

[(ii) partnership-led proposals for new and innovative techniques to facilitate implementing agreements and grants under this title; and

[(D) soliciting regular input from State technical committees established under section 1261(a) for recommendations that identify innovations or advancements described in subparagraph (B).]

(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall develop a streamlined process under which the Secretary shall establish interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards.

(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the streamlined process under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) ensure that the public can engage with the Department of Agriculture, including by recommending interim conservation practice standards; and

(ii) establish—

(I) the types of data, metrics, and other relevant information that are necessary for the establishment of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards;

(II) the process by which an interim conservation practice standard may become a new conservation practice standard; and

(III) specific requirements for an expedited review of a new conservation practice for the purpose of establishing a new conservation practice standard for such practice.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing an interim conservation practice standard or a new conservation practice standard under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) input from State technical committees on recommendations that identify innovations or advancements in conservation practices;

(ii) technological advancements, including advancements from projects developed under section 1240H;

(iii) State and local input in the form of—

(I) recommendations for interim conservation practice standards; and

(II) partnership-led proposals for new and innovative techniques to facilitate implementing agreements and grants under this title; and

(iv) input from native entities in the form of information relating to native traditional ecological knowledge that can inform conservation practice standards.

(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRIORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice standards under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards that integrate innovative technologies, including—

(i) precision agriculture technologies;

(ii) biological fertilizers, biostimulants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and other tools determined by the Secretary to reduce nutrient loss;

(iii) animal feed additives;

(iv) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and

(v) any other innovative technology, as determined by the Secretary.

(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall make available on a public website a detailed description of the process for recommending, reviewing, and establishing interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards under this paragraph.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the **[**Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018**]** *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress **[**a report on**]** *a report detailing—*

(A) the **[**administrative**]** *streamlined* process developed under paragraph (3);

(B) conservation practice standards that were established or revised under that process; **[**and**]**

(C) conservation innovations that were considered under that process**[**.**]***; and*

(D) any other information the Secretary determines useful to improve such streamlined process for reviewing and establishing conservation practice standards.

(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service an Office of Conservation Innovation (referred to in this paragraph as the "Office") which shall be under the direct supervision of the Chief.

(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

(i) provide support to the Chief in meeting the requirements of this subsection; and

(ii) encourage innovation in conservation practices through—

(I) revisions of existing conservation practice standards;

(II) recommendations of interim conservation practice standards; and

(III) recommendations of new conservation practice standards.

(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the Office not more than 6 employees of the Department of Agriculture who are technical specialists that possess an understanding of conventional, organic, and other production techniques, representing—

(i) agronomy and agroecology (including soil health, biological nutrient sources, and compatible cover cropping systems);

(ii) grazing lands ecology (including rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest land);

(iii) animal husbandry (including animal nutrition and feed management);

(iv) water conservation, drainage water management, and irrigation engineering technology;

(v) agricultural engineering (including animal waste management, energy, and structural measures); and

(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funding from the annual appropriations for conservation operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out this subsection.

(i) ADDRESSING CONCERNS OF SPECIALTY CROP, ORGANIC, AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate specialty crop production, organic crop production, and precision agriculture into the conservation practice standards; and

(B) provide for the appropriate range of conservation practices and resource mitigation measures available to producers involved with organic or specialty crop production or precision agriculture.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that adequate technical assistance is available for the implementation of conservation practices by producers involved with

organic, specialty crop production, or precision agriculture through Federal conservation programs.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall develop—

(i) programs that meet specific needs of producers involved with organic, specialty crop production or precision agriculture through cooperative agreements with other agencies and nongovernmental organizations; and

(ii) program specifications that allow for innovative approaches to engage local resources in providing technical assistance for planning and implementation of conservation practices.

(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to positions within the Natural Resources Conservation Service that provide technical assistance under conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies to a candidate who—

(A) is qualified to provide the technical assistance described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) meets qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management.

(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate nonstructural methods to control livestock distribution, such as virtual fencing, into the conservation practice standards; and

(B) provide for the appropriate range of conservation practices and resource mitigation measures available to landowners using nonstructural methods described in subparagraph (A).

(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that adequate technical assistance is available for the implementation of—

(A) nonstructural methods described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) other practices that support wildlife habitat connectivity through Federal conservation programs.

SEC. 1244. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN FARMERS AND RANCHERS AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) INCENTIVES AUTHORIZED.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may provide to a person or entity specified in paragraph (2) incentives to participate in the conservation program—

(A) to foster new farming and ranching opportunities; and

(B) to enhance long-term environmental goals.

(2) COVERED PERSONS.—Incentives authorized by paragraph (1) may be provided to the following:

(A) Beginning farmers or ranchers.

(B) Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(C) Limited resource farmers or ranchers.

(D) Indian tribes.

(E) Veteran farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))).

(b) PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) INFORMATION RECEIVED FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, except as provided in subparagraph (C) and paragraph (2), information described in subparagraph (B)—

(i) shall not be considered to be public information; and

(ii) shall not be released to any person or Federal, State, local agency or Indian tribe (as defined by the Secretary) outside the Department of Agriculture.

(B) INFORMATION.—The information referred to in subparagraph (A) is information—

(i) provided to the Secretary or a contractor of the Secretary (including information provided under subtitle D) for the purpose of providing technical or financial assistance to an owner, operator, or producer with respect to any natural resources conservation program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Farm Service Agency; and

(ii) that is proprietary (within the meaning of section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code) to the agricultural operation or land that is a part of an agricultural operation of the owner, operator, or producer.

(C) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in this section affects the availability of payment information (including payment amounts and the names and addresses of recipients of payments) under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) RELEASE AND DISCLOSURE FOR ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may release or disclose to the Attorney General information covered by paragraph (1) to the extent necessary to enforce the natural resources conservation programs referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(B) DISCLOSURE TO COOPERATING PERSONS AND AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may release or disclose information covered by paragraph (1) to a person or Federal, State, local, or tribal agency working in cooperation with the Secretary in providing technical and financial assistance described in paragraph

(1)(B)(i) or collecting information from data gathering sites.

(ii) USE OF INFORMATION.—The person or Federal, State, local, or tribal agency that receives information described in clause (i) may release the information only for the purpose of assisting the Secretary—

(I) in providing the requested technical or financial assistance; or

(II) in collecting information from data gathering sites.

(C) STATISTICAL AND AGGREGATE INFORMATION.—Information covered by paragraph (1) may be disclosed to the public if the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form without naming any—

(i) individual owner, operator, or producer; or

(ii) specific data gathering site.

(D) CONSENT OF OWNER, OPERATOR, OR PRODUCER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An owner, operator, or producer may consent to the disclosure of information described in paragraph (1).

(ii) CONDITION OF OTHER PROGRAMS.—The participation of the owner, operator, or producer in, and the receipt of any benefit by the owner, operator, or producer under, this title or any other program administered by the Secretary may not be conditioned on the owner, operator, or producer providing consent under this paragraph.

(3) VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.—Section 1770(c) shall apply with respect to the release of information collected in any manner or for any purpose prohibited by this subsection.

(4) DATA COLLECTION, DISCLOSURE, AND REVIEW.—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) affects any procedure for data collection or disclosure through the National Resources Inventory; or

(B) limits the authority of Congress or the Government Accountability Office to review information collected or disclosed under this subsection.

(c) PLANS.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, avoid duplication in—

(1) the conservation plans required for—

(A) highly erodible land conservation under subtitle B; and

(B) the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D;

(2) the agricultural conservation easement program established under subtitle H; and

(3) the environmental quality incentives program established under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D.

(d) TENANT PROTECTION.—Except for a person who is a tenant on land that is subject to a conservation reserve contract that has been extended by the Secretary, the Secretary shall provide adequate safeguards to protect the interests of tenants and sharecroppers, including provision for sharing, on a fair and equitable basis, in payments under the programs established under subtitles B through D, H, and [I.] *J.*

(e) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY OTHER SOURCES.—In the preparation and application of a conservation compliance plan under subtitle B or similar plan required as a condition for assistance from the Department of Agriculture, the Secretary shall permit persons to secure technical assistance from approved sources, as determined by the Secretary, other than the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If the Secretary rejects a technical determination made by such a source, the basis of the Secretary's determination must be supported by documented evidence.

(f) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—

[(1) LIMITATIONS.—

[(A) ENROLLMENTS.—The Secretary shall not enroll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any county in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.

[(B) EASEMENTS.—Not more than 15 percent of the cropland in a county may be subject to a wetland reserve easement under section 1265C.]

(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not enroll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any county in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may exceed the limitation in [paragraph (1)(A)] *paragraph (1)*, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the action would not adversely affect the local economy of a county; [and] *or*

(B) operators in the county are having difficulties complying with conservation plans implemented under section 1212.

(3) WAIVER TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN ACREAGE.—The Secretary may grant a waiver to exclude acreage enrolled under section 1231A from the limitations in [paragraph (1)(A)] *paragraph (1)* with the concurrence of the county government of the county involved.

(4) EXCLUSIONS.—

(A) SHELTERBELTS AND WINDBREAKS.—The limitations established under paragraph (1) shall not apply to cropland that is subject to an easement under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D that is used for the establishment of shelterbelts and windbreaks.

(B) WET AND SATURATED SOILS.—For the purposes of enrolling land in a wetland reserve easement under section 1265C, the limitations established under paragraph (1) shall not apply to cropland designated by the Secretary with subclass w in the land capability [classes IV] *classes III* through VIII because of severe use limitations due to soil saturation or inundation.

(5) CALCULATION.—In calculating the percentages described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include any acreage that was included in calculations of percentages made under such paragraph, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, and that remains

enrolled when the calculation is made after that date under paragraph (1).

(g) COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE.—For each conservation program under subtitle D, the Secretary shall develop procedures—

(1) to monitor compliance with program requirements;

(2) to measure program performance;

(3) to demonstrate whether the long-term conservation benefits of the program are being achieved;

(4) to track participation by crop and livestock types; and

(5) to coordinate activities described in this subsection with the national conservation program authorized under section 5 of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2004).

(h) ENCOURAGEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may, as appropriate, encourage—

(1) the development of habitat for native and managed pollinators; and

(2) the use of conservation practices that benefit native and managed pollinators, including, to the extent practicable, practices that maximize benefits for honey bees.

(i) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out each conservation program under this title, the Secretary shall ensure that the application process used by producers and landowners is streamlined to minimize complexity and eliminate redundancy.

(2) REVIEW AND STREAMLINING.—

(A) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall carry out a review of the application forms and processes for each conservation program covered by this subsection.

(B) STREAMLINING.—On completion of the review the Secretary shall revise application forms and processes, as necessary, to ensure that—

(i) all required application information is essential for the efficient, effective, and accountable implementation of conservation programs;

(ii) conservation program applicants are not required to provide information that is readily available to the Secretary through existing information systems of the Department of Agriculture;

(iii) information provided by the applicant is managed and delivered efficiently for use in all stages of the application process, or for multiple applications; and

(iv) information technology is used effectively to minimize data and information input requirements.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION AND NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written notification of completion of the requirements of this subsection.

(j) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—[Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, and not later than October 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary shall] *The Secretary shall establish a process under which the Secretary shall annually—*

[(A) review the estimates for practice costs and rates of payments made to producers for practices on eligible land under this title; and]

(A) review, with respect to each State, the actual practice costs and rates of payments (or, where actual practice costs and rates of payments are not available, estimates of such practice costs and rates) made to producers pursuant to programs under this title for practices on eligible land; and

(B) evaluate whether those costs and rates reflect a payment that—

(i) encourages participation in a conservation program administered by the Secretary;

(ii) encourages implementation of the most effective practices to address local natural resource concerns on eligible land; [and]

(iii) accounts for the variability in costs of implementing practices on eligible land under this title; and

[(iii)] *(iv)* accounts for [regional, State, and] *State and* local variability relating to the complexity, implementation, and adoption of practices on eligible land.

(2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

(A) issue guidance to States to annually review and adjust the [estimates for] practice costs and rates of payments made to producers to reflect the evaluation factors described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) determine the appropriate practice costs and rates of payments for each State by—

(i) annually reviewing each conservation program payment schedule and payment rate used in the State; [and]

(ii) monitoring for and identifying significant variability in practice costs in each year; and

[(ii)] *(iii)* consulting with the State technical committee established under section 1261(a) in that State *and, when appropriate, adopting any recommendations made by such State technical committee*.

(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In order to provide rates of payments that are commensurate with the costs of implementing practices pursuant to programs under this title, the Secretary shall establish processes and procedures for updating rates of payments under a contract or agreement in effect under this title to reflect the appropriate practice costs and rates of payments determined under paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice is implemented.

(k) IMPROVED ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS.—In administrating a conservation program under this title, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) seek to reduce administrative burdens and costs to producers by streamlining conservation planning and program resources; and

(2) take advantage of new technologies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

(l) RELATION TO OTHER PAYMENTS.—Any payment received by an owner or operator under this title, including an easement payment or rental payment, shall be in addition to, and not affect, the total amount of payments that the owner or operator is otherwise eligible to receive under any of the following:

(1) This Act.

(2) The Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.).

(3) The Agricultural Act of 2014.

(4) Any law that succeeds a law specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(m) FUNDING FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—In carrying out the conservation stewardship program under subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D and the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D, the Secretary shall enter into alternative funding arrangements with Indian tribes if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the goals and objectives of the programs will be met by such arrangements;

(2) a sufficient number of eligible participants will be aggregated under the alternative funding arrangement to accomplish the underlying purposes and objectives of the applicable program; and

(3) statutory limitations regarding contracts with individual producers will not be exceeded by any tribal member, except that the Secretarymay approve a waiver if the Secretary is authorized to approvea waiver under the statutory authority of the applicable program.

(n) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TARGETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall encourage practices that relate to water quality and water quantity that protect source water for drinking water (including protecting against public health threats) while also benefitting agricultural producers.

(2) COLLABORATION WITH WATER SYSTEMS AND INCREASED INCENTIVES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In encouraging practices under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) work collaboratively with community water systems and State technical committees established under section 1261(a) to identify, in each State, local priority areas for the protection of source waters for drinking water; [and]

(ii) identify in each State a source water protection coordinator who shall be responsible for coordinating such collaboration with community water systems under this subsection; and

[(ii)] *(iii)* subject to subparagraph (B), for practices described in paragraph (1), offer to producers increased incentives and higher payment rates than are otherwise statutorily authorized by the applicable conservation program administered by the Secretary.

(B) LIMITATION.—An increased payment [under subparagraph (A)(ii)] *under subparagraph (A)(iii)* shall not exceed 90 percent of practice costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training.

(3) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031, the Secretary shall use to carry out this subsection not less than 10 percent of any funds available for conservation programs administered by the Secretary under this title (other than the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D).

(B) LIMITATION.—Funds available for a specific conservation program shall not be transferred to fund a different conservation program under this title.

(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall make publicly available—

(A) an annual report that details—

(i) for each local priority area identified under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—

(I) the conservation programs under which assistance is provided pursuant to paragraph (1);

(II) the practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(III) the number of contracts and acres devoted to such practices;

(ii) for each conservation program administered by the Secretary—

(I) the amount of funds obligated and expended for practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(II) information regarding the status of compliance with paragraph (3); and

(iii) the practices, by State, that are receiving increased incentives and higher payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii); and

(B) through an interactive map, aggregated data detailed under subparagraph (A).

(o) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MARKET.—The Secretary may not prohibit, through a contract, easement, or agreement under this title, a participant in a conservation program administered by the Secretary under this title from participating in, and receiving compensation from, an environmental services market if 1 of the purposes of the market is the facilitation of additional conservation benefits that are consistent with the purposes of the conservation program administered by the Secretary.

(p) REGULATORY CERTAINTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to technical and programmatic information that the Secretary is otherwise authorized to provide, on request of a Federal agency, a State, an Indian tribe, or a unit of local government, the Secretary may provide technical and programmatic information—

(A) subject to paragraph (2), to the Federal agency, State, Indian tribe, or unit of local government to support specifically the development of mechanisms that would provide regulatory certainty, regulatory predictability, safe harbor protection, or other similar regulatory assurances to a farmer, rancher, or private nonindustrial forest landowner under a regulatory requirement—

(i) that relates to soil, water, or wildlife; and

(ii) over which that Federal agency, State, Indian tribe, or unit of local government has authority; and

(B) relating to conservation practices or activities that could be implemented by a farmer, rancher, or private nonindustrial forest landowner to address a targeted soil, water, or wildlife resource concern that is the direct subject of a regulatory requirement enforced by that Federal agency, State, Indian tribe, or unit of local government, as applicable.

(2) MECHANISMS.—The Secretary shall only provide additional technical and programmatic information under paragraph (1) if the mechanisms to be developed by the Federal agency, State, Indian tribe, or unit of local government, as applicable, under paragraph (1)(A) are anticipated to include, at a minimum—

(A) the implementation of 1 or more conservation practices or activities that effectively addresses the soil, water, or wildlife resource concern identified under paragraph (1);

(B) the on-site confirmation that the applicable conservation practices or activities identified under subparagraph (A) have been implemented;

(C) a plan for a periodic audit, as appropriate, of the continued implementation or maintenance of each of the conservation practices or activities identified under subparagraph (A); and

(D) notification to a farmer, rancher, or private nonindustrial forest landowner of, and an opportunity to correct, any noncompliance with a requirement to obtain regulatory certainty, regulatory predictability, safe harbor protection, or other similar regulatory assurance.

(3) CONTINUING CURRENT COLLABORATION ON SOIL, WATER, OR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall—

(A) continue collaboration with Federal agencies, States, Indian tribes, or local units of government on existing regulatory certainty, regulatory predictability, safe harbor protection, or other similar regulatory assurances in accordance with paragraph (2); and

(B) continue collaboration with the Secretary of the Interior on consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or conference under section 7(a)(4) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(4)), as applicable, for wildlife conservation efforts, including the Working Lands for Wildlife model of conservation on working landscapes, as implemented on the day before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, in accordance with—

(i) the document entitled "Partnership Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service", numbered A–3A75–16–937, and formalized by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on September 15, 2016, and by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on August 4, 2016, as in effect on September 15, 2016; and

(ii) United States Fish and Wildlife Service Director's Order No. 217, dated August 9, 2016, as in effect on August 9, 2016.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) preempts, displaces, or supplants any authority or right of a Federal agency, a State, an Indian tribe, or a unit of local government;

(B) modifies or otherwise affects, preempts, or displaces—

(i) any cause of action; or

(ii) a provision of Federal or State law establishing a remedy for a civil or criminal cause of action; or

(C) applies to a case in which the Department of Agriculture is the originating agency requesting a consultation or other technical and programmatic information or assistance from another Federal agency in assisting farmers, ranchers, or nonindustrial private forest landowners participating in a conservation program administered by the Secretary.

(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conservation practices that support the development, restoration, and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.

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Subtitle H—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

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SEC. 1265A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENT.—The term "agricultural land easement" means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

(A) is conveyed for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the agricultural nature of the land; and

(B) permits the landowner the right to continue agricultural production and related uses.

[(2) BUY-PROTECT-SELL TRANSACTION.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "buy-protect-sell transaction" means a legal arrangement—

[(i) between an eligible entity and the Secretary relating to land that an eligible entity owns or is going to purchase prior to acquisition of an agricultural land easement;

[(ii) under which the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that the eligible entity shall—

[(I)(aa) hold an agricultural land easement on that land, but transfer ownership of the land to a farmer or rancher that is not an eligible entity prior to or on acquisition of the agricultural land easement; or

[(bb) hold an agricultural land easement on that land, but transfer ownership of the land to a farmer or rancher that is not an eligible entity in a timely manner and, subject to subparagraph (B), not later than 3 years after the date of acquisition of the agricultural land easement; and

[(II) make an initial sale of the land subject to the agricultural land easement to a farmer or rancher at not more than agricultural value, plus any reasonable holding and transaction costs incurred by the eligible entity, as determined by the Secretary; and

[(iii) under which the Secretary shall be reimbursed for the entirety of the Federal share of the cost of the agricultural land easement by the eligible entity if the eligible entity fails to transfer ownership under item (aa) or (bb), as applicable, of clause (ii)(I).

[(B) TIME EXTENSION.—Under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I)(bb), an eligible entity may transfer land later than 3 years after the date of acquisition of the agricultural land easement if the Secretary determines an extension of time is justified.]

[(3)] *(2)* ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) an agency of State or local government or an Indian tribe (including a farmland protection board or land resource council established under State law); or

(B) an organization that is—

(i) organized for, and at all times since the formation of the organization has been operated principally for, 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(ii) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

(iii) described in—

(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of that Code; or

(II) section 509(a)(3) of that Code and is controlled by an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of that Code.

[(4)] *(3)* ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term "eligible land" means private or tribal land that is—

(A) in the case of an agricultural land easement, agricultural land, including land on a farm or ranch—

[(i) that is subject to—

[(I) a pending offer for purchase of an agricultural land easement from an eligible entity; or

[(II) a buy-protect-sell transaction;]

(i) that is subject to a pending offer for purchase of an agricultural land easement from an eligible entity;

(ii)(I) that has prime, unique, or other productive soil;

(II) that contains historical or archaeological resources;

(III) the enrollment of which would protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land; or

(IV) the protection of which will further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(iii) that is—

(I) cropland;

(II) rangeland;

(III) grassland or land that contains forbs, or shrubland for which grazing is the predominant use;

(IV) located in an area that has been historically dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubs and could provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value;

(V) pastureland; or

(VI) nonindustrial private forest land that contributes to the economic viability of an offered parcel or serves as a buffer to protect such land from development;

(B) in the case of a wetland reserve easement, a wetland or related area, including—

(i) farmed or converted wetlands, together with adjacent land that is functionally dependent on that land, if the Secretary determines it—

(I) is likely to be successfully restored in a cost-effective manner; and

(II) will maximize the wildlife benefits and wetland functions and values;

(ii) cropland or grassland that was used for agricultural production prior to flooding from the natural overflow of—

(I) a closed basin lake and adjacent land that is functionally dependent upon it, if the State or other entity is willing to provide 50 percent share of the cost of an easement; or

(II) a pothole and adjacent land that is functionally dependent on it;

(iii) farmed wetlands and adjoining lands that—

(I) are enrolled in the conservation reserve program;

(II) have the highest wetland functions and values, as determined by the Secretary; and

(III) are likely to return to production after they leave the conservation reserve program;

(iv) riparian areas that link wetlands that are protected by easements or some other device that achieves the same purpose as an easement; or

(v) other wetlands of an owner that would not otherwise be eligible, if the Secretary determines that the inclusion of such wetlands in a wetland reserve easement would significantly add to the functional value of the easement; or

(C) in the case of either an agricultural land easement or a wetland reserve easement, other land that is incidental to land described in subparagraph (A) or (B), if the Secretary determines that it is necessary for the efficient administration of an easement under the program.

[(5)**]** *(4)* MONITORING REPORT.—The term "monitoring report" means a report, the contents of which are formulated and prepared by the holder of an agricultural land easement, that accurately documents whether the land subject to the agricultural land easement is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the agricultural land easement.

[(6)**]** *(5)* PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the agricultural conservation easement program established by this subtitle.

[(7)**]** *(6)* WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term "wetland reserve easement" means a reserved interest in eligible land that—

(A) is defined and delineated in a deed; and

(B) stipulates—

(i) the rights, title, and interests in land conveyed to the Secretary; and

(ii) the rights, title, and interests in land that are reserved to the landowner.

SEC. 1265B. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall facilitate and provide funding for—

(1) the purchase by eligible entities of agricultural land easements **[**in eligible land;**]** *on eligible land; and*

(2) technical assistance to implement the program, including technical assistance for the development of a conservation plan under subsection (b)(4)(C)**[**(iv); and**]***(iii).*

[(3) buy-protect-sell transactions.**]**

(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect the agricultural use, including grazing, and related conservation values of eligible land through cost-share assistance to eligible entities for purchasing agricultural land easements.

(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

[(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share determined by the Secretary of an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary using—

[(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

[(ii) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

[(iii) another industry-approved method.]

(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share determined by the Secretary of an amount not to exceed 65 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary using—

(I) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

(II) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

(III) another industry-approved method.

(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In the case of eligible land with respect to which a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holds an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 90 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In the case of grassland of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

[(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement, the eligible entity shall provide a share that is at least equivalent to that provided by the Secretary.

[(ii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In the case of grassland of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.]

(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement, the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

[(iii)] *(ii)* PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity under this [subparagraph] *paragraph* may comprise—

(I) cash resources;

(II) a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution (as defined in section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from the private landowner from which the agricultural land easement will be purchased;

(III) costs associated with securing a deed to the agricultural land easement, including the cost of appraisal, survey, inspection, and title; and

(IV) other costs, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may elect to enter into an agreement under paragraph (4) in which the terms and conditions of an agricultural land easement funded under the agreement do not include a right of enforcement for the Secretary if the eligible entity agrees to a Federal share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), an eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for agricultural land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

(I) are consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(II) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of such easements.

(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary shall require the terms and conditions for the agricultural land easement to include a right of enforcement for the eligible entity.

(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the eligible entity shall provide cash resources in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—

(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria to maximize the benefit of Federal investment under the program.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the criteria, the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

(i) protecting agricultural uses and related conservation values of the land; and

(ii) maximizing the protection of areas devoted to agricultural use.

(C) ACCOUNTING FOR GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES.—The Secretary may adjust the criteria established under subparagraph (A) to account for geographic differences, if the adjustments—

(i) meet the purposes of the program; and

(ii) continue to maximize the benefit of the Federal investment under the program.

(D) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under the program, the Secretary may give priority to an application for the purchase of an agricultural land easement that, as determined by the Secretary, maintains agricultural viability.

(E) BIDDING DOWN.—If the Secretary determines that 2 or more applications for cost-share assistance are comparable in achieving the purpose of the program, the Sec-

retary shall not assign a higher priority to any of those applications solely on the basis of lesser cost to the program.

(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank applications submitted by eligible entities for the purchase of agricultural land easements from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from applications submitted for the purchase of agricultural land easements from other landowners.

(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into agreements with eligible entities to stipulate the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share assistance provided under this section.

(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement shall be for a term that is—

(i) in the case of an eligible entity certified under the process described in paragraph (5), a minimum of five years; and

(ii) for all other eligible entities, at least three, but not more than five years.

(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for agricultural land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

(i) are consistent with the purposes of the program;

(ii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of such easements;

[(iii) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

[(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

[(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

[(aa)(AA) the holder of the easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

[(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the easement have been violated; and

[(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection;**]**

[(iv)**]** *(iii)* include a conservation plan only for any portion of the land subject to the agricultural land easement that is highly erodible cropland; **[**and**]**

[(v)**]** *(iv)* include a limit on the impervious surfaces to be allowed that is consistent with the agricultural activities to be conducted**[**.**]***;*

(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

(aa)(AA) the holder of the easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the easement have been violated; and

(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection; and

(vi) include a right of the Secretary to require the transfer of the easement to a different eligible entity if the eligible entity that holds the easement ceases to exist or is no longer eligible to participate in the program, as determined by the Secretary.

(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include terms and conditions for an agricultural land easement that—

(i) are intended to keep the land subject to the agricultural land easement under the ownership of a farmer or rancher, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) allow subsurface mineral development on the land subject to the agricultural land easement and in accordance with applicable State law if, as determined by the Secretary—

(I) the subsurface mineral development—

(aa) has a limited and localized impact;

(bb) does not harm the agricultural use and conservation values of the land subject to the easement;

(cc) does not materially alter or affect the existing topography;

(dd) shall comply with a subsurface mineral development plan that—

(AA) includes a plan for the remediation of impacts to the agricultural use and conservation values of the land subject to the easement; and

(BB) is approved by the Secretary prior to the initiation of mineral development activity;

(ee) is not accomplished by any surface mining method;

(ff) is within the impervious surface limits of the easement under subparagraph (C)**[**(v)**]***(iv)*; and

(gg) uses practices and technologies that minimize the duration and intensity of impacts to the agricultural use and conservation

values of the land subject to the easement; and

(II) each area impacted by the subsurface mineral development shall be reclaimed and restored by the holder of the mineral rights at cessation of operation; [and]

(iii) include other relevant activities relating to the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary[.]*; and*

(iv) do not conflict with any minimum terms or conditions under subparagraph (C) that may be required.

(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECTS.—An agreement shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the parties, substitution of qualified projects that are identified at the time of the proposed substitution.

(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a violation occurs of a term or condition of an agreement under this subsection—

(i) the Secretary may terminate the agreement; and

(ii) the Secretary may require the eligible entity to refund all or part of any payments received by the entity under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(5) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(A) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a process [under which the Secretary may]*, to minimize administrative burdens on the Secretary and recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to administer easements with minimal oversight by the Secretary, under which the Secretary shall*—

(i) directly certify eligible entities that meet established criteria;

(ii) enter into long-term agreements with certified eligible entities;

(iii) accept proposals for cost-share assistance for the purchase of agricultural land easements throughout the duration of such agreements; and

(iv) allow a certified eligible entity to use*, and modify,* its own terms and conditions, notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C), as long as the terms and conditions are consistent with the purposes of the program.

(B) CERTIFICATION CRITERIA.—In order to be certified, an eligible entity shall demonstrate to the Secretary that the eligible entity—

(i) will maintain, at a minimum, for the duration of the agreement—

(I) a plan for administering easements that is consistent with the purpose of the program;

(II) the capacity and resources to monitor and enforce agricultural land easements; and

(III) policies and procedures to ensure—

(aa) the long-term integrity of agricultural land easements on eligible land;

(bb) timely completion of acquisitions of such easements; and

(cc) timely and complete evaluation and reporting to the Secretary on the use of funds provided under the program;

(ii) has—

(I) been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, or by an equivalent accrediting body, as determined by the Secretary;

(II) acquired not fewer than [10] *5* agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

(III) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program; [or]

(iii) is a State department of agriculture or other State agency with statutory authority for farm and ranchland protection that has—

(I) acquired not fewer than [10] *5* agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

(II) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program[.]*; or*

(iv) is an eligible entity not described in clause (ii) or (iii) that has—

(I) acquired not fewer than 10 agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

(II) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program.

(C) [REVIEW AND REVISION] *REVIEW AND REVOCATION.*—

(i) [REVIEW] *CERTIFIED ENTITY REVIEW.*—The Secretary shall conduct a review of eligible entities certified under subparagraph (A) every three years to ensure that such entities are meeting the criteria established under subparagraph (B).

(ii) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary finds that a certified eligible entity no longer meets the criteria established under subparagraph (B), the Secretary may—

(I) allow the certified eligible entity a specified period of time, at a minimum 180 days, in which to take such actions as may be necessary to meet the criteria; and

(II) revoke the certification of the eligible entity, if, after the specified period of time, the certified eligible entity does not meet such criteria.

(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish and conduct an annual quality review process to—

(I) review a sample set of easements acquired by certified eligible entities;

(II) ensure the integrity of the easement acquisition process under this section;

(III) establish and enforce a process for corrective actions; and

(IV) provide for a waiver of successive easement reviews based on demonstrated compliance.

(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—

(1) permanent easements; or

(2) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, if requested, to assist in compliance with the terms and conditions of easements.

SEC. 1265C. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through—

(1) wetland reserve easements and related wetland reserve easement plans; and

(2) technical assistance.

(b) EASEMENTS.—

(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—

(A) 30-year easements;

(B) permanent easements;

(C) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws; or

(D) as an option for Indian ⟦tribes⟧ *Tribes and landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers* only, 30-year contracts.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary may not acquire easements on—

(i) land established to trees under the conservation reserve program, except in cases where the Secretary determines it would further the purposes of this section; and

(ii) farmed wetlands or converted wetlands where the conversion was not commenced prior to December 23, 1985.

(B) CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP.—No wetland reserve easement shall be created on land that has changed ownership during the preceding 24-month period unless—

(i) the new ownership was acquired by will or succession as a result of the death of the previous owner;

(ii)(I) the ownership change occurred because of foreclosure on the land; and

(II) immediately before the foreclosure, the owner of the land exercises a right of redemption from the mortgage holder in accordance with State law; or

(iii) the Secretary determines that the land was acquired under circumstances that give adequate assurances that such land was not acquired for the purposes of placing it in the program.

(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria for offers from landowners under this section to maximize the benefit of Federal investment under the program.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—When evaluating offers from landowners, the Secretary may consider—

(i) the conservation benefits of obtaining a wetland reserve easement, including the potential environmental benefits if the land was removed from agricultural production;

(ii) the cost effectiveness of each wetland reserve easement, so as to maximize the environmental benefits per dollar expended;

(iii) whether the landowner or another person is offering to contribute financially to the cost of the wetland reserve easement to leverage Federal funds; and

(iv) such other factors as the Secretary determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of the program.

(C) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to acquiring wetland reserve easements based on the value of the wetland reserve easement for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife or improving water quality.

(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from offers from other landowners.

(4) AGREEMENT.—To be eligible to place eligible land into the program through a wetland reserve easement, the owner of such land shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary to—

(A) grant an easement on such land to the Secretary;

(B) authorize the implementation of a wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under subsection (f);

(C) create and record an appropriate deed restriction in accordance with applicable State law to reflect the easement agreed to;

(D) provide a written statement of consent to such easement signed by those holding a security interest in the land;

(E) comply with the terms and conditions of the easement and any related agreements; and

(F) permanently retire any existing base history for the land on which the easement has been obtained.

(5) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A wetland reserve easement shall include terms and conditions that—

(i) permit—

(I) repairs, improvements, and inspections on the land that are necessary to maintain existing public drainage systems; and

(II) owners to control public access on the easement areas while identifying access routes to be used for restoration activities and management and easement monitoring;

(ii) prohibit—

(I) the alteration of wildlife habitat and other natural features of such land, unless specifically authorized by the Secretary;

(II) the spraying of such land with chemicals or the mowing of such land, except where such spraying or mowing is authorized by the Secretary or is necessary—

(aa) to comply with Federal or State noxious weed control laws;

(bb) to comply with a Federal or State emergency pest treatment program; or

(cc) to meet habitat needs of specific wildlife species;

(III) any activities to be carried out on the owner's or successor's land that is immediately adjacent to, and functionally related to, the land that is subject to the easement if such activities will alter, degrade, or otherwise diminish the functional value of the eligible land; and

(IV) the adoption of any other practice that would tend to defeat the purposes of the program, as determined by the Secretary;

(iii) provide for the efficient and effective establishment of wetland functions and values; and

(iv) include such additional provisions as the Secretary determines are desirable to carry out the program or facilitate the practical administration thereof.

(B) VIOLATION.—On the violation of a term or condition of a wetland reserve easement, the wetland reserve easement shall remain in force and the Secretary may require the owner to refund all or part of any payments received by the owner under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) COMPATIBLE USES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Land subject to a wetland reserve easement may be used for compatible economic uses, including such activities as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, water management, or periodic haying or grazing, if such use is specifically permitted by the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the land under subsection (f) and is consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland resources for which the easement was established.

(ii) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORIZATION.—In evaluating and authorizing a compatible economic use under clause (i), the Secretary shall—

(I) request and consider the advice of the applicable State technical committee established under section 1261(a) about the 1 or more types of uses that may be authorized to be conducted on land subject to a wetland reserve easement, including the frequency, timing, and intensity of those uses;

(II) consider the ability of an authorized use to facilitate the practical administration and management of that land; and

(III) ensure that an authorized use furthers the functions and values for which the wetland reserve easement was established.

(D) RESERVATION OF GRAZING RIGHTS.—The Secretary may include in the terms and conditions of a wetland reserve easement a provision under which the owner reserves grazing rights if—

(i) the Secretary determines that the reservation and use of the grazing rights—

(I) is compatible with the land subject to the easement;

(II) is consistent with the historical natural uses of the land and the long-term protection and enhancement goals for which the easement was established; and

(III) complies with the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the land under subsection (f) or a grazing management plan that is consistent with the wetland reserve easement plan and has been reviewed, and modified as necessary, at least every 5 years; and

(ii) the agreement provides for a commensurate reduction in the easement payment to account for the grazing value, as determined by the Secretary.

(6) COMPENSATION.—

(A) DETERMINATION.—

(i) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—The Secretary shall pay as compensation for a permanent wetland reserve easement acquired under the program an amount necessary to encourage enrollment in the program, based on the lowest of—

(I) the fair market value of the land, as determined by the Secretary, using the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice or an areawide market analysis or survey;

(II) the amount corresponding to a geographical cap, as determined by the Secretary in regulations; or

(III) the offer made by the landowner.

(ii) OTHER.—Compensation for a 30-year contract or 30-year wetland reserve easement shall be not less than 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid for a permanent wetland reserve easement.

(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Compensation for a wetland reserve easement shall be provided by the Secretary in the

form of a cash payment, in an amount determined under subparagraph (A).

(C) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—

(i) EASEMENTS VALUED AT $500,000 OR LESS.—For wetland reserve easements valued at $500,000 or less, the Secretary may provide payments in not more than 10 annual payments.

(ii) EASEMENTS VALUED AT MORE THAN $500,000.—For wetland reserve easements valued at more than $500,000, the Secretary may provide payments in at least 5, but not more than 10 annual payments, except that, if the Secretary determines it would further the purposes of the program, the Secretary may make a lump-sum payment for such an easement.

(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land to carry out the establishment of conservation measures and practices and protect wetland functions and values, including necessary maintenance activities, as set forth in a wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under ⟦subsection (f)⟧ *subsection (g)*.

(2) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall—

(A) in the case of a permanent wetland reserve easement, pay an amount that is not less than 75 percent, but not more than 100 percent, of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) in the case of a 30-year contract or 30-year wetland reserve easement, pay an amount that is not less than 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent, of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land enrolled under this section for the repair, necessary maintenance, and enhancement activities described in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—The Secretary shall—

(A) regularly assess land enrolled under this section to identify maintenance and management needs, including any needed repair or enhancement of existing structural practices, in accordance with the applicable wetland reserve easement plan;

(B) consistent with the purposes of the program, create, execute, and update as necessary based on the assessments carried out under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy for—

(i) prioritizing and addressing the needs identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) projecting the amount of annual funding needed for financial and technical assistance to address such needs; and

(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address such needs.

(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make payments in an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

(A) an inventory of the existing stewardship needs of all wetland reserve easements, based on the assessments carried out under paragraph (2);

(B) the stewardship strategy created under paragraph (2)(B);

(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to allocate to address such stewardship needs, based on projections made pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(ii); and

(D) the planned use of compatible uses under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agreements under subsection (e)(2), or wetland reserve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to ensure that each such stewardship need is addressed.

[(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—**]** *(e) ASSISTANCE.—*

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist owners in complying with the terms and conditions of a wetland reserve easement.

[(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with private entities or agreements with a State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian tribe to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, or maintenance of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.**]**

(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with a Federal, State, or local agency, a nongovernmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a private entity to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.

[(e)**]** *(f)* WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT OPTION.—**[**The Secretary**]** *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary* may enter into 1 or more agreements with a State (including a political subdivision or agency of a State), nongovernmental organization, or Indian tribe to carry out a special wetland reserve enhancement option that the Secretary determines would advance the purposes of program.

(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 15 percent to carry out this subsection.

[(f)**]** *(g)* ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a wetland reserve easement plan—

(i) for any eligible land subject to a wetland reserve easement; and

(ii) that restores, protects, enhances, manages, maintains, and monitors the eligible land subject to the wetland reserve easements acquired under this section.

(B) PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES.—A wetland reserve easement plan under subparagraph (A) shall include practices and activities, including repair or replacement, that are necessary to restore and maintain the enrolled land and the functions and values of the wetland subject to a wetland reserve easement.

(2) ALTERNATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in coordination with State technical committees established under section 1261(a) and pursuant to State-specific criteria and guidelines, may authorize the establishment or restoration of a hydrologically appropriate native community or alternative naturalized vegetative community as part of a wetland reserve easement plan on land subject to a wetland reserve easement if that hydrologically appropriate native or alternative naturalized vegetative community shall—

(A) substantially support or benefit migratory waterfowl or other wetland wildlife; or

(B) meet local resource concerns or needs (including as an element of a regional, State, or local wildlife initiative or plan).

(3) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to other Federal or State agencies that have the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to carry out such delegated responsibilities, or to conservation organizations if the Secretary determines the organization has similar expertise and resources.

(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not delegate any of the monitoring or enforcement responsibilities under this section to conservation organizations.

(4) PAYMENTS.—

(A) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide payment for obligations incurred by the Secretary under this section—

(i) with respect to any easement restoration obligation under subsection (c), as soon as possible after the obligation is incurred; and

(ii) with respect to any annual easement payment obligation incurred by the Secretary, as soon as possible after October 1 of each calendar year.

(B) PAYMENTS TO OTHERS.—If an owner who is entitled to a payment under this section dies, becomes incompetent, is otherwise unable to receive such payment, or is succeeded by another person or entity who renders or completes the required performance, the Secretary shall make such payment, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary and without regard to any other provision

of law, in such manner as the Secretary determines is fair and reasonable in light of all of the circumstances.

[(g)] *(h)* APPLICATION.—The relevant provisions of this section shall also apply to a 30-year contract.

SEC. 1265D. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary may not use program funds for the purposes of acquiring an easement on—

(1) lands owned by an agency of the United States, other than land held in trust for Indian tribes;

(2) lands owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of local government;

(3) land subject to an easement or deed restriction which, as determined by the Secretary, provides similar protection as would be provided by enrollment in the program; or

(4) lands where the purposes of the program would be undermined due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land uses.

(b) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under the program, the Secretary may give priority to land that is currently enrolled in the conservation reserve program in a contract that is set to expire within 1 year and—

(1) in the case of an agricultural land easement, is grassland that would benefit from protection under a long-term easement; and

(2) in the case of a wetland reserve easement, is a wetland or related area with the highest wetland functions and value and is likely to return to production after the land leaves the conservation reserve program.

(c) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—

(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may subordinate any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary (including for the purposes of utilities and energy transmission services) either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that the subordination—

(A) increases conservation values or has a limited negative effect on conservation values;

(B) minimally affects the acreage subject to the interest in land; and

(C) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

[(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE.—

[(A) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification or exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that—

[(i) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

[(ii) the modification or exchange—

[(I) results in equal or increased conservation values;

[(II) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

[(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

[(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

[(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

[(B) LIMITATION.—In modifying or exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this paragraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.]

(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

(A) MODIFICATION.—

(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

(I) will support the long-term agricultural viability of the applicable farm or ranch operation and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors, exercising reserved rights, and increasing flexibility to recognize changes in water availability or administration.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action taken pursuant to this subparagraph may not be considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(B) EXCHANGE.—

(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

(II) the exchange—

(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.

(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may approve a termination of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that—

(A) termination is in the interest of the Federal Government;

(B) the United States will be fully compensated for—

(i) the fair market value of the interest in land;

(ii) any costs relating to the termination; and

(iii) any damages determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(C) the termination will—

(i) address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative even with avoidance and minimization; and

(ii) further the practical administration of the program.

(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if applicable, for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination of interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subsection.

(5) NOTICE.—At least 90 days before taking any termination action described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice of such action to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land, or a portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the adjustment—

(i) furthers the practical administration of the program; and

(ii) is not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under this paragraph may include title corrections and other minor adjustments, including—

(i) typographical error corrections;

(ii) minor changes in legal descriptions as a result of survey or mapping errors;

(iii) the transfer of an interest of an eligible entity to another eligible entity;

(iv) changes to a building envelope boundary;

(v) relocation of easement access;

(vi) authorization of temporary work areas not associated with other easement administration actions; and

(vii) other adjustments determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(7) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to modify a term or condition of an agricultural land easement that is the subject of an agreement entered into under section 1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modification does not conflict with any minimum term or condition required by the Secretary under such section.

(d) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—

(1) CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—The Secretary may terminate or modify a contract entered into under section 1231(a) if eligible land that is subject to such contract is enrolled in an easement under section 1265C(b).

(2) OTHER.—In accordance with the provisions of subtitle H of title II of the Agricultural Act of 2014, land enrolled in the wetlands reserve program, grassland reserve program, or farmland protection program on the day before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 shall be considered enrolled in the program.

(3) AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.—A farmer or rancher who owns eligible land subject to an agricultural land easement may enter into a contract under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D.

(e) COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not provide assistance under this subtitle to an eligible entity or owner of eligible land unless the eligible entity or owner agrees, during the crop year for which the assistance is provided—

(1) to comply with applicable conservation requirements under subtitle B; and

(2) to comply with applicable wetland protection requirements under subtitle C.

(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assistance under this subtitle.

Subtitle I—Forest Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 1267. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a forest conservation easement program for the conservation and restoration of eligible land and natural resources through the acquisition of conservation easements or other interests in land.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—

(1) to protect the viability and sustainability of working forest land, and related conservation values of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects of nonforest land uses of such land;

(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem and landscape functions and values;

(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and improvement of habitat of species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "acreage owned by an Indian Tribe" means—

(A) land that is held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians;

(B) land, the title to which is held by Indian Tribes or individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance;

(C) land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

(D) land that is held in fee title by an Indian Tribe;

(E) land that is owned by a native corporation formed under—

(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); and

(F) a combination of 1 or more types of land described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) an agency of State or local government or an Indian Tribe (including a land resource council established under State law); or

(B) an organization that is—

(i) organized for, and at all times since the formation of the organization has been operated principally for, 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(ii) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

(iii) described in—

(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of that Code; or

(II) section 509(a)(3) of that Code and is controlled by an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of that Code.

(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term "eligible land" means private land or acreage owned by an Indian Tribe—

(A) that is—

(i) forest land; or

(ii) being restored to forest land;

(B) in the case of a forest land easement—

(i) the enrollment of which would protect working forests and related conservation values by conserving land; or

(ii) the protection of which will further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(C) in the case of a forest reserve easement, the enrollment of which will maintain, restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

(i) increase the likelihood of recovery of a species that is listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); or

(ii) improve the well-being of a species that is—

(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

(II)(aa) a candidate for that listing, a State-listed species, or a special concern species; or

(bb) designated as a species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term "forest land easement" means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses, consistent with an applicable forest management plan.

(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "forest management plan" means—

(A) a forest stewardship plan described in section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

(B) another plan approved by the applicable State forester or State forestry agency;

(C) a plan developed under a third-party certification system determined appropriate by the Secretary; or

(D) another plan determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term "forest reserve easement" means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses consistent with the applicable forest reserve easement plan developed under section 1267C(c)(1)(A).

(7) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the forest conservation easement program established under this subtitle.

(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LANDOWNER.—The term "socially disadvantaged forest landowner" means a forest landowner who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall facilitate and provide funding for—

(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements on eligible land;

(2) the development of a forest management plan; and

(3) technical assistance to implement this section.

(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect working forests, and related conservation values of eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible entities for purchasing forest land easements.

(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) may provide for a Federal share of not more than 75 percent of the fair market value of a forest land easement in the case of eligible land that is—

(I) a forest of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary; or

(II) owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement described in paragraph (4), the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the forest land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity under this paragraph may comprise—

(I) cash resources;

(II) a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution (as defined in section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from the private forest landowner from which the forest land easement will be purchased;

(III) costs associated with securing a deed to the forest land easement, including the cost of appraisal, survey, inspection, and title; and

(IV) other costs, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall determine the fair market value of a forest land easement using—

(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

(ii) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

(iii) another industry-approved method.

