

Calendar No. 154

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 1150

[Report No. 105-73]

A BILL

To ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1997

Read twice and placed on the calendar

Calendar No. 154105TH CONGRESS
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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 5, 1997

Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform
 4 Act of 1997”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—PRIORITIES, SCOPE, AND REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL
 RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**

Sec. 101. Standards for Federal funding of agricultural research, extension,
 and education.

Sec. 102. Priority setting process.

Sec. 103. Relevance and merit of federally funded agricultural research, exten-
 sion, and education.

Sec. 104. Research formula funds for 1862 Institutions.

Sec. 105. Extension formula funds for 1862 Institutions.

Sec. 106. Research facilities.

**TITLE II—OTHER REFORMS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,
 EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**

**Subtitle A—Amendments to National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 Teaching Policy Act of 1977**

Sec. 201. Advisory Board.

Sec. 202. Grants and fellowships for food and agricultural sciences education.

Sec. 203. Policy research centers.

Sec. 204. International agricultural research, extension, and teaching.

Sec. 205. General administrative costs.

Sec. 206. Expansion of authority to enter into cost-reimbursable agreements.

**Subtitle B—Amendments to Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
 of 1990**

Sec. 211. National Agricultural Weather Information System.

Sec. 212. National Food Genome Strategy.

Sec. 213. Imported fire ant control, management, and eradication.

Sec. 214. Agricultural telecommunications program.

Sec. 215. Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities.

Subtitle C—Amendments to Other Laws

Sec. 221. 1994 Institutions.

Sec. 222. Cooperative agricultural extension work by 1862, 1890, and 1994 In-
 stitutions.

Sec. 223. Eligibility of certain colleges and universities for extension funding.

Sec. 224. Integration of research and extension.

- Sec. 225. Competitive, special, and facilities research grants.
- Sec. 226. Fund for Rural America.
- Sec. 227. Honey research, promotion, and consumer information.
- Sec. 228. Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

Subtitle D—New Programs

- Sec. 231. Biobased products.
- Sec. 232. Precision agriculture.
- Sec. 233. Formosan termite eradication program.
- Sec. 234. Nutrient composition data.
- Sec. 235. Consolidated administrative and laboratory facility.
- Sec. 236. National Swine Research Center.

Subtitle E—Studies and Miscellaneous

- Sec. 241. Evaluation and assessment of agricultural research, extension, and education programs.
- Sec. 242. Study of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.
- Sec. 243. Sense of Congress on State match for 1890 Institutions.

TITLE III—INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

- Sec. 301. Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OR REPEAL OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES;
TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 401. Extensions of authorities.
- Sec. 402. Repeal of authorities.
- Sec. 403. Short titles for Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887.
- Sec. 404. Technical corrections to research provisions of Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

TITLE V—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM SAVINGS

- Sec. 501. Nutrition programs.
- Sec. 502. Information technology funding.
- Sec. 503. Haying and grazing on conservation reserve land.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

- 3** (1) 1862 INSTITUTION.—The term “1862 Insti-
4 tution” means a college or university eligible to re-
5 ceive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat.
6 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

1 (2) 1890 INSTITUTION.—The term “1890 Insti-
2 tution” means a college or university eligible to re-
3 ceive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26
4 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), in-
5 cluding Tuskegee University.

6 (3) 1994 INSTITUTION.—The term “1994 Insti-
7 tution” means a 1994 Institution (as defined in sec-
8 tion 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant
9 Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C.
10 301 note)).

11 (4) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term “Advisory
12 Board” means the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory
14 Board established under section 1408 of the Na-
15 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
16 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123).

17 (5) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
18 means the Department of Agriculture.

19 (6) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—The term “Hatch
20 Act of 1887” means the Hatch Act of 1887 (as des-
21 ignated by section 403(b)).

22 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (8) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—The term “Smith-
2 Lever Act” means the Smith-Lever Act (as des-
3 ignated by section 403(a)).

4 (9) STAKEHOLDER.—The term “stakeholder”
5 means a person who conducts or uses agricultural
6 research, extension, or education.

7 **TITLE I—PRIORITIES, SCOPE,**
8 **AND REVIEW OF AGRICUL-**
9 **TURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
10 **SION, AND EDUCATION**

11 **SEC. 101. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OF AGRI-**
12 **CULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
13 **EDUCATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that
15 agricultural research, extension, or education activities de-
16 scribed in subsection (b) address a concern that—

17 (1) is a priority, as determined under section
18 102(a); and

19 (2) has national or multistate significance.

20 (b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) applies to—

21 (1) research activities conducted by the Agricul-
22 tural Research Service; and

23 (2) research, extension, or education activities
24 administered, on a competitive basis, by the Cooper-

1 ative State Research, Education, and Extension
2 Service.

3 **SEC. 102. PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with section 1402 of
5 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
6 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101), the Sec-
7 retary shall establish priorities for agricultural research,
8 extension, and education activities conducted or funded by
9 the Department.

10 (b) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing priorities for
12 agricultural research, extension, and education ac-
13 tivities conducted or funded by the Department, the
14 Secretary shall solicit and consider input and rec-
15 ommendations from stakeholders.

16 (2) 1862, 1890, AND 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning Oc-
18 tober 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural research,
19 extension, or education formula funds from the
20 Secretary, each 1862 Institution, 1890 Institu-
21 tion, and 1994 Institution shall establish and
22 implement a process for obtaining stakeholder
23 input concerning the use of the funds.

24 (B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall
25 promulgate regulations that prescribe—

1 (i) the requirements for an Institution
2 to comply with subparagraph (A); and

3 (ii) the consequences for an Institu-
4 tion of not complying with subparagraph
5 (A), which may include the withholding
6 and redistribution of funds to which the
7 Institution may be entitled until the Insti-
8 tution complies with subparagraph (A).

9 (c) **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.**—Section 1402 of the
10 National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
11 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amended—

12 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
13 **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**” after “**PURPOSES**”;

14 (2) by inserting “(a) **PURPOSES.**—” before
15 “The purposes”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(b) **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.**—To the maximum
18 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that feder-
19 ally supported and conducted agricultural research, edu-
20 cation, and extension activities are accomplished in a man-
21 ner that—

22 “(1) integrates agricultural research, education,
23 and extension functions to better link research to
24 technology transfer and information dissemination
25 activities;

1 “(2) encourages regional and multistate pro-
2 grams to address relevant issues of common concern
3 and to better leverage scarce resources;

4 “(3) achieves agricultural research, education,
5 and extension objectives through multi-institutional
6 and multifunctional approaches and by conducting
7 research at facilities and institutions best equipped
8 to achieve those objectives; and

9 “(4) requires accountability to be measured
10 against shared national goals of the research, edu-
11 cation, and economics mission area agencies of the
12 Department and their partners that receive Federal
13 research, extension, and higher education funds,
14 consistent with the Government Performance and
15 Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–62) and
16 amendments made by that Act.”.