(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—

(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria to maximize the benefit of Federal investment under the program.

(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for the purchase of a forest land easement—

(i) that maintains the viability of a working forest, as determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) on eligible land for which a forest management plan has been developed at the time of application.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

(i) protecting working forests and related conservation values of eligible land;

(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest land; and

(iii) maximizing the areas protected from conversion to nonforest uses.

(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into agreements with eligible entities to stipulate the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share assistance provided under this section.

(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term that is not less than 3, but not more than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines that a longer term is justified.

(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for forest land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

(i) are consistent with—

(I) the purposes of the program; and

(II) the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

(ii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest land easements;

(iii) include a requirement to implement a forest management plan on eligible land subject to a forest land easement;

(iv) include a limit on the impervious surfaces to be allowed that is consistent with the forestry activities to be conducted; and

(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the forest land easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

(aa)(AA) the holder of the forest land easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the forest land easement have been violated; and

(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection.

(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include terms and conditions for a forest land easement that—

(i) are intended to keep the eligible land subject to the forest land easement in active forest management, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) allow subsurface mineral development on the eligible land subject to the forest land easement and in accordance with applicable State law if, as determined by the Secretary—

(I) the subsurface mineral development—

(aa) has a limited and localized impact;

(bb) does not harm the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement;

(cc) does not materially alter or affect the existing topography;

(dd) complies with a subsurface mineral development plan that—

(AA) includes a plan for the remediation of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

(BB) is approved by the Secretary prior to the initiation of mineral development activity;

(ee) is not accomplished by any surface mining method;

(ff) is within the impervious surface limits of the forest land easement under subparagraph (C)(iv); and

(gg) uses practices and technologies that minimize the duration and intensity of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

(II) each area impacted by the subsurface mineral development is reclaimed and restored by the holder of the mineral rights at cessation of operation; and

(iii) include other relevant activities relating to the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the parties, substitution of qualified projects that are identified at the time of the proposed substitution.

(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a violation of a term or condition of an agreement under subparagraph (A) occurs—

(i) the Secretary may terminate the agreement; and

(ii) the Secretary may require the eligible entity to refund all or part of any payments received by the eligible entity under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land does not have a forest management plan at the time of application, prior to the acquisition of the forest land easement the landowner shall develop, in partnership with the eligible entity, a forest management plan for the land subject to the forest land easement.

(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse the landowner for the cost of the development of a forest management plan for eligible land enrolled under this section.

(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—

(1) permanent easements; or

(2) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in compliance with the terms and conditions of forest land easements.

SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

(1) forest reserve easements and related forest reserve easement plans; and

(2) technical assistance to implement this section.

(b) EASEMENTS.—

(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section—

(i) through the use of—

(I) permanent easements;

(II) 30-year easements; and

(III) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws; and

(ii) in the case of acreage owned by an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

(I) 30-year contracts (the compensation for which shall be equivalent to the compensation for 30-year easements); or

(II) permanent easements.

(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-year easements under this section.

(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria for offers from landowners under this section.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to the enrollment of eligible land under this section that provides the greatest conservation benefit to—

(i) primarily, species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

(ii) secondarily, species that are—

(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

(II)(aa) candidates for that listing, State-listed species, or special concern species; or

(bb) designated as species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary may give additional consideration to eligible land the enrollment under this section of which will—

(i) improve biological diversity;

(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

(iii) conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in subparagraph (B);

(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest land; and

(v) increase carbon sequestration.

(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve easement shall include terms and conditions that—

(i) are consistent with the purposes of the program and the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

(ii) are consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A);

(iii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest reserve easements;

(iv) provide for the efficient and effective establishment or enhancement of forest ecosystem functions and values; and

(v) include such additional provisions as the Secretary determines are desirable to carry out the program or facilitate the practical administration of the program.

(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request that a term or condition be included in a forest reserve easement, and the Secretary may include such term or condition, if it—

(i) is consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A); and

(ii) does not conflict with any terms or conditions included under subparagraph (A).

(4) COMPENSATION.—

(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement under this section, the Secretary shall pay the owner of the eligible land an amount equal to the difference between, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) the fair market value of the eligible land before the enrollment in the permanent easement; and

(ii) the fair market value of the eligible land as encumbered by the permanent easement.

(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the owner of eligible land enrolled under this section in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid under subparagraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in a permanent easement.

(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of eligible land for purposes of this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice or another industry-approved method.

(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT.—

(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a forest reserve easement shall be subject to a forest reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that describes such activities to be carried out on the land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance habitat for species described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A forest reserve easement plan developed under subparagraph (A) shall require implementation of such practices and measures as are necessary to accomplish the activities described in the plan under such subparagraph, which may include—

(i) vegetative management and silviculture practices;

(ii) structural practices and measures;

(iii) practices to increase carbon sequestration;

(iv) practices to improve biological diversity; and

(v) other practices and measures, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land to carry out the activities, practices, and measures described in the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under paragraph (1).

(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to financial assistance provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall pay—

(i) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement, an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, an amount that is not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary.

(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for payments under this paragraph are the costs of activities, practices, and measures referred to in subparagraph (A) that are associated with the restoration or enhancement of the habitat conditions specified for the applicable species in the forest reserve easement plan.

(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under this paragraph shall be made—

(i) only on a determination by the Secretary that an activity, practice, or measure described in subparagraph (C) has been established in compliance with appropriate standards and specifications, which determination shall be made as soon as practicable after establishment; and

(ii) as soon as possible after such determination is made.

(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance provided by the Secretary under this paragraph to an owner of eligible land may not exceed $500,000 per easement or contract.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to owners of eligible land technical assistance to assist the owners in—

(A) developing a forest reserve easement plan; and

(B) complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement, including the implementation of a forest reserve easement plan.

(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with private entities or agreements with a State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide technical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.

(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a landowner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve easement, and whose conservation activities under the forest reserve easement plan developed for such land result in a net conservation benefit for a species described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

(2) MEASURES.—If protection under paragraph (1) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land, the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of

any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for payments under subsection (c)(2).

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to other Federal or State agencies that have the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to a nonprofit conservation organization if the Secretary determines the organization has the appropriate expertise and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may consult with—

(A) private forest landowners;

(B) other Federal agencies;

(C) State forestry agencies;

(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

(E) State environmental quality agencies;

(F) other State conservation agencies; and

(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use amounts made available to carry out the program for the purposes of acquiring an easement on—

(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian Tribe;

(2) land owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of local government;

(3) land subject to an easement or deed restriction that, as determined by the Secretary, provides similar protection as would be provided by enrollment in the program; or

(4) land the enrollment in the program of which would undermine the purposes of the program due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land uses.

(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—

(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary (including for the purposes of utilities and energy transmission services) directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that the subordination—

(A) increases conservation values or has a limited negative effect on conservation values;

(B) minimally affects the acreage subject to the interest in eligible land; and

(C) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

(A) MODIFICATION.—

(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

(I) will support the viability and sustainability of working forests and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors and exercising reserved rights.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

(B) EXCHANGE.—

(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

(II) the exchange—

(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.

(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may approve a termination of any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that—

(A) termination is in the interest of the Federal Government;

(B) the United States will be fully compensated for—

(i) the value of the interest in the land, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) any costs relating to the termination; and

(iii) any damages determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(C) the termination will—

(i) address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative even with avoidance and minimization; and

(ii) further the practical administration of the program.

(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if applicable, for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before taking any termination action described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled in the program.

Subtitle [I] *J*—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SEC. 1271. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a regional conservation partnership program to implement eligible activities on eligible land through—

(1) partnership agreements, including partnership agreements funded through alternative funding arrangements or grant agreements under section 1271C(d), with eligible partners; and

(2) program contracts with producers.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are as follows:

(1) To carry out eligible activities to accomplish purposes and functions similar to those of the following programs, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014:

(A) The agricultural water enhancement program established under section 1240I.

(B) The Chesapeake Bay watershed program established under section 1240Q.

(C) The cooperative conservation partnership initiative established under section 1243.

(D) The Great Lakes basin program for soil erosion and sediment control established under section 1240P.

[(2) To further the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water (including sources of drinking water and groundwater), wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale.]

(2) To address natural resource concerns on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, including through—

(A) the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil;

(B) the conservation and protection of water, including sources of drinking water and groundwater;

(C) the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought, and the improvement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources.

(3) To encourage eligible partners to cooperate with producers in—

(A) meeting or avoiding the need for national, State, and local natural resource regulatory requirements related to production on eligible land, including through alignment of partnership projects with other national, State, and local agencies and programs addressing similar natural resource or environmental concerns; and

(B) implementing projects that will result in the adoption, installation, and maintenance of eligible activities that affect multiple agricultural or nonindustrial private forest operations on a local, regional, State, or multistate basis.

(4) To encourage the flexible and streamlined delivery of conservation assistance to producers through partnership agreements.

(5) To engage producers and eligible partners in conservation projects to achieve greater conservation outcomes and benefits for producers than would otherwise be achieved.

SEC. 1271A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term "covered program" means the following:

(A) The agricultural conservation easement program.

(B) The environmental quality incentives program.

(C) The conservation stewardship program, not including the grassland conservation initiative under section 1240L–1.

[(D) The healthy forests reserve program established under section 501 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571).]

(D) The forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I.

(E) The conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D.

(F) The programs established by the Secretary to carry out the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16

U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), except for any program established by the Secretary to carry out section 14 (16 U.S.C. 1012) of that Act.

(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term "eligible activity" means a practice, activity, agreement, easement, or related conservation measure that is available under the statutory authority for a covered program.

(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term "eligible land" means any agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land or associated land on which the Secretary determines an eligible activity would help achieve conservation benefits.

(4) ELIGIBLE PARTNER.—The term "eligible partner" means any of the following:

(A) An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers.

(B) A State or unit of local government.

(C) An Indian tribe.

(D) A farmer cooperative.

(E) A water district, irrigation district, acequia, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to producers on agricultural land.

(F) A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity.

(G) An institution of higher education.

(H) An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by the Secretary, to address—

(i) local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, or nonindustrial private forest land management; or

(ii) critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource issues.

(I) An organization described in section 1265A(3)(B).

(J) A conservation district.

(5) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—The term "partnership agreement" means the programmatic agreement entered into between the Secretary and an eligible partner, subject to the terms and conditions under section 1271B.

(6) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the regional conservation partnership program established by this subtitle.

(7) PROGRAM CONTRACT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "program contract" means the contract between the Secretary and a producer entered into under this subtitle.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "program contract" does not include a contract under a covered program.

SEC. 1271B. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.

[(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may enter into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner to implement a project that will assist producers with installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eligible land.**]**

(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner to implement a project that

will assist producers with installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eligible land.

(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a partnership agreement under paragraph (1)—

(A) is entered into not later than 180 days after the date on which an application is selected under subsection (e); and

(B) contains only—

(i) the information, described under subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and initiate the project to be implemented under the partnership agreement; and

(ii) any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any waiver provided under paragraph (3) of such section.

(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f).

(b) LENGTH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A partnership agreement shall be—

(A) for a period not to exceed 5 years; or

(B) for a period that is longer than 5 years, if the longer period is necessary to meet the objectives of the program, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) RENEWAL.—A partnership agreement may be renewed under subsection (e)(5) for a period not to exceed 5 years.

(3) EXTENSION.—A partnership agreement, or any renewal of a partnership agreement, may each be extended 1 time for a period not longer than 12 months, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) DUTIES OF PARTNERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under a partnership agreement, the eligible partner shall—

(A) define the scope of a project, including—

(i) 1 or more conservation benefits that the project shall achieve;

(ii) the eligible activities on eligible land to be conducted under the project to achieve conservation benefits;

(iii) the implementation timeline for carrying out the project, including any interim milestones;

(iv) the local, State, multistate, or other geographic area covered; and

(v) the planning, outreach, implementation, and assessment to be conducted;

(B) conduct outreach and education to producers for potential participation in the project;

(C) at the request of a producer, act on behalf of a producer participating in the project in applying for assistance under section 1271C;

(D) leverage financial or technical assistance provided by the Secretary with additional contributions to help achieve the project objectives;

(E) conduct an assessment of—

(i) the progress made by the project in achieving each conservation benefit defined in the partnership agreement, including in a quantified form to the extent practicable; and

(ii) as appropriate, other outcomes of the project; and

(F) at the conclusion of the project, report to the Secretary on its results and funds leveraged.

(2) CONTRIBUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partner shall provide a significant portion of the overall costs of the scope of the project that is the subject of the agreement entered into under subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary.

(B) FORM.—A contribution of an eligible partner under this paragraph may be in the form of—

(i) direct funding;

(ii) in-kind support; or

(iii) a combination of direct funding and in-kind support.

(C) TREATMENT.—Any amounts expended during the period beginning on the date on which the Secretary announces the approval of an application under subsection (e) and ending on the day before the effective date of the partnership agreement by an eligible partner for staff salaries or development of the partnership agreement may be considered to be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under this paragraph.

(d) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish a timeline for carrying out the duties of the Secretary under a partnership agreement, including—

(A) entering into program contracts with producers;

(B) providing financial assistance to producers; and

(C) in the case of a partnership agreement that is funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), providing the payments to the eligible partner for carrying out eligible activities;

(2) identify in each State a program coordinator for the State, who shall be responsible for providing assistance to eligible partners under the program;

(3) establish guidance to assist eligible partners with carrying out the assessment required under subsection (c)(1)(E);

(4) provide to each eligible partner that has entered into a partnership agreement that is not funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d)—

(A) a semiannual report describing the status of each pending and obligated contract under the project of the eligible partner; and

(B) an annual report describing [how the Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary for that year for technical assistance under section 1271D(f); and] *the use of funds for technical assistance under section 1271D(c);*

(5) ensure that any eligible activity effectively achieves the conservation benefits identified in the partnership agreement under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)[.]*; and*

(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under a partnership agreement are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary shall conduct a simplified competitive process to select applications for partnership agreements and may assess and rank applications with similar conservation purposes as a group.

(2) CRITERIA USED.—In carrying out the process described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make public the criteria used in evaluating applications.

(3) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall develop a simplified application that includes a description of—

(A) the scope of the project, as described in subsection (c)(1)(A);

(B) the plan for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on progress made toward achieving the project's objectives;

(C) the program resources requested for the project and estimated funding needed from the Secretary;

(D) each eligible partner collaborating to achieve project objectives, including their roles, responsibilities, capabilities, and contribution; [and]

(E) any requests by an eligible partner for a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f); and

[(E)] *(F)* any other elements the Secretary considers necessary to adequately evaluate and competitively select applications for funding under the program.

(4) PRIORITY TO CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may give a higher priority to applications that—

(A) assist producers in meeting or avoiding the need for a natural resource regulatory requirement;

(B) have a high percentage of producers in the area to be covered by the agreement;

(C) significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources and coordinate with other local, State, or national efforts;

(D) build new partnerships with local, State, and private entities to include a diversity of stakeholders in the project;

(E) deliver a high percentage of applied conservation—

(i) to achieve conservation benefits; or

(ii) in the case of a project in a critical conservation area under section 1271F, to address the priority resource concern for that critical conservation area;

(F) implement the project consistent with existing watershed, habitat, or other area restoration plans;

(G) provide innovation in conservation methods and delivery, including outcome-based performance measures and methods; or

(H) meet other factors that are important for achieving the purposes of the program, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) RENEWALS.—If the Secretary determines that a project that is the subject of a partnership agreement has met or exceeded the objectives of the project, the Secretary may renew the partnership agreement through an expedited noncompetitive process if the 1 or more eligible partners that are parties to the partnership agreement request the renewal in order—

(A) to continue to implement the project under a renewal of the partnership agreement; or

(B) to expand the scope of the project under a renewal of the partnership agreement, as long as the expansion is within the objectives and purposes of the original partnership agreement.

(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.—The adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to an eligible partner under the program.

SEC. 1271C. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A producer may receive financial or technical assistance to conduct eligible activities on eligible land through a program contract entered into with the Secretary.

(b) PROGRAM CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program contract to be entered into with a producer to conduct eligible activities on eligible land, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish.

(2) APPLICATION BUNDLES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible partner may submit to the Secretary, on behalf of producers, a bundle of applications for assistance under the program through program contracts to address a substantial portion of the conservation benefits to be achieved by the project, as defined in the partnership agreement.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give priority to applications described in subparagraph (A).

(c) PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 1271D, the Secretary may make payments to a producer in an amount determined by the Secretary to be necessary to achieve the purposes of the program.

(2) PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN PRODUCERS.—The Secretary may provide payments for a period of 5 years—

(A) to producers participating in a project that addresses water quantity concerns and in an amount sufficient to encourage conversion from irrigated to dryland farming; and

(B) to producers participating in a project that addresses water quality concerns and in an amount sufficient to encourage adoption of conservation practices and systems that improve nutrient management.

(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—To assist in the implementation of the program, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the limitation in section 1001D(b)(2) of this Act for producers if the Secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to fulfill the objectives of the program.

(d) FUNDING THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS OR GRANT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A partnership agreement entered into with an eligible partner may be funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant in accordance with this subsection.

(2) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) under a funding agreement under paragraph (1)—

(i) use funding made available to carry out this subtitle to provide funding directly to the eligible partner; and

(ii) provide technical and administrative assistance, as mutually agreed by the parties; and

(B) enter into not more than 15 alternative funding arrangements or grant agreements with 1 or more eligible partners each fiscal year.

(3) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE PARTNERS.—Under a funding agreement under paragraph (1), the eligible partner shall—

(A) carry out eligible activities on eligible land in agreement with producers to achieve conservation benefits on a regional or watershed scale, such as—

(i) infrastructure investments relating to agricultural or nonindustrial private forest production that would—

(I) benefit multiple producers; and

(II) address natural resource concerns such as drought, wildfire, or water quality impairment on the land covered by the project;

(ii) projects addressing natural resources concerns in coordination with producers, including the development and implementation of watershed, habitat, or other area restoration plans;

(iii) projects that use innovative approaches to leveraging the Federal investment in conservation with private financial mechanisms, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management, such as—

(I) the provision of performance-based payments to producers; and

(II) support for an environmental market; or

(iv) other projects for which the Secretary determines that the goals and objectives of the program would be easier to achieve through the funding agreement under paragraph (1); [and]

(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2), not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the scope of the project that is the subject of a partnership agreement funded pursuant to paragraph (1) in direct funding; and

[(B)] *(C)* submit to the Secretary, in addition to any information that the Secretary requires to prepare the report under section 1271E(b), an annual report that describes the status of the project, including a description of—

(i) the use of the funds awarded under paragraph (1);

(ii) any subcontracts awarded;

(iii) the producers receiving funding through the funding agreement under paragraph (1);

(iv)(I) the progress made by the project in addressing each natural resource concern defined in the funding agreement under paragraph (1), including in a quantified form to the extent practicable; and

(II) as appropriate, other outcomes of the project; and

(v) any other reporting data the Secretary determines are necessary to ensure compliance with the program rules.

SEC. 1271D. FUNDING.

[(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out the program, to the maximum extent practicable—

[(1) $425,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

[(2) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

[(3) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

[(4) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

[(5) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

[(6) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

[(b) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.]

[(c)] *(a)* ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the funds made available for the program under [subsection (a)] *section 1241(a)(6)*, the Secretary shall allocate—

(1) 50 percent of the funds to projects based on a State or multistate competitive process administered by the Secretary at the local level with the advice of the applicable State technical committees established under subtitle G; and

(2) 50 percent of the funds to projects for critical conservation areas designated under section 1271F.

[(d) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), none of the funds made available for the program, including for a partnership agreement funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), may be used to pay for the administrative expenses of eligible partners.

[(2) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH.—Under a partnership agreement that is not funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), the Secretary may advance reasonable amounts of funding for not longer than 90 days for technical assistance to eligible partners to conduct project development and outreach activities in a project area, including—

[(A) providing outreach and education to producers for potential participation in the project;

[(B) establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E); or

[(C) providing technical assistance to producers.

[(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—At the time of project selection, the Secretary shall identify and make publicly available the amount that the Secretary shall use to provide technical assistance under the terms of the partnership agreement.

[(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs specific and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.

[(3) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall develop and implement strategies to encourage third-party technical service providers to provide technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to a partnership agreement.]

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available to implement a project under a partnership agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the project.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be considered to be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, through a partnership agreement, identify—

(A) the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance; and

(B) the share of such funds that will be provided to eligible partners under paragraph (2).

(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partnership agreement that is not funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), the Secretary may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance provided through such partnership agreement, including—

(i) the costs of technical assistance needed to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit of the applicable project;

(ii) the costs of providing outreach and education to producers for potential participation in the applicable project;

(iii) the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

(iv) other costs necessary to support the implementation of eligible activities, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may advance to eligible partners reasonable amounts of funds for costs that may be reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.

(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements or advancements to eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance under this subsection.

(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall develop and implement strategies to encourage third-party technical

service providers to provide technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to a partnership agreement.

SEC. 1271E. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) DISCLOSURE.—In addition to the criteria used in evaluating applications as described in section 1271B(e)(2), the Secretary shall make publicly available information on projects selected through the competitive process described in section 1271B(e)(1).

(b) REPORTING.—Not later than December 31, 2019, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall *make publicly available and* submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the status of projects funded under the program, including—

(1) a summary of—

(A) the progress made towards achieving the conservation benefits defined for the projects; and

(B) any other related outcomes of the projects;

(2) the number and types of eligible partners and producers participating in the partnership agreements selected;

(3) the number of producers receiving assistance;

(4) total funding committed to projects, including from Federal and non-Federal resources;

(5) a description of how the funds under section 1271C(d) are being administered, including—

(A) any oversight mechanisms that the Secretary has implemented;

(B) the process through which the Secretary is resolving appeals by program participants; and

(C) the means by which the Secretary is tracking adherence to any applicable provisions for payment eligibility; and

(6) in the case of a project within a critical conservation area under section 1271F, the status of each priority resource concern for each designated critical conservation area, including—

(A) the priority resource concerns for which each critical conservation area is designated;

(B) conservation goals and outcomes sufficient to demonstrate that progress is being made to address the priority resource concerns;

(C) the partnership agreements selected to address each conservation goal and outcome; and

(D) the extent to which each conservation goal and outcome is being addressed by the partnership agreements.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not provide assistance under the program to a producer unless the producer agrees, during the program year for which the assistance is provided—

(1) to comply with applicable conservation requirements under subtitle B; and

(2) to comply with applicable wetland protection requirements under subtitle C.

(d) HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out the program, the Secretary and eligible partners shall conduct outreach to beginning farmers and ranchers, veteran farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged

farmers and ranchers, and limited resource farmers and ranchers to encourage participation by those producers in a project subject to a partnership agreement or funding agreement under 1271C(d).

(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out the program.

(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program to be used as part of the applicable partnership agreement.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible activity carried out under a program contract entered into pursuant to the partnership agreement—

(i) to provide a simplified process; or

(ii) to better reflect unique local circumstances.

(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not adjust the application of statutory requirements for a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, including requirements governing appeals, payment limits, and conservation compliance.

(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program contract for an eligible activity under the agricultural conservation easement program, the Secretary may, in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligibility of land.

(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a partnership agreement entered into for acquisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the authorities applicable to the eligible partner under section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an eligible entity certified under such section.

(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program contract that includes an eligible activity under the environmental quality incentives program to be installed and maintained in a State in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may not consider prior irrigation history when determining the eligibility of land.

(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to section 1271C(d).

SEC. 1271F. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "critical conservation area" means a geographical area that contains a critical conservation condition that can be addressed through the program.

(2) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term "priority resource concern" means a natural resource concern located in a critical conservation area that can be addressed through—

(A) water quality improvement, including through reducing erosion, promoting sediment control, and addressing

nutrient management activities affecting large bodies of water of regional, national, or international significance;

(B) water quantity improvement, including improvement relating to—

(i) drought;

(ii) groundwater, surface water, aquifer, or other water sources; or

(iii) water retention and flood prevention;

(C) wildlife habitat restoration to address species of concern at a Federal, State, or local level*, including restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors*; and

(D) other natural resource improvements, as determined by the Secretary, within the critical conservation area.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—In administering ⟦funds under section 1271D(d)(2)⟧ *funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)*, the Secretary shall select applications for partnership agreements and program contracts within critical conservation areas designated under this section that address 1 or more priority resource concerns for which the critical conservation area is designated.

(c) CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREA DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall identify 1 or more priority resource concerns that apply to each critical conservation area designated under this section after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 649), including the conservation goals and outcomes sufficient to demonstrate that progress is being made to address the priority resource concern.

(2) PRIORITY.—In designating critical conservation areas under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to geographical areas based on the degree to which the geographical area—

(A) includes multiple States with significant agricultural production;

(B) is covered by an existing regional, State, binational, or multistate agreement or plan that has established objectives, goals, and work plans and is adopted by a Federal, State, or regional authority;

(C) contains 1 or more priority resource concerns; or

(D) contains producers that need assistance in meeting or avoiding the need for a natural resource regulatory requirement that could have a negative impact on the economic scope of the agricultural operations within the area.

(3) REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) review designations of critical conservation areas under this section not more frequently than once every 5 years; and

(B) withdraw designation of a critical conservation area only if the Secretary determines that the area is no longer a critical conservation area.

(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not designate more than 8 geographical areas as critical conservation areas under this section.

(d) OUTREACH TO ELIGIBLE PARTNERS AND PRODUCERS.—The Secretary shall provide outreach and education to eligible partners and

producers in critical conservation areas designated under this section to encourage the development of projects to address each priority resource concern identified by the Secretary for that critical conservation area.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall administer any partnership agreement or program contract under this section in a manner that is consistent with the terms of the program.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ACTIVITY.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that eligible activities carried out in critical conservation areas designated under this section complement and are consistent with other Federal and State programs and water quality and quantity strategies.

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FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

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TITLE I—COMMODITY PROGRAMS

* * * * * * *

Subtitle E—Dairy

SEC. 1502. DAIRY FORWARD PRICING PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which milk producers and cooperative associations of producers are authorized to voluntarily enter into forward price contracts with milk handlers.

(b) MINIMUM MILK PRICE REQUIREMENTS.—Payments made by milk handlers to milk producers and cooperative associations of producers, and prices received by milk producers and cooperative associations, in accordance with the terms of a forward price contract authorized by subsection (a), shall be treated as satisfying—

(1) all uniform and minimum milk price requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (F) of paragraph (5) of section 8c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937; and

(2) the total payment requirement of subparagraph (C) of that paragraph.

(c) MILK COVERED BY PROGRAM.—

(1) COVERED MILK.—The program shall apply only with respect to the marketing of federally regulated milk that—

(A) is not classified as Class I milk or otherwise intended for fluid use; and

(B) is in the current of interstate or foreign commerce or directly burdens, obstructs, or affects interstate or foreign commerce in federally regulated milk.

(2) RELATION TO CLASS I MILK.—To assist milk handlers in complying with paragraph (1)(A) without having to segregate or otherwise individually track the source and disposition of milk, a milk handler may allocate milk receipts from producers, cooperatives, and other sources that are not subject to a forward contract to satisfy the obligations of the handler with regard to Class I milk usage.

(d) VOLUNTARY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A milk handler may not require participation in a forward pricing contract as a condition of the handler receiving milk from a producer or cooperative association of producers.

(2) PRICING.—A producer or cooperative association described in paragraph (1) may continue to have their milk priced in accordance with the minimum payment provisions of the Federal milk marketing order.

(3) COMPLAINTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall investigate complaints made by producers or cooperative associations of coercion by handlers to enter into forward contracts.

(B) ACTION.—If the Secretary finds evidence of coercion, the Secretary shall take appropriate action.

[(e) DURATION.—

[(1) NEW CONTRACTS.—No forward price contract may be entered into under the program established under this section after September 30, 2023.

[(2) APPLICATION.—No forward contract entered into under the program may extend beyond September 30, 2029.]

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Subtitle F—Administration

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SEC. 1614. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a storage facility loan program to provide [funds for producers] *funds for—*

(1) producers of grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, renewable biomass, and other storable commodities (other than sugar), as determined by the Secretary, to construct or upgrade storage and handling facilities for the commodities[.]*; and*

(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production (as such term is defined in section 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph)).

(b) ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—A storage facility loan under this section shall be made available to any producer described in subsection (a) that, as determined by the Secretary—

(1) has a satisfactory credit history;

(2) has a need for increased storage capacity; and

(3) demonstrates an ability to repay the loan.

(c) TERM OF LOANS.—A storage facility loan under this section shall have a maximum term of 12 years.

(d) LOAN AMOUNT.—The maximum principal amount of a storage facility loan under this section shall be $500,000.

(e) LOAN DISBURSEMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide for 1 partial disbursement of loan principal and 1 final disbursement of loan principal, as determined to be appropriate and subject to acceptable documentation, to facilitate the purchase and construction of eligible facilities.

(f) LOAN SECURITY.—Approval of a storage facility loan under this section shall—

(1) require the borrower to provide loan security to the Secretary, in the form of—

(A) a lien on the real estate parcel on which the storage facility is located; or

(B) such other security as is acceptable to the Secretary;

(2) under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, not require a severance agreement from the holder of any prior lien on the real estate parcel on which the storage facility is located, if the borrower—

(A) agrees to increase the down payment on the storage facility by an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary; or

(B) provides other security acceptable to the Secretary; and

(3) allow a borrower, upon the approval of the Secretary, to define a subparcel of real estate as security for the storage facility loan if the subparcel is—

(A) of adequate size and value to adequately secure the loan; and

(B) not subject to any other liens or mortgages that are superior to the lien interest of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

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TITLE III—TRADE

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Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

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SEC. 3202. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.

(a) CONTRIBUTION.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall contribute funds to endow the Global Crop Diversity Trust (referred to in this section as the "Trust") to assist in the conservation of genetic diversity in food crops through the collection and storage of the germplasm of food crops in a manner that provides for—

(1) the maintenance and storage of seed collections;

(2) the documentation and cataloguing of the genetics and characteristics of conserved seeds to ensure efficient reference for researchers, plant breeders, and the public;

(3) building the capacity of seed collection in developing countries;

(4) making information regarding crop genetic data publicly available for researchers, plant breeders, and the public (including through the provision of an accessible Internet website);

(5) the operation and maintenance of a back-up facility in which are stored duplicate samples of seeds, in the case of natural or man-made disasters; and

(6) oversight designed to ensure international coordination of those actions and efficient, public accessibility to that diversity through a cost-effective system.

(b) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION LIMIT.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—The aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust shall not exceed—

[(A) for the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, 25 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources; and

[(B) subject to paragraph (2), effective beginning with fiscal year 2019, 33 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources.]

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.

(2) ANNUAL LIMITATION.—The contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust *under this section* shall not exceed $5,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $60,000,000 for the period of [fiscal years 2014 through 2023] *fiscal years 2023 through 2031*.

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SEC. 3206. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency for International Development.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committee of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) ELIGIBLE COMMODITY.—The term "eligible commodity" means an agricultural commodity (or the product of an agricultural commodity) that—

(A) is produced in, and procured from, a developing country; and

(B) at a minimum, meets each nutritional, quality, and labeling standard of the country that receives the agricultural commodity, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term "eligible organization" means an organization that is—

(A) described in section 202(d) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722(d)); and

(B) with respect to nongovernmental organizations, subject to regulations promulgated or guidelines issued to carry out this section, including United States audit requirements that are applicable to nongovernmental organizations.

(b) FIELD-BASED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, eligible organizations to carry out field-based projects that consist of local or regional procurements of eligible commodities to respond to food crises and disasters in accordance with this section.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH ADMINISTRATOR.—In carrying out the development and implementation of field-based projects under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator.

(c) PROCUREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any eligible commodity that is procured for a field-based project carried out under subsection (b) shall be procured through any approach or methodology that the Secretary considers to be an effective approach or methodology to provide adequate information regarding the manner by which to expedite, to the maximum extent practicable, the provision of food aid to affected populations without significantly increasing commodity costs for low-income consumers who procure commodities sourced from the same markets at which the eligible commodity is procured.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IMPACT ON LOCAL FARMERS AND COUNTRIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that the local or regional procurement of any eligible commodity under this section will not have a disruptive impact on farmers located in, or the economy of—

(i) the recipient country of the eligible commodity; or

(ii) any country in the region in which the eligible commodity may be procured.

(B) TRANSSHIPMENT.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, require from each eligible organization commitments designed to prevent or restrict—

(i) the resale or transshipment of any eligible commodity procured under this section to any country other than the recipient country; and

(ii) the use of the eligible commodity for any purpose other than food aid.

(C) WORLD PRICES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall take any precaution that the Secretary considers to be reasonable to ensure that the procurement of eligible commodities will not unduly disrupt—

(I) world prices for agricultural commodities; or

(II) normal patterns of commercial trade with foreign countries.

(ii) PROCUREMENT PRICE.—The procurement of any eligible commodity shall be made at a reasonable market price with respect to the economy of the country in which the eligible commodity is procured, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) FIELD-BASED PROJECT GRANTS OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, eligible organizations to carry out field-based projects.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant from, or enter into a cooperative agreement with, the Secretary under this subsection, an eligible organization shall submit to the Secretary an application by such date, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) OTHER APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—Any other applicable requirement relating to the submission of proposals for consideration shall apply to the submission of an application required under subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

(3) REQUIREMENTS OF SECRETARY.—

(A) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), in selecting proposals for field-based projects to fund under this section, the Secretary shall select a diversity of projects, including projects located in—

(I) food surplus regions;

(II) food deficit regions (that are carried out using regional procurement methods); and

(III) multiple geographical regions.

(ii) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals for field-based projects under clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that the majority of selected proposals are for field-based projects that—

(I) are located in Africa; and

(II) procure eligible commodities that are produced in Africa.

(B) DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.—A portion of the funds provided under this subsection shall be made available for field-based projects that provide development assistance for a period of not less than 1 year.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(2) PREFERENCE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may give a preference to eligible organizations that have, or are working toward, projects under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program es-

tablished under section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1).

(3) REPORTING.—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the use of funds under this section, including—

(A) the impact of procurements and projects on—

(i) local and regional agricultural producers; and

(ii) markets and consumers, including low-income consumers; and

(B) implementation time frames and costs.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

* * * * * * *

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous

* * * * * * *

SEC. 4405. THE GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means a governmental agency or nonprofit organization.

(2) EMERGENCY FEEDING ORGANIZATION.—The term "emergency feeding organization" has the meaning given the term in section 201A of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501).

(3) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term "supplemental nutrition assistance program"means—

(A) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); and

(B) the programs for nutrition assistance under section 19 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2028).

(4) HEALTHCARE PARTNER.—The term "healthcare partner" means a healthcare provider, including—

(A) a hospital;

(B) a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)));

(C) a hospital or clinic operated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; or

(D) a healthcare provider group.

(5) MEMBER.—The term "member" means, as determined by the applicable eligible entity or healthcare partner carrying out a project under subsection (c) in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary—

(A) an individual eligible for—

(i) benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); or

(ii) medical assistance under a State plan or a waiver of such a plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and enrolled under such plan or waiver; and

(B) a member of a low-income household that suffers from, or is at risk of developing, a diet-related health condition.

(b) FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVE GRANTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In each of the years specified in subsection (c), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities in accordance with paragraph (2).

(B) PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection may partner with, or make subgrants to, public, private, nonprofit, or for-profit entities, including—

(i) an emergency feeding organization;

(ii) an agricultural cooperative;

(iii) a producer network or association;

(iv) a community health organization;

(v) a public benefit corporation;

(vi) an economic development corporation;

(vii) a farmers' market;

(viii) a community-supported agriculture program;

(ix) a buying club;

(x) a retail food store participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(xi) a State, local, or tribal agency;

(xii) another eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection; and

(xiii) any other entity the Secretary designates.

[(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.]

(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subparagraph (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.

(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POVERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an activity carried out—

(I) in a county that, during the preceding 30-year period has had a population of which greater than or equal to 20 percent of such population are living in poverty (as measured by the most recent decennial censuses and most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of the Census); or

(II) in a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent during the preceding 30-year period, as measured by the most recent 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

(D) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of the cost of an activity under this subsection may be provided—

(I) in cash or in-kind contributions as determined by the Secretary, including facilities, equipment, or services; and

(II) by a State or local government or a private source.

(ii) LIMITATION.—In the case of a for-profit entity, the non-Federal share described in clause (i) shall not include services of an employee, including salaries paid or expenses covered by the employer.

(iii) TRIBAL AGENCIES.—The Secretary may allow a Tribal agency to use funds provided to the Indian Tribe of the Tribal agency through a Federal agency (including the Indian Health Service) or other Federal benefit to satisfy all or part of the non-Federal share described in clause (i) if such use is otherwise consistent with the purpose of such funds.

(2) CRITERIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall—

(i) meet the application criteria set forth by the Secretary; and

(ii) propose a project that, at a minimum—

(I) has the support of the State agency administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(II) would increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program by providing an incentive for the purchase of fruits and vegetables at the point of purchase to a household purchasing food with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits;

(III) except in the case of projects receiving $100,000 or less over 1 year, would measure the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program;

(IV) ensures that the same terms and conditions apply to purchases made by individuals with benefits issued under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and incentives provided for in this subsection as apply to purchases made by individuals who are not members of households receiving benefits, such as provided for in section 278.2(b) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

(V) has adequate plans to collect data for reporting and agrees to provide that information for the report described in subsection (e)(2)(B)(iii); and

(VI) would share information with the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers established under subsection (e).

(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(i) maximize the share of funds used for direct incentives to participants;

(ii) use direct-to-consumer sales marketing;

(iii) demonstrate a track record of designing and implementing successful nutrition incentive programs that connect low-income consumers and agricultural producers;

(iv) provide locally or regionally produced fruits and vegetables;

(v) include a project design—

(I) that provides incentives when fruits or vegetables are purchased using supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; and

(II) in which the incentives earned may be used only to purchase fruits or vegetables;

(vi) have demonstrated the ability to provide services to underserved communities;

(vii) include coordination with multiple stakeholders, such as farm organizations, nutrition education programs, cooperative extension services, public health departments, health providers, private and public health insurance agencies, cooperative grocers, grocery associations, and community-based and nongovernmental organizations;

(viii) offer supplemental services in high-need communities, including online ordering, transportation between home and store, and delivery services;

(ix) increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables;

[(ix)**]** *(x)* include food retailers that are open—

(I) for extended hours; and

(II) most or all days of the year; or

[(x)**]** *(xi)* address other criteria as established by the Secretary.

(c) PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to conduct projects that demonstrate and evaluate the impact of the projects on—

(A) the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables;

(B) the reduction of individual and household food insecurity; and

(C) the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs.

(2) HEALTHCARE PARTNERS.—In carrying out a project using a grant received under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall partner with 1 or more healthcare partners.

(3) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity—

(i) shall—

(I) prescribe **[**fresh fruits and vegetables**]** *all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes* to members;

(II) submit to the Secretary an application containing such information as the Secretary may require, including the information described in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) may—

(I) provide financial or non-financial incentives for members to purchase or procure [fresh fruits and vegetables] *all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes*;

(II) provide educational resources on nutrition to members; and

(III) establish additional accessible locations for members to procure [fresh fruits and vegetables] *all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes*.

(B) APPLICATION.—An application shall—

(i) identify the 1 or more healthcare partners with which the eligible entity is partnering under paragraph (2); and

(ii) include—

(I) a description of the methods by which an eligible entity shall—

(aa) screen and verify eligibility for members for participation in a produce prescription project, in accordance with procedures established under subsection (a)(5);

(bb) implement an effective produce prescription project, including the role of each healthcare partner in implementing the produce prescription project;

(cc) evaluate members participating in a produce prescription project with respect to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1);

(dd) provide educational opportunities relating to nutrition to members participating in a produce prescription project; and

(ee) inform members of the availability of the produce prescription project, including locations at which produce prescriptions may be redeemed;

(II) a description of any additional nonprofit or emergency feeding organizations that shall be involved in the project and the role of each additional nonprofit or emergency feeding organization in implementing and evaluating an effective produce prescription project;

(III) documentation of a partnership agreement with a relevant State Medicaid agency or other appropriate entity, as determined by the Secretary, to evaluate the effectiveness of the produce prescription project in reducing healthcare use and associated costs;

(IV) adequate plans to collect data for reporting and agreement to provide that information for the report described in subsection (e)(2)(B)(iii); and

(V) agreement to share information with the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers established under subsection (e).

(4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the grant program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies that carry out activities relating to healthcare partners.

(5) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with a Federal agency, a State, or a private entity to ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of each project.

(B) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—A memorandum of understanding entered into under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a description of a plan to provide educational opportunities relating to nutrition to members participating in produce prescription projects;

(ii) a description of the role of the Federal agency, State, or private entity, as applicable, in implementing and evaluating an effective produce prescription project; and

(iii) documentation of a partnership agreement with a relevant State Medicaid agency or other appropriate entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of any benefit provided to a participant in any activity funded under subsections (b) or (c) shall be treated as supplemental nutrition benefits under section 8(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2017(b)).

(2) PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF SALES TAXES.—Each State shall ensure that no State or local tax is collected on a purchase of food with assistance provided under subsections (b) and (c).

(3) NO LIMITATION ON BENEFITS.—Grants made available under subsections (b) and (c) shall not be used to carry out any project that limits the use of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) or any other Federal nutrition law.

(4) HOUSEHOLD ALLOTMENT.—Assistance provided under subsections (b) and (c) to households receiving benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall not—

(A) be considered part of the supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits of the household; or

(B) be used in the collection or disposition of claims under section 13 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2022).

(e) NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EVALUATION, AND INFORMATION CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish 1 or more Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Informa-

tion Centers, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

(B) to the extent practicable, consult on the design and scope of such Centers with grocers, farmers, health professionals, researchers, incentive program managers, and employees of the Department of Agriculture with direct experience with implementation of existing incentive programs or projects.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Centers shall be capable of providing services related to grants under subsections (b) and (c), including—

(A) offering incentive program training and technical assistance to applicants and grantees to the extent practicable, including—

(i) collecting and providing information on best practices that may include communications, signage, record-keeping, incentive instruments, development and integration of point of sale systems, and reporting;

(ii) disseminating information and assisting with collaboration among grantee projects, applicable State agencies, and nutrition education programs;

(iii) facilitating communication between grantees and the Department of Agriculture and applicable State agencies; and

(iv) providing support for the development of best practices for produce prescription projects and the sharing of information among eligible entities and healthcare providers that participate in a produce prescription project under subsection (c); and

(v) other services identified by the Secretary; and

(B) creating a system to collect and compile core data sets from eligible entities that—

(i) uses standard metrics with consideration of outcome measures for existing projects;

(ii) includes to the extent practicable grocers, farmers, health professionals, researchers, incentive program managers, and employees of the Department of Agriculture with direct experience with implementation of existing incentive programs in the design of the instrument through which data will be collected and the mechanism for reporting;

(iii) compiles project data from grantees, and beginning in fiscal year 2020 generates an annual report to Congress on grant outcomes, including—

(I) the results of the project; and

(II) the amount of grant funds used for the project; and

(iv) creates and maintains a publicly accessible online site that makes annual reports and incentive program information available in an anonymized format that protects confidential, personal, or other sensitive data.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To carry out paragraph (1), the Secretary may, on a competitive basis, enter into 1 or more

cooperative agreements with 1 or more organizations with expertise in developing outcome-based reporting, at least 1 of which has expertise in the food insecurity nutrition incentive program and at least 1 of which has expertise in produce prescription projects.

(B) INCLUSION.—The organizations referred to in subparagraph (A) may include—

(i) nongovernmental organizations;

(ii) State cooperative extension services;

(iii) regional food system centers;

(iv) Federal, State, or Tribal agencies;

(v) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))); or

(vi) other appropriate entities as determined by the Secretary.

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

(2) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

(A) $35,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2014 and 2015;

(B) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017;

(C) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(C) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

(D) $48,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

(E) $48,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

(F) $53,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(G) $56,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—With respect to funds made available under this section for fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*—

(A) for each fiscal year the Secretary shall use not more than 10 percent of such funds available for such fiscal year for the produce prescription program described in subsection (c);

(B) for each fiscal year not more than 8 percent of such funds available for such fiscal year shall be used by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Food and Nutrition Service for administration; and

(C) the Secretary shall use for the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers established under subsection (e) not more than—

(i) $17,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal years 2019 and 2020; and

(ii) $7,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through [2023] *2031*.

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TITLE VII—RESEARCH AND RELATED MATTERS

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Subtitle E—Miscellaneous

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

* * * * * * *

SEC. 7502. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Except as otherwise specifically authorized by law and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal land and facilities at El Reno, Oklahoma, administered by the Secretary (as of the date of enactment of this Act) as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory, shall not at any time, in whole or in part, be declared to be excess or surplus Federal property under chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code[, or otherwise be conveyed or transferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2026]*, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act*.

* * * * * * *

PART III—NEW GRANT AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

[SEC. 7521. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS FOR THE STUDY OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide research and education grants, on a competitive basis—

[(1) to study the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, including—

[(A) movement of antibiotic-resistant bacteria into groundwater and surface water; and

[(B) the effect on antibiotic resistance from various drug use regimens; and

[(2) to study and ensure the judicious use of antibiotics in veterinary and human medicine, including—

[(A) methods and practices of animal husbandry;

[(B) safe and effective alternatives to antibiotics;

[(C) the development of better veterinary diagnostics to improve decisionmaking; and

[(D) the identification of conditions or factors that affect antibiotic use on farms.

[(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

[(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.]

SEC. 7522. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall make competitive grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to establish a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network that provides stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations.

(b) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used—

(1) to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as necessary through—

(A) farm telephone helplines and websites*, including crisis hotlines*;

(B) training, including training programs and workshops, for—

(i) advocates for individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and

(ii) other individuals and entities that may assist individuals who—

(I) are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and

(II) are in crisis;

(C) support groups; and

(D) outreach services and activities, including the dissemination of information and materials; or

(2) to enter into contracts, on a multiyear basis, with community-based, direct-service organizations to initiate, expand, or sustain programs described in paragraph (1) and subsection (a).

(c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section to—

(1) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(2) a State department of agriculture;

(3) a State cooperative extension service;

(4) a qualified nonprofit organization, as determined by the Secretary;

(5) an entity providing appropriate services, as determined by the Secretary, in 1 or more States; or

(6) a partnership carried out by 2 or more entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to Congress and any other relevant Federal department or agency, and make publicly available, a report describing the state of behavioral and mental health of individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an inventory and assessment of efforts to support the behavioral and mental health of individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture by—

(i) the Federal Government, States, and units of local government;

(ii) communities comprised of those individuals;

(iii) health care providers;

(iv) State cooperative extension services; and

(v) other appropriate entities, as determined by the Secretary;

(B) a description of the challenges faced by individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture that may impact the behavioral and mental health of farmers and ranchers;

(C) a description of how the Department of Agriculture can improve coordination and cooperation with Federal health departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health, to best address the behavioral and mental health of individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture;

(D) a long-term strategy for responding to the challenges described under subparagraph (B) and recommendations based on best practices for further action to be carried out by appropriate Federal departments or agencies to improve Federal Government response and seek to prevent suicide among individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other occupations relating to agriculture; and

(E) an evaluation of the impact that behavioral and mental health challenges and outcomes (including suicide) among individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture related occupations have on—

(i) the agricultural workforce;

(ii) agricultural production;

(iii) rural families and communities; and

(iv) succession planning.

(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the efforts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant recipient may establish referral relationships with—

(1) certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public Law 113–93);

(2) health centers (as defined in section 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(a)));

(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)));

(4) Federally qualified health centers (as defined in that section); and

(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in section 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).

[(f)] *(g)* STATE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term "State" has the meaning given such term in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

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[SEC. 7525. NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH PROGRAM.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a natural products research program.

[(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall coordinate research relating to natural products, including—

[(1) research to improve human health and agricultural productivity through the discovery, development, and commercialization of products and agrichemicals from bioactive natural products, including products from plant, marine, and microbial sources;

[(2) research to characterize the botanical sources, production, chemistry, and biological properties of plant-derived natural products; and

[(3) other research priorities identified by the Secretary.

[(c) PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

[(1) determine the relevance and merit of research under this section through a system of peer review established by the Secretary pursuant to section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613); and

[(2) approve funding for research on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes of this section.

[(d) BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.—Funds made available under this section shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

[(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.]

SEC. 7526. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program to provide grants to the sun grant centers and subcenter specified in subsection (b)—

(1) to enhance national energy security through the development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy *and bioproduct* technologies;

(2) to promote diversification in, and the environmental sustainability of, agricultural production in the United States through biobased energy and [product] *bioproduct* technologies;

(3) to promote economic diversification in rural areas of the United States through biobased energy and [product] *bioproduct* technologies; and

(4) to enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration among—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) other appropriate Federal agencies (as determined by the Secretary); and

(C) land-grant colleges and universities.

(b) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts made available under subsection (g) to provide grants to each of the following:

(A) NORTH-CENTRAL CENTER.—A north-central sun grant center for the region composed of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

(B) SOUTHEASTERN CENTER.—A southeastern sun grant center for the region composed of—

(i) the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia;

(ii) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(iii) the United States Virgin Islands.

(C) SOUTH-CENTRAL CENTER.—A south-central sun grant center for the region composed of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

(D) WESTERN CENTER.—A western sun grant center for the region composed of—

(i) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; and

(ii) insular areas (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103 (other than the insular areas referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B))).

(E) NORTHEASTERN CENTER.—A northeastern sun grant center for the region composed of the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

(F) WESTERN INSULAR PACIFIC SUBCENTER.—A western insular Pacific sun grant subcenter for the region of Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(2) MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION.—

(A) CENTERS.—In providing any funds made available under subsection (g), the Secretary shall distribute the grants in equal amounts to the sun grant centers described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(B) SUBCENTER.—The sun grant center described in paragraph (1)(D) shall allocate a portion of the funds received under paragraph (1) to the subcenter described in

paragraph (1)(F) pursuant to guidance issued by the Secretary.

(3) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary finds on the basis of a review of the annual report required under subsection (f) or on the basis of an audit of a sun grant center or subcenter conducted by the Secretary that the center or subcenter has not complied with the requirements of this section, the sun grant center or subcenter shall be ineligible to receive further grants under this section for such period of time as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A sun grant center or subcenter shall use 75 percent of the funds described in subsection (b) to provide competitive grants to entities that are—

(i) eligible to receive grants under subsection (b)(7) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(7)); and

(ii) located in the region covered by the sun grant center or subcenter.

(B) ACTIVITIES.—Grants described in subparagraph (A) shall be used by the grant recipient to conduct, in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a), multi-institutional and integrated, multistate research, extension, and education programs on technology development and technology implementation.

(C) ADMINISTRATION.—

(i) PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.—In making grants under this paragraph, a sun grant center or subcenter shall—

(I) seek and accept proposals for grants;

(II) determine the relevance and merit of proposals through a system of peer review similar to that established by the Secretary pursuant to section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613); and

(III) award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes of this section.

(ii) PRIORITY.—A sun grant center or subcenter shall give a higher priority to programs that are consistent with the plan approved by the Secretary under subsection (d).

(iii) TERM.—A grant awarded by a sun grant center or subcenter shall have a term that does not exceed 5 years.

(iv) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclauses (II) and (III), as a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, the sun grant center or subcenter shall require that not less than 20 percent of the cost of an activity described in subparagraph (B) be matched with funds, including in-kind contributions, from a non-Federal source.

(II) EXCLUSION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to fundamental research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) (as added by section 7511(a)(4)).

(III) REDUCTION.—The sun grant center or subcenter may reduce or eliminate the requirement for non-Federal funds under subclause (I) for applied research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) (as added by section 7511(a)(4)) if the sun grant center or subcenter determines that the reduction is necessary and appropriate pursuant to guidance issued by the Secretary.

(v) BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.—Funds made available for grants shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(vi) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A sun grant center or subcenter may not recover the indirect costs of making grants under subparagraph (A).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A sun grant center or subcenter may use up to ⟦4 percent⟧ *30 percent* of the funds described in subsection (b) to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out paragraph (1).

(3) RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The sun grant centers and subcenter shall use the remainder of the funds described in subsection (b) to conduct, in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a), multi-institutional and multistate—

(A) research, extension, and educational programs on technology development; and

(B) integrated research, extension, and educational programs on technology implementation.

(d) PLAN FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds under subsection (g), and in cooperation with land-grant colleges and universities and private industry, the sun grant centers and subcenter shall jointly develop and submit to the Secretary for approval a plan for addressing the bioenergy, biomass, and bioproducts research priorities of the Department of Agriculture and other appropriate Federal agencies at the State and regional levels.

(2) FUNDING.—Funds described in subsection (c)(2) shall be available to carry out planning coordination under paragraph (1).

(3) USE OF PLAN.—The sun grant centers and subcenter shall use the plan described in paragraph (1) in making grants under subsection (c)(1).

(e) GRANT INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER.—The sun grant centers and subcenter shall maintain a Sun Grant Information Analysis Center at the sun grant center specified in subsection (b)(1)(A)

to provide the sun grant centers and subcenter with analysis and data management support.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, a sun grant center or subcenter receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the policies, priorities, and operations of the program carried out by the center or subcenter during the fiscal year, including—

(1) the results of all peer and merit review procedures conducted pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(C)(i); and

(2) a description of progress made in facilitating the priorities described in subsection (d)(1).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*, of which not more than $4,000,000 for each fiscal year shall be made available to carry out subsection (e).

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TITLE X—HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

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Subtitle A—Horticulture Marketing and Information

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SEC. 10107. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) carry out market news activities to provide timely price and shipment information of specialty crops in the United States; and

(2) use funds made available under subsection (b) to increase the reporting levels for specialty crops in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other funds made available through annual appropriations for market news services, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*, to remain available until expended.

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TITLE XIV—MISCELLANEOUS

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Subtitle B—Agricultural Security

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[CHAPTER 1—AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

[SEC. 14112. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATION CENTER.

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a communication center within the Department to—

[(1) collect and disseminate information and prepare for an agricultural disease emergency, agroterrorist act, or other threat to agricultural biosecurity; and

[(2) coordinate activities described in paragraph (1) among agencies and offices within the Department.

[(b) RELATION TO EXISTING DHS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.—

[(1) CONSISTENCY AND COORDINATION.—The communication center established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, share and coordinate the dissemination of timely information with the Department of Homeland Security and other communication systems of appropriate Federal departments and agencies.

[(2) AVOIDING REDUNDANCIES.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to impede, conflict with, or duplicate the communications activities performed by the Secretary of Homeland Security under any provision of law.

[(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

[(1) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013; and

[(2) $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

[SEC. 14113. ASSISTANCE TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE.

[(a) ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

[(1) GRANT ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to support the development and expansion of advanced training programs in agricultural biosecurity planning and response for food science professionals and veterinarians.

[(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection—

[(A) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013; and

[(B) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

[(b) ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSE CAPABILITY.—

[(1) GRANT AND LOAN ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant and low-interest loan assistance program to assist States in assessing agricultural disease response capability.

[(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

[(A) $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013; and

[(B) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

[CHAPTER 2—OTHER PROVISIONS

[SEC. 14121. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COUNTERMEASURES.

[(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

[(1) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to encourage basic and applied research and the development of qualified agricultural countermeasures.

[(2) WAIVER IN EMERGENCIES.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) that a grant be provided on a competitive basis if—

[(A) the Secretary has declared a plant or animal disease emergency under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) or the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

[(B) waiving the requirement would lead to the rapid development of a qualified agricultural countermeasure, as determined by the Secretary.

[(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

[(1) $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013; and

[(2) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

[SEC. 14122. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

[(a) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to promote the development of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity.

[(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section only to an entity that is—

[(1) an accredited school of veterinary medicine; or

[(2) a department of an institution of higher education with a primary focus on—

[(A) comparative medicine;

[(B) veterinary science; or

[(C) agricultural biosecurity.

[(c) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall give preference in awarding grants based on the ability of an applicant—

[(1) to increase the number of veterinarians or individuals with advanced degrees in food and agriculture disciplines who are trained in agricultural biosecurity practice areas;

[(2) to increase research capacity in areas of agricultural biosecurity; or

[(3) to fill critical agricultural biosecurity shortage situations outside of the Federal Government.

[(d) USE OF FUNDS..—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts received under this section shall be used by a grantee to pay—

[(A) costs associated with the acquisition of equipment and other capital costs relating to the expansion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity;

[(B) capital costs associated with the expansion of academic programs that offer postgraduate training for veterinarians or concurrent training for veterinary students in specific areas of specialization; or

[(C) other capacity and infrastructure program costs that the Secretary considers appropriate.

[(2) LIMITATION.—Funds received under this section may not be used for the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of a building or facility.

[(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

[(1) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013, to remain available until expended; and

[(2) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023, to remain available until expended.]

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SEC. 3. The authority granted under this Act shall expire on September 30, [2023] *2031*.

DAIRY PRODUCTION STABILIZATION ACT OF 1983

TITLE I—DAIRY

* * * * * * *

Subtitle B—Dairy Promotion Program

* * * * * * *

REQUIRED TERMS IN ORDERS

SEC. 113. Any order issued under this subtitle shall contain terms and conditions as follows:

(a) The order shall provide for the establishment and administration of appropriate plans or projects for advertisement and promotion of the sale and consumption of dairy products, for research projects related thereto, for nutrition education projects, and for the disbursement of necessary funds for such purposes. Any such plan or project shall be directed toward the sale and marketing or use of dairy products to the end that the marketing and use of dairy products may be encouraged, expanded, improved, or made more acceptable. No such advertising or sales promotion program shall make use of unfair or deceptive acts or practices with respect to the quality, value, or use of any competing product.

(b) NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD.—

(1) The order shall provide for the establishment and appointment by the Secretary of a National Dairy Promotion and Research Board that shall consist of not less than thirty-six members.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (6), the members of the Board shall be milk producers appointed by the Secretary from

nominations submitted by eligible organizations certified under section 114 of this subtitle, or, if the Secretary determines that a substantial number of milk producers are not members of, or their interests are not represented by, any such eligible organization, then from nominations made by such milk producers in the manner authorized by the Secretary.

(3) In making such appointments, the Secretary shall take into account, to the extent practicable, the geographical distribution of milk production volume throughout the United States.

(4) In determining geographic representation, whole States shall be considered as a unit.

(5) A region may be represented by more than one director and a region may be made up of more than one State.

(6) IMPORTERS.—

(A) INITIAL REPRESENTATION.—In making initial appointments to the Board of importer representatives, the Secretary shall appoint 2 members who represent importers of dairy products and are subject to assessments under the order.

(B) SUBSEQUENT REPRESENTATION.—At least once every 3 years after the initial appointment of importer representatives under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall review the average volume of domestic production of dairy products compared to the average volume of imports of dairy products into the United States during the previous 3 years and, on the basis of that review, shall reapportion importer representation on the Board to reflect the proportional share of the United States market by domestic production and imported dairy products.

(C) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS; NOMINATIONS.—The members appointed under this paragraph—

(i) shall be in addition to the total number of members appointed under paragraph (2); and

(ii) shall be appointed from nominations submitted by importers under such procedures as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(7) The term of appointment to the Board shall be for three years with no member serving more than two consecutive terms, except that initial appointments shall be proportionately for one-year, two-year, and three-year terms.

(8) The Board shall appoint from its members an executive committee whose membership shall equally reflect each of the different regions in the United States in which milk is produced as well as importers of dairy products.

(9) The executive committee shall have such duties and powers as are conferred upon it by the Board.

Board members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties as members of the Board including a per diem allowance as recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary.

(c) The order shall define the powers and duties of the Board that shall include only the powers enumerated in this section. These shall include, in addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this section, the powers to (1) receive and evaluate, or on its own

initiative develop, and budget for plans or projects to promote the use of fluid milk and dairy products as well as projects for research and nutrition education and to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such proposals, (2) administer the order in accordance with its terms and provisions, (3) make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of the order, (4) receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the order, and (5) recommend to the Secretary amendments to the order. The Board shall solicit, among others, research proposals that would increase the use of fluid milk and dairy products by the military and by persons in developing nations, and that would demonstrate the feasibility of converting surplus nonfat dry milk to casein for domestic and export use.

(d) The order shall provide that the Board shall develop and submit to the Secretary for approval any promotion, research, or nutrition education plan or project and that any such plan or project must be approved by the Secretary before becoming effective.

(e) BUDGETS.—

(1) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—The order shall require the Board to submit to the Secretary for approval budgets on a fiscal period basis of its anticipated expenses and disbursements in the administration of the order, including projected costs of dairy products promotion and research projects.

(2) FOREIGN MARKET EFFORTS.—The order shall authorize the Board to expend in the maintenance and expansion of foreign markets an amount not to exceed the amount collected from United States producers for a fiscal year. Of those funds, for each of the 2002 through [2023] *2031* fiscal years, the Board's budget may provide for the expenditure of revenues available to the Board to develop international markets for, and to promote within such markets, the consumption of dairy products produced or manufactured in the United States.

(f) The order shall provide that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may enter into agreements for the development, and conduct of the activities authorized under the order as specified in subsection (a) and for the payment of the cost thereof with funds collected through assessments under the order. Any such agreement shall provide that (1) the contracting party shall develop and submit to the Board a plan or project together with a budget or budgets that shall show estimated costs to be incurred for such plan or project, (2) the plan or project shall become effective upon the approval of the Secretary, and (3) the contracting party shall keep accurate records of all of its transactions, account for funds received and expended, and made periodic reports to the Board of activities conducted, and such other reports as the Secretary or the Board may require.

(g) ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) The order shall provide that each person making payment to a producer for milk produced in the United States and purchased from the producer shall, in the manner as prescribed by the order, collect an assessment based upon the number of hundredweights of milk for commercial use handled for the account of the producer and remit the assessment to the Board.

(2) The assessment shall be used for payment of the expenses in administering the order, with provision for a reasonable reserve, and shall include those administrative costs incurred by the Department after an order has been promulgated under this subtitle.

(3) RATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The rate of assessment for milk produced in the United States prescribed by the order shall be 15 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) IMPORTED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The rate of assessment for imported dairy products prescribed by the order shall be 7.5 cents per hundredweight of milk for commercial use or the equivalent thereof, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) A milk producer or the producer's cooperative who can establish that the producer is participating in active, ongoing qualified State or regional dairy product promotion or nutrition education programs intended to increase consumption of milk and dairy products generally shall receive credit in determining the assessment due from such producer for contributions to such programs of up to 10 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed or, for the period ending six months after the date of enactment of this Act, up to the aggregate rate in effect on the date of enactment of this Act of such contributions to such programs (but not to exceed 15 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed) if such aggregate rate exceeds 10 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed.

(5) Any person marketing milk of that person's own production directly to consumers shall remit the assessment directly to the Board in the manner prescribed by the order.

(6) IMPORTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The order shall provide that each importer of imported dairy products shall pay an assessment to the Board in the manner prescribed by the order.

(B) USE OF ASSESSMENTS ON IMPORTED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Assessments collected on imported dairy products shall not be used for foreign market promotion.

(7) REFUND OF ASSESSMENTS ON CERTAIN IMPORTED PRODUCTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An importer shall be entitled to a refund of any assessment paid under this subsection on imported dairy products imported under a contract entered into prior to the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

(B) EXPIRATION.—Refunds under subparagraph (A) shall expire 1 year after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

(h) The order shall require the Board to (1) maintain such books and records (which shall be available to the Secretary for inspection and audit) as the Secretary may prescribe, (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary, from time to time, such reports as the Secretary may prescribe, and (3) account for the receipt and disbursement of all funds entrusted to it.

(i) The order shall provide that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may invest, pending disbursement under a plan or

project, funds collected through assessments authorized under this subtitle only in obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in general obligations of any State or any political subdivision thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

(j) The order shall prohibit any funds collected by the Board under the order from being used in any manner for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action except as provided by subsection (c)(5).

(k) The order shall require that each importer of imported dairy products, each person receiving milk from farmers for commercial use, and any person marketing milk of that person's own production directly to consumers, maintain and make available for inspection such books and records as may be required by the order and file reports at the time, in the manner, and having the content prescribed by the order. Such information shall be made available to the Secretary as is appropriate to the administration or enforcement of this subtitle, or any order or regulation issued under this subtitle. All information so obtained shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department, and only such information so obtained as the Secretary deems relevant may be disclosed by them and then only in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the request of the Secretary, or to which the Secretary or any officer of the United States is a party, and involving the order with reference to which the information to be disclosed was obtained. Nothing in this subsection may be deemed to prohibit (1) the issuance of general statements, based upon the reports, of the number of persons subject to an order or statistical data collected therefrom, which statements do not identify the information furnished by any person, or (2) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating any order, together with a statement of the particular provisions of the order violated by such person. No information obtained under the authority of this subtitle may be made available to any agency or officer of the Federal Government for any purpose other than the implementation of this subtitle and any investigatory or enforcement action necessary for the implementation of this subtitle. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000, or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, and, if an officer or employee of the Board or the Department, shall be removed from office.

(l) The order shall provide terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this subtitle, as necessary to effectuate the provisions of the order.

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TITLE III—DAIRY REPORTS AND OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry the following reports:

(1) Not later than July 1, 1984, a report on the effect of standards, applying, nationally, standards similar to the cur-

rent California standards for fluid milk products in their final consumer form, as they would relate to—

(A) consumer acceptance, overall consumer consumption trends, and total per capita consumption;

(B) nutritional augmentation, particularly for young and older Americans;

(C) implementing improved interagency enforcement of minimum standards to prevent consumer fraud and deception;

(D) multiple component pricing for producer milk;

(E) reduced Commodity Credit Corporation purchases;

(F) consistency of product quality throughout the year and between marketing regions of the United States; and

(G) consumer prices.

(2) Not later than December 31, 1984, a report on (A) recommendations for changes in the application of the parity formula to milk so as to make the formula more consistent with modern production methods and with special attention to the cost of producing milk as a result of changes in productivity, and (B) the feasibility of imposing a limitation on the total amount of payments and other assistance a producer of milk may receive during a year under section 201(d) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1446(d)).

(3) Not later than April 15, 1985, a report on the effectiveness of the paid diversion program carried out under section 201(d) of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

(4) [Not later than July 1, 1985, and July 1 of each year after the date of enactment of this title, an annual report] *With respect to each calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a report (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after the last day of such calendar year)* describing activities conducted under the dairy products promotion and research order issued under subtitle B of title I of this Act, and accounting for the receipt and disbursement of all funds received by the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board under such order including an independent analysis of the effectiveness of the program.

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AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ACT OF 1946

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TITLE II

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Subtitle A—General Provisions

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SEC. 210A. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "beginning farmer or rancher" has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

(2) DIRECT PRODUCER-TO-CONSUMER MARKETING.—The term "direct producer-to-consumer marketing" has the meaning given the term "direct marketing from farmers to consumers" in section 3 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3002).

(3) FAMILY FARM.—The term "family farm" has the meaning given the term in section 231(a) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a(a)).

(4) FOOD COUNCIL.—The term "food council" means a food policy council or food and farm system network, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) represents—

(i) multiple organizations involved in the production, processing, and consumption of food; and

(ii) local, Tribal, or State governments; and

(B) addresses food and farm-related issues and needs within city, county, State, Tribal region, multicounty region, or other region designated by the food council or food system network.

(5) FOOD HUB.—The term "food hub" means a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products to multiple buyers from multiple producers, who are primarily local and regional producers, to strengthen the ability of such producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, retail, and institutional demands.

[(5)**]** *(6)* MAJORITY-CONTROLLED PRODUCER-BASED BUSINESS VENTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "majority-controlled producer-based business venture" means a venture greater than 50 percent of the ownership and control of which is held by—

(i) 1 or more producers; or

(ii) 1 or more entities, 100 percent of the ownership and control of which is held by 1 or more producers.

(B) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "entity" means—

(i) a partnership;

(ii) a limited liability corporation;

(iii) a limited liability partnership; and

(iv) a corporation.

[(6)**]** *(7)* MID-TIER VALUE CHAIN.—The term "mid-tier value chain" means a local or regional supply network that links independent producers with businesses and cooperatives that market value-added agricultural products in a manner that—

(A) targets and strengthens the profitability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized farms and ranches that are structured as a family farm; and

(B) obtains agreement from an eligible agricultural producer group, farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-

controlled producer-based business venture that is engaged in the value chain on a marketing strategy.

[(7)] *(8)* PARTNERSHIP.—The term "partnership" means a partnership entered into under an agreement between—

(A) 1 or more eligible partners (as defined in subsection (e)(1)); and

(B) 1 or more eligible entities (as defined in subsection (e)(1)).

[(8)] *(9)* PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the Local Agriculture Market Program established under subsection (b).

[(9)] *(10)* REGIONAL FOOD CHAIN COORDINATION.—The term "regional food chain coordination" means coordination and collaboration along the supply chain to increase connections between producers and markets.

[(10)] *(11)* SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

[(11)] *(12)* SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" has the meaning given the term in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)).

[(12)] *(13)* VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT.—The term "value-added agricultural product" means any agricultural commodity or product that—

(A)(i) has undergone a change in physical state;

(ii) was produced in a manner that enhances the value of the agricultural commodity or product, as demonstrated through a business plan that shows the enhanced value, as determined by the Secretary;

(iii) is physically segregated in a manner that results in the enhancement of the value of the agricultural commodity or product;

(iv) is a source of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy, including E–85 fuel; or

(v) is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced agricultural food product; and

(B) as a result of the change in physical state or the manner in which the agricultural commodity or product was produced, marketed, or segregated—

(i) the customer base for the agricultural commodity or product is expanded; and

(ii) a greater portion of the revenue derived from the marketing, processing, or physical segregation of the agricultural commodity or product is available to the producer of the commodity or product.

[(13)] *(14)* VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "veteran farmer or rancher" has the meaning given the term in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the "Local Agriculture Market Program", that—

(1) supports the development, coordination, and expansion of—

(A) direct producer-to-consumer marketing;

(B) local and regional food markets and enterprises; and

(C) value-added agricultural products;

(2) connects and cultivates regional food economies through public-private partnerships;

(3) supports the development of business plans, feasibility studies, and strategies for value-added agricultural production and local and regional food system infrastructure;

(4) strengthens capacity and regional food system development through community collaboration*, regional food chain coordination,* and expansion of mid-tier value chains;

(5) improves income and economic opportunities for producers and food businesses through job creation; and

(6) simplifies the application processes and the reporting processes for the Program.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) streamline the Program to better support the activities carried out by the recipient of a grant under the Program;

(2) connect producers with local food markets and value-added agricultural product opportunities;

(3) partner with cooperative extension services, as appropriate, to provide Program technical assistance and outreach to Program stakeholders; and

(4) ensure that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Agricultural Marketing Service provide Program technical assistance and outreach to Program [stakeholders] *stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program*.

(d) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Program, the Secretary may, using funds made available under subsection (i), provide grants for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*, in accordance with the purposes of the Program described in subsection (b), for the conduct of activities described in paragraph (2).

(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The recipient of a grant may use a grant provided under paragraph (1)—

(A) to support and promote—

(i) domestic direct producer-to-consumer marketing;

(ii) farmers' markets;

(iii) roadside stands;

(iv) agritourism activities,

(v) community-supported agriculture programs; or

(vi) online sales;

(B) to support local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer-to-consumer marketing;

(C) to support the processing, aggregation, distribution, and storage of—

(i) local and regional food products that are marketed locally or regionally; and

(ii) value-added agricultural products;

(D) to encourage the development of value-added agricultural products;

(E) to assist with business development plans and feasibility studies;

(F) to develop marketing strategies for producers of local food products and value-added agricultural products in new and existing markets;

(G) to facilitate regional food chain coordination and mid-tier value chain development;

(H) to promote new business opportunities and marketing strategies to reduce on-farm food waste;

(I) to respond to changing technology needs in direct producer-to-consumer marketing; [or]

(J) to cover expenses relating to costs incurred in—

(i) obtaining food safety certification; and

(ii) making changes and upgrades to practices and equipment to improve food safety[.]*; or*

(K) to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.

(3) CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish criteria and guidelines for the submission, evaluation, and funding of proposed projects under paragraph (1) as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

(B) PRODUCER OR FOOD BUSINESS BENEFITS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an application submitted for a grant under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the direct or indirect producer or food business benefits intended by the applicant to result from the proposed project within a reasonable period of time after the receipt of the grant.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a planning or feasibility project.

(4) AMOUNT.—Unless otherwise determined by the Secretary, the amount of a grant under this subsection shall be not more than $500,000.

(5) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS.—In the case of a grant provided under paragraph (1) to an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B), the following shall apply:

(A) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry out this subsection through the Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, in coordination with the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity shall be eligible for a grant under this paragraph if the entity is—

(i) an independent producer (as determined by the Secretary) of a value-added agricultural product; or

(ii) an agricultural producer group, farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture (as determined by the Secretary).

(C) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall give priority to applications—

(i) in the case of an application submitted by a producer, that are submitted by, or serve—

(I) beginning farmers or ranchers;

(II) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;

(III) operators of small or medium sized farms or ranches that are structured as family farms; or

(IV) veteran farmers or ranchers; and

(ii) in the case of an application submitted by an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B)(ii), that provide the greatest contribution to creating or increasing marketing opportunities for producers described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (i).

(D) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) may not use a grant for the purchase or construction of a building, general purpose equipment, or structure.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—An eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) may use not more than $6,500 of the amount of a grant for an eligible activity described in paragraph (2)(J) to purchase or upgrade equipment to improve food safety.

(E) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) receiving a grant shall contribute an amount of non-Federal funds that is at least equal to the amount of Federal funds received.

(6) FARMERS' MARKETS AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION PROGRAM.—In the case of a grant provided under paragraph (1) to an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B), the following shall apply:

(A) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry out this subsection through the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in coordination with the Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity shall be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph if the entity is—

(i) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association, including a community-supported agriculture network or association;

(ii) a local or Tribal government;

(iii) a nonprofit corporation;

(iv) a public benefit corporation;

(v) an economic development corporation;

(vi) a regional farmers' market authority;

(vii) a food hub;

[(vii)**]** *(viii)* a food council; or

[(viii)**]** *(ix)* such other entity as the Secretary may designate.

(C) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall give priority to **[**applications that**]** *applications, outreach, and technical assistance that would*—

(i) benefit underserved communities, including communities that are located in areas of concentrated poverty with limited access to fresh locally or regionally grown food; **[**or**]**

(ii) provide greater geographic balance relative to the benefits of the Program; or

[(ii)**]** *(iii)* **[**are used**]** *be used* to carry out eligible activities under a partnership agreement under subsection (e) and have not received benefits from the Program in the recent past.

(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for eligible entities described in subparagraph (B) that—

(I) request less than $100,000; and

(II) choose from the project categories described in clause (ii), which shall include a specific, limited set of key activities with predefined requirements established by the Secretary.

(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for the following project categories but may include additional project categories as necessary:

(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-consumer project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

(aa) An outreach and promotion project.

(bb) A project to provide funding for farmers market manager staff time.

(cc) A project to provide vendor training.

(dd) A planning and design project.

(ee) A data collection and evaluation project.

(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and regional food market and enterprise project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

(aa) A food hub feasibility study project.

(bb) A project to provide funding for regional food chain coordination staff time.

(cc) A project to provide technical assistance.

(dd) A data collection and evaluation project.

(ee) A project to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.

[(D)**]** *(E)* LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) may not use a grant for the purchase or construction of a building, general purpose equipment, or structure.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—An eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) may use not more than $6,500 of the amount of a grant for an eligible activity described in paragraph (2)(J) to purchase or upgrade equipment to improve food safety.

[(E)**]** *(F)* MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) receiving a grant shall provide matching funds in the form of cash or an in-kind contribution in an amount that is equal to 25 percent of the total amount of the Federal portion of the grant.

(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(i) a producer;
(ii) a producer network or association;
(iii) a farmer or rancher cooperative;
(iv) a majority-controlled producer-based business venture;
(v) a food council;
(vi) a local or Tribal government;
(vii) a nonprofit corporation;
(viii) an economic development corporation;
(ix) a public benefit corporation;
(x) a community-supported agriculture network or association; and
(xi) a regional farmers' market authority.

(B) ELIGIBLE PARTNER.—The term "eligible partner" means—
(i) a State agency or regional authority;
(ii) a philanthropic organization;
(iii) a private corporation;
(iv) an institution of higher education;
(v) a commercial, Federal, or Farm Credit System lending institution; and
(vi) another entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) GRANTS TO SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in accordance with the purposes of the Program described in subsection (b), shall, using funds made available under subsection (i), provide grants for each of fiscal years [2019 through 2023 to support partnerships to plan and develop a local or regional food system.] *2026 through 2031 to support partnerships—*
(i) to plan a local or regional food system;
(ii) to implement a local or regional food system plan;
(iii) to develop and implement a regional food chain coordination project; and
(iv) to develop and implement a regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation project.

(B) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure geographical diversity in selecting partnerships to receive grants under subparagraph (A).

(3) AUTHORITIES OF PARTNERSHIPS.—A partnership receiving a grant under paragraph (2) may—
(A) determine the scope of the regional food system to be developed, including goals, outreach objectives, and eligible activities to be carried out;
(B) determine the local, regional, State, multi-State, or other geographic area covered;
(C) create and conduct a feasibility study, implementation plan, and assessment of eligible activities under the partnership agreement;
(D) conduct outreach and education to other eligible entities and eligible partners for potential participation in the partnership agreement and eligible activities;

(E) describe measures to be taken through the partnership agreement to obtain funding for the eligible activities to be carried out under the partnership agreement;

(F) at the request of a producer or eligible entity desiring to participate in eligible activities under the partnership agreement, act on behalf of the producer or eligible entity in applying for a grant under subsection (d);

(G) monitor, evaluate, and periodically report to the Secretary on progress made toward achieving the objectives of eligible activities under the partnership agreement; or

(H) at the conclusion of the partnership agreement, submit to the Secretary a report describing—

(i) the results and effects of the partnership agreement; and

(ii) funds provided under paragraph (4).

(4) CONTRIBUTION.—A partnership receiving a grant under paragraph (2) shall provide funding in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the total amount of the Federal portion of the grant.

(5) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (2), a partnership shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary considers necessary to evaluate and select applications.

(B) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary—

(i) shall conduct a competitive process to select applications submitted under subparagraph (A);

(ii) may assess and rank applications with similar purposes as a group; and

(iii) shall make public the criteria to be used in evaluating applications prior to accepting applications.

(C) PRIORITY TO CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may give priority to applications submitted under subparagraph (A) that—

(i)(I) leverage significant non-Federal financial and technical resources; and

(II) coordinate with other local, State, Tribal, or national efforts;

(ii) cover an area that includes distressed low-income rural or urban communities, including areas with persistent poverty; or

(iii) have multiple entities and partners in a partnership.

(D) PRODUCER OR FOOD BUSINESS BENEFITS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of the direct or indirect producer or food business benefits intended by the eligible entity to result from the proposed project within a reasonable period of time after the receipt of a grant.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a planning or feasibility project.

(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—On request of an eligible entity, an eligible partner, or a partnership, the Secretary may pro-

vide technical assistance in carrying out a partnership agreement.

(f) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATION AND REPORTING PROCESSES.—

(1) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for eligible entities that—

(A) request less than $50,000 under [subsection (d); or] *subsection (d)(5);*

(B) are eligible to submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or

[(B)] *(C)* apply for grants under subsection (d) under a single application through partnership agreements under subsection (e).

(2) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall—

(A) streamline and simplify the reporting process for eligible entities; and

(B) obtain from eligible entities and maintain such information as the Secretary determines is necessary to administer and evaluate the Program.

(g) INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.—In carrying out the Program, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure coordination among Federal agencies.

(h) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts made available under subsection (i)(3)(E), the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the Program that—

(A) measures the economic impact of the Program on new and existing market outcomes;

(B) measures the effectiveness of the Program in improving and expanding—

(i) the regional food economy through public and private partnerships;

(ii) the production of value-added agricultural products;

(iii) producer-to-consumer marketing, including direct producer-to-consumer marketing;

(iv) local and regional food systems, including regional food chain coordination and business development;

(v) new business opportunities and marketing strategies to reduce on-farm food waste;

(vi) the use of new technologies in producer-to-consumer marketing, including direct producer-to-consumer marketing; and

(vii) the workforce and capacity of regional food systems; and

(C) provides a description of—

(i) each partnership agreement; and

(ii) each grant provided under subsection (d).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of the evaluation.

(i) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

(A) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 35 percent shall be used for grants under subsection (d)(5).

(ii) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

(I) MAJORITY-CONTROLLED PRODUCER-BASED BUSINESS VENTURES.—The total amount of grants under subsection (d)(5) provided to majority-controlled producer-based business ventures for a fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the amount allocated under clause (i).

(II) BEGINNING, VETERAN, AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(5), 10 percent shall be reserved for grants provided to beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(III) MID-TIER VALUE CHAINS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(5), 10 percent shall be reserved for grants to develop mid-tier value chains.

(IV) FOOD SAFETY ASSISTANCE.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(5), not more than 25 percent shall be reserved for grants for eligible activities described in subsection (d)(2)(J).

(B) FARMERS' MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION GRANTS.—**[**Of the funds**]**

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 47 percent shall be used for grants under subsection (d)(6).

(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 50 percent, shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).

(C) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 10 percent shall be used to provide grants to support partnerships under subsection (e).

(D) UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Any funds under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) that are not obligated for the uses described in that subparagraph, as applicable, by Sep-

tember 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were made available—

(i) shall be available to the agency carrying out the Program with the unobligated funds to carry out any function of the Program, as determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) may carry over to the next fiscal year.

(E) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not greater than 8 percent of amounts made available to provide grants under subsections (d) and (e) for a fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses.

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Subtitle C—Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting

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SEC. 273. MANDATORY REPORTING FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program of mandatory dairy product information reporting that will—

(1) provide timely, accurate, and reliable market information;

(2) facilitate more informed marketing decisions; and

(3) promote competition in the dairy product manufacturing industry.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the program, the Secretary shall only—

(A)(i) subject to the conditions described in paragraph (2), require each manufacturer to report to the Secretary information concerning the price, quantity, and moisture content of dairy products sold by the manufacturer; and

(ii) modify the format used to provide the information on the day before the date of enactment of this subtitle to ensure that the information can be readily understood by market participants; **[**and**]**

(B) require each manufacturer and other person storing dairy products to report to the Secretary, at a periodic interval determined by the Secretary, information on the quantity of dairy products stored**[**.**]***; and*

(C) for each manufacturer required to report under subparagraph (A) for any product, require that manufacturer to report production cost and product yield information, as determined by the Secretary, for all products processed in the same facility or facilities.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) are that—

(A) the information referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) is required only with respect to those *products and* package sizes actually used to establish minimum prices for Class III or Class IV milk under a Federal milk marketing order;

(B) the information referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) is required only to the extent that the information is actually

used to establish minimum prices for Class III or Class IV milk under a Federal milk marketing order;

(C) the frequency of the required reporting under paragraph (1)(A)(i) does not exceed the frequency used to establish minimum prices for Class III or Class IV milk under a Federal milk marketing order; and

(D) the Secretary may exempt from all reporting requirements any manufacturer that processes and markets less than 1,000,000 pounds of dairy products per year.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to ensure compliance with, and otherwise carry out, this subtitle.

(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise directed by the Secretary or the Attorney General for enforcement purposes, no officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall make available to the public information, statistics, or documents obtained from or submitted by any person under this subtitle other than in a manner that ensures that confidentiality is preserved regarding the identity of persons, including parties to a contract, and proprietary business information.

(B) RELATION TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no facts or information obtained under this subtitle shall be disclosed in accordance with section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) VERIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take such actions as the Secretary considers necessary to verify the accuracy of the information submitted or reported under this subtitle.

(B) QUARTERLY AUDITS.—The Secretary shall quarterly conduct an audit of information*, subject to subsection (b)(1),* submitted or reported under this subtitle and compare such information with other related dairy market statistics.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) UNLAWFUL ACT.—It shall be unlawful and a violation of this subtitle for any person subject to this subtitle to willfully fail or refuse to provide, or delay the timely reporting of, accurate information to the Secretary in accordance with this subtitle.

(B) ORDER.—After providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing to affected persons, the Secretary may issue an order against any person to cease and desist from continuing any violation of this subtitle.

(C) APPEAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The order of the Secretary under subparagraph (B) shall be final and conclusive unless an affected person files an appeal of the order of the Secretary in United States district court not later than 30 days after the date of the issuance of the order.

(ii) FINDINGS.—A finding of the Secretary under this paragraph shall be set aside only if the finding is found to be unsupported by substantial evidence.

(D) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH ORDER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a person subject to this subtitle fails to obey an order issued under this paragraph after the order has become final and unappealable, or after the appropriate United States district court has entered a final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the United States may apply to the appropriate United States district court for enforcement of the order.

(ii) ENFORCEMENT.—If the court determines that the order was lawfully made and duly served and that the person violated the order, the court shall enforce the order.

(iii) CIVIL PENALTY.—If the court finds that the person violated the order, the person shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each offense.

(5) FEES.—The Secretary shall not charge or assess a user fee, transaction fee, service charge, assessment, reimbursement fee, or any other fee under this subtitle for—

(A) the submission or reporting of information;

(B) the receipt or availability of, or access to, published reports or information; or

(C) any other activity required under this subtitle.

(6) RECORDKEEPING.—Each person required to report information to the Secretary under this subtitle shall maintain, and make available to the Secretary, on request, original contracts, agreements, receipts, and other records associated with the sale or storage of any dairy products during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the creation of the records.

(d) **[**ELECTRONIC REPORTING**]** *REPORTING.*—

(1) **[**ELECTRONIC REPORTING**]** *REPORTING* SYSTEM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall establish an electronic reporting system to carry out **[**this section**]** *subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)*.

(2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the Wednesday of each week, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under **[**this section**]** *subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)* for the preceding week.

(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in subsection (b)(2).

(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Secretary under this section shall not be subject to review under Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735) or any successor order.

[(e)**]** *(f)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

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Subtitle G—Hemp Production

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SEC. 297B. STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.

(a) SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe desiring to have primary regulatory authority over the production of hemp in the State or territory of the Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary, through the State department of agriculture (in consultation with the Governor and chief law enforcement officer of the State) or the Tribal government, as applicable, a plan under which the State or Indian tribe monitors and regulates that production as described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENTS.—A State or Tribal plan referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall only be required to include—

(i) a practice to maintain relevant information regarding land on which hemp is produced in the State or territory of the Indian tribe, including a legal description of the land, for a period of not less than 3 calendar years;

(ii) a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

(I) only industrial hemp; or

(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;

[(ii)**]** *(iii) except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i),* a procedure for testing, using post-decarboxylation or other similarly reliable methods, **[**delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration**]** *total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)* levels of hemp produced in the State or territory of the Indian tribe;

[(iii)**]** *(iv)* a procedure for the effective disposal of—

(I) plants, whether growing or not, that are produced in violation of this subtitle; and

(II) products derived from those plants;

[(iv)**]** *(v)* a procedure to comply with the enforcement procedures under subsection (e);

[(v)**]** *(vi)* a procedure for conducting annual inspections of, at a minimum, a random sample of hemp producers to verify that hemp is not produced in violation of this subtitle;

[(vi)**]** *(vii)* a procedure for submitting the information described in section 297C(d)(2), as applicable, to the Secretary not more than 30 days after the date on which the information is received; and

[(vii)**]** *(viii)* a certification that the State or Indian tribe has the resources and personnel to carry out the practices and procedures described in clauses (i) through (vi); and

(B) may **[**include any other practice**]** *include—*

(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

(ii) notwithstanding subsection (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(iii) any other practice or procedure established by a State or Indian tribe, as applicable, to the extent that the practice or procedure is consistent with this subtitle.

(3) RELATION TO STATE AND TRIBAL LAW.—

(A) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this subsection preempts or limits any law of a State or Indian tribe that—

(i) regulates the production of hemp; and

(ii) is more stringent than this subtitle.

(B) REFERENCES IN PLANS.—A State or Tribal plan referred to in paragraph (1) may include a reference to a law of the State or Indian tribe regulating the production of hemp, to the extent that law is consistent with this subtitle.

(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or Indian tribe shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, only industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the documentation required under subparagraph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).

(b) APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of a State or Tribal plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(A) approve the State or Tribal plan if the State or Tribal plan complies with subsection (a); or

(B) disapprove the State or Tribal plan only if the State or Tribal plan does not comply with subsection (a).

(2) AMENDED PLANS.—If the Secretary disapproves a State or Tribal plan under paragraph (1)(B), the State, through the State department of agriculture (in consultation with the Governor and chief law enforcement officer of the State) or the Tribal government, as applicable, may submit to the Secretary an amended State or Tribal plan that complies with subsection (a).

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Attorney General in carrying out this subsection.

(c) AUDIT OF STATE COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct an audit of the compliance of a State or Indian tribe with a State or Tribal plan approved under subsection (b).

(2) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines under an audit conducted under paragraph (1) that a State or Indian tribe is not materially in compliance with a State or Tribal plan—

(A) the Secretary shall collaborate with the State or Indian tribe to develop a corrective action plan in the case of a first instance of noncompliance; and

(B) the Secretary may revoke approval of the State or Tribal plan in the case of a second or subsequent instance of noncompliance.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance to a State or Indian tribe in the development of a State or Tribal plan under subsection (a).

(e) VIOLATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A violation of a State or Tribal plan approved under subsection (b) shall be subject to enforcement solely in accordance with this subsection.

(2) NEGLIGENT VIOLATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A hemp producer in a State or the territory of an Indian tribe for which a State or Tribal plan is approved under subsection (b) shall be subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph if the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable, determines that the hemp producer has negligently violated the State or Tribal plan, including by negligently—

(i) failing to provide a legal description of land on which the producer produces hemp;

(ii) failing to obtain a license or other required authorization from the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable; or

(iii) producing Cannabis sativa L. with a [delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3 percent] *total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant* on a dry weight basis.

(B) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.—A hemp producer described in subparagraph (A) shall comply with a plan established by the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable, to correct the negligent violation, including—

(i) a reasonable date by which the hemp producer shall correct the negligent violation; and

(ii) a requirement that the hemp producer shall periodically report to the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable, on the compliance of the hemp producer with the State or Tribal plan for a period of not less than the next 2 calendar years.

(C) RESULT OF NEGLIGENT VIOLATION.—A hemp producer that negligently violates a State or Tribal plan under sub-

paragraph (A) shall not as a result of that violation be subject to any criminal enforcement action by the Federal Government or any State government, Tribal government, or local government.

(D) REPEAT VIOLATIONS.—A hemp producer that negligently violates a State or Tribal plan under subparagraph (A) 3 times in a 5-year period shall be ineligible to produce hemp for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the third violation.

(3) OTHER VIOLATIONS.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—If the State department of agriculture or Tribal government in a State or the territory of an Indian tribe for which a State or Tribal plan is approved under subsection (b), as applicable, determines that a hemp producer in the State or territory has violated the State or Tribal plan with a culpable mental state greater than negligence—

[(i) the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable, shall immediately report the hemp producer to—

[(I) the Attorney General; and

[(II) the chief law enforcement officer of the State or Indian tribe, as applicable; and

[(ii) paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to the violation.]

(A) REPORTING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State department of agriculture or a Tribal Government with respect to which a State or Tribal plan is approved under subsection (b), such State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) shall immediately report a hemp producer to the Attorney General, and, as applicable, the chief law enforcement officer of the State or Indian tribe, if the State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) determines that the hemp producer has—

(I) violated the State or Tribal plan with a culpable mental state greater than negligence; or

(II) violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to—

(I) a violation described in subclause (I) of clause (i); or

(II) the production of a crop inconsistent with its designation, as described in subclause (II) of such clause.

(B) FELONY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), any person convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance under State or Federal law before, on, or after the date of enactment of this subtitle shall

be ineligible, during the 10-year period following the date of the conviction—

(I) to participate in the program established under this section or section 297C; and

(II) to produce hemp under any regulations or guidelines issued under section 297D(a).

[(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any person growing hemp lawfully with a license, registration, or authorization under a pilot program authorized by section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940) before the date of enactment of this subtitle.]

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any person growing hemp that designates the type of production as only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

(I) the State or Tribal plan approved under subsection (b) includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

(II) the plan established by the Secretary under section 297C includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.

(C) FALSE STATEMENT.—Any person who materially falsifies any information contained in an application to participate in the program established under this section shall be ineligible to participate in that program.

(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person who knowingly produces a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be ineligible to participate in the program established under this section for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the violation.

(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section prohibits the production of hemp in a State or the territory of an Indian tribe—

(1) for which a State or Tribal plan is not approved under this section, if the production of hemp is in accordance with section 297C or other Federal laws (including regulations); and

(2) if the production of hemp is not otherwise prohibited by the State or Indian tribe.

SEC. 297C. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State or Indian tribe for which a State or Tribal plan is not approved under section 297B, the production of hemp in that State or the territory of that Indian tribe shall be subject to a plan established by the Secretary to monitor and regulate that production in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENT.—A plan established by the Secretary under [paragraph (1) shall include—]

[(A)] [a practice to maintain] *paragraph (1)—*

(A) shall include—

(i) a practice to maintain relevant information regarding land on which hemp is produced in the State or territory of the Indian tribe, including a legal de-

scription of the land, for a period of not less than 3 calendar years;

(ii) a procedure under which the Secretary shall require a hemp producer to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

(I) only industrial hemp; or

(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;

[(B)] *(iii) except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i),* a procedure for testing, using post-decarboxylation or other similarly reliable methods, [delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration] *total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)* levels of hemp produced in the State or territory of the Indian tribe;

[(C)] *(iv)* a procedure for the effective disposal of—

[(i)] *(I)* plants, whether growing or not, that are produced in violation of this subtitle; and

[(ii)] *(II)* products derived from those plants;

[(D)] *(v)* a procedure to comply with the enforcement procedures under subsection (c)(2); *and*

[(E)] *(vi)* a procedure for conducting annual inspections of, at a minimum, a random sample of hemp producers to verify that hemp is not produced in violation of this subtitle; and

[(F) such other practices or procedures as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, to the extent that the practice or procedure is consistent with this subtitle.]