17 (d) NOTIFICATION OF ADVISORY BOARD AND CON-
18 GRESS.—Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Re-
19 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
20 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

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

23 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the follow-
24 ing:

1 “(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADVISORY BOARD AND CON-
2 GRESS.—

3 “(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall
4 provide a written response to the Advisory Board re-
5 garding the implementation of any written rec-
6 ommendations made by the Advisory Board to the
7 Secretary under subsection (c).

8 “(2) CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide
9 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
11 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a copy of the
12 response of the Secretary to an Advisory Board rec-
13 ommendation concerning the priority mission areas
14 of the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food
15 Systems established under section 301(c)(2)(B) of
16 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
17 Reform Act of 1997.”.

18 **SEC. 103. RELEVANCE AND MERIT OF FEDERALLY FUNDED**
19 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
20 **EDUCATION.**

21 (a) REVIEW OF CSREES RESEARCH.—The Sec-
22 retary shall establish procedures that ensure—

23 (1) scientific peer review of each agricultural re-
24 search grant administered, on a competitive basis,

1 by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and
2 Extension Service; and

3 (2) merit review of each agricultural extension
4 or education grant administered, on a competitive
5 basis, by the Cooperative State Research, Education,
6 and Extension Service.

7 (b) ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW.—The Advisory Board
8 shall review, on an annual basis, the relevance to the Sec-
9 retary’s priorities established under section 102(a), and
10 adequacy, of the funding of all agricultural research, ex-
11 tension, or education activities of the Department.

12 (c) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

13 (1) REVIEW RESULTS.—As soon as practicable
14 after the initial review is conducted under subsection
15 (b) for a fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter,
16 the Secretary shall consider the results of the annual
17 review when formulating each request for proposals,
18 and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural
19 research, extension, or education activity funded, on
20 a competitive basis, by the Department.

21 (2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In formulating a
22 request for proposals described in paragraph (1), the
23 Secretary shall solicit and consider input from stake-
24 holders on the prior year’s request for proposals.

1 (d) SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF ARS RE-
2 SEARCH.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
4 procedures that ensure scientific peer review of re-
5 search activities of the Agricultural Research Serv-
6 ice.

7 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures shall re-
8 quire that—

9 (A) at least once every 5 years, a review
10 panel verify that a research activity referred to
11 in paragraph (1) and research conducted by
12 each scientist employed by the Agricultural Re-
13 search Service—

14 (i) has scientific merit and relevance
15 to the priorities established under section
16 102(a); and

17 (ii) has national or multistate signifi-
18 cance, as required under section 101(a)(2);

19 (B) a review panel comprised of individuals
20 with scientific expertise, a majority of whom are
21 not employees of the Agricultural Research
22 Service; and

23 (C) the results of the panel reviews are
24 transmitted to—

1 (i) the Committee on Agriculture of
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (ii) the Committee on Agriculture,
4 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

5 (iii) the Advisory Board.

6 (e) MERIT REVIEW.—

7 (1) 1862 AND 1890 INSTITUTIONS.—Effective
8 beginning October 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural re-
9 search or extension funds from the Secretary for an
10 activity, each 1862 Institution and 1890 Institution
11 shall—

12 (A) establish a process for merit review of
13 the activity; and

14 (B) review the activity in accordance with
15 the process.

16 (2) 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—Effective beginning
17 October 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural extension
18 funds from the Secretary for an activity, each 1994
19 Institution shall—

20 (A) establish a process for merit review of
21 the activity; and

22 (B) review the activity in accordance with
23 the process.

24 (f) REPEAL OF PROVISIONS FOR WITHHOLDING
25 FUNDS.—

1 (1) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 6 of the
2 Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 346) is repealed.

3 (2) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Section 7 of the
4 Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361g) is amended by
5 striking the last paragraph.

6 (3) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-
7 TENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—
8 Section 1468 of the National Agricultural Research,
9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3314) is repealed.

11 **SEC. 104. RESEARCH FORMULA FUNDS FOR 1862 INSTITU-**
12 **TIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Hatch Act of
14 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3)
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(3) Not less than 25 percent shall be allotted
18 to the States for cooperative research employing
19 multidisciplinary approaches in which a State agri-
20 cultural experiment station, working with another
21 State agricultural experiment station, the Agricul-
22 tural Research Service, a college, or a university, co-
23 operates to solve problems that concern more than
24 1 State. The funds available under this paragraph,
25 together with the funds available under subsection

1 (b) for a similar purpose, shall be designated as the
 2 ‘Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Ex-
 3 periment Stations’.

4 “(4) Research carried out under paragraph (3)
 5 shall be subject to scientific peer review. A project
 6 review under this paragraph shall be considered to
 7 satisfy the merit review requirements of section
 8 103(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 9 Education Reform Act of 1997.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “regional re-
 11 search fund, State agricultural experiment stations,”
 12 and inserting “Multistate Research Fund, State Ag-
 13 ricultural Experiment Stations,”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5 of the
 15 Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended in the
 16 first sentence by striking “regional research fund” and in-
 17 serting “Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural
 18 Experiment Stations”.

19 **SEC. 105. EXTENSION FORMULA FUNDS FOR 1862 INSTITU-**
 20 **TIONS.**

21 Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is
 22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(h) MULTISTATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AC-
 24 TIVITIES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than the applica-
2 ble percentage specified under paragraph (2) of the
3 amounts that are made available to carry out sub-
4 sections (b) and (c) during a fiscal year shall be al-
5 lotted to States for cooperative extension activities in
6 which 2 or more States cooperate to solve problems
7 that concern more than 1 State (referred to in this
8 subsection as ‘multistate activities’).

9 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

10 “(A) CURRENT EXPENDITURES ON
11 MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of
12 Agriculture shall determine the percentage of
13 Federal formula funds described in paragraph
14 (1) that each State expended for fiscal year
15 1997 for multistate activities.

16 “(B) PLANNED EXPENDITURES ON
17 MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.—For fiscal year 2000
18 and each subsequent fiscal year, a State shall
19 expend for multistate activities a percentage of
20 the Federal formula funds described in para-
21 graph (1) for a fiscal year that is at least equal
22 to the lesser of—

23 “(i) 25 percent; or

24 “(ii) twice the percentage for the
25 State determined under subparagraph (A).

1 “(C) REDUCTION BY SECRETARY.—The
2 Secretary may reduce the minimum percentage
3 required to be allotted for multistate activities
4 under subparagraph (B) in a case of hardship,
5 infeasibility, or other similar circumstance be-
6 yond the control of the State, as determined by
7 the Secretary.

8 “(D) PLAN OF WORK.—The State shall in-
9 clude in the plan of work of the State a descrip-
10 tion of the manner in which the State will meet
11 the requirements of this paragraph.