(B) may include—

(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

(ii) notwithstanding section 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(iii) such other practices or procedures as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, to the extent that the practice or procedure is consistent with this subtitle.

(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the appropriate documentation required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).

(b) LICENSING.—The Secretary shall establish a procedure to issue licenses to hemp producers in accordance with a plan established under subsection (a).

(c) VIOLATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State or Indian tribe for which a State or Tribal plan is not approved under section 297B, it shall be unlawful to produce hemp in that State or the territory of that Indian tribe without a license issued by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) NEGLIGENT AND OTHER VIOLATIONS.—A violation of a plan established under subsection (a) shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 297B(e), except that the Secretary shall carry out that enforcement instead of a State department of agriculture or Tribal government.

(3) REPORTING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—In the case of a State or Indian tribe covered by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall report the production of hemp without a license issued by the Secretary under subsection (b) to the Attorney General.

(d) INFORMATION SHARING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) collect the information described in paragraph (2); and

(B) make the information collected under subparagraph (A) accessible in real time to Federal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement.

(2) CONTENT.—The information collected by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) contact information for each hemp producer in a State or the territory of an Indian tribe for which—

(i) a State or Tribal plan is approved under section 297B(b); or

(ii) a plan is established by the Secretary under this section;

(B) a legal description of the land on which hemp is grown by each hemp producer described in subparagraph (A); **[**and**]**

(C) for each hemp producer described in subparagraph (A)—

(i) the designation of the type of production of the hemp producers under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;

[(i)**]** *(ii)* the status of—

(I) a license or other required authorization from the State department of agriculture or Tribal government, as applicable; or

(II) a license from the Secretary; and

[(ii)**]** *(iii)* any changes to the status**[**.**]***; and*

(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of this section.

SEC. 297D. [REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES] *ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES*; EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.

(a) [PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES] *ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES*; REPORT.—

(1) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations and guidelines to implement this subtitle as expeditiously as practicable.

(B) CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consult with the Attorney General on the promulgation of regulations and guidelines under subparagraph (A).

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing updates on the implementation of this subtitle.

(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this subtitle.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c)(3)(B), the Secretary shall have sole authority to promulgate Federal regulations and guidelines that relate to the production of hemp, including Federal regulations and guidelines that relate to the implementation of sections 297B and 297C.

(c) EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this subtitle shall affect or modify—

(1) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(2) section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262); or

(3) the authority of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(A) under—

(i) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

(ii) section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262); or

(B) to promulgate Federal regulations and guidelines that relate to the production of hemp under the Act described in subparagraph (A)(i) or the section described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

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COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION CHARTER ACT

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SEC. 5. SPECIFIC POWERS.—In the fulfillment of its purposes and in carrying out its annual budget programs submitted to and approved by the Congress pursuant to Chapter 91 of Title 31, the Corporation is authorized to use its general powers only to—

(a) Support the prices of agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)] through loans, purchases, payments, and other operations.

(b) Make available materials and facilities required in connection with the production and marketing of agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)].

(c) Procure agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)] for sale to other Government agencies, foreign governments, and domestic, foreign, or international relief or rehabilitation agencies, and to meet domestic requirements.

(d) Remove and dispose of or aid in the removal or disposition of surplus agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)].

(e) Increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)] by expanding or aiding in the expansion of domestic markets or by developing or aiding in the development of new and additional markets, marketing facilities, and uses for such commodities.

(f) Export or cause to be exported, or aid in the development of foreign markets for, agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)] (including fish and fish products, without regard to whether such fish are harvested in aquacultural operations).

(g) Carry out conservation or environmental programs authorized by law.

(h) Carry out such other operations as the Congress may specifically authorize or provide for.

In the Corporation's purchasing and selling operations with respect to agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)] (except sales to other Government agencies), and in the warehousing, transporting, processing, or handling of agricultural commodities [(other than tobacco)], the Corporation shall, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the fulfillment of the Corporations purposes and the effective and efficient conduct of its business, utilize the usual and customary channels, facilities, and arrangements of trade and commerce (including, at the option of the Corporation, the use of private sector entities).

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AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

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TITLE II—CONSERVATION

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Subtitle D—Other Conservation Programs

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[Sec. 2408. Feral swine eradication and control pilot program.]

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Subtitle E—Funding and Administration

Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.
Sec. 2502. Delivery of technical assistance.
Sec. 2503. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.
Sec. 2504. Temporary administration of conservation programs.

Subtitle F—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2601. Establishment and purposes.
Sec. 2602. Definitions.
Sec. 2603. Agricultural land easements.
Sec. 2604. Wetland reserve easements.
Sec. 2605. Administration.

Subtitle G—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Sec. 2701. Establishment and purposes.
Sec. 2702. Definitions.
Sec. 2703. Regional conservation partnerships.
Sec. 2704. Assistance to producers.
Sec. 2705. Funding.
Sec. 2706. Administration.
Sec. 2707. Critical conservation areas.

Subtitle H—Repeals and Technical Amendments

PART I—REPEALS

Sec. 2811. Repeal of Conservation Corridor Demonstration Program.
Sec. 2812. Repeal of cranberry acreage reserve program.
Sec. 2813. Repeal of National Natural Resources Foundation.
Sec. 2814. Repeal of flood risk reduction.
Sec. 2815. Repeal of study of land use for expiring contracts and extension of authority.
Sec. 2816. Repeal of Integrated Farm Management Program Option.
Sec. 2817. Repeal of clarification of definition of agricultural lands.

PART II—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sec. 2821. Technical amendments.
Sec. 2822. State technical committees.

TITLE III—TRADE

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Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

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Sec. 3313. International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program.

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TITLE IV—NUTRITION

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Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

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Sec. 4208. [Healthy fluid milk] *Dairy nutrition* incentives projects.

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TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

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Subtitle G—Other Matters

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Sec. 8703. Tribal forest management [demonstration project] *program*.

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TITLE II—CONSERVATION

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Subtitle D—Other Conservation Programs

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[SEC. 2408. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control pilot program to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health.

[(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

[(1) study and assess the nature and extent of damage to the pilot areas caused by feral swine;

[(2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine in the pilot areas;

[(3) develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine; and

[(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in pilot areas.

[(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to agricultural producers under the pilot program to implement methods to—

[(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the pilot areas; and

[(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

[(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for purposes of this section through State technical committees established under section 1261(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3861(a)).

[(e) PILOT AREAS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in areas of States in which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agriculture, native ecosystems, or human or animal health, as determined by the Secretary.

[(f) COST SHARING.—

[(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities under the pilot program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

[(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities under the pilot program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

[(g) FUNDING.—

[(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $75,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and $105,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

[(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1)—

[(A) 50 percent shall be allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out the pilot pro-

gram, including the provision of financial assistance to producers for on-farm trapping and technology related to capturing and confining feral swine; and

[(B) 50 percent shall be allocated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carry out the pilot program, including the use of established, and testing of innovative, population reduction methods.

[(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made available under this section may be used for administrative expenses of the pilot program.]

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TITLE III—TRADE

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Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

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SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a fellowship program to be known as the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program to provide fellowships to citizens of the United States to assist eligible countries in developing school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs.

(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this section, an eligible country is a developing country, as determined by the Secretary using a gross national income per capita test selected by the Secretary.

(c) PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIPS.—The goals of providing a fellowship under this section are to—

(1) develop globally minded United States agriculturists with experience living abroad;

(2) focus on meeting the food and fiber needs of the domestic population of eligible countries; and

(3) strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and the United States agricultural industry.

(d) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES.—The Secretary may provide fellowships to citizens of the United States who—

(1) hold at least a bachelors degree in an agricultural related field of study; and

(2) have an understanding of United States school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the National FFA Organization, the National 4-H Council, and other entities as the Secretary determines are appropriate to identify candidates for fellowships.

(f) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall provide for the management, coordination, evaluation, and monitoring of the Fellowship Program, except that the Secretary may contract out

the management of the fellowship program to an outside organization with experience in implementing fellowship programs focused on building capacity for school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs in developing countries.

(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible countries in the long-term development of enduring, school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years; and

(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multi-year.

[(g)**]** *(h)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 to carry out this section for each of fiscal years **[**2019 through 2023**]** *2027 through 2031.*

(2) DURATION.—Any funds made available under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

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SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term "eligible candidate" means an individual that—

(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30 years;

(B) has demonstrated experience in agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education;

(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host countries for at least 2 months or up to 6 months; and

(D) is a resident of the United States.

(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term "eligible country" means a country that has agricultural trade relations with the United States, as recognized by the Foreign Agriculture Service.

(3) PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program established under subsection (b).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an international cultural immersion and exchange program, to be known as the "International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program", under which the Secretary shall—

(1) provide eligible candidates with international cultural exchange and immersion experiences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education through placement with host families in eligible countries; and

(2) place in the United States with host families individuals that meet the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible countries to experience United States agriculture, trade relations, and culture.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the United States; and

(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the United States in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Program, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization that has experience in implementing international cultural exchange programs focused on agricultural sciences, food and nutrition education, and cultural understanding through placement with host families.

(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit organization with which the Secretary has a memorandum of understanding dated not earlier than January 1, 2019.

(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of entering into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal matching funds from non-Federal sources.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

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Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

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SEC. 4208. [HEALTHY FLUID MILK] *DAIRY NUTRITION* INCENTIVES PROJECTS.

[(a) DEFINITION OF FLUID MILK.—In this section the term "fluid milk" means all varieties of pasteurized cow's milk that—

[(1) is without flavoring or sweeteners,

[(2) is consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations,

[(3) is packaged in liquid form, and

[(4) contains vitamins A and D at levels consistent with the Food and Drug Administration, State, and local standards for fluid milk.]

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term "covered dairy products" means—

(A) cheese (including nonstandardized cheese) that is—

(i) made from pasteurized cow's milk;

(ii) a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

(iii) sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice, stick, string or in snack-size form; and

(B) yogurt (or other cultured dairy product) that—

(i) is made from pasteurized cow's milk;

(ii) is a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

(iii) contains limited amounts of added sugars.

(2) FLUID MILK.—The term "fluid milk" means all varieties of pasteurized cow's milk that—

(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels consistent with the Food and Drug Administration, State, and local standards for fluid milk.

(b) PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, [healthy fluid milk] *dairy nutrition* incentive projects to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of fluid milk *and covered dairy products* by members of households that receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits by providing an incentive for the purchase of fluid milk *and covered dairy products* at the point of purchase to members of households purchasing food with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.

(c) GRANTS OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section, the Secretary, on a competitive basis, shall enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide grants to, governmental entities or nonprofit organizations for projects that meet the purpose and selection criteria specified in this subsection.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to enter into a cooperative agreement or receive a grant under this subsection, a government entity or nonprofit organization shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Projects proposed in applications shall be evaluated against publicly disseminated criteria that shall incorporate a scientifically based strategy that is designed to improve diet quality and nutritional outcomes through the increased purchase of fluid milk *and covered dairy products* by members of households that participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry out this section shall not be used for any project that limits the use of benefits provided under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—

(1) EVALUATION.—

(A) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for an independent evaluation of projects selected under this section that measures, to the maximum extent practicable, the impact on health and nutrition.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The independent evaluation under this subparagraph shall use rigorous methodologies, particularly random assignment or other methods that are capable of producing scientifically valid information regarding which activities are effective.

(B) COSTS.—The Secretary may use funds not to exceed 7 percent of the funding provided to carry out this section to pay costs associated with evaluating the outcomes of the [healthy fluid milk] *dairy nutrition* incentive projects.

(2) REPORTING.—Not later than December 31 of 2020, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-

mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes a description of—

(A) the status of each [healthy fluid milk] *dairy nutrition* incentives project, and

(B) the results of any completed evaluation that—

(i) include, to the maximum extent practicable, the impact of the [healthy fluid milk] *dairy nutrition* incentive projects on health and nutrition outcomes among households participating in such projects, and

(ii) have not been submitted in a previous report under this paragraph.

(3) PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.—In addition to the reporting requirements under paragraph (2), evaluation results shall be shared publicly to promote wide use of successful strategies.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated [$20,000,000] *$50,000,000* to carry out and evaluate the outcomes of projects under this section, to remain available until expended.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only funds appropriated under paragraph (1) in advance specifically to carry out this section shall be available to carry out this section.

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TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Improving Health Outcomes in Rural America

SEC. 6101. COMBATING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN RURAL AMERICA; PRIORITIZATIONS.

(a) COMBATING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN RURAL AMERICA.—

(1) PRIORITIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the following prioritizations and set asides for fiscal years 2019 through [2025] *2027*:

(A) DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE.—

(i) [SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-ASIDE] *SET-ASIDE*.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall make available not less than 20 percent of amounts made available under section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa-2) for financial assistance under chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of such Act for telemedicine projects *at rural health facilities* that provide substance use disorder*, mental health, behavioral health, or maternal health* treatment services.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a fiscal year for which the Secretary determines that there are not sufficient qualified applicants to receive financial assistance for projects providing *mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or* substance use disorder treatment services to reach the 20-percent require-

ment under clause (i), the Secretary may make available less than 20 percent of amounts made available under such section 2335A for those services.

(B) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(i) [SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELECTION] *SELECTION* PRIORITY.—In selecting recipients of direct loans or grants for the development of essential community facilities under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary shall give priority to entities eligible for those direct loans or grants—

(I) to develop facilities to provide *mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or* substance use disorder (including opioid substance use disorder)—

(aa) prevention services;

(bb) treatment services;

(cc) recovery services; or

(dd) any combination of those services; and

(II) that employ staff that have appropriate expertise and training in how to identify and treat individuals with *mental health concerns, behavioral health concerns, maternal health concerns, or* substance use disorders.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity described in clause (i) that receives a direct loan or grant described in that clause may use the direct loan or grant funds for the development of telehealth facilities and systems to provide telehealth services for substance use disorder treatment*, behavioral health treatment, mental health treatment, or maternal health, respectively*.

(C) RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS; SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELECTION PRIORITY.—In making grants under section 502(i) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)), the Secretary shall give priority to an applicant that will use the grant for *behavioral health, mental health, maternal health, or* substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder.

(2) LIMITATION ON OTHER REPRIORITIZATIONS.—For fiscal years 2019 through [2025] *2027*, the Secretary shall not make any national reprioritizations within the Rural Health and Safety Education Programs, the Community Facilities direct loan and grant programs, or the Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs under section 608 of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

(3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2661 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 502, in the matter preceding subsection (a), by inserting "(referred to in this title as the 'Secretary')" after "Agriculture"; and

(B) by striking "Secretary of Agriculture" each place it appears (other than in section 502 in the matter preceding subsection (a)) and inserting "Secretary".

(b) TEMPORARY PRIORITIZATION OF RURAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE.—[Omitted—Amends another Act]

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TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

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SEC. 7116. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT 1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

[Not later than] *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than* September 30, 2019, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report describing the allocations made to, and matching funds received by, 1890 Institutions and 1862 Institutions (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601) for each of the agricultural research, extension, education, and related programs established under—

(1) section 1444 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221);

(2) section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222);

(3) subsections (b) and (c) of section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343); and

(4) the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.).

(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relating to each matching requirement applicable to the State under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is located.

(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each calendar year, the Governor of each State described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary an attestation that describes if the State is able to fulfill each matching requirement with respect to which information is provided by the Secretary under such subsection for such State and calendar year.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report describing the attestations received under paragraph (1) during that calendar year.

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TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

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Subtitle F—Forest Management

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PART II—MISCELLANEOUS FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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SEC. 8623. AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE SITES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE SITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "administrative site" means—

(i) any facility or improvement, including curtilage, that was acquired or is used specifically for purposes of administration of the National Forest System;

(ii) any Federal land that—

(I) is associated with a facility or improvement described in clause (i) that was acquired or is used specifically for purposes of administration of Forest Service activities; and

(II) underlies or abuts the facility or improvement; and

(iii) for each fiscal year, not more than 10 isolated, undeveloped parcels of not more than 40 acres each.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "administrative site" does not include—

(i) any land within a unit of the National Forest System that is exclusively designated for natural area or recreational purposes;

(ii) any land within—

(I) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(II) a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; or

(III) a National Monument; or

(iii) any Federal land that the Secretary determines—

(I) is needed for resource management purposes or to provide access to other land or water; or

(II) would be in the public interest not to lease.

(2) FACILITY OR IMPROVEMENT.—The term "facility or improvement" includes—

(A) a forest headquarters;

(B) a ranger station;

(C) a research station or laboratory;

(D) a dwelling;

(E) a warehouse;

(F) a scaling station;

(G) a fire-retardant mixing station;
(H) a fire-lookout station;
(I) a guard station;
(J) a storage facility;
(K) a telecommunication facility; and
(L) any other administrative installation for conducting Forest Service activities.

(3) MARKET ANALYSIS.—The term "market analysis" means the identification and study of the market for a particular economic good or service.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may lease an administrative site that is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE SITES.—A regional forester, in consultation with forest supervisors in the region, may submit to the Secretary a recommendation for administrative sites in the region that the regional forester considers eligible for leasing under this section.

(d) CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC NOTICE.—Before making an administrative site available for lease under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with government officials of the community and of the State in which the administrative site is located; and

(2) provide public notice of the proposed lease.

(e) LEASE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SIZE.—An administrative site or compound of administrative sites under a single lease under this section may not exceed 40 acres.

(2) CONFIGURATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the lease of an administrative site under this section, the Secretary may configure the administrative site—

(i) to maximize the marketability of the administrative site; and

(ii) to achieve management objectives.

(B) SEPARATE TREATMENT OF FACILITY OR IMPROVEMENT.—A facility or improvement on an administrative site to be leased under this section may be severed from the land and leased under a separate lease under this section.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person to which a lease of an administrative site is made under this section shall provide to the Secretary consideration described in subparagraph (B) in an amount that is not less than the market value of the administrative site, as determined in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(B) FORM OF CONSIDERATION.—The consideration referred to in subparagraph (A) may be—

(i) cash;

(ii) in-kind, including—

(I) the construction of new facilities or improvements, the title to which shall be transferred by the lessee to the Secretary;

(II) the maintenance, repair, improvement, or restoration of existing facilities or improvements; and

(III) other services relating to activities that occur on the administrative site, as determined by the Secretary; or

(iii) any combination of the consideration described in clauses (i) and (ii).

(C) DETERMINATION OF MARKET VALUE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the market value of an administrative site to be leased under this section—

(I) by conducting an appraisal in accordance with—

(aa) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions established in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.); and

(bb) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; or

(II) by competitive lease.

(ii) IN-KIND CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall determine the market value of any in-kind consideration under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(4) CONDITIONS.—The lease of an administrative site under this section shall be subject to such conditions, including bonding, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(5) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—Subject to terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary, the Secretary shall offer to lease an administrative site to the municipality or county in which the administrative site is located before seeking to lease the administrative site to any other person.

(f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—

(1) FEDERAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL.—Chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, shall not apply to the lease of an administrative site under this section.

(2) LEAD-BASED PAINT AND ASBESTOS ABATEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of law relating to the mitigation or abatement of lead-based paint or asbestos-containing building materials, the Secretary shall not be required to mitigate or abate lead-based paint or asbestos-containing building materials with respect to an administrative site to be leased under this section.

(B) PROCEDURES.—With respect to an administrative site to be leased under this section that has lead-based paint or asbestos-containing building materials, the Secretary shall—

(i) provide notice to the person to which the administrative site will be leased of the presence of the lead-based paint or asbestos-containing building material; and

(ii) obtain written assurance from that person that the person will comply with applicable Federal, State,

and local laws relating to the management of lead-based paint and asbestos-containing building materials.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall apply to the lease of an administrative site under this section, except that, in any environmental review or analysis required under that Act for the lease of an administrative site under this section, the Secretary shall be required only—

(A) to analyze the most reasonably foreseeable use of the administrative site, as determined through a market analysis;

(B) to determine whether to include any conditions under subsection (e)(4); and

(C) to evaluate the alternative of not leasing the administrative site in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL LAWS.—A person that leases an administrative site under this section shall comply with all applicable State and local zoning laws, building codes, and permit requirements for any construction activities that occur on the administrative site.

(g) PROHIBITION.—No agency of the Federal Government shall make any cash payments to a leaseholder relating to the use or occupancy of any administrative site or facility that has been improved under this section.

(h) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS.—

(1) ANTICIPATED USE OF AUTHORITY.—As part of the annual budget justification documents provided to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Secretary shall include—

(A) a list of the anticipated leases to be made, including the anticipated revenue that may be obtained, under this section;

(B) a description of the intended use of any revenue obtained under a lease under this section, including a list of any projects that cost more than $500,000; and

(C) a description of accomplishments during previous years using the authority of the Secretary under this section.

(2) CHANGES TO LEASE LIST.—If the Secretary desires to lease an administrative site under this section that is not included on a list provided under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional committees described in paragraph (3) a notice of the proposed lease, including the anticipated revenue that may be obtained from the lease.

(3) USE OF AUTHORITY.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing each lease

made by the Secretary under this section during the period covered by the report.

(i) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Secretary to make a lease of an administrative site under this section expires on October 1, [2023] *2031*.

(2) EFFECT ON LEASE AGREEMENT.—Paragraph (1) shall not affect the authority of the Secretary to carry out this section in the case of any lease agreement that was entered into by the Secretary before October 1, [2023] *2031*.

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SEC. 8632. REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.

The Chief of the Forest Service shall—

(1) continue to find efficiencies in the operations of the forest inventory and analysis program under section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) through the improved use and integration of advanced remote sensing [technologies] *technologies, such as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products,* to provide estimates for State- and national-level inventories, where appropriate; and

(2) partner with States and other interested stakeholders to carry out the program described in paragraph (1).

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

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SEC. 8643. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) an individual;

(B) a public or private entity (including a center of excellence that consists of 1 or more partnerships between forestry, engineering, architecture, or business schools at 1 or more institutions of higher education); or

(C) a State, local, or Tribal government.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in carrying out the wood innovation grant program of the Secretary described in the notice of the Secretary entitled "Request for Proposals: 2016 Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity" (80 Fed. Reg. 63498 (October 20, 2015)), may make a wood innovation grant to 1 or more eligible entities each year for the purpose of advancing the use of innovative wood products*, including the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized*.

(2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a

proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

[(c) INCENTIVIZING USE OF EXISTING MILLING CAPACITY.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year.]

(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give priority to proposals for projects that—

(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design and interior wood products, including forest impacts, which can be improved by North American manufacturing; or

(3) include in the proposal of the entity an analysis of the benefits that forest management under the proposal will have on the resilience and economy of the community, including benefits associated with—

(A) wood products from anticipated wood supply areas;

(B) wildfire risk reduction;

(C) increased fiber flow;

(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs; and

(E) support for forested communities.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (b), an eligible entity shall provide funds equal to *50 percent of* the amount received by the eligible entity under the grant, to be derived from non-Federal sources.

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Subtitle G—Other Matters

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SEC. 8703. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT [DEMONSTRATION PROJECT] *PROGRAM*.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary may carry out [demonstration projects by] *a program under* which federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.) through contracts entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to any contract or project carried out under subsection (a)—

(1) on National Forest System land, the Secretary shall carry out all functions delegated to the Secretary of the Interior

under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304 et seq.);

(2) the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior, as applicable, shall make any decisions required to be made under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a et seq.); and

(3) the contract or project shall be entered into under, and in accordance with, section 403(b)(2) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5363(b)(2)).

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TITLE X—HORTICULTURE

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SEC. 10109. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, shall conduct a multiple crop and pesticide use survey of farmers to collect data for risk assessment modeling and mitigation for an active ingredient.

[(b) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and make publicly available the survey described in subsection (a).]

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and make publicly available, the survey described in subsection (a).

(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The administration of this section shall be made without regard to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $500,000 for fiscal year 2019 and $100,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until expended.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $2,500,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) FURTHER MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

(d) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a) In the case" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "subsection (d)(12)" and inserting "paragraph (12) or (13) of subsection (d)"; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking "(d) For purposes" and inserting the following:

"(d) PROVISIONS OF LAW REFERENCES.—For purposes";

(B) in paragraph (11), by striking "or" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(13) section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.".

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TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS

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Subtitle B—Agriculture and Food Defense

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SEC. 12203. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEFENSE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ANIMAL.—The term "animal" has the meaning given the term in section 10403 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302).

(2) DISEASE OR PEST OF CONCERN.—The term "disease or pest of concern" means a plant or animal disease or pest that—

(A) is—

(i) a transboundary disease; or

(ii) an established disease; and

(B) is likely to pose a significant risk to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector that warrants efforts at prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

(3) ESTABLISHED DISEASE.—The term "established disease" means a plant or animal disease or pest that—

(A)(i) if it becomes established, poses an imminent threat to agriculture in the United States; or

(ii) has become established, as defined by the Secretary, within the United States; and

(B) requires management.

(4) HIGH-CONSEQUENCE PLANT TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE.—The term "high-consequence plant transboundary disease" means a transboundary disease that is—

(A)(i) a plant disease; or

(ii) a plant pest; and

(B) of high consequence, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) PEST.—The term "pest"—

(A) with respect to a plant, has the meaning given the term "plant pest" in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702); and

(B) with respect to an animal, has the meaning given the term in section 10403 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302).

(6) PLANT.—The term "plant" has the meaning given the term in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702).

(7) PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.—The term "plant health management strategy" means a strategy to timely control and eradicate a plant disease or plant pest outbreak, including through mitigation (such as chemical control), surveillance, the use of diagnostic products and procedures, and the use of existing resistant seed stock.

(8) TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "transboundary disease" means a plant or animal disease or pest that is within 1 or more countries outside of the United States.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term "transboundary disease" includes a plant or animal disease or pest described in subparagraph (A) that—

(i) has emerged within the United States; or

(ii) has been introduced within the United States.

(9) VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURE.—The term "veterinary countermeasure" has the meaning given such term in section 10403 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302).

(b) DISEASE OR PEST OF CONCERN RESPONSE PLANNING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a list of diseases or pests of concern by—

(i) developing a process to solicit and receive expert opinion and evidence relating to the diseases or pests of concern entered on the list; and

(ii) reviewing all available evidence relating to the diseases or pests of concern entered on the list, including classified information; and

(B) periodically update the list established under subparagraph (A).

(2) RESPONSE PLANS.—

(A) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN OR PLANS.—The Secretary shall develop, in collaboration with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local officials, a comprehensive strategic response plan or plans, as appropriate, for the diseases or pests of concern that are entered on the list established under paragraph (1).

(B) STATE OR REGION RESPONSE PLAN OR PLANS.—The Secretary shall provide information to a State or region to assist in producing a response plan or plans that shall include a concept of operations for a disease or pest of concern or a platform concept of operations for responses to similar diseases or pests of concern that are determined to be a priority to the State or region that shall, as appropriate—

(i) describe the appropriate interactions among, and roles of—

(I) Federal, State, Tribal, and units of local government; and

(II) plant or animal industry partners;

(ii) include a decision matrix or dynamic decision modeling tools that, as appropriate, include—

(I) information and timing requirements necessary for the use of veterinary countermeasures;

(II) plant health management strategies;

(III) deployment of other key materials and resources; and

(IV) parameters for transitioning from outbreak response to disease management;

(iii) identify key response performance metrics to establish—

(I) benchmarking to provide assessments of capabilities, capacity, and readiness to achieve response goals and objectives;

(II) progressive exercise evaluation; and

(III) continuing improvement of a response plan, including by providing for—

(aa) ongoing exercises;

(bb) improvement planning and the implementation of corrective actions to enhance a response plan over time; and

(cc) strategic information to guide investment in any appropriate research to mitigate the risk of a disease or pest of concern; and

(iv) be updated periodically, including in response to—

(I) an exercise evaluation; or

(II) new risk information becoming available regarding a disease or pest of concern.

(3) COORDINATION OF PLANS.—Pursuant to section 221(d)(6) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, as added by section 12202, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, assist in coordinating with other appropriate Federal, State, regional, or local officials in the exercising of the plans developed under paragraph (2).

(c) NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department of Agriculture a National Plant Diagnostic Network to monitor and surveil through diagnostics threats to plant health from diseases or pests of concern in the United States.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The National Plant Diagnostic Network established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for increased awareness, surveillance, early identification, rapid communication, warning, and diagnosis of a threat to plant health from a disease or pest of concern to protect natural and agricultural plant resources;

(B) coordinate and collaborate with agencies of the Department of Agriculture and State agencies and authorities involved in plant health;

(C) establish diagnostic laboratory standards;

(D) establish regional hubs throughout the United States that provide expertise, leadership, and support to diagnostic labs relating to the agricultural crops and plants in the covered regions of those hubs; and

(E) establish a national repository for records of endemic or emergent diseases and pests of concern.

(3) HEAD OF NETWORK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture shall serve as the head of the National Plant Diagnostic Network.

(B) DUTIES.—The head of the National Plant Diagnostic Network shall—

(i) coordinate and collaborate with land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) in carrying out the requirements under paragraph (2), including through cooperative agreements described in paragraph (4);

(ii) partner with the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for assistance with plant health regulation and inspection; and

(iii) coordinate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate, in carrying out activities relating to the National Plant Diagnostic Network, including the sharing of biosurveillance information.

(4) COLLABORATION WITH LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The Secretary shall seek to establish cooperative agreements with land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) that have the appropriate level of skill, experience, and competence with plant diseases or pests of concern.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to the amount authorized to carry out this subtitle under section 12205, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(d) NATIONAL PLANT DISEASE RECOVERY SYSTEM.—

(1) RECOVERY SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department of Agriculture a National Plant Disease Recovery System to engage in strategic long-range planning to recover from high-consequence plant transboundary diseases.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The National Plant Disease Recovery System established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) coordinate with disease or pest of concern concept of operations response plans;

(B) make long-range plans for the initiation of future research projects relating to high-consequence plant transboundary diseases;

(C) establish research plans for long-term recovery;

(D) plan for the identification and use of specific genotypes, cultivars, breeding lines, and other disease-resistant materials necessary for crop stabilization or improvement; and

(E) establish a watch list of high-consequence plant transboundary diseases for the purpose of making long-range plans under subparagraph (B).

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Subtitle E—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

PART I—MISCELLANEOUS AGRICULTURE PROVISIONS

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SEC. 12502. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.

(a) CRIMES RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING TARGETING PETS.—

(1) INTERSTATE STALKING.—Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "or" at the end; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

"(iv) the pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of that person; or"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) by inserting after "to a person" the following: ", a pet, a service animal, an emotional support animal, or a horse"; and

(ii) by striking "or (iii)" and inserting "(iii), or (iv)".

(2) INTERSTATE VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER.—Section 2262 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting after "another person" the following: "or the pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of that person"; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting after "proximity to, another person" the following "or the pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of that person"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(5), by inserting after "in any other case," the following: "including any case in which the offense is committed against a pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse,".

(3) RESTITUTION TO INCLUDE VETERINARY SERVICES.—Section 2264 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G);

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) veterinary services relating to physical care for the victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse; and".

(4) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2266 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

"(11) PET.—The term 'pet' means a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish, turtle, or other animal that is kept for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.

"(12) EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL.—The term 'emotional support animal' means an animal that is covered by the exclusion specified in section 5.303 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), and that is not a service animal.

"(13) SERVICE ANIMAL.—The term 'service animal' has the meaning given the term in section 36.104 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).".

(b) EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL PET SHELTER AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting in consultation with the Office of the Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall award grants under this subsection to eligible entities to carry out programs to provide the assistance described in paragraph (3) with respect to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses of such victims.

(B) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the head of another Department or agency, as appropriate, to carry out any of the authorities provided to the Secretary under this section.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including—

(i) a description of the activities for which a grant under this subsection is sought;

(ii) such assurances as the Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure compliance by the entity with the requirements of this subsection; and

(iii) a certification that the entity, before engaging with any individual domestic violence victim, will disclose to the victim any mandatory duty of the entity to report instances of abuse and neglect (including instances of abuse and neglect of pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses).

(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A), each application submitted by an eligible entity under that subparagraph shall—

(i) not include proposals for any activities that may compromise the safety of a domestic violence victim, including—

(I) background checks of domestic violence victims; or

(II) clinical evaluations to determine the eligibility of such a victim for support services;

(ii) not include proposals that would require mandatory services for victims or that a victim obtain a protective order in order to receive proposed services; and

(iii) reflect the eligible entity's understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(C) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require—

(i) domestic violence victims to participate in the criminal justice system in order to receive services; or

(ii) eligible entities receiving a grant under this subsection to breach client confidentiality.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this subsection may only be used for programs that provide—

(A) emergency and transitional shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses, including assistance with respect to any construction or operating expenses of newly developed or existing emergency and transitional pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse shelter and housing (regardless of whether such shelter and housing is co-located at a victim service provider or within the community);

(B) short-term shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses, including assistance with respect to expenses incurred for the temporary shelter, housing, boarding, or fostering of the pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses of domestic violence victims and other expenses that are incidental to securing the safety of such a pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse during the sheltering, housing, or relocation of such victims;

(C) support services designed to enable a domestic violence victim who is fleeing a situation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to—

(i) locate and secure—

(I) safe housing with the victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse; or

(II) safe accommodations for the victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse; or

(ii) provide the victim with pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse related services, such as transportation, care services, and other assistance; or

(D) for the training of relevant stakeholders on—

(i) the link between domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the abuse and neglect of pets, service animals, emotional support animals, and horses;

(ii) the needs of domestic violence victims;

(iii) best practices for providing support services to such victims;

(iv) best practices for providing such victims with referrals to victims' services; and

(v) the importance of confidentiality.

(4) GRANT CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall, as a condition of such receipt, agree—

(A) to be bound by the nondisclosure of confidential information requirements of section 40002(b)(2) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(b)(2)); and

(B) that the entity shall not condition the receipt of support, housing, or other benefits provided pursuant to this subsection on the participation of domestic violence victims in any or all of the support services offered to such victims through a program carried out by the entity using grant funds.

(5) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO VICTIMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), assistance provided with respect to a pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of a domestic violence victim using grant funds awarded under this subsection shall be provided for a period of not more than 24 months.

(B) EXTENSION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection may extend the 24-month period referred to in subparagraph (A) for a period of not more than 6 months in the case of a domestic violence victim who—

(i) has made a good faith effort to acquire permanent housing for the victim and the victim's pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse during that 24-month period; and

(ii) has been unable to acquire such permanent housing within that period.

(6) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which an eligible entity receives a grant under this subsection and each year thereafter in which the grant funds are used, the entity shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains, with respect to assistance provided by the entity to domestic violence victims with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses using grant funds received under this subsection, information on—

(A) the number of domestic violence victims with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses provided such assistance; and

(B) the purpose, amount, type of, and duration of such assistance.

(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains a compilation of the information contained in the reports submitted under paragraph (6).

(B) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall transmit a copy of the report submitted under subparagraph (A) to—

(i) the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice;

(ii) the Office of Community Planning and Development of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(iii) the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amount made available under subparagraph (A) in any fiscal year, not more than 5 percent may be used for evaluation, monitoring, salaries, and administrative expenses.

(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM DEFINED.—The term "domestic violence victim" means a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(i) a State;

(ii) a unit of local government;

(iii) an Indian tribe; or

(iv) any other organization that has a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (as determined by the Secretary), including—

(I) a domestic violence and sexual assault victim service provider;

(II) a domestic violence and sexual assault coalition;

(III) a community-based and culturally specific organization;

(IV) any other nonprofit, nongovernmental organization; and

(V) any organization that works directly with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses and collaborates with any organization referred to in clauses (i) through (iv), including—

(aa) an animal shelter; and

(bb) an animal welfare organization.

(C) EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL.—The term "emotional support animal" means an animal that is covered by the exclusion specified in section 5.303 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), and that is not a service animal.

(D) PET.—The term "pet" means a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish, turtle, or other animal that is kept for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.

(E) SERVICE ANIMAL.—The term "service animal" has the meaning given the term in section 36.104 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(F) OTHER TERMS.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, terms used in this section shall have the meaning given such terms in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that States should encourage the inclusion of protections against violent or threatening acts against the pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse of a person in domestic violence protection orders.

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SEC. 12506. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.

For the period of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a biannual report describing the number of staff years and employees of each agency of the Department of Agriculture.

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SEC. 12512. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enhance the collection of data to improve the accuracy of the United States Drought Monitor.

(b) UTILIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall utilize a consistent source or sources of data for programs that are based on drought or precipitation indices, such as the livestock forage disaster program established under section 1501(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)) or policies or plans of insurance established under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(c) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a review of—

(1) the types of data currently utilized by the United States Drought Monitor;

(2) the geographic coverage and density of existing data collection sites; and

(3) other meteorological or climatological data that is being collected by other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and non-Federal entities that could be utilized by the United States Drought Monitor.

(d) IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the completion of the review prescribed in subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(A) seek to expand the collection of relevant data in States or geographic areas where coverage is currently lacking as compared to other States or geographic areas; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, develop standards to allow the integration of meteorological or climato-

logical data into the United States Drought Monitor derived from—

(i) in-situ soil moisture profile measuring devices;

(ii) citizen science (as defined in the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act (15 U.S.C. 3724)), including data from the Cooperative Observer Program of the National Weather Service; and

(iii) other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and non-Federal entities.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is to be authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

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Subtitle F—General Provisions

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SEC. 12607. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.

(a) LAND ACCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, *and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter,* the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Chief Economist, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report identifying—

(1) the barriers that prevent or hinder the ability of beginning farmers and ranchers (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))) and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (as defined in such section) to acquire or access farmland;

(2) the extent to which Federal programs, including agricultural conservation easement programs, land transition programs, and financing programs, are improving—

(A) farmland access and tenure for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and

(B) farmland transition and succession; [and]

(3) the regulatory, operational, or statutory changes that are necessary to improve—

(A) the ability of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to acquire or access farmland;

(B) farmland tenure for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and

(C) farmland transition and succession[.]*; and*

(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets, including programs providing assistance relating to—

(A) acquiring of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein), including closing costs;

(B) subsidizing interest rates and mortgage principal amounts for intended beneficiaries;

(C) providing down payment assistance to decrease farm mortgages;

(D) securing clear title on heirs' property farmland;

(E) conducting surveys and assessments of agricultural land;

(F) improving or remediating land, water, and soil;

(G) constructing or repairing infrastructure;

(H) supporting land use planning;

(I) acquiring legal or financial planning assistance;

(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

(K) supporting acquisition of a Department of Agriculture farm number; and

(L) any other activities as determined by the Secretary.

(b) FARMLAND OWNERSHIP.—The Secretary shall collect and, not less frequently than once every 3 years report, data and analysis on farmland ownership, tenure, transition, and entry of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (as those terms are defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))). In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

(1) collect and distribute comprehensive reporting of trends in farmland ownership, tenure, transition, barriers to entry, profitability, and viability of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;

(2) develop surveys and report statistical and economic analysis on farmland ownership, tenure, transition, barriers to entry, profitability, and viability of beginning farmers and ranchers, including a regular follow-on survey to each Census of Agriculture with results of the follow-on survey made public not later than 3 years after the previous Census of Agriculture; and

(3) require the National Agricultural Statistics Service to include in the Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land survey questions relating to—

(A) the extent to which non-farming landowners are purchasing and holding onto farmland for the sole purpose of real estate investment;

(B) the impact of these farmland ownership trends on the successful entry and viability of beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;

(C) the extent to which farm and ranch land with undivided interests and no administrative authority identified have farms or ranches operating on that land; and

(D) the impact of land tenure patterns, categorized by—

(i) race, gender, and ethnicity; and

(ii) region.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each fiscal years 2019 through **[**2023**]** *2031*, to remain available until expended.

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SEC. 12609. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS FOR 2050.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**[**There is established**]** *Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish* a commis-

sion to be known as the Commission on Farm Transitions-Needs for 2050 (referred to in this section as the "Commission").

(b) STUDY *AND RECOMMENDATIONS*.—The Commission shall conduct a study on*, and make recommendations relating to,* issues impacting the transition of agricultural operations from established farmers and ranchers to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, including—

(1) access to, and availability of—

(A) quality land and necessary infrastructure;

(B) affordable *and timely* credit;

(C) adequate risk management tools; and

[(D) apprenticeship and mentorship programs;**]**

(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs, business training, and technical assistance programs;

(2) agricultural asset transfer strategies in use as of the date of the enactment of this Act and improvements to such strategies;

(3) incentives that may facilitate agricultural asset transfers to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, including an assessment of, and recommendations for, how **[**existing and new Federal tax policies**]** *existing and new State and Federal policies, including tax policies*—

(A) facilitate *or impede* lifetime and estate transfers; and

(B) impact individuals seeking to farm who do not have family farm lineage or access to farmland;

(4) the causes of the failures of such transitions, if any; **[**and**]**

(5) the effectiveness of programs and incentives providing assistance with respect to such transitions in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and opportunities for the revision or improvement of such programs**[**.**]***;*

(6) heirs' property and succession of agricultural land;

(7) any unique barriers faced by historically underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural assets, including land; and

(8) leasing and ownership trends, including leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or entities.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 members, as follows:

(A) 3 members appointed by the Secretary.

(B) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(C) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(D) The Chief Economist of the Department of Agriculture.

(2) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.—In addition to the Chief Economist of the Department of Agriculture, the membership of the Commission may include 1 or more employees of the Department of Agriculture or other Federal agencies.

(3) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of all members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(5) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(e) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall appoint 1 of the members of the Commission to serve as Chairperson of the Commission.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than [1 year after the date of enactment of this Act] *2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, the Commission shall submit to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (b), including such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate.

(g) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(h) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Commission.

(i) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mail in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(j) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary may provide to the Commission appropriate office space and such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(k) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-

sistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

[(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sections 9 and 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission.]

(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections 1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission.

(m) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on September 30, [2023] *2031*.

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WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT

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SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to assist local organizations in preparing and carrying out plans for works of improvement, the Secretary is authorized, upon application of local organizations if such application has been submitted to, and not disapproved within 45 days by, the State agency having supervisory responsibility over programs provided for in this Act, or by the Governor if there is no State agency having such responsibility—

(1) to conduct such investigations and surveys as may be necessary to prepare plans for works of improvement;

(2) to prepare plans and estimates required for adequate engineering evaluation;

(3) to make allocations of costs to the various purposes to show the basis of such allocations and to determine whether benefits exceed costs;

(4) to cooperate and enter into agreements with and to furnish financial and other assistance to local organizations: *Provided,* That, for the land-treatment measures, the Federal assistance shall not exceed the rate of assistance for similar practices under existing national programs;

(5) to obtain the cooperation and assistance of other Federal agencies in carrying out the purposes of this section;

(6) to provide technical and financial assistance for remedial actions in accordance with subsection (c); and

[(6)] *(7)* to enter into agreements with landowners, operators, and occupiers, individually or collectively, based on conservation plans of such landowners, operators, and occupiers which are developed in cooperation with and approved by the soil and water conservation district in which the land described in the agreement is situated, to be carried out on such land during a period of not to exceed ten years, providing for changes in cropping systems and land uses and for the installation of soil and water conservation practices and measures needed to conserve and develop the soil, water, woodland, wildlife, energy, and recreation resources of and enhance the water quality of lands within the area included in plans for works of

improvement, as provided for in such plans, including watershed or subwatershed work plans in connection with the eleven watershed improvement programs authorized by section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended and supplemented. Applications for assistance in developing such conservation plans shall be made in writing to the soil and water conservation district involved, and the proposed agreement shall be reviewed by such district. In return for such agreements by landowners, operators, and occupiers the Secretary shall agree to share the costs of carrying out those practices and measures set forth in the agreement for which he determines that cost sharing is appropriate and in the public interest. The portion of such costs, including labor, to be shared shall be that part which the Secretary determines is appropriate and in the public interest for the carrying out of the practices and measures set forth in the agreement, except that the Federal assistance shall not exceed the rate of assistance for similar practices and measures under existing national programs. The Secretary may terminate any agreement with a landowner, operator, or occupier by mutual agreement if the Secretary determines that such termination would be in the public interest, and may agree to such modifications of agreements, previously entered into hereunder, as he deems desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph or to facilitate the practical administration of the agreements provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary, to the extent he deems it desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, may provide in any agreement hereunder for (1) preservation for a period not to exceed the period covered by the agreement and an equal period thereafter of the cropland, crop acreage, and allotment history applicable to land covered by the agreement for the purpose of any Federal program under which such history is used as a basis for an allotment or other limitation on the production of any crop; or (2) surrender of any such history and allotments.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the watershed plan for works of improvement if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the watershed plan is unnecessary or duplicative; and

(2) the works of improvement are otherwise consistent with applicable requirements under section 4.

(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to local organizations for remedial actions for a completed work of improvement installed under this Act with respect to which—

(A) deterioration of a structural component of the work of improvement is occurring at an abnormal rate, including situations in which such deterioration is due to a design deficiency or to site conditions that were unknown at the time of installation of the work of improvement;

(B) the planned service life of the work of improvement exceeds the service life of a structural component of such work of improvement; or

(C) structural damage to such work of improvement, or to a structural component of such work of improvement,

was caused by a storm event that exceeded the maximum storm event for which the work of improvement was designed.

(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance provided under this subsection shall be provided in accordance with the cost-share rate established in the agreement with the local organization for the work of improvement.

(d) STREAMLINING.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis—

(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural barriers to timely provision of assistance under this Act;

(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating to coordination with other Federal or State agencies for required reviews and permitting of projects pursuant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are commensurate with the size and scale of the projects;

(3) conduct an assessment of internal Department of Agriculture planning, technical support, and approvals to determine best practices to be used for the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking authority of State conservationists with respect to approvals required for projects under this Act; and

(4) prioritize the use of agreements and contracting authorities under this Act to provide funding to local organizations for the planning, design, and construction of works of improvement.

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[SEC. 13. DATA.

[The Secretary shall collect and maintain data on a national and State by State basis concerning—

[(1) expenditures for the individual flood control and conservation measures for which assistance is provided under this Act; and

[(2) the expected flood control or environmental (including soil erosion) benefits that will result from the implementation of such measures.]

SEC. 13. DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and maintain, and make publicly available—

(1) data, on a national and State-by-State basis, concerning—

(A) expenditures for the individual flood control and conservation measures for which assistance is provided under this Act; and

(B) the expected flood control or environmental (including soil erosion) benefits that will result from the implementation of such measures; and

(2) data, with respect to each project for which assistance is provided under this Act, concerning—

(A) total allocated and expended funds for planning, design, construction, remedial actions, and rehabilitation; and

(B) contracts and agreements entered into by the Secretary with a local organization to provide services, including—

(i) the services provided through such contracts and agreements;

(ii) the total funds allocated to such contracts and agreements; and

(iii) any modifications or adjustments made to such contracts and agreements.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make publicly available under this section an agreement entered into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier under this Act, or any disaggregated information that identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occupier.

SEC. 14. REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECTANCY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) REHABILITATION.—The term "rehabilitation", with respect to a structural measure constructed as part of a covered water resource project, means the completion of all work necessary to extend the service life of the structural measure and meet applicable safety and performance standards. This may include: (A) protecting the integrity of the structural measure or prolonging the useful life of the structural measure beyond the original evaluated life expectancy; (B) correcting damage to the structural measure from a catastrophic event; (C) correcting the deterioration of structural components that are deteriorating at an abnormal rate; (D) upgrading the structural measure to meet changed land use conditions in the watershed served by the structural measure or changed safety criteria applicable to the structural measure; or (E) decommissioning the structure, if requested by the local organization.

(2) COVERED WATER RESOURCE PROJECT.—The term "covered water resource project" means a work of improvement carried out under any of the following:

(A) This Act.

(B) Section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (Public Law 78–534; 58 Stat. 905).

(C) The pilot watershed program authorized under the heading "FLOOD PREVENTION" of the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act, 1954 (Public Law 156; 67 Stat. 214).

(D) Subtitle H of title XV of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3451 et seq.; commonly known as the Resource Conservation and Development Program).

(3) STRUCTURAL MEASURE.—The term "structural measure" means a physical improvement that impounds water, commonly known as a dam, which was constructed as part of a covered water resource project, including the impoundment area and flood pool.

(b) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION.—

(1) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to a local organization to cover a portion of the total costs incurred for the rehabilitation of structural measures originally constructed as part of a covered water resource project. The total costs of rehabilitation include the costs associated with all components of the rehabilitation project, including acquisition of land, easements, and rights-of-

ways, rehabilitation project administration, the provision of technical assistance, contracting, and construction costs, except that the local organization shall be responsible for securing all land, easements, or rights-of-ways necessary for the project.

(2) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE; LIMITATIONS.—The amount of Federal funds that may be made available under this subsection to a local organization for construction of a particular rehabilitation project shall be equal to ⟦65 percent⟧ *90 percent* of the total rehabilitation costs, but not to exceed 100 percent of actual construction costs incurred in the rehabilitation. However, the local organization shall be responsible for the costs of water, mineral, and other resource rights and all Federal, State, and local permits.

(3) RELATION TO LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.—As a condition on entering into an agreement to provide financial assistance under this subsection, the Secretary, working in concert with the affected unit or units of general purpose local government, may require that proper zoning or other developmental regulations are in place in the watershed in which the structural measures to be rehabilitated under the agreement are located so that—

(A) the completed rehabilitation project is not quickly rendered inadequate by additional development; and

(B) society can realize the full benefits of the rehabilitation investment.

(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AUTHORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for which assistance is provided under this section shall not be subject to—

(A) the requirement under section 2 that a project contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities, that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project; or

(B) section 4(5).

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHED PROJECT REHABILITATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may provide technical assistance in planning, designing, and implementing rehabilitation projects should a local organization request such assistance. Such assistance may consist of specialists in such fields as engineering, geology, soils, agronomy, biology, hydraulics, hydrology, economics, water quality, and contract administration.

(d) PROHIBITED USE.—

(1) PERFORMANCE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Rehabilitation assistance provided under this section may not be used to perform operation and maintenance activities specified in the agreement for the covered water resource project entered into between the Secretary and the local organization responsible for the works of improvement. Such operation and maintenance activities shall remain the responsibility of the local organization, as provided in the project work plan.

(2) RENEGOTIATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), as part of the provision of financial assistance under subsection (b), the Secretary may renegotiate the original agreement for the covered water resource project entered into between the Secretary and the local organization regarding responsibility for the oper-

ation and maintenance of the project when the rehabilitation is finished.

(e) APPLICATION FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—A local organization may apply to the Secretary for technical and financial assistance under this section if the application has also been submitted to and approved by the State agency having supervisory responsibility over the covered water resource project at issue or, if there is no State agency having such responsibility, by the Governor of the State. The Secretary shall request the State dam safety officer (or equivalent State official) to be involved in the application process if State permits or approvals are required. The rehabilitation of structural measures shall meet standards established by the Secretary and address other dam safety issues. At the request of the local organization, personnel of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture may assist in preparing applications for assistance.

(f) RANKING OF REQUESTS FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall establish such system of approving rehabilitation requests, recognizing that such requests will be received throughout the fiscal year and subject to the availability of funds to carry out this section, as is necessary for proper administration by the Department of Agriculture and equitable for all local organizations. The approval process shall be in writing, and made known to all local organizations and appropriate State agencies.

(g) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may not approve a rehabilitation request if the need for rehabilitation of the structure is the result of a lack of adequate maintenance by the party responsible for the maintenance.

(h) FUNDING.—

(1) FUNDS OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—In carrying out this section, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available, to remain available until expended—

(A) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;
(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;
(C) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
(D) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
(E) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
(F) $0 for fiscal year 2008;
(G) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, to be available until expended; and
(H) $250,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, to remain available until expended.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

(A) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;
(B) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;
(C) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
(D) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and
(E) $85,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*.

(i) ASSESSMENT OF REHABILITATION NEEDS.—The Secretary, in concert with the responsible State agencies, shall conduct an as-

sessment of the rehabilitation needs of covered water resource projects in all States in which such projects are located.

(j) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTS.—

(1) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall maintain a data base to track the benefits derived from rehabilitation projects supported under this section and the expenditures made under this section. On the basis of such data and the reports submitted under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report providing the status of activities conducted under this section.

(2) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of a specific rehabilitation project for which assistance is provided under this section, the local organization that received the assistance shall make a report to the Secretary giving the status of any rehabilitation effort undertaken using financial assistance provided under this section.

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AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT OF 1978

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TITLE IV—EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SEC. 401. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred toin this title as the "Secretary") is authorized to make payments to agricultural producers who carry out emergency measures to control wind erosion on farmlands or to rehabilitate farmlands damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, or other natural disasters when, as a result of the foregoing, new conservation problems have been created that (1) if not treated, will impair or endanger the land, (2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land, (3) represent damage that is unusual in character and, except for wind erosion, is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area, and (4) will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

(b) REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF FENCING *AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION MEASURES*.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for the repair or replacement of fencing, the Secretary shall give the agricultural producer the option of receiving not more than 25 percent of the payment, determined by the Secretary based on the applicable percentage of the fair market value of the cost of the repair or replacement, before the agricultural producer carries out the repair or replacement.]

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to repair or replace a farmland or conservation structure, the Secretary shall give the agricultural producer the option of receiving—

(A) before carrying out such replacement or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of the payment for such replacement or rehabilitation, which shall be based on the fair market value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) before carrying out such repair, not more than 50 percent of the payment for such repair, which shall be based on the fair market value of the repair, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the agricultural producer receives those funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Repair or replacement of fencing under this section may include updating of fencing to new or emerging technology if such updating does not increase the cost of the repair or replacement.

(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage with respect to which a payment may be made under subsection (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused naturally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.

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SEC. 403. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to undertake emergency watershed protection measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil-erosion prevention, in cooperation with landowners and land users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed.

(b) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—

(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological functions, and other functions and values of the land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and enhance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological restoration measures, and other restoration measures on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary may—

(A) enter into contracts with landowners; and

(B) enter into agreements with States, nongovernmental organizations, and Indian Tribes.

(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may authorize a landowner to carry out activities on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a) that are—

(A) compatible uses necessary to carry out paragraph (1) or (2); or

(B) compatible economic uses (including such activities as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, water management, or periodic haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent with the long-term protection of the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired.

[(1)**]** *(5)* MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION.—The Secretary may modify or terminate a floodplain easement administered by the Secretary under this section if—

(A) the current owner agrees to the modification or termination; and

(B) the Secretary determines that the modification or termination—

(i) will address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative; and

(ii) is in the public interest.

[(2)**]** *(6)* CONSIDERATION.—

(A) TERMINATION.—As consideration for termination of an easement and associated agreements under **[**paragraph (1)**]** *paragraph (5)*, the Secretary shall enter into compensatory arrangements as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(B) MODIFICATION.—In the case of a modification under **[**paragraph (1)**]** *paragraph (5)*—

(i) as a condition of the modification, the current owner shall enter into a compensatory arrangement (as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary) to incur the costs of modification; and

(ii) the Secretary shall ensure that—

(I) the modification will not adversely affect the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired;

(II) any adverse impacts will be mitigated by enrollment and restoration of other land that provides greater floodplain functions and values at no additional cost to the Federal Government; and

(III) the modification will result in equal or greater environmental and economic values to the United States.

(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may undertake measures that increase the level of protection above that which would be necessary to address the immediate impairment of the watershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed and the long-term protection of the watershed from repetitive impairments.

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SEC. 407. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EMERGENCY MEASURES.—The term "emergency measures" means those measures that—

(A) are necessary to address damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land, and the damage, if not treated—

(i) would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and

(ii) would materially affect future use of the land; and

(B) would restore forest health and forest-related resources on the land.

(2) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term "natural disaster" includes wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, floods, or other resource-impacting events, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—The term "nonindustrial private forest land" means rural land, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) has existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster and is suitable for growing trees); and

(B) is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may make payments to an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who carries out emergency measures to restore the land after the land is damaged by a natural disaster.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a payment under subsection (b), an owner must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the nonindustrial private forest land on which the emergency measures are carried out had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster.

(d) COST SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Payments made under subsection (b) shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the emergency measures carried out by an owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures under this section, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined by the Secretary based on the fair market value of the cost of the emergency measures using the estimated cost of the applicable practice published in the Field Office Technical Guide of each State by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned to the Secretary within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

[(e)**]** *(f)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such funds as may be necessary to carry out this section. Amounts so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

* * * * * * *

[TITLE V—HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

[Sec. 501. Establishment of healthy forests reserve program.
[Sec. 502. Eligibility and enrollment of lands in program.
[Sec. 503. Restoration plans.
[Sec. 504. Financial assistance.
[Sec. 505. Technical assistance.
[Sec. 506. Protections and measures
[Sec. 507. Involvement by other agencies and organizations.
[Sec. 508. Authorization of appropriations.]

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TITLE I—HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND

* * * * * * *

SEC. 103. PRIORITIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Implementation Plan, the Secretary shall develop an annual program of work for Federal land that gives priority to authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects that provide for the protection of at-risk communities or watersheds or that implement community wildfire protection plans.

(b) COLLABORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider recommendations under subsection (a) that are made by at-risk communities that have developed community wildfire protection plans.

(2) EXEMPTION.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the planning process and recommendations concerning community wildfire protection plans.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal agency involvement in developing a community wildfire protection plan, or a recommendation made in a community wildfire protection plan, shall not be considered a Federal agency action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) COMPLIANCE.—In implementing authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects on Federal land, the Secretary shall, in accordance with section 104, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(d) FUNDING ALLOCATION.—

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall use not less than 50 percent of the funds allocated for authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface.

(B) APPLICABILITY AND ALLOCATION.—The funding allocation in subparagraph (A) shall apply at the national level. The Secretary may allocate the proportion of funds differently than is required under subparagraph (A) within individual management units as appropriate, in particular to conduct authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects on land described in section 102(a)(4).

(C) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—In the case of an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project for which a decision notice is issued during the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall use existing definitions of the term "wildland-urban interface" rather than the definition of that term provided under section 101.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In providing financial assistance under any provision of law for hazardous fuel reduction projects on non-Federal land, the Secretary shall consider recommendations made by at-risk communities that have developed community wildfire protection plans.

(B) PRIORITY.—In allocating funding under this paragraph, the Secretary should, to the maximum extent practicable, give priority to communities that have adopted a community wildfire protection plan or have taken proactive measures to encourage willing property owners to reduce fire risk on private property.

(e) CROSS-BOUNDARY HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT.—The term "hazardous fuel reduction project" means a hazardous fuel reduction project described in paragraph (2).

(B) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" includes—

(i) State land;
(ii) county land;
(iii) Tribal land;
(iv) private land; and
(v) other non-Federal land.

(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants to State foresters to support hazardous fuel reduction projects that incorporate treatments in landscapes across ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, particularly in areas identified as priorities in applicable State-wide forest resource assessments or strategies under section 2A(a) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(a)), as mutually agreed to by the State forester and the Regional Forester.

(3) LAND TREATMENTS.—To conduct and fund treatments for hazardous fuel reduction projects carried out by State foresters using grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary may use the authorities of the Secretary relating to cooperation and technical and financial assistance, including the good neighbor authority under—

(A) section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

(B) section 331 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (16 U.S.C. 1011 note; Public Law 106–291).

(4) COOPERATION.—In carrying out a hazardous fuel reduction project using a grant under paragraph (2) on non-Federal land, the State forester, in consultation with the Secretary—

(A) shall consult with any applicable owners of the non-Federal land; and

(B) shall not implement the hazardous fuel reduction project on non-Federal land without the consent of the owner of the non-Federal land.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

* * * * * * *

SEC. 108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated $660,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031* to carry out—

(1) activities authorized by this title; and

(2) other hazardous fuel reduction activities of the Secretary, including making grants to States, local governments, Indian tribes, and other eligible recipients for activities authorized by law.

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TITLE III—WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

* * * * * * *

SEC. 303. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term "adjacent land" means non-Federal land, including State, local, and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the same watershed as, National Forest System land on which a watershed protection and restoration project is carried out under this section.

[(1)] *(2)* END WATER USER.—The term "end water user" means a non-Federal entity, including—

(A) a State;

(B) a political subdivision of a State;

(C) an Indian tribe;

(D) a utility;

(E) a municipal water system;

(F) an irrigation district;

(G) an acequia association;

(H) a local, regional, or other public entity that manages stormwater or wastewater resources or other related water infrastructure;

(I) a land-grant mercedes;

(J) a local, regional, or other private entity that has water delivery authority;

[(G)] *(K)* a nonprofit organization; and

[(H)] *(L)* a corporation.

[(2)] *(3)* FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term "forest management activity" means a project carried out by the Secretary on National Forest System land.

[(3)] *(4)* FOREST PLAN.—The term "forest plan" means a land management plan prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the National Forest System pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

[(4)] *(5)* NON-FEDERAL PARTNER.—The term "non-Federal partner" means an end water user with whom the Secretary has entered into a partnership agreement under subsection (c)(1).

[(5)] *(6)* PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the Water Source Protection Program established under subsection (b).

[(6)] *(7)* SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

[(7)] *(8)* WATER SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "water source management plan" means the water source management plan developed under subsection (d)(1).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—[The Secretary shall]

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a program, to be known as the "Water Source Protection Program", to carry out watershed protection and restoration projects on National Forest System land.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection and restoration project under the Program shall be designed to—

(A) protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, a municipal or agricultural water supply system, and water-related infrastructure;

(B) protect and restore forest health from insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

(C) advance any combination of the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed protection and restoration projects under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(A) provide risk management benefits associated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience to climate change; and watershed and fire resilience, including minimizing risks to watershed health, water supply and quality, and water-related infrastructure, including municipal and agricultural water supply systems;

(B) support aquatic restoration and conservation efforts that complement existing or planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduction efforts; or

(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water supply or quality and include the use of nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetland and riparian ecosystems.

(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity may be carried out under this section on adjacent land unless the owner of the adjacent land agrees in writing that the owner is a

willing and engaged partner in carrying out that project or activity.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any change in—

(i) the ownership of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section; or

(ii) the management of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section, except during the carrying out of that project or activity.

(c) WATER SOURCE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary may enter into water source investment partnership agreements with end water users to protect and restore the condition of National Forest [watersheds that provide water to the end water users.] *watersheds, and lands adjacent to any such watershed, that provide water—*

(A) to the end water users subject to the agreement; or

(B) for the benefit of another end water user.

(2) FORM.—A partnership agreement described in paragraph (1) may take the form of—

(A) a memorandum of understanding;

(B) a cost-share or collection agreement;

(C) a long-term funding matching commitment; [or]

(D) a good neighbor agreement entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or

[(D)] *(E)* another appropriate instrument, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation under this section.

(d) WATER SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary, in cooperation with the non-Federal partners and applicable State, local, and Tribal governments, may develop a water source management plan that describes the proposed implementation of watershed protection and restoration projects under the Program.

[(2) REQUIREMENT.—A water source management plan shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land on which the watershed protection and restoration project is carried out.]

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source management plan shall be—

(A) designed to protect and restore ecological integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

(B) based on the best available scientific information; and

(C) conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land on which the watershed protection and restoration project is carried out.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.—The Secretary may conduct a single environmental impact statement or similar analysis

required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)—

(A) for each watershed protection and restoration project included in the water source management plan; or

(B) as part of the development of, or after the finalization of, the water source management plan.

(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and restoration action plan developed under section 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning documents as approved by the Secretary may be used as the basis for a water source management plan under this subsection.

(e) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that forest management activities are necessary to protect, maintain, or enhance water quality, and in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out forest management activities as part of watershed protection and restoration projects carried out on National Forest System land, with the *primary purpose of advancing any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).* [primary purpose of—]

[(A) protecting a municipal water supply system;

[(B) restoring forest health from insect infestations and disease; or

[(C) any combination of the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).]

(2) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall carry out forest management activities under paragraph (1) in accordance with—

(A) this Act;

(B) the applicable water source management plan;

(C) the applicable forest plan; and

(D) other applicable laws.

(f) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary may use the Manual on Adaptive Management of the Department of the Interior, including any associated guidance, to comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(g) FUNDS AND SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary may accept and use funding, services, and other forms of investment and assistance from non-Federal partners to implement the water source management plan.

[(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners to be in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of Federal funds.]

(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners to be in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal funds.

(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in subparagraph (A) may be waived at the discretion of the Secretary.

(3) MANNER OF USE.—The Secretary may accept and use investments described in paragraph (1) directly or indirectly through the National Forest Foundation.

(4) WATER SOURCE PROTECTION FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may establish a Water Source Protection Fund to match funds or in-kind support contributed by non-Federal partners under paragraph (1).

(B) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years [2019 through 2023] *2027 through 2031*.

(C) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may make multiyear commitments, if necessary, to implement 1 or more partnership agreements under subsection (c).

(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner planning and technical assistance efforts in developing or implementing a water source management plan under subsection (d).

SEC. 304. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the "Secretary"), may establish and maintain a Watershed Condition Framework for National Forest System land—

(1) to evaluate and classify the condition of watersheds, taking into consideration—

(A) water quality and quantity;

(B) aquatic habitat and biota;

(C) riparian and wetland vegetation;

(D) the presence of roads and trails;

(E) soil type and condition;

(F) groundwater-dependent ecosystems;

(G) relevant terrestrial indicators, such as fire regime, risk of catastrophic fire, forest and rangeland vegetation, invasive species, and insects and disease; and

(H) other significant factors, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) to identify for protection and restoration up to 5 priority watersheds in each National Forest, and up to 2 priority watersheds in each national grassland, taking into consideration the impact of the condition of the watershed condition on—

(A) wildfire behavior;

(B) flood risk;

(C) fish and wildlife;

(D) drinking water supplies;

(E) irrigation water supplies;

(F) forest-dependent communities; and

(G) other significant impacts, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) to develop a watershed [protection and] restoration action plan for each priority watershed that—

(A) takes into account existing restoration activities being implemented in the watershed; and

(B) includes, at a minimum—

(i) the major stressors responsible for the impaired condition of the watershed;

(ii) a set of essential projects that, once completed, will address the identified stressors and improve watershed conditions;

(iii) a proposed implementation schedule;

(iv) potential partners and funding sources; and

(v) a monitoring and evaluation program;

(4) to prioritize protection and restoration activities for each watershed restoration action plan;

(5) to implement each watershed [protection and] restoration action plan; and

(6) to monitor the effectiveness of protection and restoration actions and indicators of watershed health.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate with interested non-Federal landowners and State, Tribal, and local governments within the relevant watershed; and

(2) provide for an active and ongoing public engagement process.

(c) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subsection (a), the Secretary may identify a watershed as a priority for rehabilitation in the Watershed Condition Framework without using the process described in that subsection if a Forest Supervisor determines that—

(1) a wildfire has significantly diminished the condition of the watershed; and

(2) the emergency stabilization activities of the Burned Area Emergency Response Team are insufficient to return the watershed to proper function.

TITLE IV—INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES

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SEC. 406. TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.

The authority provided by this title terminates effective [October 1, 2023] *October 1, 2031.*

[TITLE V—HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

[SEC. 501. ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the healthy forests reserve program for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems—

[(1) to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species;

[(2) to improve biodiversity;

[(3) to conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in section 502(b); and

[(4) to enhance carbon sequestration.

[(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out the healthy forests reserve program in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce.

[SEC. 502. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT OF LANDS IN PROGRAM.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall describe and define forest ecosystems that are eligible for enrollment in the healthy forests reserve program.

[(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for enrollment in the healthy forests reserve program, land shall be private forest land, or private land being restored to forest land, the enrollment of which will maintain, restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

[(1) increase the likelihood of recovery of a species that is listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); or

[(2) improve the well-being of a species that—

[(A) is—

[(i) not listed as endangered or threatened under such section; and

[(ii) a candidate for such listing, a State-listed species, or a special concern species; or

[(B) is deemed a species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

[(c) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—In enrolling land that satisfies the criteria under subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall give additional consideration to land the enrollment of which will—

[(1) improve biological diversity;

[(2) conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in subsection (b); and

[(3) increase carbon sequestration.

[(d) ENROLLMENT BY WILLING OWNERS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enroll land in the healthy forests reserve program only with the consent of the owner of the land.

[(e) METHODS OF ENROLLMENT.—

[(1) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—Land may be enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program in accordance with—

[(A) a 10-year cost-share agreement;

[(B) a 30-year easement; or

[(C)(i) a permanent easement; or

[(ii) in a State that imposes a maximum duration for easements, an easement for the maximum duration allowed under State law.

[(2) ACREAGE OWNED BY INDIAN TRIBES.—

[(A) DEFINITION OF ACREAGE OWNED BY INDIAN TRIBES.—In this paragraph, the term "acreage owned by Indian tribes" includes—

[(i) land that is held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individual Indians;

[(ii) land, the title to which is held by Indian tribes or individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance;

[(iii) land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian tribes;

[(iv) land that is held in fee title by an Indian tribe; or

[(v) land that is owned by a native corporation formed under section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (25 U.S.C. 477) or section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); or

[(vi) a combination of 1 or more types of land described in clauses (i) through (v).

[(B) ENROLLMENT OF ACREAGE.—In the case of acreage owned by an Indian tribe, the Secretary may enroll acreage into the healthy forests reserve program through the use of—

[(i) a 30-year contract (the value of which shall be equivalent to the value of a 30-year easement);

[(ii) a 10-year cost-share agreement;

[(iii) a permanent easement; or

[(iv) any combination of the options described in clauses (i) through (iii).

[(f) ENROLLMENT PRIORITY.—

[(1) SPECIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to the enrollment of land that provides the greatest conservation benefit to—

[(A) primarily, species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

[(B) secondarily, species that—

[(i) are not listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); but

[(ii)(I) are candidates for such listing, State-listed species, or special concern species; or

[(II) are deemed a species of greatest conservation need under a State wildlife action plan.

[(2) COST-EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall also consider the cost-effectiveness of each agreement or easement, and associated restoration plans, so as to maximize the environmental benefits per dollar expended.

[(g) EASEMENT MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may modify or terminate an easement or other interest in land administered by the Secretary under this title if—

[(A) the owner of the land agrees to the modification or termination; and

[(B) the Secretary determines that the modification or termination—

[(i) will address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative; and

[(ii) is in the public interest.

[(2) CONSIDERATION; CONDITIONS.—

[(A) TERMINATION.—As consideration for termination of an easement or other interest in land under this sub-

section, the Secretary shall enter into a compensatory arrangement, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

[(B) MODIFICATION.—In the case of a modification of an easement or other interest in land under this subsection—

[(i) as a condition of the modification, the owner of the land shall enter into a compensatory arrangement, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, to incur the costs of modification; and

[(ii) the Secretary shall ensure that—

[(I) the modification will not adversely affect the forest ecosystem functions and values for which the easement or other interest in land was acquired;

[(II) any adverse impacts will be mitigated by enrollment and restoration of other land that provides greater forest ecosystem functions and values at no additional cost to the Federal Government; and

[(III) the modification will result in equal or greater environmental and economic values to the United States.

[SEC. 503. RESTORATION PLANS.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program shall be subject to a restoration plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior.

[(b) PRACTICES.—The restoration plan shall require such restoration practices and measures as are necessary to restore and enhance habitat for species described in section 502(b), including the following:

[(1) Land management practices.

[(2) Vegetative treatments.

[(3) Structural practices and measures.

[(4) Practices to increase carbon sequestration.

[(5) Practices to improve biological diversity.

[(6) Other practices and measures.

[SEC. 504. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

[(a) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using a permanent easement (or an easement described in section 502(f)(1)(C)(ii)), the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not less than 75 percent, nor more than 100 percent, of (as determined by the Secretary)—

[(1) the fair market value of the enrolled land during the period the land is subject to the easement, less the fair market value of the land encumbered by the easement; and

[(2) the actual costs of the approved conservation practices or the average cost of approved practices carried out on the land during the period in which the land is subject to the easement.

[(b) THIRTY-YEAR EASEMENT.—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using a 30-year easement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not more than (as determined by the Secretary)—

[(1) 75 percent of the fair market value of the land, less the fair market value of the land encumbered by the easement; and

[(2) 75 percent of the actual costs of the approved conservation practices or 75 percent of the average cost of approved practices.

[(c) TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT.—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using a 10-year cost-share agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not more than (as determined by the Secretary)—

[(1) fifty percent of the actual costs of the approved conservation practices; or

[(2) fifty percent of the average cost of approved practices.

[(d) ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may accept and use contributions of non-Federal funds to make payments under this section.

[SEC. 505. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide landowners with technical assistance to assist the owners in complying with the terms of plans (as included in agreements or easements) under the healthy forests reserve program.

[(b) TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may request the services of, and enter into cooperative agreements with, individuals or entities certified as technical service providers under section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842), to assist the Secretary in providing technical assistance necessary to develop and implement the healthy forests reserve program.

[SEC. 506. PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.

[(a) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a landowner that enrolls land in the program and whose conservation activities result in a net conservation benefit for listed, candidate, or other species, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

[(1) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

[(2) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

[(b) MEASURES.—If protection under subsection (a) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the applicable restoration plan agreed to under section 503, the cost of the additional measures, as well as the cost of any permit, shall be considered part of the restoration plan for purposes of financial assistance under section 504.

[SEC. 507. INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

[In carrying out this title, the Secretary of Agriculture may consult with—

[(1) nonindustrial private forest landowners;

[(2) other Federal agencies;

[(3) State fish and wildlife agencies;

[(4) State forestry agencies;

[(5) State environmental quality agencies;

[(6) other State conservation agencies; and

[(7) nonprofit conservation organizations.

[SEC. 508. FUNDING.

[(a) FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2013.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available $9,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012 to carry out this title.

[(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this section $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.

[(c) ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may use such amount of the funds appropriated for that fiscal year to carry out the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590a et seq.) as the Secretary determines necessary to cover the cost of technical assistance, management, and enforcement responsibilities for land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of section 504.

[(d) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—The funds made available under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.]

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

* * * * * * *

SEC. 602. DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.

(a) DEFINITION OF DECLINING FOREST HEALTH.—In this section, the term "declining forest health" means a forest that is experiencing—

(1) substantially increased tree mortality due to insect or disease infestation; or

(2) dieback due to infestation or defoliation by insects or disease.

(b) DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.—

(1) INITIAL AREAS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the Secretary shall, if requested by the Governor of the State, designate as part of an insect and disease treatment program 1 or more landscape-scale areas, such as subwatersheds (sixth-level hydrologic units, according to the System of Hydrologic Unit Codes of the United States Geological Survey), in at least 1 national forest in each State that is experiencing an insect or disease epidemic.

(2) ADDITIONAL AREAS.—After the end of the 60-day period described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may designate additional landscape-scale areas under this section as needed to address insect or disease threats.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—To be designated a landscape-scale area under subsection (b), the area shall be—

(1) experiencing declining forest health, based on annual forest health surveys conducted by the Secretary;

(2) at risk of experiencing substantially increased tree mortality over the next 15 years due to insect or disease infestation, based on the most recent National Insect and Disease Risk Map published by the Forest Service; or

(3) in an area in which the risk of hazard trees poses an imminent risk to public infrastructure, health, or safety.

(d) TREATMENT OF AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out priority projects on Federal land in the areas designated under subsection (b)—

(A) to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, insect or disease infestation; or

(B) to reduce hazardous fuels.

(2) AUTHORITY.—Any project under paragraph (1) for which a public notice to initiate scoping is issued on or before September 30, [2023] *2031*, may be carried out in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 102, and sections 104, 105, and 106.

(3) EFFECT.—Projects carried out under this subsection shall be considered authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects for purposes of the authorities described in paragraph (2).

(4) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the schedule described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall issue 2 reports on actions taken to carry out this subsection, including—

(i) an evaluation of the progress towards project goals; and

(ii) recommendations for modifications to the projects and management treatments.

(B) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall—

(i) not earlier than September 30, 2018, issue the initial report under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) not earlier than September 30, 2024, issue the second report under that subparagraph.

(e) TREE RETENTION.—The Secretary shall carry out projects under subsection (d) in a manner that maximizes the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease.

SEC. 603. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d), a project described in subsection (b) that is conducted in accordance with section 602(d) may be—

(1) considered an action categorically excluded from the requirements of Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) exempt from the special administrative review process under section 105.

(b) COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A project referred to in subsection (a) is a project to carry out forest restoration treatments that—

(A) maximizes the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease;

(B) considers the best available scientific information to maintain or restore the ecological integrity, including maintaining or restoring structure, function, composition, and connectivity; and

(C) is developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(i) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and

(ii)(I) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

(II) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under subsections (c) through (f) of section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125).

(2) INCLUSION.—A project under this subsection may carry out part of a proposal that complies with the eligibility requirements of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program under section 4003(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)).

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) PROJECT SIZE.—A project under this section may not exceed ⟦3000 acres⟧ *10,000 acres*.

(2) LOCATION.—A project under this section shall be limited to areas—

(A) in the wildland-urban interface; or

(B) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) ROADS.—

(A) PERMANENT ROADS.—

(i) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A project under this section shall not include the establishment of permanent roads.

(ii) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary may carry out necessary maintenance and repairs on existing permanent roads for the purposes of this section.

(B) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under a project under this section not later than 3 years after the date on which the project is completed.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—This section does not apply to—

(1) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) any Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(3) a congressionally designated wilderness study area; or

(4) an area in which activities under subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.

(e) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS.—All projects and activities carried out under this section shall be consistent with the land and resource management plan established under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604) for the unit of the National Forest System containing the projects and activities.

(f) PUBLIC NOTICE AND SCOPING.—The Secretary shall conduct public notice and scoping for any project or action proposed in accordance with this section.

(g) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare an annual report on the use of categorical exclusions under this section that includes a description of all acres (or other appropriate unit) treated through projects carried out under this section.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit the reports required under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 604. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHIEF.—The term "Chief" means the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) PROJECTS.—The Chief and the Director, via agreement or contract as appropriate, may enter into stewardship contracting projects with private persons or other public or private entities to perform services to achieve land management goals for the national forests and the public lands that meet local and rural community needs*, including retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or contract under this subsection*.

(c) LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS.—The land management goals of a project under subsection (b) may include any of the following:

(1) Road and trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality.

(2) Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values.

(3) Setting of prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of stands or to improve wildlife habitat.

(4) Removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forest stands, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives.

(5) Watershed restoration and maintenance.

(6) Restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish.

(7) Control of noxious and exotic weeds and reestablishing native plant species.

(d) AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS.—

(1) PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE.—A source for performance of an agreement or contract under subsection (b) shall be selected on a best-value basis, including consideration of source under other public and private agreements or contracts.

(2) CONTRACT FOR SALE OF PROPERTY.—A contract entered into under this section may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be considered a contract for the sale of property

under such terms as the Secretary may prescribe without regard to any other provision of law.

(3) TERM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chief and the Director may enter into a contract under subsection (b) in accordance with section 3903 of title 41, United States Code.

(B) MAXIMUM.—The period of the contract under subsection (b) may exceed 5 years but may not exceed [10 years] *20 years*.

(4) OFFSETS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief and the Director may apply the value of timber or other forest products removed as an offset against the cost of services received under the agreement or contract described in subsection (b).

(B) METHODS OF APPRAISAL.—The value of timber or other forest products used as an offset under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall be determined using appropriate methods of appraisal commensurate with the quantity of products to be removed; and

(ii) may—

(I) be determined using a unit of measure appropriate to the contracts; and

(II) may include valuing products on a per-acre basis.

(5) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a), the Chief may enter into an agreement or contract under subsection (b). Notwithstanding the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 602(a)),the Director may enter into an agreement or contract undersubsection (b).

(6) CONTRACTING OFFICER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior may determine the appropriate contracting officer to enter into and administer an agreement or contract under subsection (b).

(7) FIRE LIABILITY PROVISIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Chief shall issue for use in all contracts and agreements under this section fire liability provisions that are in substantially the same form as the fire liability provisions contained in—

(A) integrated resource timber contracts, as described in the Forest Service contract numbered 2400–13, part H, section H.4; and

(B) timber sale contracts conducted pursuant to section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a).

(e) RECEIPTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief and the Director may collect monies from an agreement or contract under subsection (b) if the collection is a secondary objective of negotiating the contract that will best achieve the purposes of this section.

(2) USE.—Monies from an agreement or contract under subsection (b)—

(A) may be retained by the Chief and the Director; and

(B) shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation at the project site from which the monies are collected or at another project site.

(3) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the value of services received by the Chief or the Director under a stewardship contract project conducted under this section, and any payments made or resources provided by the contractor, Chief, or Director shall not be considered monies received from the National Forest System or the public lands.

(B) KNUTSON-VANDERBERG ACT.—The Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the "Knutson-Vanderberg Act") (16 U.S.C. 576 et seq.) shall not apply to any agreement or contract under subsection (b).

(f) COSTS OF REMOVAL.—Notwithstanding the fact that a contractor did not harvest the timber, the Chief may collect deposits from a contractor covering the costs of removal of timber or other forest products under—

(1) the Act of August 11, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 490); and

(2) the Act of June 30, 1914 (16 U.S.C. 498).

(g) PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT GUARANTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief and the Director may require performance and payment bonds under sections 28.103–2 and 28.103–3 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, in an amount that the contracting officer considers sufficient to protect the investment in receipts by the Federal Government generated by the contractor from the estimated value of the forest products to be removed under a contract under subsection (b).

(2) EXCESS OFFSET VALUE.—If the offset value of the forest products exceeds the value of the resource improvement treatments, the Chief and the Director may—

(A) use the excess to satisfy any outstanding liabilities for cancelled agreements or contracts; or

(B) if there are no outstanding liabilities described in subparagraph (A), apply the excess to other authorized stewardship projects.

(h) CANCELLATION CEILINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3903(b)(1) of title 41, United States Code, the Chief and the Director may obligate funds in stages that are economically or programmatically viable to cover any potential cancellation or termination costs for an agreement or contract under subsection (b).

(2) ADVANCE NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF CANCELLATION CEILING IN EXCESS OF $25,000,000.—Not later than 30 days before entering into a multiyear agreement or contract under subsection (b) that includes a cancellation ceiling in excess of $25,000,000, but does not include proposed funding for the costs of cancelling the agreement or contract up to that cancellation ceiling, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a written notice that includes—

(A) a description of the cancellation ceiling amounts proposed for each program year in the agreement or contract;

(B) the reasons why the cancellation ceiling amounts described under subparagraph (A) were selected;

(C) a description of the extent to which the costs of contract cancellation are not included in the budget for the agreement or contract; and

(D) an assessment of the financial risk of not including budgeting for the costs of agreement or contract cancellation.

(3) TRANSMITTAL OF NOTICE TO OMB.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which written notice is provided under paragraph (2), the Chief or the Director, as appropriate, shall transmit a copy of the notice to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the term "multiyear contract" means a contract entered into under subsection (b) that—

(i) has a term of at least 5 years; and

(ii) is entered into on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Director with an entity shall provide that, in the case of cancellation or termination of the multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall provide to the entity a cancellation or termination payment equal to the lesser of—

(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of the multiyear contract; or

(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract (including the term canceled).

(i) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief and the Director shall establish a multiparty monitoring and evaluation process that accesses the stewardship contracting projects conducted under this section.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Other than the Chief and Director, participants in the process described in paragraph (1) may include—

(A) any cooperating governmental agencies, including tribal governments; and

(B) any other interested groups or individuals.

(j) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Chief and the Director shall submit to the congressional committees described in subsection (h)(2) a report on—

(1) the status of development, execution, and administration of agreements or contracts under subsection (b);

(2) the specific accomplishments that have resulted; and

(3) the role of local communities in the development of agreements or contract plans.

SEC. 605. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Hazardous fuels reduction projects, as defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(2)) may be—

(1) carried out in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 102 and sections 104 and 105;

(2) considered an action categorically excluded from the requirements of Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(3) exempt from the special administrative review process under section 105.

(b) COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECT—

(1) IN GENERAL—A project referred to in subsection (a) is a project to carry out forest restoration treatments that—

(A) maximizes the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease, and reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, wildfires;

(B) considers the best available scientific information to maintain or restore the ecological integrity, including maintaining or restoring structure, function, composition, and connectivity; and

(C) is developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(i) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and

(ii)(I) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

(II) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under subsections (c) through (f) of section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125).

(2) INCLUSION—A project under this subsection may carry out part of a proposal that complies with the eligibility requirements of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program under section 4003(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)).

(c) LIMITATIONS—

(1) PROJECT SIZE—A project under this section may not exceed [3000 acres] *10,000 acres*.

(2) LOCATION—A project under this section shall be—

(A) Prioritized within the wildland-urban interface;

(B) If located outside the wildland-urban interface, limited to areas within Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III that contain very high wildfire hazard potential; and

(C) Limited to areas designated under section 602(b) as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) ROADS—

(A) PERMANENT ROADS—

(i) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT—A project under this section shall not include the establishment of permanent roads.

(ii) EXISTING ROADS—The Secretary may carry out necessary maintenance and repairs on existing permanent roads for the purposes of this section.

(B) TEMPORARY ROADS—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under a project under this section not later than 3 years after the date on which the project is completed.

(4) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES—The Secretary shall apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, code of Federal regulations (or successor regulations), when using the categorical exclusion under this section.

(d) EXCLUSIONS—This section does not apply to—

(1) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) any Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(3) a congressionally designated wilderness study area; or

(4) an area in which activities under subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.

(e) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS—All projects and activities carried out under this section shall be consistent with the land and resource management plan established under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604) for the unit of the National Forest System containing the projects and activities.

(f) PUBLIC NOTICE AND SCOPING—The Secretary shall conduct public notice and scoping for any project or action proposed in accordance with this section.

(g) ACCOUNTABILITY—

(1) IN GENERAL—The Secretary shall prepare an annual report on the use of categorical exclusions under this section that includes a description of all acres (or other appropriate unit) treated through projects carried out under this section.

(2) SUBMISSION—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit the reports required under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 606. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABITAT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "covered vegetation management activity" means any activity described in subparagraph (B) that—

(i)(I) is carried out on National Forest System land administered by the Forest Service; or

(II) is carried out on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management;

[(ii) with respect to public land, meets the objectives of the order of the Secretary of the Interior numbered 3336 and dated January 5, 2015;]

[(iii)] *(ii)* conforms to an applicable forest plan or land use plan;

[(iv)] *(iii)* protects, restores, or improves greater sage-grouse or mule deer habitat [in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem] as described in—

(I) Circular 1416 of the United States Geological Survey entitled "Restoration Handbook for Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystems with Emphasis on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat—Part 1. Concepts for Understanding and Applying Restoration" (2015); or

(II) the habitat guidelines for mule deer published by the Mule Deer Working Group of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

[(v)] *(iv)* will not permanently impair—

(I) the natural state of the treated area;

(II) outstanding opportunities for solitude;

(III) outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation;

(IV) economic opportunities consistent with multiple-use management; or

(V) the identified values of a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System;

[(vi)] *(v)*(I) restores native vegetation following a natural disturbance;

(II) prevents the expansion into greater sage-grouse or mule deer habitat of—

(aa) juniper, pinyon pine, or other associated conifers; or

(bb) nonnative or invasive vegetation;

(III) reduces the risk of loss of greater sage-grouse or mule deer habitat from wildfire or any other natural disturbance; or

(IV) provides emergency stabilization of soil resources after a natural disturbance; and

[(vii)] *(vi)* provides for the conduct of restoration treatments that—

(I) maximize the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type;

(II) consider the best available scientific information to maintain or restore the ecological integrity, including maintaining or restoring structure, function, composition, and connectivity;

(III) are developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(aa) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and

(bb)(AA) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

(BB) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under subsections (c) through (f) of section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125); and

(IV) may include the implementation of a proposal that complies with the eligibility requirements of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program under section 4003(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)).

(B) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—An activity referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

(i) manual cutting and removal of juniper trees, pinyon pine trees, other associated conifers, or other nonnative or invasive vegetation;

(ii) mechanical mastication, cutting, or mowing, mechanical piling and burning, chaining, broadcast burning, or yarding;

(iii) removal of cheat grass, medusa head rye, or other nonnative, invasive vegetation;

(iv) collection and seeding or planting of native vegetation using a manual, mechanical, or aerial method;

(v) seeding of nonnative, noninvasive, ruderal vegetation only for the purpose of emergency stabilization;

(vi) targeted use of an herbicide, subject to the condition that the use shall be in accordance with applicable legal requirements, Federal agency procedures, and land use plans;

(vii) targeted livestock grazing to mitigate hazardous fuels and control noxious and invasive weeds;

(viii) temporary removal of wild horses or burros in the area in which the activity is being carried out to ensure treatment objectives are met;

(ix) in coordination with the affected permit holder, modification or adjustment of permissible usage under an annual plan of use of a grazing permit issued by the Secretary concerned to achieve restoration treatment objectives;

(x) installation of new, or modification of existing, fencing or water sources intended to control use or improve wildlife habitat; or

(xi) necessary maintenance of, repairs to, rehabilitation of, or reconstruction of an existing permanent road or construction of temporary roads to accomplish the activities described in this subparagraph.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "covered vegetation management activity" does not include—

(i) any activity conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area;

(ii) any activity for the construction of a permanent road or permanent trail;

(iii) any activity conducted on Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclama-

tion, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(iv) any activity conducted in an area in which activities under subparagraph (B) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan; or

(v) any activity conducted in an inventoried roadless area.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public land.

(3) TEMPORARY ROAD.—The term "temporary road" means a road that is—

(A) authorized—

(i) by a contract, permit, lease, other written authorization; or

(ii) pursuant to an emergency operation;

(B) not intended to be part of the permanent transportation system of a Federal department or agency;

(C) not necessary for long-term resource management;

(D) designed in accordance with standards appropriate for the intended use of the road, taking into consideration—

(i) safety;

(ii) the cost of transportation; and

(iii) impacts to land and resources; and

(E) managed to minimize—

(i) erosion; and

(ii) the introduction or spread of invasive species.

(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary concerned shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) for covered vegetation management activities carried out to protect, restore, or improve habitat for greater sage-grouse or mule deer.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and administering the categorical exclusion under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) with respect to National Forest System land, apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), in determining whether to use the categorical exclusion;

(C) with respect to public land, apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 46.215 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), in determining whether to use the categorical exclusion; and

(D) consider—

(i) the relative efficacy of landscape-scale habitat projects;

(ii) the likelihood of continued declines in the populations of greater sage-grouse and mule deer in the absence of landscape-scale vegetation management; and

(iii) the need for habitat restoration activities after wildfire or other natural disturbances.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF COVERED VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE RANGE OF GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER.—If the categorical exclusion developed under subsection (b) is used to implement a covered vegetative management activity in an area within the range of both greater sage-grouse and mule deer, the covered vegetative management activity shall protect, restore, or improve habitat [concurrently for both greater sage-grouse and] *for greater sage-grouse or* mule deer.

(d) LONG-TERM MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE.—Before commencing any covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b), the Secretary concerned shall develop a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan, covering at least the 20-year period beginning on the date of commencement, to ensure that management of the treated area does not degrade the habitat gains secured by the covered vegetation management activity.

(e) DISPOSAL OF VEGETATIVE MATERIAL.—Subject to applicable local restrictions, any vegetative material resulting from a covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) may be—

(1) used for—

(A) fuel wood; or

(B) other products; or

(2) piled or burned, or both.

(f) TREATMENT FOR TEMPORARY ROADS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1)(B)(xi), any temporary road constructed in carrying out a covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b)—

(A) shall be used by the Secretary concerned for the covered vegetation management activity for not more than 2 years; and

(B) shall be decommissioned by the Secretary concerned not later than 3 years after the earlier of the date on which—

(i) the temporary road is no longer needed; and

(ii) the project is completed.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—A treatment under paragraph (1) shall include reestablishing native vegetative cover—

(A) as soon as practicable; but

(B) not later than 10 years after the date of completion of the applicable covered vegetation management activity.

[(g) LIMITATIONS.—

[(1) PROJECT SIZE.—A covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres.

[(2) LOCATION.—A covered vegetation management activity carried out on National Forest System land that is covered by

the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) shall be limited to areas designated under section 602(b), as of the date of enactment of this section.]

(g) LIMITATION.—A covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a forested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland ecosystem.

FOOD FOR PEACE ACT

* * * * * * *

TITLE II—EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The President shall establish a program under this title [(to be implemented by the Administrator)] *(to be implemented by the Secretary)* to provide agricultural commodities to foreign countries on behalf of the people of the United States to—

(1) address famine and food crises, and respond to emergency food needs, arising from man-made and natural disasters;

(2) combat malnutrition, especially in children and mothers;

(3) carry out activities that attempt to alleviate the causes of hunger, mortality and morbidity;

(4) promote economic and community development;

(5) promote food security and support sound environmental practices;

(6) carry out feeding programs; and

(7) build resilience to mitigate and prevent food crises and reduce the future need for emergency aid.

SEC. 202. PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

(a) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding [any other provision of law] *any other provision of this Act*, the [Administrator] *Secretary* may provide agricultural commodities to meet emergency food needs under this title through governments and public or private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations such as the World Food Program and other multilateral organizations, in such manner and on such terms and conditions as the [Administrator] *Secretary* determines appropriate to respond to the emergency.

(b) NONEMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* may provide *assistance, including in the form of* agricultural commodities for nonemergency assistance under this title through eligible organizations (as described in subsection (d)) that have entered into an agreement with the [Administrator] *Secretary* to use the commodities in accordance with this title.

(2) LIMITATION.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* may not use as a sole rationale for denying a request for funds submitted under this subsection because the program for which the funds are requested—

(A) would be carried out by the eligible organization in a foreign country in which the [Agency for International Development] *Department of Agriculture* does not have a mission, office, or other presence; or

(B) is not part of a development plan for the country prepared by the [Agency] *Department*.

(3) PROGRAM DIVERSITY.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall—

(A) encourage eligible organizations to propose and implement program plans to address 1 or more aspects of the program under section 201; and

(B) consider proposals that incorporate a variety of program objectives and strategic plans based on the identification by eligible organizations of appropriate activities, consistent with section 201, to assist development of foreign countries.

(c) USES OF ASSISTANCE.—Agricultural commodities provided under this title may be made available for direct distribution, sale, barter, or other appropriate disposition.