12 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not
13 apply to funds provided—

14 “(A) by a State or local government pursu-
15 ant to a matching requirement;

16 “(B) to a 1994 Institution (as defined in
17 section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-
18 Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-
19 382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); or

20 “(C) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
21 the Virgin Islands, or Guam.

22 “(i) MERIT REVIEW.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning Octo-
24 ber 1, 1998, extension activity carried out under
25 subsection (h) shall be subject to merit review.

1 “(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—An extension ac-
 2 tivity that is merit reviewed under paragraph (1)
 3 shall be considered to have been reviewed under sec-
 4 tion 103(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
 5 and Education Reform Act of 1997.”.

6 **SEC. 106. RESEARCH FACILITIES.**

7 (a) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—Section
 8 3(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.
 9 390a(c)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “regional needs”
 10 and inserting “national or multistate needs”.

11 (b) NATIONAL OR MULTISTATE NEEDS SERVED BY
 12 ARS FACILITIES.—Section 3 of the Research Facilities
 13 Act (7 U.S.C. 390a) is amended by adding at the end the
 14 following:

15 “(e) NATIONAL OR MULTISTATE NEEDS SERVED BY
 16 ARS FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that each
 17 research activity conducted by a facility of the Agricultural
 18 Research Service serves a national or multistate need.”.

19 (c) 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 4(d) of the
 20 Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390b(d)) is amended by
 21 striking “regional” and inserting “multistate”.

22 (d) COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH CAPACITY.—Section
 23 4 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390b) is amend-
 24 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 “(g) COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH CAPACITY.—After
2 submission of the 10-year strategic plan required under
3 subsection (d), the Secretary shall continue to review peri-
4 odically each operating agricultural research facility con-
5 structed in whole or in part with Federal funds, and each
6 planned agricultural research facility proposed to be con-
7 structed in whole or in part with Federal funds, pursuant
8 to criteria established by the Secretary, to ensure that a
9 comprehensive research capacity is maintained.”.

10 (e) PRIORITY RESEARCH.—The Competitive, Special,
11 and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) is
12 amended in subsection (b)(2) by striking “regional” and
13 inserting “multistate”.

14 **TITLE II—OTHER REFORMS OF**
15 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,**
16 **EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**
17 **Subtitle A—Amendments to Na-**
18 **tional Agricultural Research,**
19 **Extension, and Teaching Policy**
20 **Act of 1977**

21 **SEC. 201. ADVISORY BOARD.**

22 Section 1408(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3123(b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(7) EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF PUBLIC AND
 2 PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS.—In appointing mem-
 3 bers to serve on the Advisory Board, the Secretary
 4 shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable,
 5 equal representation of public and private sector
 6 members.”.

7 **SEC. 202. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRI-**
 8 **CULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

9 Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research,
 10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 11 3152) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e),
 13 (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (d), (f), (g),
 14 (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l), respectively;

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the follow-
 16 ing:

17 “(c) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under sub-
 18 section (b), the Secretary shall give priority to—

19 “(1) applications for teaching enhancement
 20 projects that demonstrate enhanced coordination
 21 among all types of institutions eligible for funding
 22 under this section; and

23 “(2) applications for teaching enhancement
 24 projects that focus on innovative, multidisciplinary
 25 education programs, material, and curricula.”; and

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

2 “(e) **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—From amounts made available for grants authorized under this section, the Secretary may maintain a national food and agricultural education information system that contains information on enrollment, degrees awarded, faculty, and employment placement in the food and agricultural sciences and such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

11 **SEC. 203. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.**

12 Section 1419A(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(a)) is amended by inserting “and trade agreements” after “public policies”.

16 **SEC. 204. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING.**

17 (a) **TEACHING.**—

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291) is amended—

23 (A) in the section heading, by striking
24 “**RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**” and inserting
25 “**RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING**”;

- 1 (B) in subsection (a)—
- 2 (i) in paragraph (1)—
- 3 (I) by striking “related research
- 4 and extension” and inserting “related
- 5 research, extension, and teaching”;
- 6 and
- 7 (II) in subparagraph (B), by
- 8 striking “research and extension on”
- 9 and inserting “research, extension,
- 10 and teaching initiatives addressing”;
- 11 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking
- 12 “education” and inserting “teaching”;
- 13 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking
- 14 “scientists and experts” and inserting
- 15 “science and education experts”;
- 16 (iv) in paragraph (5), by inserting
- 17 “teaching,” after “development,”;
- 18 (v) in paragraph (6), by striking
- 19 “education” and inserting “teaching”;
- 20 (vi) in paragraph (7), by striking “re-
- 21 search and extension” and inserting “re-
- 22 search, extension, and teaching”; and
- 23 (vii) in paragraph (8), by striking “re-
- 24 search capabilities” and inserting “re-

1 search, extension, and teaching capabili-
2 ties”; and

3 (C) in subsection (b), by striking “counter-
4 part agencies” and inserting “counterpart re-
5 search, extension, and teaching agencies”.

6 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The subtitle
7 heading of subtitle I of title XIV of the National Ag-
8 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
9 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291 et seq.) is amended by
10 striking “Research and Extension” and inserting
11 “Research, Extension, and Teaching”.

12 (b) GRANTS FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.—Sec-
13 tion 1458(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
14 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
15 3291(a)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
19 the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(9) make competitive grants for collaborative
22 projects that—

23 “(A) involve Federal scientists or scientists
24 from land-grant colleges and universities or
25 other colleges and universities with scientists at

1 international agricultural research centers in
2 other nations, including the international agri-
3 cultural research centers of the Consultative
4 Group on International Agriculture Research;

5 “(B) focus on developing and using new
6 technologies and programs for—

7 “(i) increasing the production of food
8 and fiber, while safeguarding the environ-
9 ment worldwide and enhancing the global
10 competitiveness of United States agri-
11 culture; or

12 “(ii) training scientists;

13 “(C) are mutually beneficial to the United
14 States and other countries; and

15 “(D) encourage private sector involvement
16 and the leveraging of private sector funds.”.

17 (c) REPORTS.—Section 1458 of the National Agricul-
18 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
19 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(d) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall provide biennial
22 reports to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
23 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
24 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on efforts of the Federal
25 Government to—

1 “(1) coordinate international agricultural re-
2 search within the Federal Government; and

3 “(2) more effectively link the activities of do-
4 mestic and international agricultural researchers,
5 particularly researchers of the Agricultural Research
6 Service.”.

7 **SEC. 205. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle K of the National Agri-
9 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
10 1977 is amended by inserting before section 1463 (7
11 U.S.C. 3311) the following:

12 **“SEC. 1461. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in
14 law, indirect costs charged against a grant described in
15 subsection (b) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total Fed-
16 eral funds provided under the grant award, as determined
17 by the Secretary.