(d) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—To be eligible to receive assistance under subsection (b) an organization shall be—

(1) a private voluntary organization or cooperative that is, to the extent practicable, registered with the [Administrator] *Secretary*; [or]

(2) an intergovernmental organization, such as the World Food Program[.]*; or*

(3) a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the [Administrator] *Secretary*, not less than 7.5 percent nor more than 20 percent of the funds shall be made available in each fiscal year to eligible organizations described in subsection (d), to assist the organizations in—

(A) establishing and enhancing programs under this title;

(B) meeting specific administrative, management, personnel, transportation, storage, and distribution costs for carrying out programs in foreign countries under this title;

(C) implementing income-generating, community development, health, nutrition, cooperative development, agricultural, and other developmental activities within 1 or more recipient countries or within 1 or more countries in the same region; and

(D) improving and implementing methodologies for food aid programs, including needs assessments (upon the request of the [Administrator] *Secretary*), monitoring, and evaluation.

(2) REQUEST FOR FUNDS.—To receive funds made available under paragraph (1), an eligible organization described in subsection (d) shall submit a request for the funds that is subject to approval by the [Administrator] *Secretary*.

(3) ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO SALE.—Upon the request of an eligible organization, the [Administrator] *Secretary* may provide assistance to the eligible organization with respect to

the sale of agricultural commodities made available to it under this title.

(4) INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.—An eligible organization that receives funds made available under paragraph (1) may invest the funds pending the eligible organization's use of the funds. Any interest earned on such investment may be used for the purposes for which the assistance was provided to the eligible organization without further appropriation by Congress.

(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50 percent may be made available for expenses other than the procurement of United States-grown agricultural commodities and ocean transportation of such commodities.

(f) EFFECTIVE USE OF COMMODITIES.—To ensure that agricultural commodities made available under this title are used effectively and in the areas of greatest need, organizations or cooperatives through which such commodities are distributed shall—

(1) to the extent feasible, work with indigenous institutions and employ indigenous workers;

(2) assess and take into account nutritional and other needs of beneficiary groups;

(3) help such beneficiary groups design and carry out mutually acceptable projects;

(4) recommend to the ⟦Administrator⟧ *Secretary* methods of making assistance available that are the most appropriate for each local setting;

(5) supervise the distribution of commodities provided and the implementation of programs carried out under this title; and

(6) periodically evaluate the effectiveness of projects undertaken under this title.

(g) LABELING OF ASSISTANCE.—Agricultural commodities and other assistance provided under this title shall, to the extent practicable, be clearly identified with appropriate markings on the package or container of such agricultural commodities or food procured outside of the United States, or on printed material that accompanies other assistance, in the language of the locality in which such commodities and other assistance are distributed, as being furnished by the people of the United States of America.

(h) FOOD AID QUALITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The ⟦Administrator⟧ *Secretary* shall use funds made available for fiscal year 2014 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out this title—

(A) to assess the types and quality of agricultural commodities and products donated for food aid;

(B) to adjust products and formulations, including potential introduction of new fortificants and products, as necessary to cost-effectively meet nutrient needs of target populations;

(C) to test prototypes;

(D) to adopt new specifications or improve existing specifications for micronutrient fortified food aid products, based on the latest developments in food and nutrition science, and in coordination with other international partners;

(E) to develop new program guidance to facilitate improved matching of products to purposes having nutritional intent, in coordination with other international partners;

(F) to develop improved guidance for implementing partners on how to address nutritional deficiencies that emerge among recipients for whom food assistance is the sole source of diet in emergency programs that extend beyond 1 year, in coordination with other international partners; and

(G) to evaluate, in appropriate settings and as necessary, the performance and cost-effectiveness of new or modified specialized food products and program approaches designed to meet the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and lactating mothers, and children under the age of 5.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The [Administrator] *Secretary*—

(A) shall carry out this subsection in consultation with and through independent entities with proven expertise in food aid commodity quality enhancements;

(B) may enter into contracts to obtain the services of such entities; and

(C) shall consult with the Food Aid Consultative Group on how to carry out this subsection.

(3) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Of the funds made available under section 207(f), for fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*, not more than $4,500,000 may be used to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 203. GENERATION AND USE OF CURRENCIES BY PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND COOPERATIVES.

(a) LOCAL SALE AND BARTER OF COMMODITIES.—An agreement entered into between the [Administrator] *Secretary* and a private voluntary organization or cooperative to provide food assistance through such organization or cooperative under this title may provide for the sale or barter in 1 or more recipient countries, or 1 or more countries in the same region, of the commodities to be provided under such agreement to generate proceeds to be used as provided in this section.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF INTENDED USES.—A private voluntary organization or cooperative submitting a proposal to enter into a non-emergency food assistance agreement under this title shall include in such proposal a description of the intended uses of any proceeds that may be generated through the sale, in 1 or more recipient countries, or in 1 or more countries in the same region, of any commodities provided under an agreement entered into between the [Administrator] *Secretary* and the organization or cooperative.

(c) USE.—Proceeds generated from any partial or full sale or barter of commodities by a private voluntary organization or cooperative under a non-emergency food assistance agreement under this title may—

(1) be used to transport, store, distribute, and otherwise enhance the effectiveness of the use of agricultural commodities provided under this title;

(2) be used to implement income-generating, community development, health, nutrition, cooperative development, agricul-

tural, and other developmental activities within 1 or more recipient countries or within 1 or more countries in the same region; or

(3) be invested, and any interest earned on such investment may be used, for the purposes for which the assistance was provided to that organization, without further appropriation by Congress.

[SEC. 204. LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.

[(a) MINIMUM LEVELS.—

[(1) MINIMUM ASSISTANCE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Administrator shall make agricultural commodities available for food distribution under this title in an amount that for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2023 is not less than 2,500,000 metric tons.

[(2) MINIMUM NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts specified in paragraph (1), and except as provided in paragraph (3), the Administrator shall make agricultural commodities available for non-emergency food distribution through eligible organizations under section 202 in an amount that for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2023 is not less than 1,875,000 metric tons.

[(3) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator may waive the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) for any fiscal year if the Administrator determines that such quantities of commodities cannot be used effectively to carry out this title or in order to meet an emergency. In making a waiver under this paragraph, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Committees on International Relations, Agriculture and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the reasons for the waiver. No waiver shall be made before the beginning of the applicable fiscal year.

[(b) USE OF VALUE-ADDED COMMODITIES.—

[(1) MINIMUM LEVELS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), in making agricultural commodities available under this title, the Administrator shall ensure that not less than 75 percent of the quantity of such commodities required to be distributed during each fiscal year under subsection (a)(2) be in the form of processed, fortified, or bagged commodities and that not less than 50 percent of the quantity of the bagged commodities that are whole grain commodities be bagged in the United States.

[(2) WAIVER OF MINIMUM.—The Administrator may waive the requirement of paragraph (1) for any fiscal year in which the Administrator determines that the requirements of the programs established under this title will not be best served by the enforcement of such requirement under such paragraph.]

SEC. 205. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Food Aid Consultative Group (hereinafter referred to in this section as the "Group") that shall meet regularly to review and address issues concerning the effectiveness of the regulations and procedures that govern food assistance programs established and implemented under this title,

and the implementation of other provisions of this title that may involve eligible organizations described in section 202(d)(1).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be composed of—

(1) the [Administrator] *Secretary*;

[(2) the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs;]

[(3)] *(2)* the Inspector General of [the Agency for International Development] *the Department of Agriculture*;

[(4)] *(3)* a representative of each private voluntary organization and cooperative participating in a program under this title, or receiving planning assistance funds from the [Agency] *Secretary* to establish programs under this title;

[(5)] *(4)* representatives from African, Asian and Latin American indigenous non-governmental organizations determined appropriate by the [Administrator] *Secretary*;

[(6)] *(5)* representatives from agricultural producer groups in the United States;

[(7)] *(6)* representatives from the United States agricultural processing sector involved in providing agricultural commodities for programs under this Act; and

[(8)] *(7)* representatives from the maritime transportation sector involved in transporting agricultural commodities overseas for programs under this Act.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall be the chairperson of the Group.

(d) CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) CONSULTATION IN ADVANCE OF ISSUANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS, HANDBOOKS, AND GUIDELINES.—Not later than 30 days before a proposed regulation, handbook, or guideline implementing this title, or a proposed significant revision to a regulation, handbook, or guideline implementing this title, becomes final, the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall provide the proposal to the Group for review and comment. The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall consult and, when appropriate (but at least twice per year), meet with the Group regarding such proposed regulations, handbooks, guidelines, or revisions thereto prior to the issuance of such.

(2) CONSULTATION REGARDING FOOD AID QUALITY EFFORTS.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall seek input from and consult with the Group on the implementation of section 202(h).

(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Group.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Group shall terminate on [December 31, 2023] *December 31, 2031*.

* * * * * * *

SEC. 207. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PROPOSALS.—

(1) RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.—A proposal to enter into a non-emergency food assistance agreement under this title shall identify the recipient country or countries that are the subject of the agreement.

(2) TIMING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of receipt by the [Administrator] *Secretary* of a proposal submitted by

an eligible organization under this title, the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall determine whether to accept the proposal.

(3) DENIAL.—If a proposal under paragraph (1) is denied, the response shall specify the reasons for denial.

(b) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Not later than 30 days prior to the issuance of a final guideline or annual policy guidance to carry out this title, the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall—

(1) provide notice of the existence of a proposed guideline or annual policy guidance, and that such guideline or annual policy guidance is available for review and comment, to eligible organizations that participate in programs under this title, and to other interested persons;

(2) make the proposed guideline or annual policy guidance available, on request, to the eligible organizations and other persons referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) take any comments received into consideration prior to the issuance of the final guideline or annual policy guidance.

(c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall promptly issue all necessary regulations and make revisions to agency guidelines with respect to changes in the operation or implementation of the program established under this title. Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of [the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018] *the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall issue all regulations and revisions to agency guidance necessary to implement the amendments made to this title by such Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall develop regulations and guidance with the intent of—

(A) simplifying procedures for participation in the programs established under this title;

(B) reducing paperwork requirements under such programs;

(C) establishing reasonable and realistic accountability standards to be applied to eligible organizations participating in the programs established under this title, taking into consideration the problems associated with carrying out programs in developing countries; and

(D) providing flexibility for carrying out programs under this title.

(d) TIMELY PROVISION OF COMMODITIES.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* [, in consultation with the Secretary,] shall develop procedures that ensure expedited processing of commodity call forwards in order to provide commodities overseas in a timely manner and to the extent feasible, according to planned delivery schedules.

(e) TIMELY APPROVAL.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* is encouraged to finalize program agreements and resource requests for programs under this section before the beginning of each fiscal year.

(f) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.—

(1) DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* [, in consultation with the Secretary,] shall establish systems and carry out activities—

(A) to determine the need for assistance provided under this title; and

(B) to improve, monitor, and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance provided under this title to maximize the impact of the assistance.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF SYSTEMS AND ACTIVITIES.—The systems and activities described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) program monitors in countries that receive assistance under this title;

(B) country and regional food aid impact evaluations;

(C) the identification and implementation of best practices for food aid programs;

(D) the evaluation of monetization programs;

(E) early warning assessments and systems to help prevent famines; and

(F) maintenance of information technology systems.

(3) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), in carrying out administrative and management activities relating to each activity carried out by the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* under paragraph (1), the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* may enter into contracts with 1 or more individuals for personal service to be performed in recipient countries or neighboring countries.

(B) PROHIBITION.—An individual who enters into a contract with the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to be an employee of the Federal Government for the purpose of any law (including regulations) administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

(C) PERSONAL SERVICE.—Subparagraph (A) does not limit the ability of the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* to enter into a contract with any individual for personal service under section 202(a).

(4) FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 202(h)(3), in addition to other funds made available to the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* to carry out the monitoring of emergency food assistance, the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* may implement this subsection using up to 1.5 percent, but not less than $17,000,000, of the funds made available under this title for each of fiscal years 2014 through **[**2023**]** *2031*, except for paragraph (2)(F), for which not more than $500,000 shall be made available for each of the fiscal years 2014 through **[**2023**]** *2031*.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), of the funds made available under subparagraph (A), for each of fiscal years 2009 through **[**2023**]** *2031*, not more than $8,000,000 may be used by the **[**Administrator**]** *Secretary* to carry out paragraph (2)(E).

(ii) CONDITION.—No funds shall be made available under subparagraph (A), in accordance with clause (i), unless not less than $8,000,000 is made available under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for such purposes for such fiscal year.

(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In submitting project reports to the [Administrator] *Secretary*, a private voluntary organization or cooperative shall provide a copy of the report in such form as is necessary for the report to be displayed for public use on the website of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—An organization or cooperative described in paragraph (1) may omit any confidential information from the copy of the report submitted for public display under that paragraph.

SEC. 208. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* may provide grants to—

(1) United States nonprofit organizations (described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the preparation of shelf-stable prepackaged foods requested by eligible organizations and the establishment and maintenance of stockpiles of the foods in the United States; and

(2) private voluntary organizations and international organizations for the rapid transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable prepackaged foods described in paragraph (1) to needy individuals in foreign countries.

(b) GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STOCKPILES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 70 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section shall be used to provide grants under subsection (a)(1).

(2) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under subsection (a)(1), the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall provide a preference to a United States nonprofit organization that agrees to provide—

(A) non-Federal funds in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of funds received under a grant under subsection (a)(1);

(B) an in-kind contribution in an amount equal to that percentage; or

(C) a combination of such funds and an in-kind contribution,

for the preparation of shelf-stable prepackaged foods and the establishment and maintenance of stockpiles of the foods in the United States in accordance with subsection (a)(1).

(c) GRANTS FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, AND DISTRIBUTION.—Not less than 20 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section shall be used to provide grants under subsection (a)(2).

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 10 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section may be used by the [Administrator] *Secretary* for the administration of grants under subsection (a).

(e) REGULATIONS OR GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the [Administrator] *Secretary*, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue such regulations or guidelines as the [Administrator] *Secretary* determines to be necessary to carry out this section, including regulations or guidelines that provide to United States nonprofit organizations el-

igible to receive grants under subsection (a)(1) guidance with respect to the requirements for qualified shelf-stable prepackaged foods and the quantity of the foods to be stockpiled by the organizations.

[(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section, in addition to amounts otherwise available to carry out this section, $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023, to remain available until expended.]

(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not less than $15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

TITLE III—FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 301. BILATERAL GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a program under which agricultural commodities are donated in accordance with this title to least developed countries. The revenue generated by the sale of such commodities in the recipient country may be utilized for economic development activities. Such program shall be implemented by the [Administrator] *Secretary*.

(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—To carry out the policies and accomplish the objectives described in section 2, the [Administrator] *Secretary* may negotiate and execute agreements with least developed countries to provide commodities to such countries on a grant basis.

SEC. 302. ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

(a) LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.—A country shall be considered to be a least developed country and eligible for the donation of agricultural commodities under this title if—

(1) such country meets the poverty criteria established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for Civil Works Preference for providing financial assistance; or

(2) such country is a food deficit country and is characterized by high levels of malnutrition among significant numbers of its population, as determined by the [Administrator] *Secretary* under subsection (b).

(b) INDICATORS OF FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES.—To make a finding under subsection (a)(2) that a country is a food deficit country and is characterized by high levels of malnutrition, the [Administrator] *Secretary* must determine that the country meets all of the following indicators of national food deficit and malnutrition:

(1) CALORIE CONSUMPTION.—That the daily per capita calorie consumption of the country is less than 2300 calories.

(2) FOOD SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—That the country cannot meet its food security requirements through domestic production or imports due to a shortage of foreign exchange earnings.

(3) CHILD MORTALITY RATE.—That the mortality rate of children under 5 years of age in the country is in excess of 100 per 1000 births.

(c) PRIORITY.—In determining whether and to what extent agricultural commodities shall be made available to least developed countries under this title, the [Administrator] *Secretary* shall give priority to countries that—

(1) demonstrate the greatest need for food;

(2) demonstrate the capacity to use food assistance effectively;

(3) have demonstrated a commitment to policies to promote food security, including policies to reduce measurably hunger and malnutrition through efforts such as establishing and institutionalizing supplemental nutrition programs targeted to reach those who are nutritionally at risk; and

(4) have a long-term plan for broad-based, equitable, and sustainable development.

SEC. 303. GRANT PROGRAMS.

To carry out the policies and accomplish the objectives described in section 2, the [Administrator] *Secretary* may negotiate and execute agreements with least developed countries to provide commodities to such countries on a grant basis either through the Commodity Credit Corporation or through private trade channels.

SEC. 304. DIRECT USES OR SALES OF COMMODITIES.

Agricultural commodities provided to a least developed country under this section—

(1) may be used in such country for—

(A) direct feeding programs, including programs that include activities that deal directly with the special health needs of children and mothers consistent with section 104(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b(c)(2)), relating to the Child Survival Fund; or

(B) the development of emergency food reserves; or

(2) may be sold in such country by the government of the country or the [Administrator] *Secretary* (or their designees) as provided in the agreement, and the proceeds of such sale used in accordance with this title.

SEC. 305. LOCAL CURRENCY ACCOUNTS.

(a) RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.—To the extent determined to be appropriate by the [Administrator] *Secretary*, revenues generated from the sale, under section 304(2), of agricultural commodities provided under this title shall be deposited into a separate account (that may be interest bearing) in the recipient country to be disbursed for the benefit of such country in accordance with local currency agreements entered into between the recipient country and the [Administrator] *Secretary*. The [Administrator] *Secretary* may determine not to deposit such revenues in a separate account if—

(1) local currencies are to be programmed for specific economic development purposes listed in section 306(a); and

(2) the recipient country programs an equivalent amount of money for such purposes as specified in an agreement entered into by the [Administrator] *Secretary* and the recipient country.

(b) OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMMING OF ACCOUNTS.—The proceeds of sales pursuant to section 304(2) shall be the property of the recipient country or the United States, as specified in the applicable agreement. Such proceeds shall be utilized for the benefit of the re-

cipient country, shall be jointly programmed by the [Administrator] *Secretary* and the government of the recipient country, and shall be disbursed for the benefit of such country in accordance with local currency agreements between the [Administrator] *Secretary* and that government.

(c) OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* shall consider the local currency proceeds as an integral part of the overall development strategy of the Agency for International Development and the recipient country.

SEC. 306. USE OF LOCAL CURRENCY PROCEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The local currency proceeds of sales pursuant to section 304(2) shall be used in the recipient country for specific economic development purposes, including—

(1) the promotion of specific policy reforms to improve food security and agricultural development within the country and to promote broad-based, equitable, and sustainable development;

(2) the establishment of development programs, projects, and activities that promote food security, alleviate hunger, improve nutrition, and promote family planning, maternal and child health care, oral rehydration therapy, and other child survival objectives consistent with section 104(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b(c)(2)), relating to the Child Survival Fund;

(3) the promotion of increased access to food supplies through the encouragement of specific policies and programs designed to increase employment and incomes within the country;

(4) the promotion of free and open markets through specific policies and programs;

(5) support for United States private voluntary organizations and cooperatives and encouragement of the development and utilization of indigenous nongovernmental organizations;

(6) the purchase of agricultural commodities (including transportation and processing costs) produced in the country—

(A) to meet urgent or extraordinary relief requirements in the country or in neighboring countries; or

(B) to develop emergency food reserves;

(7) the purchase of goods and services (other than agricultural commodities and related services) to meet urgent or extraordinary relief requirements;

(8) the payment, to the extent practicable, of the costs of carrying out the program authorized in title V;

(9) private sector development activities designed to further the policies set forth in section 2, including loans to financial intermediaries for use in making loans to private individuals, cooperatives, corporations, or other entities;

(10) activities of the Peace Corps that relate to agricultural production;

(11) the development of rural infrastructure such as roads, irrigation systems, and electrification to enhance agricultural production;

(12) research on malnutrition and its causes, as well as research relating to the identification and application of policies

and strategies for targeting resources made available under this section to address the problem of malnutrition; and

(13) support for research (including collaborative research which is mutually beneficial to the United States and the recipient country), education, and extension activities in agricultural sciences.

Section 1306 of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply to the use under this subsection of local currency proceeds that are owned by the United States.

(b) SUPPORT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—To the extent practicable, not less than 10 percent of the amounts contained in an account established for a recipient country under section 305(a) shall be used by such country to support the development and utilization of nongovernmental organizations and cooperatives that are active in rural development, agricultural education, sustainable agricultural production, other measures to assist poor people, and environmental protection projects within such country.

(c) INVESTMENT OF LOCAL CURRENCIES BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—A nongovernmental organization may invest local currencies that accrue to that organization as a result of assistance under subsection (a), and any interest earned on such investment may be used for the purpose for which the assistance was provided to that organization without further appropriation by the Congress.

(d) SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—If the [Administrator] *Secretary* determines that local currencies deposited in a special account pursuant to this title are not needed for any of the activities prescribed in paragraphs (1) through (13) of subsection (a) or for any other specific economic development purpose in the recipient country, the [Administrator] *Secretary* may use those currencies to provide support for any institution (other than an institution whose primary purpose is to provide religious education) located in the recipient country that provides education in agricultural sciences or other disciplines for a significant number of United States nationals (who may include members of the United States Armed Forces or the Foreign Service or dependents of such members).

TITLE IV—GENERAL AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

* * * * * * *

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

[(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, unless otherwise specified in this Act.]

[(2)] *(1)* AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term "agricultural commodity", unless otherwise provided for in this Act, includes any agricultural commodity or the products thereof produced in the United States, including wood and processed wood products, fish, and livestock as well as value-added, fortified, or high-value agricultural products. Effective beginning on October 1, 1991, for purposes of title II, a product of an agricultural commodity shall not be considered to be produced in the

United States if it contains any ingredient that is not produced in the United States, if that ingredient is produced and is commercially available in the United States at fair and reasonable prices.

[(3)] *(2)* APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committee of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

[(4)] *(3)* COOPERATIVE.—The term "cooperative" means a private sector organization whose members own and control the organization and share in its services and its profits and that provides business services and outreach in cooperative development for its membership.

[(5)] *(4)* DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term "developing country" means a country that has a shortage of foreign exchange earnings and has difficulty meeting all of its food needs through commercial channels.

[(6)] *(5)* FOOD SECURITY.—The term "food security" means access by all people at all times to sufficient food and nutrition for a healthy and productive life.

[(7)] *(6)* NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—The term "nongovernmental organization" means an organization that works at the local level to solve development problems in a foreign country in which the organization is located, except that the term does not include an organization that is primarily an agency or instrumentality of the government of the foreign country.

[(8)] *(7)* PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION.—The term "private voluntary organization" means a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization (in the case of a United States organization, an organization that is exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that receives funds from private sources, voluntary contributions of money, staff time, or in-kind support from the public, and that is engaged in or is planning to engage in voluntary, charitable, or development assistance activities (other than religious activities).

[(9)] *(8)* SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, unless otherwise specified in this Act.

SEC. 403. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No agricultural commodity, food procured outside of the United States, food voucher, or cash transfer for food shall be made available under this Act unless it is determined that—

(1) in the case of the provision of an agricultural commodity, adequate storage facilities will be available in the recipient country at the time of the arrival of the commodity to prevent the spoilage or waste of the commodity; and

(2) the distribution of the agricultural commodity or use of the food procured outside of the United States, food voucher, or cash transfer for food in the recipient country will not result

in a substantial disincentive to or interference with domestic production or marketing in that country.

(b) IMPACT ON LOCAL FARMERS AND ECONOMY.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall ensure that the importation of United States agricultural commodities, the use of food procured outside of the United States, food vouchers, and cash transfers for food, and the use of local currencies for development purposes will not have a disruptive impact on the farmers or the local economy of the recipient country. The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall seek information, as part of the regular proposal and submission process, from implementing agencies on the potential costs and benefits to the local economy within the recipient country.

(c) TRANSSHIPMENT.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate], shall, under such terms and conditions as are determined to be appropriate, require commitments designed to prevent or restrict the resale or transshipment to other countries, or use for other than domestic purposes, of agricultural commodities donated or purchased under this Act.

(d) PRIVATE TRADE CHANNELS AND SMALL BUSINESS.—Private trade channels shall be used under this Act to the maximum extent practicable in the United States and in the recipient countries with respect to—

(1) sales from privately owned stocks;

(2) sales from stocks owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation; and

(3) donations.

Small businesses shall be provided adequate and fair opportunity to participate in such sales.

(e) WORLD PRICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, reasonable precautions shall be taken to assure that sales or donations of agricultural commodities will not unduly disrupt world prices for agricultural commodities or normal patterns of commercial trade with foreign countries.

(2) SALE PRICE.—Sales of agricultural commodities described in paragraph (1) shall be made at a reasonable market price in the economy where the agricultural commodity is to be sold, as determined by the Secretary or the Administrator, as appropriate.

(f) PUBLICITY.—Commitments shall be obtained from countries or private entities, as appropriate, receiving commodities under this Act that such countries or private entities will widely publicize, to the extent practicable, through the use of the public media and through other means, that such commodities are being provided through the friendship of the American people as food for peace.

(g) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall encourage the private sector of the United States and private importers in developing countries to participate in the programs established under this Act.

(h) SAFEGUARD USUAL MARKETINGS.—In carrying out this Act, reasonable precautions shall be taken to safeguard the usual marketings of the United States and to avoid displacing any sales of the United States agricultural commodities that the Secretary [or Administrator] determines would otherwise be made.

(i) MILITARY DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate], shall attempt to ensure that agricultural commodities made available under this Act will be provided without regard to the political affiliation, geographic location, ethnic, tribal, or religious identity of the recipient or without regard to other extraneous factors.

(2) PROHIBITION ON HANDLING OF COMMODITIES BY THE MILITARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall not enter into an agreement under this Act to provide agricultural commodities if such agreement requires or permits the distribution, handling, or allocation of such commodities by the military forces of any government or insurgent group.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] may authorize the handling or distribution of commodities by the military forces of a country in exceptional circumstances in which—

(i) nonmilitary channels are not available for such handling or distribution;

(ii) such action is consistent with the requirements of paragraph (1); and

(iii) the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] determines that such action is necessary to meet the emergency health, safety, or nutritional requirements of the recipient population.

(3) ENCOURAGEMENT OF SAFE PASSAGE.—When entering into agreements under this Act that involve areas within recipient countries that are experiencing protracted warfare or civil strife, the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall, to the extent practicable, encourage all parties to the conflict to permit safe passage of the commodities and other relief supplies and to establish safe zones for medical and humanitarian treatment and evacuation of injured persons.

(j) VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.—

(1) INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall not enter into any agreement under this Act to provide agricultural commodities, or to finance the sale of agricultural commodities, to the government of any country determined by the President to engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including—

(A) the torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of individuals;

(B) the prolonged detention of individuals without charges;

(C) the responsibility for causing the disappearance of individuals through the abduction and clandestine detention of such individuals; or

(D) other flagrant denials of the right to life, liberty, and the security of persons.

(2) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) shall not prohibit the provision of assistance to such a country if the assistance is targeted to the most needy people in such country and is made available in such country through channels other than the government.

(k) ABORTION PROHIBITION.—Local currencies that are made available for use under this Act may not be used to pay for the performance of abortions as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.

(l) SALE PROCEDURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (h) shall apply to sales of commodities in recipient countries to generate proceeds to carry out projects under—

(A) titles I and II;

(B) section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431(b)); and

(C) the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

(2) CURRENCY.—A sale described in paragraph (1) may be made in United States dollars or other currencies.

SEC. 404. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before entering into agreements with foreign countries under titles I and III for the provision of commodities, the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall consider the extent to which the recipient country is undertaking measures for economic development purposes in order to improve food security and agricultural development, alleviate poverty, and promote broad-based, equitable, and sustainable development.

(b) TERMS OF AGREEMENT.—An agreement entered into under this Act shall—

(1) include an estimate of the annual value or volume of agricultural commodities proposed to be made available to the country or eligible organization under the agreement;

(2) with respect to agreements entered into with foreign countries under titles I and III, include a statement of the manner in which the agricultural commodities provided under the agreement or the revenues generated by the sale of such commodities (if such commodities are sold), will be integrated into the overall development plans of the country to improve food security and agricultural development, alleviate poverty, and promote broad-based, equitable, and sustainable agriculture and broad-based economic growth;

(3) with respect to agreements entered into under titles I and III, include a statement of the manner in which competitive private sector participation within the recipient country in the storage, marketing, transportation, and distribution of agricultural commodities made available under this Act will be encouraged;

(4) include a statement that such agreement shall be subject to the availability, during each fiscal year to which the agreement applies, of the necessary appropriations and agricultural commodities; and

(5) contain such other terms and conditions as the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] determines to be necessary.

(c) MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Agreements to provide assistance on a multi-year basis to recipient countries or to eligible organizations—

(A) may be made available under titles I and III; and

(B) shall be made available under title II.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] may determine not to make assistance available on a multi-year basis with respect to a recipient country or an eligible organization if it is determined that assistance should be provided to such country or through such organization only on an annual basis because—

(A) the past performance of the country or organization in meeting program objectives does not warrant a multi-year agreement;

(B) it is anticipated that the need of the country or organization for food aid does not extend beyond 1 year; or

(C) other circumstances, as determined by the Secretary [or the Administrator], as appropriate, indicate there is only a need for a 1 year agreement.

(d) REVIEW OF AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] may make a determination to terminate, or refuse to enter into, a multi-year agreement with respect to a recipient country if the Secretary [or the Administrator] determines that such country is not fulfilling the objectives or requirements of this Act. In making such a determination, the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] may consider the extent to which the country is—

(1) making significant economic development reforms;

(2) promoting free and open markets for food and agricultural producers; and

(3) fostering increased food security.

[SEC. 405. CONSULTATION.

[The Secretary and the Administrator shall cooperate and consult in the implementation of this Act.]

SEC. 406. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commodity Credit Corporation may acquire and make available such agricultural commodities as necessary to carry out agreements under this Act.

[(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commodities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay—

[(1) the cost of acquiring such commodities;

[(2) the costs associated with packaging, enrichment, preservation, and fortification of such commodities, including the costs of carrying out section 415;

[(3) the processing, transportation, handling, and other incidental costs up to the time of the delivery of such commodities free on board vessels in United States ports;

[(4) the vessel freight charges from United States ports or designated Canadian transshipment ports, as determined by the Secretary, to designated ports of entry abroad;

[(5) the costs associated with transporting such commodities from United States ports to designated points of entry abroad in the case—

[(A) of landlocked countries;

[(B) of ports that cannot be used effectively because of natural or other disturbances;

[(C) of the unavailability of carriers to a specific country; or

[(D) of substantial savings in costs or time that may be effected by the utilization of points of entry other than ports;

[(6) in the case of commodities for urgent and extraordinary relief requirements (including pre-positioned commodities) the transportation costs incurred in moving the commodities from designated points of entry or ports of entry abroad to storage and distribution sites and associated storage, distribution, and program implementation costs to use the commodities; and

[(7) the charges for general average contributions arising out of the ocean transport of commodities transferred pursuant thereto.]

(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commodities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of such commodities.

(c) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—The funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation may be used to carry out this Act.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available under this Act only to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 407. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) TITLE I PROGRAMS.—

(1) ACQUISITIONS.—The importing country or private entity that enters into an agreement under title I shall acquire the agricultural commodities to be financed under title I.

(2) INVITATION FOR BID.—No purchase of agricultural commodities from private stock or purchase of ocean transportation shall be financed under title I unless such purchases are made on the basis of an invitation for bid that is publicly advertised in the United States, and on the basis of bid offerings that shall conform to such invitation and be received and publicly opened in the United States. All awards in the purchase of commodities or ocean transportation financed under title I shall be consistent with open, competitive, and responsive bid procedures, as determined appropriate by the Secretary. Resulting contracts may contain such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate.

(b) AGENTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OR COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—

(A) GENERAL RULE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if it is determined appropriate, the Secretary or the Commodity Credit Corporation may serve as the purchasing or shipping agent, or both, for the importer or importing country in arranging the purchase or shipping of commodities financed under title I.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Secretary or the Commodity Credit Corporation may award, under a competitive bidding process, contracts for establishing freight agents who shall act on behalf of the

Secretary or the Corporation to handle the shipping of commodities financed under this Act.

(C) AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF CONTRACTORS.—Freight agents employed by the Secretary or the Commodity Credit Corporation under title I shall not represent any foreign government during the period of their contract with the United States Government.

(2) REASONABLE FEES AND COMMISSIONS.—

(A) FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Commodity Credit Corporation may enter into an agreement with the importer or importing country that contains the terms and conditions that will govern the provision of purchasing or shipping agent services by the Secretary or the Corporation, including the establishment of fees for such services. Any such fees shall be fair and reasonable in relation to the services performed and shall be available as reimbursement for costs incurred in providing such services.

(B) PROHIBITION ON COMMISSIONS.—Commissions, fees, or other payments to any selling agent or to any agent of a purchaser shall be prohibited in the purchase of agricultural commodities that are financed under title I of this Act.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—No commission, fees, or other payments to an agent, broker, consultant, or other representative of the importer or importing country for ocean transportation brokerage services in connection with the carriage of commodities provided under title I of this Act may—

(A) be paid in excess of an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(B) be shared by such person with the importer or importing country or any agent thereof.

(4) AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—A person may not be an agent, broker, consultant, or other representative of the United States Government, an importer, or an importing country in connection with agricultural commodities provided under this Act during a fiscal year in which such person provides or acts as an agent, broker, consultant, or other representative of a person engaged in providing ocean transportation or ocean transportation-related services for such commodities. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "transportation-related services" means lightening, stevedoring, bagging, or inland transportation to the destination point.

(c) TITLE II AND III PROGRAM.—

[(1) ACQUISITION.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities to be provided under title II and title III.

[(B) CERTAIN COMMODITIES MADE AVAILABLE FOR NONEMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—In the case of agricultural commodities made available for nonemergency assistance under title II for least developed countries that meet the poverty and other eligibility criteria established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for financing under the Inter-

national Development Association, the Administrator may pay the transportation costs incurred in moving the agricultural commodities from designated points of entry or ports of entry abroad to storage and distribution sites and associated storage and distribution costs.]

(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities to be provided under title II and title III.

(2) FREIGHT PROCUREMENT.—Notwithstanding the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.) or other similar provisions of law relating to the making or performance of Federal Government contracts, ocean transportation under titles II and III may be procured on the basis of full and open competitive procedures. Resulting contracts may contain such terms and conditions as the [Administrator] *Secretary* determines are necessary and appropriate.

(3) AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Freight agents employed by the [Agency for International Development] *Secretary* under titles II and III shall not represent any foreign government during the period of their contract with the United States Government.

(4) PREPOSITIONING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available for fiscal years 2001 through [2023] *2031* to carry out titles II and III may be used by the [Administrator] *Secretary* to procure, transport, and store agricultural commodities for prepositioning within the United States and in foreign countries, except that for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2013 not more than $10,000,000 of such funds and for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031* not more than $15,000,000 of such funds may be used to store agricultural commodities for prepositioning in foreign countries.

(B) ADDITIONAL PREPOSITIONING SITES.—The [Administrator] *Secretary* may establish additional sites for prepositioning in foreign countries or change the location of current sites for prepositioning in foreign countries after conducting, and based on the results of, assessments of need, the availability of appropriate technology for long-term storage, feasibility, and cost.

(5) NONEMERGENCY OR MULTIYEAR AGREEMENTS.—Annual resource requests for ongoing nonemergency or ongoing multiyear agreements under title II shall be finalized not later than October 1 of the fiscal year in which the agricultural commodities will be shipped under the agreement.

(d) TIMING OF SHIPMENTS.—In determining the timing of the shipment of agricultural commodities to be provided under this Act, the Secretary [or the Administrator, as appropriate,] shall consider—

(1) the time of harvest of any competing commodities in the recipient country; and

(2) such other concerns determined to be appropriate.

(e) DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS UNDER TITLES I AND III.—An agreement under titles I and III shall, to the extent practicable, be entered into not later than—

(1) November 30 of the first fiscal year in which agricultural commodities are to be shipped under the agreement; or

(2) 60 days after the date of enactment of the annual Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for the first fiscal year in which agricultural commodities are to be shipped under the agreement,

whichever is later.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—

[(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Administrator and the Secretary shall jointly, or each separately, prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding each program and activity carried out under this Act by the Administrator, the Secretary, or both, as applicable, during the prior fiscal year.]

(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding each program and activity carried out under this Act during the prior fiscal year.

(2) CONTENTS.—An annual report described in paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the prior fiscal year, the following:

(A) A list that contains a description of each country and organization that receives food and other assistance under this Act (including the quantity of food and assistance provided to each country and organization).

(B) A general description of each project and activity implemented under this Act (including each activity funded through the use of local currencies) and the total number of beneficiaries of the project.

(C) A statement describing the quantity of agricultural commodities made available to, and the total number of beneficiaries in, each country pursuant to—

(i) this Act;

(ii) section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431(b));

(iii) the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o); and

(iv) the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program established by section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1).

(D) An assessment of the progress made through programs under this Act towards reducing food insecurity in the populations receiving food assistance from the United States.

(E) An assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls.

[(E)] *(F)* A description of efforts undertaken by the Food Aid Consultative Group under section 205 to achieve an integrated and effective food assistance program.

[(F)] *(G)* An assessment of—

(i) each program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation system implemented under section 207(f); and

(ii) the impact of each program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation system on the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance provided under this title.

[(G)] *(H)* An assessment of the progress made by the Administrator in addressing issues relating to quality with respect to the provision of food assistance.

[(H) A statement of the amount of funds (including funds for administrative costs, indirect cost recovery, internal transportation, storage and handling, and associated distribution costs) provided to each eligible organization that received assistance under this Act, that further describes the following:

[(i) How such funds were used by the eligible organization.

[(ii) The actual rate of return for each commodity made available under this Act, including factors that influenced the rate of return, and, for the commodity, the costs of bagging or further processing, ocean transportation, inland transportation in the recipient country, storage costs, and any other information that the Administrator and the Secretary determine to be necessary.

[(iii) For each instance in which a commodity was made available under this Act at a rate of return less than 70 percent, the reasons for the rate of return realized.]

(I) A statement of the amount of funds provided to each eligible organization that received assistance under this Act and the manner in which those funds were used, including whether such use was for commodity transportation or administrative costs.

[(I) For funds expended for purposes of section 202(e), 406(b)(6), and 407(c)(1)(B), a detailed accounting of the expenditures and purposes of such expenditures with respect to each such section.]

[(3) RATE OF RETURN DESCRIBED.—For purposes of applying subparagraph (H) of paragraph (2), the rate of return for a commodity shall be equal to the proportion that—

[(A) the proceeds the implementing partners generate through monetization; bears to

[(B) the cost to the Federal Government to procure and ship the commodity to a recipient country for monetization.]

SEC. 408. EXPIRATION DATE.

No agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance under this Act shall be entered into after December 31, [2023] *2031*.

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SEC. 412. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, $2,500,000,000 to carry out the emergency and nonemergency food assistance programs under title II; and

(2) such sums as are necessary—

(A) to carry out the concessional credit sales program established under title I;

(B) to carry out the grant program established under title III; and

(C) to make payments to the Commodity Credit Corporation to the extent the Commodity Credit Corporation is not reimbursed under the programs under this Act for the actual costs incurred or to be incurred by the Commodity Credit Corporation in carrying out such programs.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may direct that up to 15 percent of the funds available for any fiscal year for carrying out any title of this Act be used to carry out any other title of this Act.

(2) TITLE III FUNDS.—The President may direct that up to 50 percent of the funds available for any fiscal year for carrying out title III be used to carry out title II.

(c) BUDGET.—In presenting the Budget of the United States, the President shall classify expenditures under this Act as expenditures for international affairs and finance rather than for agriculture and agricultural resources.

(d) VALUE OF COMMODITIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in determining the reimbursement due the Commodity Credit Corporation for all expenses incurred under this Act, commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation that were acquired under dairy price support operations shall be valued at a price not greater than the export market price for such commodities, as determined by the Secretary, as of the time such commodity is made available under this Act.

(e) MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*, not less than $365,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out emergency and nonemergency food assistance programs under title II, nor more than 30 percent of such amounts, shall be expended for nonemergency food assistance programs under such title.

(2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.—Funds appropriated each year to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) that are made available through grants or cooperative agreements to strengthen food security in developing countries and that are consistent with section 202(e)(1)(C) may be considered amounts expended for nonemergency food assistance programs for purposes of paragraph (1).

(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.—In determining the amount expended for a fiscal year for nonemergency food assistance programs under paragraph (1), amounts expended for that year to carry out programs under section 501 may be considered amounts expended for nonemergency food assistance programs.

(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS CHILD WASTING.—

(1) MINIMUM LEVEL.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, not less than $200,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out emergency food assistance programs under title II shall be expended for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The minimum expenditure requirement under paragraph (1) shall only apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, published annually by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the United Nations Children's Fund, report a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5 percent for the year covered by such report; and

(B) the total amount made available to carry out programs under title II in the fiscal year is greater than $1,200,000,000.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit on the authority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.

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SEC. 415. MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PROGRAMS.—Not later than September 30, 2008, the [Administrator, in consultation with the] Secretary[,] shall establish micronutrient fortification programs.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a program shall be to—

(A) assist developing countries in correcting micronutrient dietary deficiencies among segments of the populations of the countries; and

(B) assess and apply technologies and systems to improve and ensure the quality, shelf life, bioavailability, and safety of fortified food aid agricultural commodities, and products of those agricultural commodities.

(b) FORTIFICATION.—Under a program, grains and other commodities made available to a developing country selected to participate in a program may be fortified with 1 or more micronutrients (such as vitamin A, iron, iodine, and folic acid) with respect to which a substantial portion of the population in the country is deficient. The commodity may be fortified in the United States or in the developing country.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to carry out programs established under this section shall terminate on September 30, [2023] *2031*.

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TITLE V—FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM

SEC. 501. JOHN OGONOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CARIBBEAN BASIN COUNTRY.—The term "Caribbean Basin country" means a country eligible for designation as a beneficiary country under section 212 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2702).

(2) EMERGING MARKET.—The term "emerging market" means a country that the Secretary determines—

(A) is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country; and

(B) has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States agricultural commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities.

(3) MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRY.—The term "middle income country" means a country that has developed economically to the point at which the country does not receive bilateral development assistance from the United States.

(4) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term "sub-Saharan African country" has the meaning given the term in section 107 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (19 U.S.C. 3706).

(b) PROVISION.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, to further assist developing countries, middle-income countries, emerging markets, sub-Saharan African countries, and Caribbean Basin countries to increase farm production and farmer incomes, the President may—

(1) establish and administer a program, to be known as the "John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program", of farmer-to-farmer technical assistance between the United States and such countries to assist in—

(A) increasing food production and distribution; and

(B) improving the effectiveness of the farming and marketing operations of agricultural producers in those countries;

(2) use United States agricultural producers, agriculturalists, colleges and universities (including historically black colleges and universities, land grant colleges or universities, and foundations maintained by colleges or universities), private agribusinesses, private organizations (including grassroots organizations with an established and demonstrated capacity to carry out such a bilateral exchange program), private corporations, employees or staff of a State cooperative institution (as such term is defined in paragraph 18 of section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103), except that subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of such paragraph shall not apply), and nonprofit farm organizations to work in conjunction with agricultural producers and farm organizations in those countries, on a voluntary basis—

(A) to improve agricultural and agribusiness operations and agricultural systems in those countries, including improving—

(i) animal care and health;
(ii) field crop cultivation;
(iii) fruit and vegetable growing;
(iv) livestock operations;
(v) food processing and packaging;
(vi) farm credit;
(vii) marketing;
(viii) inputs
(ix) agricultural education and extension;
(x) selection of seed varieties and plant stocks;
(xi) knowledge of insecticide and sanitation procedures to prevent crop destruction;
(xii) use and maintenance of agricultural equipment and irrigation systems; and
(xiii) selection of fertilizers and methods of soils treatment; and

(B) to strengthen cooperatives and other agricultural groups in those countries;

(3) transfer the knowledge and expertise of United States agricultural producers and businesses, on an individual basis, to those countries while enhancing the democratic process by supporting private and public agriculturally related organizations that request and support technical assistance activities through cash and in-kind services;

(4) to the maximum extent practicable, make grants to or enter into contracts or other cooperative agreements with private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, land grant universities, private agribusiness, or nonprofit farm organizations to carry out this section (except that any such contract or other agreement may obligate the United States to make outlays only to the extent that the budget authority for such outlays is available under subsection (d) or has otherwise been provided in advance in appropriation Acts);

(5) coordinate programs established under this section with other foreign assistance programs and activities carried out by the United States; and

(6) to the extent that local currencies can be used to meet the costs of a program established under this section, augment funds of the United States that are available for such a program through the use, within the country in which the program is being conducted, of—

(A) foreign currencies that accrue from the sale of agricultural commodities and products under this Act; and

(B) local currencies generated from other types of foreign assistance activities.

(c) SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN BASIN COUNTRIES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) agricultural producers in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries need training in agricultural techniques that are appropriate for the majority of eligible

agricultural producers in those countries, including training in—

(i) standard growing practices;

(ii) insecticide and sanitation procedures; and

(iii) other agricultural methods that will produce increased yields of more nutritious and healthful crops;

(B) agricultural producers in the United States (including African-American agricultural producers) and banking and insurance professionals have agribusiness expertise that would be invaluable for agricultural producers in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries;

(C) a commitment by the United States is appropriate to support the development of a comprehensive agricultural skills training program for those agricultural producers that focuses on—

(i) improving knowledge of insecticide and sanitation procedures to prevent crop destruction;

(ii) teaching modern agricultural techniques that would facilitate a continual analysis of crop production, including—

(I) the identification and development of standard growing practices; and

(II) the establishment of systems for record-keeping;

(iii) the use and maintenance of agricultural equipment that is appropriate for the majority of eligible agricultural producers in sub-Saharan African or Caribbean Basin countries;

(iv) the expansion of small agricultural operations into agribusiness enterprises by increasing access to credit for agricultural producers through—

(I) the development and use of village banking systems; and

(II) the use of agricultural risk insurance pilot products; and

(v) marketing crop yields to prospective purchasers (including businesses and individuals) for local needs and export; and

(D) programs that promote the exchange of agricultural knowledge and expertise through the exchange of American and foreign agricultural producers have been effective in promoting improved agricultural techniques and food security and the extension of additional resources to such farmer-to-farmer exchanges is warranted.

(2) GOALS FOR PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.—The goals of programs carried out under this section in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries shall be—

(A) to expand small agricultural operations in those countries into agribusiness enterprises by increasing access to credit for agricultural producers through—

(i) the development and use of village banking systems; and

(ii) the use of agricultural risk insurance pilot products;

(B) to provide training to agricultural producers in those countries that will—

(i) enhance local food security; and

(ii) help mitigate and alleviate hunger;

(C) to provide training to agricultural producers in those countries in groups to encourage participants to share and pass on to other agricultural producers in the home communities of the participants, the information and skills obtained from the training, rather than merely retaining the information and skills for the personal enrichment of the participants; and

(D) to maximize the number of beneficiaries of the programs in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries.

(d) MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to any funds that may be specifically appropriated to carry out this section, not less than the greater of $10,000,000 or 0.5 percent of the amounts made available for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013, and not less than the greater of $15,000,000 or 0.6 percent of the amounts made available for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*, to carry out this Act shall be used to carry out programs under this section, with—

(1) not less than 0.2 percent to be used for programs in developing countries; and

(2) not less than 0.1 percent to be used for programs in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031* to carry out the programs under this section—

(A) $10,000,000 for sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries; and

(B) $5,000,000 for other developing or middle-income countries or emerging markets not described in subparagraph (A).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for a fiscal year under paragraph (1) may be used to pay administrative costs incurred in carrying out programs in sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries.

(f) GRANT PROGRAM TO CREATE NEW PARTNERS AND INNOVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The [Administrator of the Agency for International Development] *Secretary* shall develop a grant program to be carried out in fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031* to facilitate new and innovative partnerships and activities under this title.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant recipient under this subsection shall use funds received under this subsection to—

(A) prioritize new implementing partners;

(B) develop innovative volunteer models;

(C) develop, improve, or maintain strategic partnerships with other United States development programs; and

(D) expand the footprint and impact of the programs and activities under this title, and diversity among program

participants, including land-grant colleges and universities and cooperative extension services (as such terms are defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

* * * * * * *

TITLE VII—TRANSFER PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

On and after the date of the enactment of this title, the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, pursuant to any authority under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.

On and after the date of the enactment of this title, any authority or responsibility provided by any other provision of law that was or could have been used by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsibility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture, respectively.

SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-issuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may determine appropriate, including by amending such rules and regulations issued by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development with respect to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all functions and duties previously carried out by that Administrator to the Secretary.

SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the authorities under this Act.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

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TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

* * * * * * *

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

[As used in this Act—] *In this Act:*

(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term "agricultural commodity" means any agricultural commodity, food, feed, fiber, or livestock (including livestock as it is defined in section 602(2) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1471(2)) and insects) and any product thereof.

(2) COMMON NAME.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "common name" means a name that, as determined by the Secretary—

(i) is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product;

(ii) is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product;

(iii) with respect to wine—

(I) is—

(aa) ordinarily or customarily used for a wine grape varietal name; or

(bb) a traditional term or expression that is typically placed on the packaging and label of the wine; and

(II) does not mean any appellation of origin for wine listed in subpart C of part 9 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(iv) the use of which is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names, among others, shall be considered as common names as such term is defined for purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A):

(i) With respect to food products: american, asiago, basmati, black forest ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne, bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert, capicola and capocollo, cheddar, chevre, chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers, cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental, feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana, gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburger and limburgo, mascarpone, monterey jack, mortadella, munster and muenster, neufchatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pepper jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, romano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samso, and swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

(ii) With respect to wine:

(I) The list of grape varietal terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(II) The grape variety designations administratively approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

(III) The following nonvarietal descriptors: chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted and crusting, noble, ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vintage character.

(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout, barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel,

witbier, saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier, weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles, rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier, doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder, kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie, lager.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may take into account—

(i) competent sources, such as dictionaries, newspapers, professional journals and literature, and information posted on websites that are determined by the Secretary to be reliable in reporting market information;

(ii) the use of the common name in a domestic, regional, or international product standard, including a standard promulgated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, for the agricultural commodity or food product; and

(iii) the ordinary and customary use of the common name in the production or marketing of the agricultural commodity or food product in the United States or in other countries.

(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enumeration of certain names under subparagraph (B) may not be construed to limit or restrict the ability of the Secretary to determine, consistent with subparagraph (A), that any other name is a common name for purposes of this section.

[(2)**]** *(3)* DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term "developing country" means a country that—

(A) has a shortage of foreign exchange earnings and has difficulty accessing sufficient commercial credit to meet all of its food needs, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) has the potential to become a commercial market for agricultural commodities.

[(8)**]** *(4)* INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.—The term "independent states of the former Soviet Union" means the following: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

[(3)**]** *(5)* SECRETARY.—THE TERM "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

[(4)**]** *(6)* SERVICE.—The term "Service" means the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture.

[(5)**]** *(7)* UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term "unfair trade practice" means any act, policy, or practice of a foreign country that—

(i) violates, or is inconsistent with, the provisions of, or otherwise denies benefits to the United States under, any trade agreement to which the United States is a party;

(ii) in the case of a monopolistic state trading enterprise engaged in the export sale of an agricultural commodity, implements a pricing practice that is inconsistent with sound commercial practice;

(iii) provides a subsidy that—

(I) decreases market opportunities for United States exports; or

(II) unfairly distorts an agricultural market to the detriment of United States exporters;

(iv) imposes an unfair technical barrier to trade, including—

(I) a trade restriction or commercial requirement (such as a labeling requirement) that adversely affects a new technology (including biotechnology); and

(II) an unjustified sanitary or phytosanitary restriction (including any restriction that, in violation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, is not based on scientific principles;

(v) imposes a rule that unfairly restricts imports of United States agricultural commodities in the administration of tariff rate quotas**[**; or**]**

(vi) fails to adhere to, or circumvents any obligation under, any provision of a trade agreement with the United States**[**.**]***; or*

(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of a name determined or considered to be a common name pursuant to paragraph (2).

(B) CONSISTENCY WITH 1974 TRADE ACT.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize the Secretary to make any determination regarding an unfair trade practice that is inconsistent with section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411).

[(6)**]** *(8)* UNITED STATES.—The term "United States" includes each of the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

[(7)**]** *(9)* UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term "United States agricultural commodity" means—

(A) an agricultural commodity or product entirely produced in the United States; or

(B) a product of an agricultural commodity—

(i) 90 percent or more of the agricultural components of which by weight, excluding packaging and added water, is entirely produced in the United States; and

(ii) that the Secretary determines to be a high value agricultural product.

For purposes of this paragraph, fish entirely produced in the United States include fish harvested by a documented fishing vessel as defined in title 46, United States Code, in waters that are not waters (including the territorial sea) of a foreign country.

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TITLE II—AGRICULTURAL EXPORT PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Programs

* * * * * * *

SEC. 203. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILITATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out activities under this section—

(1) to access, develop, maintain, and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities; and

(2) to promote cooperation and the exchange of information.

(b) MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE TRADE ORGANIZATION.—In this subsection, the term "eligible trade organization" means—

(A) a United States agricultural trade organization or regional State-related organization that promotes the export and sale of United States agricultural commodities and that does not stand to profit directly from specific sales of United States agricultural commodities;

(B) a cooperative organization or State agency that promotes the sale of United States agricultural commodities; or

(C) a private organization that promotes the export and sale of United States agricultural commodities if the Secretary determines that such organization would significantly contribute to United States export market development.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The Commodity Credit Corporation shall establish and carry out a program, to be known as the "Market Access Program", to encourage the development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for United States agricultural commodities (including commodities that are organically produced (as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502))) through cost-share assistance to eligible trade organizations that implement a foreign market development program.

(3) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) MARKETING PLAN AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for cost-share assistance under this subsection, an eligible trade organization shall—

(i) prepare and submit a marketing plan to the Secretary that meets the guidelines governing such a marketing plan specified in this paragraph or otherwise established by the Secretary;

(ii) meet any other requirements established by the Secretary; and

(iii) enter into an agreement with the Secretary.

(B) PURPOSE OF MARKETING PLAN.—A marketing plan submitted under this paragraph shall describe the advertising or other market oriented export promotion activities to be carried out by the eligible trade organization with re-

spect to which assistance under this subsection is being requested.

(C) SPECIFIC ELEMENTS.—To be approved by the Secretary, a marketing plan submitted under this paragraph shall—

(i) specifically describe the manner in which assistance received by the eligible trade organization, in conjunction with funds and services provided by the eligible trade organization, will be expended in implementing the marketing plan;

(ii) establish specific market goals to be achieved under the marketing plan; and

(iii) contain whatever additional requirements are determined by the Secretary to be necessary.

(D) BRANDED PROMOTION.—A marketing plan approved by the Secretary may provide for the use of branded advertising to promote the sale of United States agricultural commodities in a foreign country under such terms and conditions as may be established by the Secretary.

(E) AMENDMENTS.—An approved marketing plan may be amended by the eligible trade organization at any time, subject to the approval of the amendment by the Secretary.

(4) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE AND COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall justify in writing the level of assistance to be provided to an eligible trade organization under this subsection and the level of cost sharing required of the organization.

(B) LIMITATION ON BRANDED PROMOTION.—Assistance provided under this subsection for activities described in paragraph (3)(D) shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of implementing the marketing plan, except that the Secretary may determine not to apply such limitation in the case of United States agricultural commodities with respect to which there has been a favorable decision by the United States Trade Representative under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411). Criteria used by the Secretary for determining that the limitation shall not apply shall be consistent and documented.

(5) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(A) MULTIYEAR BASIS.—The Secretary may provide assistance under this subsection on a multiyear basis, subject to annual review by the Secretary for compliance with the approved marketing plan.

(B) TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may terminate any assistance made, or to be made, available under this subsection if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the eligible trade organization is not adhering to the terms and conditions applicable to the provision of the assistance;

(ii) the eligible trade organization is not implementing the approved marketing plan or is not adequately meeting the established goals of the plan;

(iii) the eligible trade organization is not adequately contributing its own resources to the implementation of the plan; or

(iv) the Secretary determines that termination of assistance in a particular instance is in the best interests of the Market Access Program.

(C) EVALUATIONS.—Beginning not later than 15 months after the initial provision of assistance under this subsection to an eligible trade organization, the Secretary shall monitor the expenditures by the eligible trade organization of such assistance, including the following:

(i) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the marketing plan of the eligible trade organization in developing or maintaining markets for United States agricultural commodities.

(ii) An evaluation of whether assistance provided under this subsection is necessary to maintain such markets.

(iii) A thorough accounting of the expenditure by the eligible trade organization of the assistance provided under this subsection.

(6) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance provided under this subsection to an eligible trade organization may not be used—

(A) to provide direct assistance to any foreign for-profit corporation for the corporation's use in promoting foreign-produced products; or

(B) to provide direct assistance to any for-profit corporation that is not recognized as a small business concern (as described in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a))), excluding—

(i) a cooperative;

(ii) an association described in the first section of the Act entitled "An Act To authorize association of producers of agricultural products", approved February 18, 1922 (7 U.S.C. 291); or

(iii) a nonprofit trade association.

(7) PERMISSIVE USE OF FUNDS.—Assistance provided under this subsection to a United States agricultural trade association, cooperative, or small business may be used for individual branded promotional activity related to a United States branded product, if the beneficiaries of the activity have provided funds for the activity in an amount that is at least equivalent to the amount of such assistance.

(8) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance for branded promotion, the Secretary should give priority to small-sized entities.

(9) CONTRIBUTION LEVEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should require a minimum contribution level of 10 percent from an eligible trade organization that receives assistance for nonbranded promotion.

(B) INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTION LEVEL.—The Secretary may increase the contribution level in any subsequent year

that an eligible trade organization receives assistance for nonbranded promotion.

(10) ADDITIONALITY.—The Secretary should require each participant in the Market Access Program to certify that any Federal funds received supplement, but do not supplant, private or third party participant funds or other contributions to Program activities.

(11) INDEPENDENT AUDITS.—If as a result of an evaluation or audit of activities of a participant under the Market Access Program, the Secretary determines that a further review is justified in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Program, the Secretary should require the participant to contract for an independent audit of the Program activities, including activities of any subcontractor.

(12) TOBACCO.—No funds made available under the Market Access Program may be used for activities to develop, maintain, or expand foreign markets for tobacco.

(c) FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE TRADE ORGANIZATION.—In this subsection, the term "eligible trade organization" means a United States trade organization that—

(A) promotes the export of 1 or more United States agricultural commodities; and

(B) does not have a business interest in or receive remuneration from specific sales of agricultural commodities.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish and, in cooperation with eligible trade organizations, carry out a program to be known as the "Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program" to maintain and develop foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry out this subsection shall be used only to provide—

(A) cost-share assistance to an eligible trade organization under a contract or agreement with the eligible trade organization; and

(B) assistance for other costs that are appropriate to carry out the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program, including contingent liabilities that are not otherwise funded.

(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program established under this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements, with eligible trade organizations or with nonprofit organizations with expertise in supply chain infrastructure, to provide needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments, to ensure that United States agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of such infrastructure.

(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out the program established under this subsection,

not more than $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more than $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter may be made available to carry out this paragraph.

(d) E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA EMERGING MARKETS PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITION OF EMERGING MARKET.—In this subsection, the term "emerging market" means any country, foreign territory, customs union, or other economic market that the Secretary determines—

(A) is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of its economy; and

(B) has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States agricultural commodities.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program, to be known as the "E (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program"—

(A) to develop agricultural markets in emerging markets; and

(B) to promote cooperation and exchange of information between agricultural institutions and agribusinesses in the United States and emerging markets.

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—To develop, maintain, or expand markets for exports of United States agricultural commodities, the Secretary shall make available to emerging markets the expertise of the United States—

(I) to make assessments of food and rural business systems needs;

(II) to make recommendations on measures necessary to enhance the effectiveness of the food and rural business systems described in subclause (I), including potential reductions in trade barriers; and

(III) to identify and carry out specific opportunities and projects to enhance the effectiveness of the food and rural business systems described in subclause (I).

(ii) EXTENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall implement this subparagraph with respect to at least 3 emerging markets in each fiscal year.

(B) EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary may implement subparagraph (A) by providing—

(i) assistance to teams (consisting primarily of agricultural consultants, agricultural producers, other persons from the private sector, and government officials expert in assessing the food and rural business systems of other countries) to enable those teams to conduct the assessments, make the recommendations, and identify the opportunities and projects described in subparagraph (A)(i) in emerging markets;

(ii) for necessary subsistence and transportation expenses of—

(I) United States food and rural business system experts, including United States agricultural producers and other United States individuals knowledgeable in agricultural and agribusiness matters, to enable such United States food and rural business system experts to assist in transferring knowledge and expertise to entities from emerging markets; and

(II) individuals designated by emerging markets to enable such designated individuals to consult with such United States experts to enhance food and rural business systems of such emerging markets and to transfer knowledge and expertise to such emerging markets.

(C) COST-SHARING.—The Secretary shall encourage the nongovernmental experts described in subparagraph (B) to share the costs of, and otherwise assist in, the participation of those experts in the E (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program.

(D) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to provide, or pay the necessary costs for, technical assistance (including the establishment of extension services) to enable individuals or other entities to carry out recommendations, projects, and opportunities in emerging markets, including recommendations, projects, and opportunities described in subclauses (II) and (III) of subparagraph (A)(i).

(E) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—A team that receives assistance under subparagraph (B)(i) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary such reports as the Secretary may require.

(F) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—To provide the Secretary with information that may be useful to the Secretary in carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may establish an advisory committee composed of representatives of the various sectors of the food and rural business systems of the United States.

(G) EFFECT.—The authority provided under this subsection shall be in addition to and not in place of any other authority of the Secretary or the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an export assistance program, in this subsection referred to as the "program", to address existing or potential unique barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of United States specialty crops.

(2) PURPOSE.—The program shall provide direct assistance through public and private sector projects and technical assistance, including through the program under section 2(e) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(e)), to remove, resolve, or mitigate existing or potential sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers to trade.

(3) PRIORITY.—The program shall address time sensitive and strategic market access projects based on—

(A) trade effect on market retention, market access, and market expansion; and

(B) trade impact.

(4) MULTIYEAR PROJECTS.—The Secretary may provide assistance under the program to a project for longer than a 5-year period if the Secretary determines that further assistance would effectively support the purpose described in paragraph (2).

(5) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall—

(A) conduct outreach to inform eligible organizations of the requirements of the program and the process by which such organizations may submit proposals for funding;

(B) provide technical assistance to eligible organizations to assist in developing proposals and complying with the requirements of the program; and

(C) solicit input from eligible organizations on improvements to streamline and facilitate the provision of assistance under this subsection.

(6) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, the Secretary shall review program regulations, procedures, and guidelines for assistance under this subsection and make revisions to streamline, improve, and clarify the application, approval and compliance processes for such assistance, including revisions to implement the requirements of paragraph (5).

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing and making revisions under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider—

(i) establishing accountability standards that are appropriate for the size and scope of a project; and

(ii) establishing streamlined application and approval processes, including for smaller-scale projects or projects to address time-sensitive trade barriers.

[(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains, for the period covered by the report, a description of—

[(A) each factor that affects the export of specialty crops, including each factor relating to any—

[(i) significant sanitary or phytosanitary issue;

[(ii) trade barrier; or

[(iii) emerging sanitary or phytosanitary issue or trade barrier; and

[(B)(i) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in a fiscal year; and

[(ii) the reason such funds were not obligated.]

(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit every two years to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the competitiveness of United States specialty crops.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that constitute significant barriers to, or distortions of, United States exports of specialty crops, including the imposition of—

(I) tariffs (including retaliatory tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate quotas); and

(II) nontariff barriers, including technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, import licensing procedures, and subsidies;

(ii) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that enhance the competitiveness of imported specialty crops with domestic specialty crop producers, including—

(I) the subsidization of exports from the producing country; and

(II) the impact of any lack or circumvention of labor and environmental laws in the producing country;

(iii) identify and analyze any differences in applicable food safety regulations of foreign countries that may result in imported specialty crops posing a risk to United States consumers;

(iv) make an estimate of the impacts on the competitiveness of United States specialty crops of any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

(v) assess the extent to which each act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to international agreements to which the United States is a party;

(vi) include information with respect to any action taken by the executive or legislative branches during the two years preceding submission of the report, or expected to be taken after submission of the report, to eliminate any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii), including—

(I) any action under section 301;

(II) negotiations or consultations with foreign governments, which may include engagement through the standing committee on sanitary and phytosanitary matters established under a free trade agreement to which the United States is a party; and

(III) action at the World Trade Organization, including dispute settlement actions, consultations, or negotiations; and

(vii) a description of—

(I) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in the fiscal year preceding submission of the report; and

(II) the reason such funds were not obligated.

(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the report required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall seek and con-

sider comments from the public and from the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public in machine-readable format.

(E) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(i) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(f) FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—The Secretary shall use the funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this section.

[(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $255,000,000, to remain available until expended.**]**

(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—Of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section the following amounts, to remain available until expended:

(A) For fiscal year 2026, $255,000,000.

(B) For fiscal year 2027, $500,000,000.

(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031, $533,000,000.

(3) ALLOCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—**[**For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, the Secretary**]** *The Secretary* shall allocate funds to carry out this section in accordance with the following:

(i) MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.—For market access activities authorized under subsection (b), of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, **[**not less than $200,000,000 for each fiscal year.**]** *not less than—*

(I) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(II) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

(III) $410,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.

(ii) FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—To carry out subsection (c), of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, **[**not less than $34,500,000 for each fiscal year.**]** *not less than—*

(I) $34,500,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(II) $70,500,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

(III) $82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.

(iii) E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA EMERGING MARKETS PROGRAM.—To provide assistance under subsection (d), of

the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, [not more than $8,000,000 for each fiscal year.] *not more than—*

(I) $8,000,000 for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027; and

(II) $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.

(iv) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS.—To carry out subsection (e), of the funds of, or an equal value of the commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit [Corporation, $9,000,000 for each fiscal year.] *Corporation—*

(I) $9,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

(II) $18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(v) PRIORITY TRADE FUND.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts allocated under clauses (i) through (iv), and notwithstanding any limitations in those clauses, as determined by the Secretary, for 1 or more programs under this section for authorized activities to access, develop, maintain, and expand markets for United States agricultural [commodities, $3,500,000 for each fiscal year.] *commodities, $3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031*

(II) CONSIDERATIONS.—In allocating funds made available under subclause (I), the Secretary may consider providing a greater allocation to 1 or more programs under this section for which the amounts requested under applications exceed available funding for the 1 or more programs.

(B) REALLOCATION.—Any funds allocated under clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) that remain unobligated one year after the end of the fiscal year in which they are first made available shall be reallocated to the priority trade fund under subparagraph (A)(v). To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall allocate such reallocated funds to support exports of those types of United States agricultural commodities eligible for assistance under the program for which the funds were originally allocated under subparagraph (A).

(4) CUBA.—Notwithstanding section 908 of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207) or any other provision of law, funds made available under this section may be used to carry out the programs authorized under subsections (b) and (c) in Cuba. Funds may not be used as described in the previous sentence in contravention with directives set forth under the National Security Presidential Memorandum entitled "Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba" issued by the President on June 16, 2017, during the period in which that memorandum is in effect.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other amounts provided under this subsection, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the programs and authorities under paragraph (3)(A)(v) and subsections (b) through (e).

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TITLE III—BARRIERS TO EXPORTS

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SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COMMON NAMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of United States agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products.

(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on efforts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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Subtitle B—Miscellaneous Provisions

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SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the "working group") composed of representatives from each agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall consult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, relevant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and other relevant trade associations to identify threats that imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding potential additional trade actions and investigations with respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables, as determined to be advisable by the working group.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The working group shall recommend programs or assistance that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market impacts.

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SECTION 718 OF TITLE VII OF THE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

[SEC. 718. Hereafter, none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel to carry out a market promotion/market access program pursuant to section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623) that provides assistance to the United States Mink Export Development Council or any mink industry trade association.**]**

PUBLIC LAW 119-21

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TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

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Subtitle F—Additional Investments in Rural America

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[SEC. 10602. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a program to encourage the accessibility, development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for United States agricultural commodities.

[(b) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available to carry out this section $285,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.**]**

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FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

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TITLE XII—STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

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Subtitle B—Research and Education

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CHAPTER 2—SPECIALIZED RESEARCH

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SEC. 1243. [SEMIARID AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH CENTER.] *NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.*

(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this section, the term "agroforestry" means a management system that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to build more profitable and weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, address natural resource concerns and conservation needs, and establish productive and sustainable land use practices, including—

(1) riparian forest buffers;

(2) alley cropping;

(3) silvopasture;

(4) forest farming and multistory cropping; and

(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and, where applicable, field borders, and living snow fences.

[(a) SEMIARID AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER.—]

(b) NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER.— The Secretary of Agriculture *(referred to in this section as the "Secretary")* shall establish at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory of the United States Forest Service, in Lincoln, Nebraska, a [Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center (hereafter referred to in this section as the "Center")] *National Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center* and appoint a Director to manage and coordinate the program established [at the Center under subsection (b)] *under subsection (d).*

(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and

coordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1).

(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize locations at which the Department of Agriculture has, on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee providing coordination among a diverse group of research institutions and other partners.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1) shall by administered by the National Agroforestry Center.

[(b)**]** *(d)* PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program at **[**the Center**]** *each of the centers established under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to in this section as the "Centers")* and seek the participation of Federal or State governmental entities, land-grant colleges or universities, State agricultural experiment stations, State and private foresters, the National Arbor Day Foundation, and other nonprofit foundations *and organizations* in such program to conduct or assist research, investigations, studies, *demonstration projects,* and surveys to—

(1) develop sustainable agroforestry systems **[**on semiarid lands that**]** *that build soil health and* minimize topsoil loss and water contamination and stabilize or enhance crop productivity*, including agroforestry systems on semiarid land and other fragile agroecosystems where permanent woody perennial plant communities can enhance carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*;

(2) adapt, demonstrate, document, and model the effectiveness of agroforestry systems under different farming systems and soil or climate conditions;

(3) develop dual use agroforestry systems compatible with paragraphs (1) and (2) which would provide high-value **[**forestry products for commercial sale from semiarid land**]** *agroforestry products for commercial sale*;

(4) develop and improve the drought and pest resistance characteristics of trees for conservation forestry and agroforestry applications **[**in semiarid regions**]**, including the introduction and breeding of trees suited for **[**the Great Plains region**]** *particular regions* of the United States;

(5) develop *technical assistance, demonstration projects, and* technology transfer programs that increase farmer and public acceptance of sustainable agroforestry systems;

[(6) develop improved windbreak and shelterbelt technologies for drought preparedness, soil and water conservation, environmental quality, and biological diversity on semiarid lands;**]**

(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley cropping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other perennial production and conservation systems and technologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration, drought preparedness, soil and water conservation, environmental quality, and biological diversity;

(7) address barriers to the adoption of agroforestry practices, including—

(A) insufficient access to plant material;

(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain equipment and plant material;

(C) insufficient machinery to implement agroforestry practices;

(D) insufficient technical service assistance; and

(E) insufficient research related to agroforestry systems, including silvopasture and alley cropping;

[(7)] *(8)* develop technical and economic concepts for sustainable agroforestry [on semiarid lands], including the conduct of economic analyses of the costs and benefits of agroforestry systems and the development of models to predict the economic benefits under soil or climate conditions;

[(8)] *(9)* provide international leadership in the development and exchange of agroforestry practices [on semiarid lands worldwide]*worldwide, including on semiarid land*;

[(9)] *(10)* support research on the effects of agroforestry systems [on semiarid lands] in mitigating nonpoint source water pollution and *extreme weather*;

[(10)] *(11)* support research on the design, establishment, and maintenance of tree and shrub plantings to regulate the deposition of snow along roadways; and

[(11)] *(12)* conduct sociological, demographic, and economic studies as needed to develop strategies for increasing the use of forestry conservation and agroforestry practices.

[(c)] *(e)* INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall establish at [the Center] *each of the Centers* a program, to be known as the National Clearinghouse on Agroforestry Conservation and Promotion to—

(1) collect, analyze, and disseminate information on agroforestry conservation technologies and practices; [and]

(2) promote the use of such information by landowners and those organizations associated with [forestry] *forestry, agroforestry,* and tree promotion[.]*; and*

(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by disseminating comprehensive information on Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs that provide support for agroforestry.

(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects, including demonstration sites.

(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey.

[(d)] *(h)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—[There are] *In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is* authorized to be appropriated [$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023] *$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031* to carry out this section.

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TITLE XV—AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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SEC. 1542. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EMERGING MARKETS.

(a) FUNDING.—The Commodity Credit Corporation shall make available for fiscal years 1996 through [2023] *2031* not less than $1,000,000,000 of direct credits or export credit guarantees for exports to emerging markets under section 201 or 202 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5621 and 5622), in addition to the amounts acquired or authorized under section 211 of the Act (7 U.S.C. 5641) for the program.

(b) FACILITIES AND SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A portion of such export credit guarantees shall be made available for—

(A) the establishment or improvement of facilities, or

(B) the provision of services or United States products goods,

in emerging markets by United States persons to improve handling, marketing, processing, storage, or distribution of imported agricultural commodities and products thereof if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that such guarantees will primarily promote the export of United States agricultural commodities (as defined in section 102(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978).

(2) PRIORITY.—The Commodity Credit Corporation shall give priority under this subsection to—

(A) projects that encourage the privatization of the agricultural sector or that benefit private farms or cooperatives in emerging markets; and

(B) projects for which nongovernmental persons agree to assume a relatively larger share of the costs.

(3) CONSTRUCTION WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any applicable requirements relating to the use of United States goods in the construction of a proposed facility, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) goods from the United States are not available; or

(B) the use of goods from the United States is not practicable.

(4) TERM OF GUARANTEE.—A facility payment guarantee under this subsection shall be for a term that is not more than the lesser of—

(A) the term of the depreciation schedule of the facility assisted; or

(B) 20 years.

(c) CONSULTATIONS.—Before the authority under this section is exercised, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with exporters of United States agricultural commodities (as defined in section 102(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978), nongovernmental experts, and other Federal Government agencies in order to ensure that facilities in an emerging market for which financing is guaranteed under paragraph (1)(B) do not primarily benefit countries which are in close geographic proximity to that emerging democracy.

(d) FOREIGN DEBT BURDENS.—In carrying out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that the credits for which repayment is guaranteed under subsection (a) do not negatively affect the political and economic situa-

tion in emerging markets by excessively adding to the foreign debt burdens of such countries.

(e) EMERGING MARKET.—In this section and section 1543, the term "emerging market" means any country, foreign territory, customs union, or other economic market that the Secretary determines—

(1) is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of its economy; and

(2) has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States agricultural commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities.

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SEC. 1543A. BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department the biotechnology and agricultural trade program.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall be to remove, resolve, or mitigate significant regulatory nontariff barriers to the export of United States agricultural commodities (as defined in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602)) into foreign markets through public and private sector projects funded by grants that address—

(1) quick response intervention regarding nontariff barriers to United States exports involving—

(A) United States agricultural commodities produced through biotechnology or new agricultural production technologies;

(B) food safety;

(C) disease; or

(D) other sanitary or phytosanitary concerns; or

(2) developing protocols as part of bilateral negotiations with other countries on issues such as animal health, grain quality, and genetically modified commodities.

(c) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—Depending on need, as determined by the Secretary, activities authorized under this section may be carried out through—

(1) this section;

(2) the emerging markets program under section 1542 and section 203(d) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978; or

(3) the Cochran Fellowship Program under section 1543.

(d) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1543B. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY.—In this section, the term "international food security" means access by any person at any time to food and nutrition that is sufficient for a healthy and productive life.

(b) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall compile information from appropriate mission areas of the Department of Agriculture (including the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services mission area) relating to the improvement of international food security.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—To benefit programs for the improvement of international food security, the Secretary shall organize the information described in subsection (b) and make the information available in a format suitable for—

(1) public education; and

(2) use by—

(A) a Federal, State, or local agency;

(B) an agency or instrumentality of the government of a foreign country;

(C) a domestic or international organization, including a domestic or international nongovernmental organization; and

(D) an intergovernmental organization.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—On request by an entity described in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary may provide technical assistance to the entity to implement a program for the improvement of international food security.

(e) PROGRAM PRIORITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall give priority to programs relating to the development of food and nutrition safety net systems with a focus on food insecure countries.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

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TITLE XVI—RESEARCH

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Subtitle B—Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

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CHAPTER 1—BEST UTILIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

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SEC. 1624. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through [2023] *2031*. Of amounts appropriated to carry out this chapter for a fiscal year, not less than $15,000,000, or not less than two thirds of any such appropriation, whichever is greater, shall be used to carry out sections 1621 and 1622.

CHAPTER 2—INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

SEC. 1627. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a research and education program concerning integrated resource management and integrated crop management in order to enhance research related to farming operations, practices, and systems that

optimize crop and livestock production potential and are environmentally sound. The purpose of the program shall be—

(1) to encourage producers to adopt integrated crop and livestock management practices and systems that minimize or abate adverse environmental impacts, reduce soil erosion and loss of water and nutrients, enhance the efficient use of on-farm and off-farm inputs, and maintain or increase profitability and long-term productivity;

(2) to develop knowledge and information on integrated crop and livestock management systems and practices to assist agricultural producers in the adoption of these systems and practices;

(3) to accumulate and analyze information on agricultural production practices researched or developed under programs established under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, and section 1650 and other appropriate programs of the Department of Agriculture to further the development of integrated crop and livestock management systems;

(4) to facilitate the adoption of whole-farm integrated crop and livestock management systems through demonstration projects on individual farms, including small and limited resource farms, throughout the United States; and

(5) to evaluate and recommend appropriate integrated crop and livestock management policies and programs.

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall encourage agricultural producers to adopt and develop individual, site-specific integrated crop management practices. On a priority basis, the Secretary shall develop and disseminate information on integrated crop management systems for agricultural producers in specific localities or crop producing regions where the Secretary determines—

(1) water quality is impaired as a result of local or regional agricultural production practices; or

(2) the adoption of such practices may aid in the recovery of endangered or threatened species.

(c) DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall, on a priority basis, develop programs to encourage livestock producers to develop and adopt individual, site-specific integrated resource management practices. These programs shall be designed to benefit producers and consumers through—

(1) optimum use of available resources and improved production and financial efficiency for producers;

(2) identifying and prioritizing the research and educational needs of the livestock industry relating to production and financial efficiency, competitiveness, environmental stability, and food safety; and

(3) utilizing an interdisciplinary approach.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through [2023] *2031*.

CHAPTER 3—SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER PROGRAM

SEC. 1628. TECHNICAL GUIDES AND HANDBOOKS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and make available handbooks and technical guides, and any other educational materials that are appropriate for describing sustainable agriculture production systems and practices, as researched and developed under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, section 1650, and other appropriate research programs of the Department.

(b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall develop the handbooks, technical guides, and educational materials in consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and any other appropriate entities designated by the Secretary. The Secretary shall coordinate activities conducted under this section with those conducted under section 1261 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as added by section 1446.

(c) TOPICS OF HANDBOOKS AND GUIDES.—The handbooks and guides, and other educational materials, shall include detailed information on the selection of crops and crop-plant varieties, rotation practices, soil building practices, tillage systems, nutrient management, integrated pest management practices, habitat protection, pest, weed, and disease management, livestock management, soil, water, and energy conservation, and any other practices in accordance with or in furtherance of the purpose of this subtitle.

(d) ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS.—The handbooks and guides, and other educational materials, shall provide practical instructions and be organized in such a manner as to enable agricultural producers desiring to implement the practices and systems developed under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, section 1650, and other appropriate research programs of the Department to address site-specific, environmental and resource management problems and to sustain farm profitability, including—

(1) enhancing and maintaining the fertility, productivity, and conservation of farmland and ranch soils, ranges, pastures, and wildlife;

(2) maximizing the efficient and effective use of agricultural inputs;

(3) protecting or enhancing the quality of water resources; or

(4) optimizing the use of on-farm and nonrenewable resources.

(e) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that handbooks and technical guides, and other educational materials are made available to the agricultural community and the public through colleges and universities, the State Cooperative Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service, other State and Federal agencies, and any other appropriate entities.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2013; and

(2) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1629. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture to provide education and training for Cooperative Extension Service agents and other professionals involved in the education and transfer of technical information concerning sustainable agriculture in order to develop their understanding, competence, and ability to teach and communicate the concepts of sustainable agriculture to Cooperative Extension Service agents and to farmers and urban residents who need information on sustainable agriculture.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The National Training Program shall be organized and administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies. The Secretary shall designate an individual from the Cooperative Extension Service in each State to coordinate the National Training Program within that State. The coordinators shall be responsible, in cooperation with appropriate Federal and State agencies, for developing and implementing a statewide training program for appropriate field office personnel.

(c) REQUIRED TRAINING.—

(1) AGRICULTURAL AGENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that all agricultural agents of the Cooperative Extension Service have completed the National Training Program not later than the end of the five-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act. Such training may occur at a college or university located within each State as designated by the coordinator designated under this section.

(2) PROOF OF TRAINING.—Beginning three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that all new Cooperative Extension Service agents employed by such Service are able to demonstrate, not later than 18 months after the employment of such agents, that such agents have completed the training program established in subsection (a).

(d) REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall designate not less than two regional training centers to coordinate and administer educational activities in sustainable agriculture as provided for in this section.

(2) TRAINING PROGRAM.—Such centers shall offer intensive instructional programs involving classroom and field training work for extension specialists and other individuals who are required to transmit technical information.

(3) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—Such centers shall be located at existing facilities, and no funds appropriated to carry out this chapter shall be used for facility construction.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Such centers should be administered by entities that have a demonstrated capability relating to sustainable agriculture. The Secretary should consider utilizing existing entities with expertise in sustainable agriculture to assist in the design and implementation of the training program under paragraph (2).

(5) COORDINATION OF RESOURCES.—Such centers shall make use of information generated by the Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural experiment stations, and the practical experience of farmers, especially those cooperating in on-

farm demonstrations and research projects, in carrying out the functions of such centers.

(e) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grants program to award grants to organizations, including land-grant colleges and universities, to carry out sustainable agricultural training for county agents and other individuals that need basic information concerning sustainable agriculture practices.

(2) SHORT COURSES.—The purpose of the grants made available under paragraph (1) shall be to establish, in various regions in the United States, training programs that consist of workshops and short courses designed to familiarize participants with the concepts and importance of sustainable agriculture.

(f) REGIONAL SPECIALISTS.—To assist county agents and farmers implement production practices developed under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, and other appropriate research programs of the Department, regional sustainable agriculture specialists may be designated within each State who shall report to the State coordinator of that State. The specialists shall be responsible for developing and coordinating local dissemination of sustainable agriculture information in a manner that is useful to farmers in the region.

(g) INFORMATION AVAILABILITY.—The Cooperative Extension Service within each State shall transfer information developed under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, and other appropriate research programs of the Department through a program that shall—

(1) assist in developing farmer-to-farmer information exchange networks to enable farmers making transitions to more sustainable farming systems to share ideas and draw on the experiences of other farmers;

(2) help coordinate and publicize a regular series of sustainable agriculture farm tours and field days within each State;

(3) plan for extension programming, including extensive farmer input and feedback, in the design of new and ongoing research endeavors related to sustainable agriculture;

(4) provide technical assistance to individual farmers in the design and implementation of farm management plans and strategies for making a transition to more sustainable agricultural systems;

(5) consult and work closely with the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in carrying out the information, technical assistance, and related programs;

(6) develop, coordinate, and direct special education and outreach programs in areas highly susceptible to groundwater contamination, linking sustainable agriculture information with water quality improvement information;

(7) develop information sources relating to crop diversification, alternative crops, on-farm food or commodity processing, and on-farm energy generation;

(8) establish a well-water testing program designed to provide those persons dependent upon underground drinking

water supplies with an understanding of the need for regular water testing, information on sources of testing, and an understanding of how to interpret test results and provide for the protection of underground water supplies;

(9) provide specific information on water quality practices developed through the research programs in subtitle G of title XIV;

(10) provide specific information on nutrient management practices developed through the research programs in subtitle G of title XIV; and

(11) provide information concerning whole-farm management systems integrating research results under this subtitle, subtitle G of title XIV, and other appropriate research programs of the Department.

(h) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "appropriate field office personnel" includes employees of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, and other appropriate Department of Agriculture personnel, as determined by the Secretary, whose activities involve the provision of agricultural production and conservation information to agricultural producers.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the National Training Program $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through [2023] *2031*.

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Subtitle C—National Genetic Resources Program

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SEC. 1635. DEFINITIONS AND AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) The term "program" means the National Genetic Resources Program.

(2) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) The term "Director" means the Director of the National Genetic Resources Program.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle—

(1) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 1991 through 2013; and

(2) $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

[Subtitle D—National Agricultural Weather Information System

[SEC. 1637. SHORT TITLE AND PURPOSES.

[(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the "National Agricultural Weather Information System Act of 1990".

[(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle are—

[(1) to provide a nationally coordinated agricultural weather information system, based on the participation of universities, State programs, Federal agencies, and the private weather consulting sector, and aimed at meeting the weather and climate information needs of agricultural producers;

[(2) to facilitate the collection, organization, and dissemination of advisory weather and climate information relevant to agricultural producers, through the participation of the private sector and otherwise;

[(3) to provide for research and education on agricultural weather and climate information, aimed at improving the quality and quantity of weather and climate information available to agricultural producers, including research on short-term forecasts of thunderstorms and on extended weather forecasting techniques and models;

[(4) to encourage, where feasible, greater private sector participation in providing agricultural weather and climate information, to encourage private sector participation in educating and training farmers and others in the proper utilization of agricultural weather and climate information, and to strengthen their ability to provide site-specific weather forecasting for farmers and the agricultural sector in general; and

[(5) to ensure that the weather and climate data bases needed by the agricultural sector are of the highest scientific accuracy and thoroughly documented, and that such data bases are easily accessible for remote computer access.

[SEC. 1638. AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OFFICE.

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM.—

[(1) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish in the Department of Agriculture an Agricultural Weather Office to plan and administer the National Agricultural Weather Information System. The system shall be comprised of the office established under this section and the activities of the State agricultural weather information systems described in section 1640.

[(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a Director to manage the activities of the Agricultural Weather Office and to advise the Secretary on scientific and programmatic coordination for climate, weather, and remote sensing.

[(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, acting through the Office, may undertake the following activities to carry out this subtitle:

[(1) Enter into cooperative projects with the National Weather Service to—

[(A) support operational weather forecasting and observation useful in agriculture;

[(B) sponsor joint workshops to train agriculturalists about the optimum utilization of agricultural weather and climate data;

[(C) jointly develop improved computer models and computing capacity; and

[(D) enhance the quality and availability of weather and climate information needed by agriculturalists.

[(2) Obtain standardized weather observation data collected in near real time through State agricultural weather information systems.

[(3) Make, through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, competitive grants under subsection (c) for research in atmospheric sciences and climatology.

[(4) Make grants to eligible States under section 1640 to plan and administer State agricultural weather information systems.

[(5) Coordinate the activities of the Office with the weather and climate research activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation Atmospheric Services Program, and the National Climate Program.

[(6) Encourage private sector participation in the National Agricultural Weather Information System through mutually beneficial cooperation with the private sector, particularly in generating weather and climatic data useful for site-specific agricultural weather forecasting.

[(c) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.—

[(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—With funds allocated to carry out this subsection, the Secretary of Agriculture may make grants to State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations and corporations, and individuals to carry out research in all aspects of atmospheric sciences and climatology that can be shown to be important in both a basic and developmental way to understanding, forecasting, and delivering agricultural weather information.

[(2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—Grants made under this subsection shall be made on a competitive basis.

[(d) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applications for grants under subsection (c), the Secretary shall give priority to proposals which emphasize—

[(1) techniques and processes that relate to weather-induced agricultural losses, and to improving the advisory information on weather extremes such as drought, floods, freezes, and storms well in advance of their actual occurrence;

[(2) the improvement of site-specific weather data collection and forecasting; or

[(3) the impact of weather on economic and environmental costs in agricultural production.

[SEC. 1640. STATE AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

[(a) ADVISORY PROGRAM GRANTS.—

[(1) GRANTS REQUIRED.—With funds allocated to carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make grants to not fewer than 10 eligible States to plan and administer, in cooperation with persons described in paragraph (2), advisory programs for State agricultural weather information systems.

[(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons referred to in paragraph (1) are the Director of the Agricultural Weather Office, the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and other persons as appropriate (such as the directors of the appropriate State agricultural experiment stations and State extension programs).

[(b) CONSULTATION.—For purposes of selecting among applications submitted by States for grants under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Director.

[(c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, the chief executive officer of a State shall submit to the Secretary an application that contains—

[(1) assurances that the State will expend such grant to plan and administer a State agricultural weather system that will—

[(A) collect observational weather data throughout the State and provide such data to the National Weather Service and the Agricultural Weather Office;

[(B) develop methods for packaging information received from the national system for use by agricultural producers (with State Cooperative Extension Services and the private sector to serve as the primary conduit of agricultural weather forecasts and climatic information to producers); and

[(C) develop programs to educate agricultural producers on how to best use weather and climate information to improve management decisions; and

[(2) such other assurances and information as the Secretary may require by rule.

[SEC. 1641. FUNDING.

[(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

[(1) COOPERATIVE WORK.—Not less than 15 percent and not more than 25 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal year to carry out this subtitle shall be used for cooperative work with the National Weather Service entered into under section 1638(b)(1).

[(2) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.—Not less than 15 percent and not more than 25 percent of such funds shall be used by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a competitive grants program under section 1638(c).

[(3) WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—Not less than 25 percent and not more than 35 percent of such funds shall be divided equally between the participating States selected for that fiscal year under section 1640.

[(4) OTHER PURPOSES.—The remaining funds shall be allocated for use by the Agricultural Weather Office and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in carrying out generally the provisions of this subtitle.

[(b) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under the authority of this subtitle shall not be used for the construction of facilities. Each State or agency receiving funds shall not use more than 30 percent of such funds for equipment purchases. Any use of the funds in facilitating the distribution of agricultural and climate information to producers shall be done with consideration for the role that the private meteorological sector can play in such information delivery.

[(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012 and $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023.]

Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Research Provisions

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SEC. 1671. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIATIVE.

(a) GOALS.—The goals of this section are—

(1) to expand knowledge concerning genomes and phenomes of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States;

(2) to understand how variable weather, environments, and production systems impact the growth and productivity of specific varieties of crops and species of animals in order to provide greater accuracy in predicting crop and animal performance under variable conditions;

(3) to support research that leverages plant and animal genomic information with phenotypic and environmental data through an interdisciplinary framework, leading to a novel understanding of plant and animal processes that affect growth, productivity, and the ability to predict performance, which will result in the deployment of superior varieties and species to producers and improved crop and animal management recommendations for farmers and ranchers;

(4) to catalyze and coordinate research that links genomics and predictive phenomics at different sites across the United States to achieve advances in crops and animals that generate societal benefits;

(5) to combine fields such as genetics, genomics, plant physiology, agronomy, climatology, and crop modeling with computation and informatics, statistics, and engineering;

(6) to combine fields such as genetics, genomics, animal physiology, meat science, animal nutrition, and veterinary science with computation and informatics, statistics, and engineering;

(7) to focus on crops and animals that will yield scientifically important results that will enhance the usefulness of many other crops and animals;

(8) to build on genomic research, such as the Plant Genome Research Project and the National Animal Genome Research Program, to understand gene function in production environments that is expected to have considerable returns for crops and animals of importance to the agriculture of the United States;

(9) to develop improved data analytics to enhance understanding of the biological function of genes;

(10) to allow resources developed under this section, including data, software, germplasm, and other biological materials, to be openly accessible to all persons, subject to any confidentiality requirements imposed by law; and

(11) to encourage international partnerships with each partner country responsible for financing its own research.

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall conduct a research initiative, to be known as the "Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative", for the purpose of—

(1) studying agriculturally significant crops and animals in production environments to achieve sustainable and secure agricultural production;

(2) ensuring that current gaps in existing knowledge of agricultural crop and animal genetics and phenomics are filled;

(3) identifying and developing a functional understanding of relevant genes from animals and agronomically relevant genes from crops that are of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States;

(4) ensuring future genetic improvement of crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States;

(5) studying the relevance of diverse germplasm as a source of unique genes that may be of importance in the future;

(6) enhancing genetics to reduce the economic impact of pathogens on crops and animals of importance to the agriculture sector of the United States;

(7) disseminating findings to relevant audiences; and

(8) otherwise carrying out this section.

(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, acting through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements with individuals and organizations in accordance with section 1472 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318).

(2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—A grant or cooperative agreement under this subsection shall be made or entered into on a competitive basis.

(3) CONSORTIA.—The Secretary shall encourage awards under this section to consortia of eligible entities.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of a grant or cooperative agreement under this section.

(e) CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Secretary may use funds made available under this section to consult with the National Academy of Sciences regarding the administration of the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), with respect to a grant or cooperative agreement under this section that provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, the recipient of funds under the grant or cooperative agreement shall provide non-Federal matching funds (including funds from an agricultural commodity promotion, research, and information program) equal to not less than the amount provided under the grant or cooperative agreement.

(2) IN-KIND SUPPORT.—Non-Federal matching funds described in paragraph (1) may include in-kind support.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to a research project if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the results of the project are of a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, but those results are

likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or

(B)(i) the project—

(I) involves a minor commodity; and

(II) deals with scientifically important research; and

(ii) the recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1672. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.

(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may make competitive grants to support research and extension activities specified in subsections (d) through (g).

(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), an entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall provide non-Federal matching funds (including funds from an agricultural commodity promotion, research, and information program) equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

(B) IN-KIND SUPPORT.—Non-Federal matching funds described in subparagraph (A) may include in-kind support.

(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under subparagraph (A) with respect to a research project if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the results of the project are of a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, but those results are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or

(ii)(I) the project—

(aa) involves a minor commodity; and

(bb) deals with scientifically important research; and

(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall make the grants in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(2) USE OF TASK FORCES.—To facilitate the making of research and extension grants under this section in the research and extension areas specified in subsections (d) through (g), the Secretary may appoint a task force for each such area to make recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary may not incur costs in excess of $1,000 for any fiscal year in connection with each task force established under this paragraph.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS ENCOURAGED.—Following the completion of a peer review process for grant proposals received under this section, the Secretary shall provide a priority to those grant proposals, found in the peer review process to be scientifically meritorious, that involve the cooperation of multiple entities.