18 “(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply
19 to—

20 “(1) a competitive research grant made under
21 subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
22 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)); and

23 “(2) except as otherwise provided in law, a com-
24 petitive research, extension, or education grant made
25 under—

1 “(A) section 793 of the Federal Agri-
2 culture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996
3 (7 U.S.C. 2204f); or

4 “(B) section 301 of the Agricultural Re-
5 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act
6 of 1997.”.

7 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 1469 of the
8 National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
9 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315) is amended—

10 (1) by striking the section heading and all that
11 follows through “Except as” and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 1469. AUDITING, REPORTING, BOOKKEEPING, AND**
14 **ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as”;

16 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(3) the Secretary may retain up to 4 percent
19 of amounts appropriated for agricultural research,
20 extension, and teaching assistance programs for the
21 administration of those programs authorized under
22 this or any other Act; and”;

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(b) COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS.—The Secretary
25 may retain, for the administration of community food

1 projects under section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977
 2 (7 U.S.C. 2034), 4 percent of amounts available for the
 3 projects, notwithstanding the availability of any appro-
 4 priation for administrative expenses of the projects.”.

5 **SEC. 206. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO**
 6 **COST-REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.**

7 Section 1473A of the National Agricultural Research,
 8 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 9 3319a) is amended in the first sentence by inserting “or
 10 other colleges and universities” after “institutions”.

11 **Subtitle B—Amendments to Food,**
 12 **Agriculture, Conservation, and**
 13 **Trade Act of 1990**

14 **SEC. 211. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMA-**
 15 **TION SYSTEM.**

16 Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
 17 and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking subtitle
 18 D (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) and inserting the following:

19 **“Subtitle D—National Agricultural**
 20 **Weather Information System**

21 **“SEC. 1637. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.**

22 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as
 23 the ‘National Agricultural Weather Information System
 24 Act of 1997’.

25 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle are—

1 “(1) to facilitate the management and coordina-
2 tion of a national agricultural weather and climate
3 station network for Federal and State agencies, col-
4 leges and universities, and the private sector;

5 “(2) to ensure that timely and accurate infor-
6 mation is obtained and disseminated; and

7 “(3) to aid research and education that requires
8 a comprehensive agricultural weather and climate
9 database.

10 **“SEC. 1638. AGRICULTURAL WEATHER SYSTEM.**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
12 culture may establish the National Agricultural Weather
13 Information System (referred to in this subtitle as the
14 ‘System’). The System shall be comprised of the oper-
15 ational and research activities of the Federal, State, and
16 regional agricultural weather information systems.

17 “(b) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of
18 title 31, United States Code, to carry out this subtitle,
19 the Secretary may—

20 “(1) enter into contracts, grants, cooperative
21 agreements and interagency agreements without re-
22 gard to competitive requirements, except as other-
23 wise provided in this subtitle, with other Federal and
24 State agencies to—

1 “(A) support operational weather and cli-
2 mate data observations, analysis, and derived
3 products;

4 “(B) preserve historical data records for
5 research studies useful in agriculture;

6 “(C) jointly develop improved computer
7 models and computing capacity for storage, re-
8 trieval, dissemination and analysis of agricul-
9 tural weather and climate information;

10 “(D) enhance the quality and availability
11 of weather and climate information needed by
12 the private sector for value-added products and
13 agriculturalists for decisionmaking; and

14 “(E) sponsor joint programs to train pri-
15 vate sector meteorologists and agriculturalists
16 about the optimum use of agricultural weather
17 and climate data;

18 “(2) obtain standardized weather observation
19 data collected in near real time through regional and
20 State agricultural weather information systems;

21 “(3) coordinate the activities of the Chief Mete-
22 orologist of the Department of Agriculture and
23 weather and climate research activities of the De-
24 partment of Agriculture with other Federal agencies
25 and the private sector;

1 “(4) make grants to plan and administer State
2 and regional agricultural weather information sys-
3 tems, including research in atmospheric sciences and
4 climatology;

5 “(5) encourage private sector participation in
6 the System through cooperation with the private sec-
7 tor, including cooperation in the generation of
8 weather and climate data useful for site-specific ag-
9 ricultural weather forecasting; and

10 “(6) make competitive grants to carry out re-
11 search in all aspects of atmospheric sciences and cli-
12 matology regarding the collection, retention, and dis-
13 semination of agricultural weather and climate ob-
14 servations and information with priority given to
15 proposals that emphasize—

16 “(A) techniques and processes that relate
17 to—

18 “(i) weather- or climate-induced agri-
19 cultural losses; and

20 “(ii) improvement of information on
21 weather and climate extremes (such as
22 drought, floods, freeze, and storms) well in
23 advance of their occurrence;

24 “(B) the improvement of site-specific
25 weather data collection and forecasting;

1 “(C) the impact of weather on economic
2 and environmental costs in agricultural produc-
3 tion; or

4 “(D) the preservation and management of
5 the ecosystem.

6 **“SEC. 1639. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

7 “(a) USE OF FUNDS.—

8 “(1) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
9 ADMINISTRATION WORK.—Not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the
10 funds made available for a fiscal year to carry out
11 this subtitle shall be used for work with the National
12 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

13 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
14 of Agriculture may retain for administration of the
15 System up to 4 percent of the amounts made avail-
16 able to carry out this subtitle, notwithstanding the
17 availability of any appropriation for administrative
18 expenses to carry out this subtitle.

19 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

20 “(A) BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES.—Funds
21 made available to carry out this subtitle shall
22 not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilita-
23 tion, acquisition, or construction of a building
24 or facility.

1 “(B) EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.—Of funds
2 made available under a grant award under this
3 subtitle, a grantee may use for equipment pur-
4 chases not more than the lesser of—

5 “(i) \$15,000; or

6 “(ii) $\frac{1}{3}$ of the amount of the grant
7 award.

8 “(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The Federal
9 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII
10 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281
11 et seq.) shall not apply to a panel or board created for
12 the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submit-
13 ted for grants under section 1638.

14 **“SEC. 1640. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “‘There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this subtitle \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998
17 through 2002.’”.

18 **SEC. 212. NATIONAL FOOD GENOME STRATEGY.**

19 Section 1671 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
20 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924) is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 1671. NATIONAL FOOD GENOME STRATEGY.**

23 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

24 “(1) to expand the knowledge of public and pri-
25 vate sector entities and persons concerning genomes

1 for species of importance to the food and agriculture
2 sectors in order to maximize the return on the in-
3 vestment in plant, animal, and microbial genomics;

4 “(2) to focus on the species that will yield early,
5 scientifically important results that will enhance the
6 usefulness of many plant, animal, and microbial spe-
7 cies;

8 “(3) to build on genomic research, such as the
9 Human Genome Initiative and the Arabidopsis Ge-
10 nome Project, to understand gene structure and
11 function that is expected to have considerable pay-
12 offs in crop species ranging from corn to soybean to
13 cotton and animal species ranging from cattle to
14 swine to poultry;

15 “(4) to develop improved bioinformatics to en-
16 hance both sequence or structure determination and
17 analysis of the biological function of genes and gene
18 products;

19 “(5) to develop, within the National Food Ge-
20 nome Strategy required under subsection (b) for ag-
21 riculturally important plants, animals, and microbes,
22 a Plant Genome Initiative under which—

23 “(A) the Plant Genome Initiative will be
24 an interagency activity conducted with—

1 “(i) the Department of Agriculture as
2 the lead Federal agency; and

3 “(ii) the National Science Foundation
4 and the Department of Energy as partici-
5 pants; and

6 “(B) the National Institutes of Health will
7 continue to invest in the underlying critical
8 technologies through its Human Genome Initia-
9 tive and other genetics research;

10 “(6) to establish, within the National Food Ge-
11 nome Strategy, an Animal Genome Initiative—

12 “(A) to address the obstacles limiting the
13 development and implementation of gene-based
14 approaches for animal improvement, such as
15 high-resolution genomic maps; and

16 “(B) to take advantage of complementary
17 work of the Human Genome Initiative, the Ag-
18 ricultural Research Service, and State agricul-
19 tural experiment stations;

20 “(7) to encourage Federal Government partici-
21 pants to maximize the utility of public and private
22 partnerships for food genome research;

23 “(8) to allow resources developed under this
24 section, including data, software, germplasm, and
25 other biological materials, to be openly accessible to

1 all persons, subject to any confidentiality require-
2 ments imposed by law; and

3 “(9) to encourage international partnerships
4 with each partner country responsible for financing
5 its own strategy for food genome research.

6 “(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Ag-
7 riculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)
8 shall develop and carry out a National Food Genome
9 Strategy to—

10 “(1) study and map agriculturally significant
11 genes to achieve sustainable and secure agricultural
12 production;

13 “(2) ensure that current gaps in existing agri-
14 cultural genetics knowledge are filled;

15 “(3) identify and develop a functional under-
16 standing of genes responsible for economically im-
17 portant traits in plants, animals, and microbes of
18 importance to agriculture;

19 “(4) ensure future genetic improvement of agri-
20 culturally important species;

21 “(5) support preservation of diverse germplasm;

22 “(6) ensure preservation of biodiversity to
23 maintain access to genes that may be of importance
24 in the future; and

1 “(7) otherwise carry out the purposes of this
2 section.

3 “(c) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND COOPERATIVE
4 AGREEMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
6 into or make contracts, grants, or cooperative agree-
7 ments with individuals and organizations in accord-
8 ance with section 1472 of the National Agricultural
9 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
10 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318).

11 “(2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—A grant under this
12 subsection shall be made on a competitive basis.

13 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

14 “(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-
15 mulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry
16 out this section.

17 “(2) CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONAL
18 ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Secretary may use
19 funds made available under this section to consult
20 with the National Academy of Sciences regarding
21 the administration of the National Food Genome
22 Strategy without regard to the requirements of the
23 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) or
24 title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977
25 (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.).

1 “(3) INDIRECT COSTS.—Indirect costs under
2 this section shall be allowable at the rate indirect
3 costs are allowable for contracts, grants, or coopera-
4 tive agreements entered into or made by the Na-
5 tional Science Foundation for genomic research.”.

6 **SEC. 213. IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT,**
7 **AND ERADICATION.**

8 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
9 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

10 (1) by striking subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f);

11 (2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
12 (g) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(d) IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT,
15 AND ERADICATION.—

16 “(1) NATIONAL ADVISORY AND IMPLEMENTA-
17 TION BOARD ON IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL,
18 MANAGEMENT, AND ERADICATION.—

19 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of
20 Agriculture may establish a National Advisory
21 and Implementation Board on Imported Fire
22 Ant Control, Management, and Eradication (re-
23 ferred to in this subsection as the ‘Board’).

24 “(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall con-
25 sist of 12 members who are experts in ento-

1 mology, ant ecology, wildlife biology, electrical
2 engineering, economics, or agribusiness and
3 who are appointed by the Secretary from aca-
4 demia, research institutes, and the private sec-
5 tor.

6 “(C) COMPENSATION.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
8 Board shall not receive any compensation
9 by reason of service on the Board.

10 “(ii) EXPENSES.—A member of the
11 Board shall be reimbursed for travel, sub-
12 sistence, and other necessary expenses in-
13 curred by the member in the performance
14 of a duty of the member.

15 “(D) TERMINATION.—The Board shall ter-
16 minate 60 days after the date on which the na-
17 tional plan is submitted to the Board under
18 paragraph (4)(B).

19 “(2) INITIAL GRANTS.—

20 “(A) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
22 shall publish a request for proposals for
23 grants for research or demonstration
24 projects related to the control, manage-

1 ment, and possible eradication of imported
2 fire ants.

3 “(ii) INPUT FROM BOARD.—In devel-
4 oping a request for proposals under clause
5 (i), the Secretary shall solicit and consider
6 input from the Board.

7 “(B) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of publication of the request for
9 proposals, the Secretary shall evaluate and se-
10 lect meritorious research or demonstration
11 projects related to the control, management,
12 and possible eradication of imported fire ants.

13 “(C) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award
14 a total of \$6,000,000 for each fiscal year in
15 grants to colleges, universities, research insti-
16 tutes, Federal laboratories, or private entities
17 selected under subparagraph (B), for a term of
18 not to exceed 5 years, for the purpose of con-
19 ducting research or demonstration projects re-
20 lated to the control, management, and possible
21 eradication of imported fire ants. Each project
22 shall be completed not later than the end of the
23 term of the grant.

24 “(3) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—

1 “(A) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—If the
2 Secretary awards grants under paragraph
3 (2)(C), the Secretary shall—

4 “(i) evaluate all of the research or
5 demonstration projects conducted under
6 paragraph (2)(C) for their use as the basis
7 of a national plan for the control, manage-
8 ment, and possible eradication of imported
9 fire ants by the Federal Government, State
10 and local governments, and owners and op-
11 erators of land; and

12 “(ii) on the basis of the evaluation, se-
13 lect the projects the Secretary considers
14 most promising for additional research or
15 demonstration related to the control, man-
16 agement, and possible eradication of im-
17 ported fire ants and notify the Board of
18 the selection.

19 “(B) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award
20 a grant of up to \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year
21 to each of the colleges, universities, research in-
22 stitutes, Federal laboratories, or private entities
23 selected under subparagraph (A)(ii) for the pur-
24 pose of conducting research or demonstration
25 projects for the preparation of a national plan

1 for the control, management, and possible
2 eradication of imported fire ants. Each project
3 shall be completed not later than 2 years after
4 the grant is made.