(d) HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AREAS.—

(1) DAIRY FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of providing research, development, or education materials, information, and outreach programs regarding risk management strategies for dairy producers and for dairy cooperatives and other processors and marketers of milk.

(2) POTATO RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing and evaluating new strains of potatoes that are resistant to blight and other diseases, as well as insects. Emphasis may be placed on developing potato varieties that lend themselves to innovative marketing approaches.

(3) WOOD USE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing new uses for wood from underused tree species as well as investigating methods of modifying wood and wood fibers to produce better building materials.

(4) BIGHORN AND DOMESTIC SHEEP DISEASE MECHANISMS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to conduct research relating to the health status of (including the presence of infectious diseases in) bighorn and domestic sheep under range conditions.

[(5) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAN-PACIFIC REGION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to support food and agricultural science at a consortium of land-grant institutions in the American-Pacific region.

[(6) TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.—Research grants may be made under this section, in equal dollar amounts to the Caribbean and Pacific Basins, to support tropical and subtropical agricultural research, including pest and disease research, at the land-grant institutions in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.**]**

[(7)**]** *(5)* WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary.

[(8)**]** *(6)* ALFALFA SEED AND ALFALFA FORAGE SYSTEMS RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of studying improvements in alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems yields, biomass and persistence, pest pressures, the bioenergy potential of alfalfa seed and other alfalfa forage systems to reduce losses during harvest and storage.

[(9) COFFEE PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

[(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat the coffee berry borer (Hypothenemus hampei); and

[(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of, being affected by the coffee berry borer.

[(10) CORN, SOYBEAN MEAL, CEREAL GRAINS, AND GRAIN BYPRODUCTS RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of carrying out or enhancing research to improve the digestibility, nutritional value, and efficiency of the use of corn, soybean meal, cereal grains, and grain byproducts for the poultry and food animal production industries.

[(11) MACADAMIA TREE HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

[(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat the macadamia felted coccid (*Eriococcus ironsidei*); and

[(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, the macadamia felted coccid.]

[(12)] *(7)* NATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

(A) carrying out or enhancing research related to turfgrass and sod issues;

(B) enhancing production and uses of turfgrass for the general public;

(C) identifying new turfgrass varieties with superior drought, heat, cold, and pest tolerance to reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide use;

(D) selecting genetically superior turfgrasses and developing improved technologies for managing commercial, residential, and recreational turfgrass areas;

(E) producing turfgrasses that—

(i) aid in mitigating soil erosion;

(ii) protect against pollutant runoff into waterways; or

(iii) provide other environmental benefits;

(F) investigating, preserving, and protecting native plant species, including grasses not currently utilized in turfgrass systems;

(G) creating systems for more economical and viable turfgrass seed and sod production throughout the United States; and

(H) investigating the turfgrass phytobiome and developing biologic products to enhance soil, enrich plants, and mitigate pests.

[(13) FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of carrying out research to improve fertilizer use efficiency in crops—

[(i) to maximize crop yield; and

[(ii) to minimize nutrient losses to surface and groundwater and the atmosphere.

[(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to research examining the impact of the source, rate, timing, and placement of plant nutrients.]

[(14)] *(8)* CATTLE FEVER TICK PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study cattle fever ticks—

(A) to facilitate the understanding of the role of wildlife in the persistence and spread of cattle fever ticks;

(B) to develop advanced methods for eradication of cattle fever ticks, including—

(i) alternative treatment methods for cattle and other susceptible species;

(ii) field treatment for premises, including corral pens and pasture loafing areas;

(iii) methods for treatment and control on infested wildlife;

(iv) biological control agents; and

(v) new and improved vaccines;

(C) to evaluate rangeland vegetation that impacts the survival of cattle fever ticks;

(D) to improve management of diseases relating to cattle fever ticks that are associated with wildlife, livestock, and human health;

(E) to improve diagnostic detection of tick-infested or infected animals and pastures; and

(F) to conduct outreach to impacted ranchers, hunters, and landowners to integrate tactics and document sustainability of best practices.

[(15)] *(9)* LAYING HEN AND TURKEY RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Research grants may be made under this section for the purpose of improving the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. Emphasis may be placed on laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions.

[(16)] *(10)* CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of supporting research projects at land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) with established deer research programs for the purposes of treating, mitigating, or eliminating chronic wasting disease.

[(17)] *(11)* ALGAE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the development and testing of algae and algae systems (in-

cluding micro- and macro-algae systems *and harmful algal blooms*).

[(18) NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of examining nutrient management based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of crop nutrients.]

[(19)] *(12)* DRYLAND FARMING AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the utilization of big data for more precise management of dryland farming agricultural systems.

[(20)] *(13)* HOP PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat diseases of hops caused by the plant pathogens *Podosphaera macularis* and *Pseudoperonospora humuli*.

(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out research to improve fertilizer use efficiency in crops and examining nutrient management based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of crop nutrients.

(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat plant pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants, including—

(i) coffee plants;
(ii) macadamia trees;
(iii) cacao trees;
(iv) plantains and bananas;
(v) mangos;
(vi) vanilla plants;
(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery crops; and
(viii) any other tropical plant as determined by the Secretary;

(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests or noxious weeds;

(C) surveying and collecting data on tropical plant production and health;

(D) investigating tropical plant biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics; and

(E) conducting research on various factors that may contribute to, or be associated with, tropical plant immune systems and other serious threats to tropical plants.

(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types across soil types, soil health and soil management conditions, application methods, and climatic and

agronomic regions, including through the establishment of a national biochar research network, to—

(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration potential of various biochars and management systems integrating biochar use;

(B) understand how to use biochar productively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop production, resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem and soil health, natural resource conservation, and farm profitability; and

(C) deliver science-based, region-specific, cost-effective, and practical information to farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation managers, urban land managers, and other land and natural resource managers and businesses on sustainable biochar production and application.

(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of studying the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and apples, by—

(A) conducting research—

(i) to identify the compounds responsible for smoke exposure; and

(ii) to establish standard methodologies for sampling and testing smoke-exposed specialty crops and smoke-affected products, including fast and inexpensive screening methods;

(B) establishing a reliable database of background levels of smoke exposure compounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

(C) developing risk assessment tools or mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke exposure; and

(D) studying compounds that can act as a barrier between specialty crops and smoke compounds.

(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to manage or eradicate (including through methods of biocontrol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula), navel orangeworm (Amyelois transitella), and spotted wing drosophila (Drosophila suzukii).

(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the agricultural impacts of microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including structural firefighting foam, in land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, including by—

(A) conducting surveys and collecting data on concentration, particle size, and chemical composition of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland;

(B) the development or analysis of techniques, including wastewater treatment and composting, to filter out or biodegrade such substances from biosolids intended to be used for agricultural purposes;

(C) conducting an analysis of the impact on agricultural crops and soil health of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland, including the uptake of such substances by various crops or livestock;

(D) conducting research to better understand how wastewater processing impacts such substances;

(E) conducting research to better understand the fate, residence time, and transport of such substances on farmland; and

(F) conducting research on how to remediate soil and water systems contaminated with such substances.

(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products, including innovations in production processes for easily deployable refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricultural burning, and fostering energy production through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and plant-based waste.

(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

(A) developing management practices that improve soil health, including establishing tools that aid soil preservation or improve composition of soil organic compounds that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment; and

(B) disseminating such practices through methods such as innovative coursework and work-based learning.

(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of white oak research, including conducting research on—

(A) white oak genes with resistance and stress tolerance;

(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

(D) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

(E) reforestation of white oak through natural and artificial regeneration; and

(F) the best methods for reforesting abandoned mine land sites.

(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and enhancing research on the characterization, utilization, and evaluation of alternative growing media, including science-based techniques that maximize functions in the growth of plants and harvest yields.

(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the development of forage production and improved grazing and range management, including the adoption of virtual fencing technology that simultaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing and evaluating mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.

(e) PULSE CROP HEALTH INITIATIVE.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) INITIATIVE.—The term "Initiative" means the pulse crop health initiative established by paragraph (2).

(B) PULSE CROP.—The term "pulse crop" means dry beans, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a pulse crop health competitive research and extension initiative to address the critical needs of the pulse crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools and information, including—

(A) research conducted with respect to pulse crops in the areas of health and nutrition, such as—

(i) pulse crop diets and the ability of such diets to reduce obesity and associated chronic disease; and

(ii) the underlying mechanisms of the health benefits of pulse crop consumption;

(B) research related to the functionality of pulse crops, such as—

(i) improving the functional properties of pulse crops and pulse crop fractions; and

(ii) developing new and innovative technologies to improve pulse crops as an ingredient in food products;

(C) research conducted with respect to pulse crops for purposes of enhancing sustainability and global food security, such as—

(i) improving pulse crop productivity, nutrient density, and phytonutrient content using plant breeding, genetics, and genomics;

(ii) improving pest and disease management, including resistance to pests and diseases; and

(iii) improving nitrogen fixation and water use efficiency to reduce the carbon and energy footprint of agriculture;

(D) the optimization of systems used in producing pulse crops to reduce water usage; and

(E) education and technical assistance programs with respect to pulse crops, such as programs—

(i) providing technical expertise to help food companies include pulse crops in innovative and healthy food; and

(ii) establishing an educational program to encourage pulse crop consumption in the United States.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) shall apply with respect to the making of a competitive grant under this subsection.

(4) PRIORITIES.—In making competitive grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide a higher priority to projects that—

(A) are multistate, multiinstitutional, and multidisciplinary; and

(B) include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to the pulse crop industry and the public.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

(f) TRAINING COORDINATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROTECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a competitive grant to, or enter into a contract or a cooperative agreement with, an eligible entity (described in paragraph (2)) for purposes of establishing an internationally integrated training system to enhance the protection of the food supply in the United States, to be known as the "Comprehensive Food Safety Training Network" (referred to in this subsection as the "Network").

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible entity is a multiinstitutional consortium that includes—

(i) a nonprofit institution that provides food safety protection training; and

(ii) one or more training centers in institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that have demonstrated expertise in developing and delivering community-based training in food supply and agricultural safety and defense.

(B) COLLECTIVE CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary may consider such consortium collectively and not on an institution-by-institution basis.

(3) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—As a condition of receiving a competitive grant or entering into a contract or a cooperative agreement with the Secretary under this subsection, the eligible entity, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall establish and maintain the Network, including by—

(A) providing basic, technical, management, and leadership training (including by developing curricula) to regulatory and public health officials, producers, processors, and other agribusinesses;

(B) serving as the hub for the administration of the Network;

(C) implementing a standardized national curriculum to ensure the consistent delivery of quality training throughout the United States;

(D) building and overseeing a nationally recognized instructor cadre to ensure the availability of highly qualified instructors;

(E) reviewing training proposed through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and other relevant Federal agencies that report to the Secretary on the quality and content of proposed and existing courses;

(F) assisting Federal agencies in the implementation of food safety protection training requirements including requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic

Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), the Agricultural Act of 2014, and any provision of law amended by such Act; and

(G) performing evaluation and outcome-based studies to provide to the Secretary information on the effectiveness and impact of training and metrics on jurisdictions and sectors within the food safety system.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—An eligible entity may alter the consortium membership to meet specific training expertise needs.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*, to remain available until expended.

(g) POLLINATOR PROTECTION.—

(1) RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

(A) GRANTS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section—

(i) to survey and collect data on bee colony production and health;

(ii) to investigate pollinator biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics;

(iii) to conduct research on various factors that may be contributing to or associated with colony collapse disorder, and other serious threats to the health of honey bees and other pollinators, including—

(I) parasites and pathogens of pollinators; and

(II) the sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees and native and managed pollinators;

(iv) to develop mitigative and preventative measures to improve native and managed pollinator health; and

(v) to promote the health of honey bees and native pollinators through habitat conservation and best management practices.

(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, increase the capacity and infrastructure of the Department—

(i) to address colony collapse disorder and other long-term threats to pollinator health, including the hiring of additional personnel; and

(ii) to conduct research on colony collapse disorder and other pollinator issues at the facilities of the Department.

(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $7,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*.

(3) HONEY BEE SURVEILLANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest, pathogen,

health, and population status surveillance program $2,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*.

(4) ENHANCED COORDINATION OF HONEYBEE AND POLLINATOR RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Scientist of the Department of Agriculture shall coordinate research, extension, education, and economic activities in the Department of Agriculture relating to native and managed pollinator health and habitat.

(B) DUTIES.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Chief Scientist shall—

(i) assign an individual to serve in the Office of the Chief Scientist as a Honeybee and Pollinator Research Coordinator who shall be responsible for leading the efforts of the Chief Scientist in carrying out such subparagraph;

(ii) implement and coordinate pollinator health research efforts of the Department, as recommended by the Pollinator Health Task Force;

(iii) establish annual strategic priorities and goals for the Department for native and managed pollinator research;

(iv) communicate such priorities and goals to each agency or office of the Department of Agriculture, the managed pollinator industry, and relevant grant recipients under programs administered by the Secretary; and

(v) coordinate and identify all research on native and managed pollinator health needed and conducted by the Department of Agriculture and relevant grant recipients under programs administered by the Secretary to ensure consistency and reduce unintended duplication of effort.

(C) RESEARCH.—In coordinating research activities under subparagraph (A), the Chief Scientist shall ensure that such research—

(i) identifies and addresses the multiple stressors on pollinator health, including pests and pathogens, reduced habitat, lack of nutritional resources, and exposure to pesticides;

(ii) evaluates stewardship and management practices of managed pollinators that would impact managed pollinator health;

(iii) documents the prevalence of major pests, such as *varroa destructor* (commonly referred to as the varroa mite), and diseases that are transported between States through practices involving managed pollinators;

(iv) evaluates the impact of overcrowding of colonies for pollination services and the impact of such overcrowding on pollinator health status and pollinator health recovery;

(v) evaluates and reports on the health differences of managed pollinators in—

(I) crops not requiring contract pollination;

(II) crops requiring contract pollination; and

(III) native habitat;

(vi) evaluates the impact of horticultural and agricultural pest management practices on native and managed pollinator colonies in diverse agroecosystems;

(vii) documents pesticide residues that are—

(I) found in native and managed pollinator colonies; and

(II) associated with typical localized commercial crop pest management practices;

(viii) with respect to native and managed pollinator colonies visiting crops for crop pollination or honey production purposes, documents—

(I) the strength and health of such colonies;

(II) the survival, growth, reproduction, and production of such colonies;

(III) pests, pathogens, and viruses that affect such colonies;

(IV) environmental conditions of such colonies;

(V) beekeeper practices; and

(VI) any other relevant information, as determined by the Chief Scientist;

(ix) documents, with respect to healthy populations of managed pollinators, best management practices and other practices for managed pollinators and crop managers;

(x) evaluates the effectiveness of—

(I) conservation practices that target the specific needs of native and managed pollinator habitats;

(II) incentives that allow for the expansion of native and managed pollinator forage acreage; and

(III) managed pollinator breeding practices and efforts to, with respect to managed pollinators, avoid creating a genetic bottleneck and improve genetic diversity;

(xi) in the case of commercially managed pollinator colonies, continues to gather data—

(I) on an annual basis with respect to losses of such colonies, splits of such colonies, and the total number of pollinator colonies;

(II) on rising input costs; and

(III) overall economic value to the food economy; and

(xii) addresses any other issue relating to native and managed pollinators, as determined by the Chief Scientist, in consultation with scientific experts.

(D) PUBLICATION.—The Chief Scientist, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

(i) make publicly available the results of the research described in subparagraph (C); and

(ii) in the case of the research described in subparagraph (C)(vi), publish any data or reports that were produced by the Department of Agriculture but not made publicly available during the period beginning

on January 1, 2008, and ending on the date of the enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

(5) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall publish guidance on enhancing pollinator health and the long-term viability of populations of pollinators, including recommendations related to—

(A) allowing for managed honey bees to forage on National Forest System lands where compatible with other natural resource management priorities; and

(B) planting and maintaining managed honey bee and native pollinator foraging on National Forest System lands where compatible with other natural resource management priorities.

(6) ANNUAL REPORT ON RESPONSE TO HONEY BEE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report—

(A) describing the progress made by the Department of Agriculture in—

(i) investigating the cause or causes of honey bee colony collapse and honey bee health disorders;

(ii) finding appropriate strategies, including best management practices to reduce colony loss; and

(iii) addressing the decline of managed honey bees and native pollinators;

(B) assessing Federal efforts to mitigate pollinator losses and threats to the United States commercial beekeeping industry; and

(C) providing recommendations to Congress regarding how to better coordinate Federal agency efforts to address the decline of managed honey bees and native pollinators.

(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028, and not less frequently than once every other year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in subsections (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative, through—

(1) amounts made available under appropriations Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

(2) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity and infrastructure programs (as defined in section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

(3) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive programs (as defined in such section); and

(4) amounts made available through other agencies within the Department.

[(h)] *(i)* AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 1999 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1672B. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—In consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, using funds made available under subsection (e), the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") may make competitive grants in each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031* to support research, education, and extension activities regarding organically grown and processed agricultural commodities for the purposes of—

(1) facilitating the development and improvement of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods;

(2) evaluating the potential economic benefits of organic agricultural production and methods to producers, processors, and rural communities;

(3) exploring international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities;

(4) determining desirable traits for organic commodities;

(5) identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture;

(6) conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of, experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production, marketing, food safety, socioeconomic conditions, and farm business management;

(7) examining optimal conservation, soil health, and environmental outcomes relating to organically produced agricultural products; and

(8) developing new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture.

(b) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS, PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), an entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall provide non-Federal matching funds (including funds from an agricultural commodity promotion, research, and information program) equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

(2) IN-KIND SUPPORT.—Non-Federal matching funds described in paragraph (1) may include in-kind support.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to a research project if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the results of the project are of a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, but those results are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or

(B)(i) the project—

(I) involves a minor commodity; and

(II) deals with scientifically important research; and

(ii) the recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS ENCOURAGED.—Following the completion of a peer review process for grant proposals received under this section, the Secretary may provide a priority to those grant proposals, found in the peer review process to be scientifically meritorious, that involve the cooperation of multiple entities.

[(e) FUNDING.—On October 1, 2003, and each October 1 thereafter through October 1, 2007, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer $3,000,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture for this section.]

[(f)] *(e)* FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section—

(A) $18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(B) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012;

(C) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018; and

(D) $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2020;

(E) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

(F) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(G) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

[(3) FISCAL YEAR 2013.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.]

SEC. 1672D. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make competitive research and extension grants for the purpose of improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In allocating funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may give priority to grants that—

(1) demonstrate an ability to work directly with agricultural producers;

(2) collaborate with farm management educational programs and associations;

(3) address the farm management needs of a variety of crops and regions of the United States; and

(4) contribute data to the national farm financial management database.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research

Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2013; and

(2) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

SEC. 1672E. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

(a) COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—In consultation with [the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee established under section 222(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994] *the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production established under section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)*, the Secretary may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of facilitating the development of urban, indoor, and other [emerging agricultural production] *emerging agricultural production practices (as described in subsection (a)(3) of such section)*, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets, including by—

(1) assessing and developing strategies to remediate contaminated sites;

(2) determining and developing the best production management and integrated pest management practices;

(3) identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other [emerging agricultural production] *emerging agricultural production practices*;

(4) analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs;

(5) exploring new technologies that minimize energy, lighting systems, water, and other inputs for increased food production;

(6) examining building material efficiencies and structural upgrades for the purpose of optimizing growth of agricultural products;

(7) developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets; [or]

(8) examining the impacts of crop exposure to urban elements on environmental quality and food safety[.]*;*

(9) managing waste streams to improve the environmental footprint; or

(10) advising land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving institutions (as described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))), and vocational schools, with respect to career and technical education.

(b) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS.—Subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (4), paragraph (7), and paragraph (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give priority to grant proposals that involve—

(1) the cooperation of multiple entities; or

(2) States or regions with a high concentration of or significant interest in urban farms, rooftop farms, and indoor production facilities.

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

(A) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2019, to remain available until expended; and

(B) $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2031.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

SEC. 1673. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

[(a) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall prioritize centers of excellence established for purposes of carrying out research, extension, and education activities relating to the food and agricultural sciences (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) for the receipt of funding for any competitive research or extension program administered by the Secretary.

[(b) COMPOSITION.—A center of excellence is composed of 1 or more of the eligible entities specified in subsection (b)(7) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(7)) that provide financial or in-kind support to the center of excellence.

[(c) CRITERIA FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

[(1) REQUIRED EFFORTS.—The criteria for recognition as a center of excellence shall include efforts—

[(A) to ensure coordination and cost effectiveness by reducing unnecessarily duplicative efforts regarding research, teaching, and extension;

[(B) to leverage available resources by using public-private partnerships among agricultural industry groups, institutions of higher education, and the Federal Government;

[(C) to implement teaching initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities; and

[(D) to increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues.

[(2) ADDITIONAL EFFORTS.—Where practicable, the criteria for recognition as a center of excellence shall include efforts to improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and

universities (including land-grant colleges and universities, cooperating forestry schools, NLGCA Institutions (as those terms are defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), and schools of veterinary medicine).]

(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish at least one center of excellence for the purpose of carrying out research, extension, or education activities for each of the areas of focus described in paragraph (3).

(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection include—

(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note);

(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103);

(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges or universities, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

(vi) accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the geographic diversity of institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection.

(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may host or co-host only one center of excellence under this subsection at a time.

(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection shall partner with the Agricultural Research Service, other Federal agencies, State governments, other institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural industry groups, or other relevant entities to—

(i) reduce duplicative efforts and focus on filling gaps across research, extension, or education activities by enhancing coordination and improving cost-effectiveness;

(ii) leverage available resources by using public-private partnerships;

(iii) implement training and educational initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities;

(iv) increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues;

(v) rapidly respond to emerging issues that threaten any sector of the United States agricultural industry;

(vi) focus on workforce development for employers to recruit and retain high-quality employees in rural areas; and

(vii) engage in assistance for administrative management and education regarding potentially valuable intellectual property derived from federally-supported research, extension, or education activities.

(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing and applying aquaculture methods, including through the propagation and rearing of economically and ecologically valuable aquatic and marine species.

(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension or education activities focused on training beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm and agribusiness management, mentoring and technical assistance, and access to capital.

(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to defend the United States food supply from any attacks.

(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on biosystems and agricultural engineering, including precision agriculture technologies and mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.

(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on development of animal and plant biotechnologies that will increase agricultural productivity.

(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION, AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on crop production and protection, including the development, manufacture, and use of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adjuvants in increasing productivity and protecting crops from damaging pests and diseases.

(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing, evaluating, and deploying digital agriculture, including artificial intelligence and remote sensing systems.

(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may

engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on farm business and financial management activities, including marketing plans, production diversification, and cash forward contracting.

(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on improving food quality, including research on the uptake of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on foreign animal diseases, including the ecology and etiology of emerging diseases, control methods, and implementation strategies to enhance preparedness and response efforts to protect the livestock and poultry industry.

(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on forest productivity and forest health, including invasive species control, biochar and pyrolysis development and commercialization, reforestation and restoration of damaged landscapes, and new wood-based materials.

(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on the control and eradication of invasive species that pose a persistent and growing threat to United States agricultural production, forest resources, global food security, and rural economies.

(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on issues impacting livestock (including equines) and poultry production in the United States, including economic research to understand policy implications for producers.

(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing additional veterinarians, including large animal veterinarians, to address the veterinarian shortage in rural areas.

(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on water quality and quantity efforts, including drought, water management, natural resource benefits, and the health and resilience of the water supply in the United States.

(4) TERMS.—

(A) DURATION.—The term of an award under this subsection shall be for a five-year period, and may be renewed for not more than one additional five-year period.

(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—Funds made available under this subsection shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion,

remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

(A) the projects initiated by each center of excellence established under this subsection in the preceding year;

(B) the amount of funding for each such project and the funding source;

(C) the institutions participating in each such project and their shares of the overall funding for each project;

(D) the level of cost sharing for each such project;

(E) any technology transfer and intellectual property management actions taken by each such center of excellence, such as the number of relevant invention disclosures, any provisional patents filed, any non-provisional patents filed and issued, the number of licenses executed, and any start-up companies registered; and

(F) any additional information deemed necessary.

[(d)**]** *(b)* CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT 1890S INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) RECOGNITION.—**[**The Secretary**]** *In addition to the centers of excellence established under subsection (a), the Secretary* shall recognize **[**not less than 3 centers of excellence**]** *not less than 8 centers of excellence*, each led by an 1890 Institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), to focus on 1 or more of the areas described in paragraph (2).

(2) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

(A) STUDENT SUCCESS **[**AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**]**, *WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL STUDIES*.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may engage in activities to ensure that students have the skills and education needed to work in agriculture and food industries, agriculture science, technology, engineering, mathematics, *economics, psychology, rural sociology, data sciences,* and related fields of study.

(B) NUTRITION, HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND QUALITY OF LIFE.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may carry out research, education, and extension programs that increase access to healthy food, improve nutrition, mitigate preventive disease, and develop strategies to assist limited resource individuals in accessing health and nutrition resources.

(C) FARMING SYSTEMS, RURAL PROSPERITY, AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may share best practices with farmers to improve agricultural production, processing, and marketing, reduce urban food deserts, examine new uses for traditional and nontraditional crops, animals, and natural resources, and continue activities carried out by the Center for Innovative and Sustainable Small Farms, Ranches, and Forest Lands.

(D) GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND DEFENSE.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may engage in international partnerships that strengthen agricultural development in developing countries, partner with international researchers regarding new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases, engage in agricultural disaster recovery, and continue activities carried out by the Center for International Engagement.

(E) NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on protecting and managing domestic natural resources for current and future production of food and agricultural products *and nature-based solutions to improve the composition of soil organic compounds, including carbon, that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment*.

(F) EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on the development of emerging technologies to increase agricultural productivity, enhance small farm economic viability, and improve rural communities by developing genetic and sensor technologies for food and agriculture and providing technology training to farmers.

(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVATION.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience to catastrophic wildfire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban and community forestry programs to promote healthy forest ecosystems and resilient communities.

(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture enterprise development, and innovative food and agriculture product development.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through ⟦2023⟧ *2031*.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

(A) the resources invested in the centers of excellence established under paragraph (1); and

(B) the work being done by those centers of excellence.

SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary"), in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities relating to the transition of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural production systems for the purposes of—

(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to organic agricultural production;

(2) documenting and understanding the effects of organic practices on ecosystem services, including soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-related services, and pest management; and

(3) developing improved technologies, methods, models, and metrics to document, describe, and optimize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural production into organic management.

(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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SEC. 1680. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall make demonstration grants to support cooperative programs between State Cooperative Extension Service agencies and private nonprofit disability organizations to provide on-the-farm agricultural education and assistance directed at accommodating disability in farm operations for individuals with disabilities who are engaged in farming and farm-related occupations and their families.

(2) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.—Grants awarded under paragraph (1) may be used to support programs serving individuals with disabilities, and their families, who are engaged in farming and farm-related occupations.

(3) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—Grants awarded under paragraph (1) may be used to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that—

(A) provide direct education and assistance to accommodate disability in farming to individuals with disabilities who engage in farming and farm-related occupations;

(B) provide on-the-farm technical advice concerning the design, fabrication, and use of agricultural and related equipment, machinery, and tools, and assist in the modification of farm worksites, operations, and living arrangements to accommodate individuals with disabilities who engage in farming, farm living and farm-related tasks;

(C) involve community and health care professionals, including Extension Service agents and others, in the early identification of farm and rural families that are in need of services related to the disability of an individual;

(D) provide specialized education programs to enhance the professional competencies of rural agricultural professionals, rehabilitation and health care providers, vocational counselors, and other providers of service to individ-

uals with disabilities, and their families, who engage in farming or farm-related occupations; [and]

(E) mobilize rural volunteer resources, including peer counseling among farmers with disabilities and rural ingenuity networks promoting cost effective methods or accommodating disabilities in farming and farm-related activities[.]*; and*

(F) provide education and support to youth and young adults with disabilities interested in farming and farm-related occupations.

(4) EXTENSION SERVICE AGENCIES.—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection directly to State Extension Service agencies to enable them to enter into contracts, on a multiyear basis, with private nonprofit community-based direct service organizations to initiate, expand, or sustain cooperative programs described under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(5) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this subsection may not be less than $150,000.

(6) CONSIDERATION FOR GRANTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—For each fiscal year that amounts are made available for grants under this subsection, the Secretary may make grants in a manner that ensures that eligible entities who apply for grants, but have not previously received a grant under this subsection, are given full consideration.

(7) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS TO VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES.—This subsection shall apply with respect to veterans with disabilities, and their families, who—

(A) are engaged in farming or farm-related occupations; or

(B) are pursuing new farming opportunities.

(b) NATIONAL GRANT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING AND DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall award a competitive grant to a national private nonprofit disability organization to enable such organization to provide technical assistance, training, information dissemination and other activities to support community-based direct service programs of on-site rural rehabilitation and assistive technology for individuals (including veterans) with disabilities, and their families, who are engaged in farming or farm-related occupations or, in the case of veterans with disabilities, who are pursuing new farming opportunities.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(A) $6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2013; and

(B) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through [2023] *2031*.

(2) NATIONAL GRANT.—Not more than 15 percent of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) and subsection (d) for a fiscal year shall be used to carry out subsection (b).

(d) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Subject to subsection (c)(2), of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

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TITLE XXIII—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Subtitle D—Enhancing Human Resources

CHAPTER 1—TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

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SEC. 2335A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter [$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023] *$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated*.

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Subtitle G—Rural Revitalization Through Forestry

Chapter 1—Forestry Rural Revitalization

SEC. 2371. FORESTRY RURAL REVITALIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL MARKETING PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension System, and in consultation with the Forest Service, shall establish and implement educational programs and provide technical assistance to assist businesses, industries, and policymakers to create jobs, raise incomes, and increase public revenues in manners consistent with environmental concerns.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Each program established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) transfer technologies to natural resource-based industries in the United States to make such industries more efficient, productive, and competitive;

(2) assist businesses to identify global marketing opportunities, conduct business on an international basis, and market themselves more effectively; and

(3) train local leaders in strategic community economic development.

(c) TYPES OF PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish specific programs under subsection (a) to—

(1) delivery educational services focused on community economic analysis, economic diversification, economic impact analysis, retention and expansion of existing commodity and noncommodity industries, amenity resource and tourism development, and entrepreneurship focusing on forest lands and rural communities;

(2) use Cooperative Extension System databases and analytical tools to help communities diversify their economic bases, add value locally to raw forest product materials, and retain

revenues by helping to develop local businesses and industries to supply forest products locally; and

(3) use the full resources of the Cooperative Extension System, including land-grant universities and county offices, to promote economic development that is sustainable and environmentally sound.

(d) RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in consultation with the State and Private Forestry Technology Marketing Unit at the Forest Products Laboratory, and in collaboration with eligible institutions, may carry out a program—

(A) to accelerate adoption of technologies using biomass and small-diameter materials;

(B) to create community-based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects; and

(C) to establish small-scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through [2023] *2031*.

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Subtitle H—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 2381. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish, within the National Agricultural Library, in coordination with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, a National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse (in this section referred to as the "Clearinghouse") to perform the functions specified in subsection (b).

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Clearinghouse shall provide and distribute information and data to any industry, organization, or Federal, State, or local government entity, on request, about programs and services provided by Federal, State, and local agencies and private nonprofit organizations and institutions under which individuals residing in, or organizations and State and local government entities operating in, a rural area may be eligible for any kind of assistance, including job training, education, health care, and economic development assistance, and emotional and financial counseling. To the extent possible, the National Agricultural Library shall use telecommunications technology to disseminate information to rural areas.

(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—On request of the Secretary, the head of a Federal agency shall provide to the Clearinghouse such information as the Secretary may request to enable the Clearinghouse to carry out subsection (b).

(d) STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall request State and local governments and private nonprofit organizations and institutions to provide to the Clearinghouse such information as such agencies and organizations may have about any program or service of such agencies, organizations, and institutions under which individuals residing in a

rural area may be eligible for any kind of assistance, including job training, educational, health care, and economic development assistance, and emotional and financial counseling.

(e) LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $500,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 through [2023] *2031*.

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TITLE XXV—OTHER RELATED PROVISIONS

SEC. 2501. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.—The term "agricultural programs" are those established or authorized by—

(A) the Agricultural Act of 1949;

(B) the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;

(C) the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938;

(D) the Soil Conservation Act;

(E) the Domestic Allotment Assistance Act;

(F) the Food Security Act of 1985; and

(G) other such Acts as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(2) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "beginning farmer or rancher" means a person that—

(A)(i) has not operated a farm or ranch; or

(ii) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; and

(B) meets such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

(6) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP.—The term "socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

(7) VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term "veteran farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who has served in the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(10) of title 38 United States Code) and who—

(A) has not operated a farm or ranch;

(B) has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or

(C) is a veteran (as defined in section 101 of that title) who has first obtained status as a veteran (as so defined) during the most recent 10-year period.

(b) FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall carry out this section to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, veteran farmers and ranchers, and beginning farmers and ranchers in the ownership and operation of farms and ranches through—

(1) education and training; and

(2) equitable participation in all agricultural programs of the Department.

(c) OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term "eligible entity" means any of the following:

(A) Any community-based organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations that—

(i) has demonstrated experience in providing agricultural education or other agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers;

(ii) has provided to the Secretary documentary evidence of work with, and on behalf of, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers during the 3-year period preceding the submission of an application for assistance under this subsection; and

(iii) does not engage in activities prohibited under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(B) An 1890 institution or 1994 institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)), including West Virginia State College.

(C) An Indian tribal community college or an Alaska Native cooperative college.

(D) An Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

(E) Any other institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in a region.

(F) An Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) or a national tribal organization that has demonstrated experience in providing agriculture education or other agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in a region.

(G) An organization or institution that received funding under subsection (a) before January 1, 1996, but only with respect to projects that the Secretary considers are similar to projects previously carried out by the organization or institution under such subsection.

(2) PROGRAM.—Using funds made available under subsection(l), the [Secretary of Agriculture] *Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of*

Food and Agriculture, shall, for theperiod of fiscal years 2019 through ⟦2023⟧ *2031*, carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers—

(A) in owning and operating farms and ranches; and

(B) in participating equitably in the full range of agricultural, forestry, and related programs offered by the Department.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The outreach and technical assistance program under paragraph (2) shall be used exclusively—

(A) to enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under agriculture programs; and

(B) to assist the Secretary in—

(i) reaching current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers in a linguistically appropriate manner; and

(ii) improving the participation of those farmers and ranchers in Department programs, as reported under section 2501A.

(4) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

(A) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an eligible entity that has demonstrated an ability to carry out the requirements described in paragraph (3) to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantagedfarmers and ranchers and veteran farmers andranchers under this subsection.

(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—The authority to carry out this section shall be in addition to any other authority provided in this or any other Act.

(C) OTHER PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an organization or institution that received funding under this section before January 1, 1996, to carry out a project that is similar to a project for which the organization or institution received such funding.

(D) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and make publicly available, an annual report that includes a list of the following:

(i) The recipients of funds made available under the program.

(ii) The activities undertaken and services provided.

(iii) The number of current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers served and outcomes of such service.

(iv) The problems and barriers identified by entities in trying to increase participation by current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(v) The number of farms or ranches started, maintained,or improved as a result of funds made availableunder the program.

(vi) Actions taken by the Secretary in partnership with eligible entities to enhance participation in agricultural programs by veteran farmers or ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

(vii) The effectiveness of the actions described in clause (vi).

(E) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT, CONTRACT, OR AGREEMENT.—A grant, contract, or agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) for a term of not longer than 3 years; and

(ii) in an amount that is not more than $250,000 for each year of the grant, contract, or agreement.

(F) PRIORITY.—In making grants and entering into contracts and other agreements under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to nongovernmental and community-based organizations with an expertise in working with socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers or veteran farmers and ranchers *and organizations that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises*.

(G) REGIONAL BALANCE.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the geographical diversity of eligible entities to which grants are made and contracts and other agreements are entered into under subparagraph (A).

(H) PROHIBITION.—A grant, contract, or other agreement under subparagraph (A) may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(I) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a fair and efficient external peer review process that—

(i) the Secretary shall use in making grants and entering into contracts and other agreements under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) ⟦shall include a broad representation of peers of the eligible entity⟧ *shall include a broad representation of individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management*.

(J) INPUT FROM ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall seek input from eligible entities providing technical assistance under this subsection not less than once each year to ensure that the program is responsive ⟦to the eligible entities providing that technical assistance⟧ *to the needs of farmers and ranchers' ongoing economic viability*.

(5) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS POLICY RESEARCH CENTER.—The Secretary shall award a grant to a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, to establish a policy research center to be known as the "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy

Research Center" for the purpose of developing policy recommendations for the protection and promotion of the interests of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

(d) BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available under subsection (l), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall, for the period of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*, make competitive grants or enter into cooperative agreements to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers.

(2) INCLUDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.—Initiatives described in paragraph (1) may include programs or services, as appropriate, relating to—

(A) basic livestock, forest management, and crop farming practices;

(B) innovative farm, ranch, and private, nonindustrial forest land transfer and succession strategies;

(C) entrepreneurship and business training;

(D) technical assistance to help beginning farmers or ranchers acquire land from retiring farmers and ranchers;

(E) financial and risk management training, including the acquisition and management of agricultural credit;

(F) natural resource management and planning;

(G) diversification and marketing strategies;

(H) curriculum development;

(I) mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships;

[(J) resources and referral;]

[(K)] *(J)* farm financial benchmarking;

[(L)] *(K)* agricultural rehabilitation and vocational training for veteran farmers and ranchers;

[(M)] *(L)* farm safety and awareness;

[(N)] *(M)* food safety and recordkeeping; and

[(O)] *(N)* other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers and ranchers.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, the recipient of the grant or participant in the cooperative agreement shall be a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—A recipient of a grant or a participant that enters into a cooperative agreement described in subparagraph (A) may include—

(i) a State cooperative extension service;

(ii) a Federal, State, municipal, or Tribal agency;

(iii) a community-based or nongovernmental organization;

(iv) a college or university (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundation maintained by a college or university; or

(v) any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) TERMS OF GRANTS OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—A grant or cooperative agreement under this subsection shall—

(A) be for a term of not longer than 3 years; and

(B) provide not more than $250,000 for each year.

(5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), to be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, a recipient or participant shall provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant or cooperative agreement.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may waive or reduce the matching requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines such a waiver or modification is necessary to effectively reach an underserved area or population.

(6) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In making grants or entering into cooperative agreements under this subsection, the Secretary shall evaluate, with respect to applications for the grants or cooperative agreements—

(A) relevancy;

(B) technical merit;

(C) achievability;

(D) the expertise and track record of 1 or more applicants;

(E) the consultation of beginning farmers and ranchers in design, implementation, and decisionmaking relating to an initiative described in paragraph (1);

(F) the adequacy of plans for—

(i) a participatory evaluation process;

(ii) outcome-based reporting; and

(iii) the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience; and

(G) other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

(7) REGIONAL BALANCE.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the geographical diversity of recipients of grants or participants in cooperative agreements under this subsection.

(8) PRIORITY.—In making grants or entering into cooperative agreements under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority [to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach] *to programs that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises*.

(9) PROHIBITION.—A grant made or cooperative agreement entered into under this subsection may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(10) COORDINATION PERMITTED.—A recipient of a grant or participant in a cooperative agreement under this subsection may coordinate with a recipient of a grant or cooperative agreement under section 1680 in addressing the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

(11) CONSECUTIVE AWARDS.—A grant or cooperative agreement under this subsection may be made to a recipient or participant for consecutive years.

(12) PEER REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a fair and efficient external peer review process, which the Secretary shall use in making grants or entering into cooperative agreements under this subsection.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The peer review process under subparagraph (A) shall include a review panel composed of [a broad representation of peers of the applicant for the grant or cooperative agreement] *a broad representation of the United States agriculture industry and individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management* that are not applying for a grant or cooperative agreement under this subsection.

(13) PARTICIPATION BY OTHER FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Secretary from allowing a farmer or rancher who is not a beginning farmer or rancher (including an owner or operator that has ended, or expects to end within 5 years, active labor in a farming or ranching operation as a producer, retiring farmers, and non-farming landowners) from participating in a program or service under this subsection, to the extent that the Secretary determines that such participation—

(A) is appropriate; and

(B) will not detract from the primary purpose of increasing opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers.

(14) EDUCATION TEAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish beginning farmer and rancher education teams to develop curricula, conduct educational programs and workshops for beginning farmers and ranchers in diverse geographical areas of the United States, or provide training and technical assistance initiatives for beginning farmers or ranchers or for trainers and service providers that work with beginning farmers or ranchers.

(B) CURRICULUM.—In promoting the development of curricula, educational programs and workshops, or training and technical assistance initiatives under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include content tailored to specific audiences of beginning farmers and ranchers, based on crop diversity or regional diversity.

(C) COMPOSITION.—In establishing an education team under subparagraph (A) for a specific program or workshop, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) obtain the short-term services of specialists with knowledge and expertise in programs serving beginning farmers and ranchers; and

(ii) use officers and employees of the Department with direct experience in programs of the Department that may be taught as part of the curriculum for the program or workshop.

(D) COOPERATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

(I) State cooperative extension services;

(II) Federal, State, and Tribal agencies;

(III) community-based and nongovernmental organizations;

(IV) colleges and universities (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundations maintained by a college or university; and

(V) other appropriate partners, as determined by the Secretary.

(ii) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement to reflect the terms of any cooperation under subparagraph (A).

(15) CURRICULUM AND TRAINING CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary shall establish an online clearinghouse that makes available to beginning farmers and ranchers education curricula and training materials and programs, which may include online courses for direct use by beginning farmers and ranchers.

(e) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—In making grants and entering into contracts and other agreements, as applicable, under subsections (c) and (d), the Secretary shall make available a simplified application process for an application for a grant that requests less than $50,000.

(f) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall seek stakeholder input from—

(1) beginning farmers and ranchers;

(2) socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;

(3) veteran farmers and ranchers;

(4) national, State, Tribal, and local organizations and other persons with expertise in operating programs for—

(A) beginning farmers and ranchers;

(B) socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; or

(C) veteran farmers and ranchers;

(5) the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers established under section 5(b) of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Public Law 102–554);

(6) the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers established under section 14008 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279 note; Public Law 110–246); and

(7) the Tribal Advisory Committee established under subsection (b) of section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921).

(g) DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL PERSONNEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate from existing Federal personnel resources in the county or region a qualified person who shall, in cooperation with the State cooperative extension services, implement the policies and programs established or modified in accordance with this section.

(2) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—In counties or regions in which the number of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers or veteran farmers and ranchers exceeds 25 percent of the total number of farmers and ranchers in the county or region, the Secretary shall designate additional personnel to implement the policies and programs established or modified in accordance with this section.

(h) AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, APPEALS, AND CONTRACTING REVIEW.—

(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to direct the Secretary to analyze within the Department the design and implementation of affirmative action programs and policies, the appeals process for complaints of discrimination, and contracting and purchasing practices employed by the Department.

(2) SCOPE.—The study shall include—

(A) an assessment of the successes and failures of these affirmative action programs and policies;

(B) a review of the reasons for the successes and failures described in subparagraph (A);

(C) a review of procurement, contracting, and purchasing policies of the Department, the level of participation of socially disadvantaged businesses in such activities, and the impact of those policies on the participation of members of socially disadvantaged groups in such contracting with the Department;

(D) a review of the reasons for participation or lack of participation of businesses owned by members of socially disadvantaged groups in the activities described in subparagraph (C); and

(E) a review of the appeals process for all complaints or allegations regarding acts, practices, or patterns of discrimination filed with the Department by individuals or any other entities that shall include—

(i) the number of complaints or allegations regarding acts, practices, or patterns of discrimination;

(ii) the manner in which the complaints were investigated and resolved by the Department; and

(iii) the longest, shortest, and average periods of time taken to investigate and resolve the complaints or allegations regarding acts, practices, or patterns of discrimination.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than November 28, 1991, and not later than March 1, 2020, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the information described in paragraph (2).

(i) RESERVATIONS.—

(1) CONSOLIDATED SUBOFFICE.—The Secretary shall require the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and such other offices and functions the Secretary may choose to include where there has been a need demonstrated, in each county that has a reservation within its borders, to establish a consolidated suboffice at the tribal headquarters of said reservation and to staff said suboffice as needed, using existing staff, but no less than one day a week or under such other arrangement agreed to by the tribe and the Department offices.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—For those reservations that are located in more than one county, the Secretary, the relevant county offices and the tribe shall enter into a cooperative agreement to provide the services required by paragraph (1) that avoids duplication of effort.

(j) ACCURATE DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the Census of Agriculture and studies carried out by the Economic Research Service accurately document the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production.

(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 1992, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, regarding—

(A) the efforts of the Secretary to enhance participation by veteran farmers or ranchers and members of socially disadvantaged groups in agricultural programs;

(B) the specific participation goals established for each agricultural program;

(C) the results achieved for each agricultural program; and

(D) the progress of the Department towards meeting each of the purposes described in paragraph (2)(C).

(2) CONTENTS.—In addition to the information specified in paragraph (1), the report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a comparison of the participation goals and the actual participation rates of veteran farmers or ranchers and members of socially disadvantaged groups in each agricultural program;

(B) an analysis and explanation of the reasons for the success or failure of the Secretary to achieve the goals, and the overall purposes of this section;

(C) a listing, on a State-by-State and county-by-county basis, of—

(i) the amount of funds loaned to members of socially disadvantaged groups; and

(ii) the amount of funds used to guarantee loans to members of socially disadvantaged groups compared to the total amount of such guarantees;

(D) a breakdown in allocation of crop base in each program crop compared to the target participation rates es-

tablished pursuant to sections 355(a)(1) and 355(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(a)(1)), on a State-by-State and county-by-county basis; and

(E) a review and analysis of participation by members of socially disadvantaged groups, compared to participation by all others, in agricultural programs, on a State-by-State and county-by-county basis, including a survey representative of all farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, to identify reasons for participation and nonparticipation in agricultural programs.

(l) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

(A) $30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 and 2020;

(B) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

(C) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through [2023] *2031*.

(3) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section—

(A) 50 percent shall be used to carry out subsection (c); and

(B) 50 percent shall be used to carry out subsection (d).

(4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available to carry out subsection (d) for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of—

(i) limited resource beginning farmers and ranchers, as defined by the Secretary;

(ii) socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers that are beginning farmers and ranchers; and

(iii) farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

(B) VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—Not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available to carry out subsection (d) for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of veteran farmers and ranchers.

(5) INTERAGENCY FUNDING.—Any agency of the Department may participate in any grant, contract, or agreement entered into under this section by contributing funds, if the contributing agency determines that the objectives of the grant, contract, or agreement will further the authorized programs of the contributing agency.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used for expenses relating to the administration of this section.

(7) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A recipient of a grant or a party to a contract or other agreement under subsection (c) or (d) may not use more than 10 percent of the funds received for the indirect costs of carrying out a grant, contract, or other agreement.

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