5 “(4) NATIONAL PLAN.—

6 “(A) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—If the
7 Secretary awards grants under paragraph
8 (3)(B), the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) evaluate all of the research or
10 demonstration projects conducted under
11 paragraph (3)(B) for their use as the basis
12 of a national plan for the control, manage-
13 ment, and possible eradication of imported
14 fire ants by the Federal Government, State
15 and local governments, and owners and op-
16 erators of land; and

17 “(ii) on the basis of the evaluation, se-
18 lect 1 project funded under paragraph
19 (3)(B), or a combination of grant projects,
20 as the basis for the plan and notify the
21 Board of the selection.

22 “(B) GRANT.—The Secretary may award a
23 grant of up to \$5,000,000 to the sponsor or
24 sponsors of the grant project selected under
25 subparagraph (A)(ii) for the purpose of the

1 final preparation of the national plan for the
2 control, management, and possible eradication
3 of imported fire ants that is based on the
4 project. If the Secretary awards a grant under
5 this subparagraph, the national plan shall be
6 completed, and submitted to the Board, not
7 later than 1 year after the grant is made.

8 “(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
9 than 60 days after the plan is submitted to the
10 Board under subparagraph (B), the Secretary
11 shall submit to Congress the national plan for
12 the control, management, and possible eradi-
13 cation of imported fire ants.

14 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
15 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
16 as are necessary to carry out this subsection for
17 each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.”.

18 **SEC. 214. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRO-**
19 **GRAM.**

20 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
21 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
24 through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), re-
25 spectively;

1 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
2 so redesignated) the following:

3 “(1) A*DEC.—The term ‘A*DEC’ means the
4 distance education consortium known as A*DEC.”;
5 and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
9 A*DEC.”;

10 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “The Sec-
11 retary shall establish a program, to be administered
12 by the Assistant Secretary for Science and Edu-
13 cation,” and inserting “The Secretary of Agriculture
14 shall establish a program, to be administered
15 through a grant provided to A*DEC under terms
16 and conditions established by the Secretary of Agri-
17 culture,”; and

18 (3) in the first sentence of subsection (f)(2), by
19 striking “the Assistant Secretary for Science and
20 Education” and inserting “A*DEC”.

21 **SEC. 215. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARM-**
22 **ERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

23 Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
24 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (6);

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in striking “DISSEMINATION.—” and
 3 all that follows through “GENERAL.—The” and
 4 inserting “DISSEMINATION.—The”; and

5 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
 9 there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 10 this section \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998
 11 through 2002.

12 “(2) NATIONAL GRANT.—Not more than 15
 13 percent of the amounts made available under para-
 14 graph (1) for a fiscal year shall be used to carry out
 15 subsection (b).”.

16 **Subtitle C—Amendments to Other** 17 **Laws**

18 **SEC. 221. 1994 INSTITUTIONS.**

19 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 532 of the Equity in Edu-
 20 cational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law
 21 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding at
 22 the end the following:

23 “(30) Little Priest Tribal College.”.

24 (b) ACCREDITATION.—Section 533(a) of the Equity
 25 in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public

1 Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding
 2 at the end the following:

3 “(3) ACCREDITATION.—To receive funding
 4 under sections 534 and 535, a 1994 Institution shall
 5 certify to the Secretary that the Institution is—

6 “(A) accredited by a nationally recognized
 7 accrediting agency or association determined by
 8 the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
 9 retary of Education, to be a reliable authority
 10 as to the quality of training offered; or

11 “(B) as determined by the agency or asso-
 12 ciation, making progress toward the accredita-
 13 tion.”.

14 **SEC. 222. COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK**
 15 **BY 1862, 1890, AND 1994 INSTITUTIONS.**

16 Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C.
 17 343(b)(3)) is amended in the last sentence by striking
 18 “State institutions” and all that follows through the pe-
 19 riod at the end and inserting “1994 Institutions (in ac-
 20 cordance with regulations that the Secretary may promul-
 21 gate) and may be administered by the Institutions through
 22 cooperative agreements with colleges and universities eligi-
 23 ble to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12
 24 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), or the Act
 25 of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C.

1 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, located in any
2 State.”.

3 **SEC. 223. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COLLEGES AND UNI-**
4 **VERSITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended by striking subsection (d) and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(d) FUNDING OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall receive
10 such amounts as Congress shall determine for ad-
11 ministrative, technical, and other services and for co-
12 ordinating the extension work of the Department
13 and the several States, territories, and possessions of
14 the United States.

15 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COLLEGES AND
16 UNIVERSITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.—

17 “(A) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Colleges
18 and universities (as defined in section 1404 of
19 the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
20 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 3103)), including a foundation established by
22 the colleges or universities, shall be eligible for
23 extension funding awarded under paragraph (1)
24 on a competitive basis.

25 “(B) NONCOMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity de-
2 scribed in clause (ii) shall be eligible for
3 extension funding awarded under para-
4 graph (1) on a noncompetitive basis.

5 “(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Clause (i) shall
6 apply to—

7 “(I) a college or university eligi-
8 ble to receive funds under the Act of
9 July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter
10 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

11 “(II) a college or university eligi-
12 ble to receive funds under the Act of
13 August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chap-
14 ter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), includ-
15 ing Tuskegee University;

16 “(III) a 1994 Institution (as de-
17 fined in section 532 of the Equity in
18 Educational Land-Grant Status Act
19 of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7
20 U.S.C. 301 note)); and

21 “(IV) a foundation established by
22 a college, university, or Institution de-
23 scribed in this clause.

24 “(3) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, COOP-
25 ERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND REIMBURSABLE AGREE-

1 MENTS.—To maximize the use of Federal resources,
2 the Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum
3 extent practicable, enter into memoranda of under-
4 standing, cooperative agreements, or reimbursable
5 agreements with other Federal agencies under which
6 the agencies provide funds, facilities, and other re-
7 sources of the agencies to the Department of Agri-
8 culture to assist the Department in carrying out ex-
9 tension work.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the
11 Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended—

12 (1) in subsections (b)(1) and (c), by striking
13 “Federal Extension Service” each place it appears
14 and inserting “Secretary of Agriculture”; and

15 (2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “through
16 the Federal Extension Service”.

17 **SEC. 224. INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Hatch Act of
19 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(h) INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH AND EXTEN-
22 SION.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than the applica-
24 ble percentage specified under paragraph (2) of the
25 Federal formula funds that are made available to

1 carry out this Act and subsections (b) and (c) of
2 section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343),
3 to colleges and universities eligible to receive funds
4 under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chap-
5 ter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), during a fiscal year
6 shall be allotted to activities that integrate coopera-
7 tive research and extension (referred to in this sub-
8 section as ‘integrated activities’).

9 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

10 “(A) CURRENT EXPENDITURES ON INTE-
11 GRATED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Agri-
12 culture shall determine the percentage of the
13 Federal formula funds described in paragraph
14 (1) that each State expended for fiscal year
15 1997 for integrated activities.

16 “(B) PLANNED EXPENDITURES ON INTE-
17 GRATED ACTIVITIES.—For fiscal year 2000 and
18 each subsequent fiscal year, a State shall ex-
19 pend for integrated activities a percentage of
20 the Federal formula funds described in para-
21 graph (1) for a fiscal year that is at least equal
22 to the lesser of—

23 “(i) 25 percent; or

24 “(ii) twice the percentage for the
25 State determined under subparagraph (A).

1 “(C) REDUCTION BY SECRETARY.—The
2 Secretary may reduce the minimum percentage
3 required to be allotted for integrated activities
4 under subparagraph (B) in a case of hardship,
5 infeasibility, or other similar circumstance be-
6 yond the control of the State, as determined by
7 the Secretary.

8 “(D) COMPLIANCE.—The State shall pro-
9 vide to the Secretary a description of the man-
10 ner in which the State will meet the require-
11 ments of this paragraph.

12 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not
13 apply to funds provided—

14 “(A) by a State or local government pursu-
15 ant to a matching requirement;

16 “(B) to a 1994 Institution (as defined in
17 section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-
18 Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-
19 382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); or

20 “(C) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
21 the Virgin Islands, or Guam.

22 “(4) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Funds that are
23 used in accordance with paragraph (2)(B) may also
24 be used to satisfy the requirements of subsection

1 (c)(3) and the requirements of section 3(h) of the
2 Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(h)).”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3 of the
4 Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) (as amended by section
5 105(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(j) REFERENCE TO OTHER LAW.—Section 3(h) of
7 the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(h)) shall apply to
8 amounts made available to carry out this Act.”.

9 **SEC. 225. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RE-**
10 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

11 (a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Competitive, Spe-
12 cial, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i)
13 is amended in subsection (b)—

14 (1) in the first sentence of paragraph (1), by
15 inserting “national laboratories,” after “Federal
16 agencies,”; and

17 (2) in the second sentence of paragraph (3)(E),
18 by striking “an individual shall have less than” and
19 all that follows through “research experience” and
20 inserting “an individual shall be within 5 years of
21 the individual’s initial career track position”.

22 (b) SPECIAL GRANTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Competitive, Special,
24 and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i)

1 is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(c) SPECIAL GRANTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
5 culture may make grants, for periods not to exceed
6 3 years, to colleges, universities, other research insti-
7 tutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private
8 organizations or corporations, and individuals for
9 the purpose of conducting research to address—

10 “(A) agricultural research needs of imme-
11 diate importance, by themselves or in conjunc-
12 tion with extension or education; or

13 “(B) new or emerging areas of agricultural
14 research, by themselves or in conjunction with
15 extension or education.

16 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not
17 make a grant under this subsection—

18 “(A) for any purpose for which a grant
19 may be made under subsection (d); or

20 “(B) for the planning, repair, rehabilita-
21 tion, acquisition, or construction of a building
22 or facility.

23 “(3) REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Sec-
2 retary shall make a grant under this subsection
3 for a research activity only if—

4 “(i) the activity has undergone sci-
5 entific peer review arranged by the grantee
6 in accordance with regulations promul-
7 gated by the Secretary; and

8 “(ii) except in the case of a grant
9 awarded competitively under this sub-
10 section, the grantee provides to the Sec-
11 retary a proposed plan for graduation from
12 noncompetitive Federal funding for grants
13 under this subsection.

14 “(B) EXTENSION AND EDUCATION ACTIVI-
15 TIES.—The Secretary shall make a grant under
16 this subsection for an extension or education
17 activity only if—

18 “(i) the activity has undergone merit
19 review arranged by the grantee in accord-
20 ance with regulations promulgated by the
21 Secretary; and

22 “(ii) except in the case of a grant
23 awarded competitively under this sub-
24 section, the grantee provides to the Sec-
25 retary a proposed plan for graduation from

1 noncompetitive Federal funding for grants
2 under this subsection.

3 “(4) PARTNERSHIPS.—

4 “(A) IMMEDIATE NEEDS.—Except in the
5 case of a grant awarded competitively under
6 this subsection, to receive a grant under para-
7 graph (1)(A), a recipient of a grant shall enter
8 into a partnership to carry out the grant with
9 another entity referred to in paragraph (1).

10 “(B) NEW AND EMERGING AREAS.—Ex-
11 cept in the case of a grant awarded competi-
12 tively under this subsection, after a recipient
13 has received a grant under paragraph (1)(B)
14 for 3 consecutive years, to receive such a grant
15 for an additional year, the recipient shall enter
16 into a partnership to carry out the grant with
17 2 or more entities referred to in paragraph (1).

18 “(5) REPORTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant
20 under this subsection shall—

21 “(i) prepare on an annual basis a re-
22 port describing the results of the research,
23 extension, or education activity and the
24 merit of the results; and

1 “(ii) submit the report to the Sec-
2 retary.

3 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
5 vided in clause (ii), on request, the Sec-
6 retary shall make the report available to
7 the public.

8 “(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall
9 not apply to the extent that making the re-
10 port, or a part of the report, available to
11 the public is not authorized or permitted
12 by section 552 of title 5, United States
13 Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United
14 States Code.

15 “(6) SET ASIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—
16 Of the amounts made available for a fiscal year to
17 carry out this subsection, not more than 4 percent
18 of the amounts may be retained by the Secretary to
19 pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary to
20 carry out this subsection.”.

21 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
22 by paragraph (1) takes effect on October 1, 1998.

1 **SEC. 226. FUND FOR RURAL AMERICA.**

2 Section 793(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improve-
3 ment and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204f(b)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “January 1,
6 1997, October 1, 1998, and October 1, 1999” and
7 inserting “October 1, 1997, and each October 1
8 thereafter through October 1, 2001”; and

9 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(3) PURPOSES.—Subject to subsection (d), of
12 the amounts transferred to the Account for a fiscal
13 year, the Secretary shall make available—

14 “(A) for activities described in subsection
15 (c)(1), not less than 50 percent, and not more
16 than 67 percent, of the funds in the Account;
17 and

18 “(B) for activities described in subsection
19 (c)(2), all funds in the Account not made avail-
20 able under subparagraph (A).”.

21 **SEC. 227. HONEY RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER**
22 **INFORMATION.**

23 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 2 of the
24 Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information
25 Act (7 U.S.C. 4601) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section heading and “SEC.
2 2. The Congress” and inserting the following:

3 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress”; and

5 (2) in subsection (a) (as designated by para-
6 graph (1)), by adding at the end the following:

7 “(8) Research directed at improving the cost-ef-
8 fectiveness and efficiency of beekeeping and develop-
9 ing better means of dealing with pest and disease
10 problems is essential to keeping honey and honey
11 product prices competitive, facilitating market
12 growth, and maintaining the financial well-being of
13 the honey industry.

14 “(9) Research involving the quality, safety, and
15 image of honey and honey products, and how that
16 quality, safety, and image may be affected during
17 the extraction, processing, packaging, marketing,
18 and other stages of the honey and honey product
19 production and distribution process, is highly impor-
20 tant to building and maintaining markets for honey
21 and honey products.”.

22 (b) RESEARCH PROJECTS.—Section 7(f) of the
23 Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 4606(f)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “(f) Funds” and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds”;

5 (2) by striking “The Secretary shall” and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall”;

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as des-
10 ignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

11 “(2) RESEARCH PROJECTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Honey Board
13 shall reserve at least 8 percent of all assess-
14 ments collected during a year for expenditure
15 on approved research projects designed to ad-
16 vance the cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, ef-
17 ficiency, pest and disease control, and other
18 management aspects of beekeeping and honey
19 production.

20 “(B) SUBSEQUENT AVAILABILITY.—If all
21 funds reserved under subparagraph (A) are not
22 allocated to approved research projects in a
23 year, any unallocated reserved funds shall be
24 carried forward for allocation and expenditure
25 under subparagraph (A) in subsequent years.”.

1 **SEC. 228. OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES.**

2 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
3 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 220. OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES.**

6 “An Office of Energy Policy and New Uses of the
7 Department shall be established in the Office of the Sec-
8 retary.”.

9 **Subtitle D—New Programs**

10 **SEC. 231. BIOBASED PRODUCTS.**

11 (a) DEFINITION OF BIOBASED PRODUCT.—In this
12 section, the term “biobased product” means a product
13 that is produced from a renewable agricultural or forestry
14 product.

15 (b) COORDINATION OF BIOBASED PRODUCT ACTIVI-
16 TIES.—The Secretary shall—

17 (1) coordinate the research, technical expertise,
18 economic information, and market information re-
19 sources and activities of the Department to develop,
20 commercialize, and promote the use of biobased
21 products;

22 (2) solicit input from private sector persons who
23 produce, or are interested in producing, biobased
24 products;

1 (3) provide a centralized contact point for ad-
2 vice and technical assistance for promising and inno-
3 vative biobased products; and

4 (4) submit an annual report to Congress de-
5 scribing the coordinated research, marketing, and
6 commercialization activities of the Department relat-
7 ing to biobased products.

8 (c) RESEARCH AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR
9 BIOBASED PRODUCTS.—

10 (1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE CONTRACTOR.—

11 In this subsection, the term “eligible contractor”
12 means—

13 (A) a party that has entered into a cooper-
14 ative research and development agreement with
15 the Department under section 12 of the Steven-
16 son-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980
17 (15 U.S.C. 3710a);

18 (B) a recipient of funding from the Alter-
19 native Agricultural Research and Commer-
20 cialization Corporation established under sec-
21 tion 1658 of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
22 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5902);

23 (C) a recipient of funding from the Bio-
24 technology Research and Development Center;
25 or

1 (D) a recipient of funding from the De-
2 partment under a Small Business Innovation
3 Research Program established under section 9
4 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

5 (2) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may use the
6 funds, facilities, and technical expertise of the Agri-
7 cultural Research Service, cooperative research and
8 development agreement funds, or other funds—

9 (A) to enter into cooperative agreements
10 with eligible contractors to operate pilot plants
11 and other large-scale preparation facilities to
12 promote the practical application of biobased
13 technologies; and

14 (B) to conduct—

15 (i) research on environmental impacts
16 of the technologies;

17 (ii) research on lowering the cost of
18 manufacturing biobased products; or

19 (iii) other appropriate research.

20 (3) SALE OF BIOBASED PRODUCTS.—For the
21 purpose of determining the market potential for
22 biobased products, an eligible contractor who enters
23 into a cooperative agreement may sell biobased prod-
24 ucts produced at a pilot plant or other large-scale
25 preparation facility under paragraph (2).

1 (d) PILOT PROJECT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
3 through the Agricultural Research Service, shall es-
4 tablish and carry out a pilot project under which
5 grants are provided, on a competitive basis, to sci-
6 entists of the Agricultural Research Service to—

7 (A) encourage innovative and collaborative
8 science; and

9 (B) during each of fiscal years 1999
10 through 2001, develop biobased products with
11 promising commercial potential.

12 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
13 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 1999 through 2002.

16 **SEC. 232. PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) AGRICULTURAL INPUTS.—The term “agri-
19 cultural inputs” includes all farm management, ag-
20 ronomic, and field-applied agricultural production in-
21 puts, such as machinery, labor, time, fuel, irrigation
22 water, commercial nutrients, livestock waste, crop
23 protection chemicals, agronomic data and informa-
24 tion, application and management services, seed, and
25 other inputs used in agricultural production.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible en-
2 tity” means—

3 (A) a State agricultural experiment sta-
4 tion;

5 (B) a college or university;

6 (C) a research institution or organization;

7 (D) a Federal agency;

8 (E) a national laboratory;

9 (F) a private organization or corporation;

10 or

11 (G) an individual.

12 (3) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term “pre-
13 cision agriculture” means an integrated information-
14 and production-based farming system that is de-
15 signed to increase long-term site-specific and whole-
16 farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profit-
17 ability while minimizing unintended impacts on wild-
18 life and the environment by—

19 (A) combining agricultural sciences, agri-
20 cultural inputs and practices, agronomic pro-
21 duction databases, and precision agriculture
22 technologies to efficiently manage agronomic
23 systems;

24 (B) gathering on-farm information pertain-
25 ing to the variation and interaction of site-spe-

1 cific spatial and temporal factors affecting crop
2 production;

3 (C) integrating the information with ap-
4 propriate data derived from remote sensing and
5 other precision agriculture technologies in a
6 timely manner in order to facilitate on-farm de-
7 cisionmaking; or

8 (D) using the information to prescribe and
9 deliver site-specific application of agricultural
10 inputs and management practices in agricul-
11 tural production systems.

12 (4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
13 NOLOGIES.—The term “precision agriculture tech-
14 nologies” includes—

15 (A) instrumentation and techniques rang-
16 ing from sophisticated sensors and software
17 systems to manual sampling and data collection
18 tools that measure, record, and manage spatial
19 and temporal data;

20 (B) technologies for searching out and as-
21 sembling information necessary for sound agri-
22 cultural production decisionmaking;

23 (C) open systems technologies for data
24 networking and processing that produce valued
25 systems for farm management decisionmaking,

1 including high bandwidth networks, distributed
2 processing, spatial databasing, object tech-
3 nology, global positioning systems, data model-
4 ing, high performance image processing, high
5 resolution satellite imagery, digital
6 orthophotogrammetry simulation, geographic in-
7 formation systems, computer aided design, and
8 digital cartography; or

9 (D) machines that deliver information
10 based management practices, including global
11 positioning satellites, digital field mapping, on-
12 the-go yield monitoring, automated pest scout-
13 ing, and site-specific agricultural input applica-
14 tion to accomplish the objectives of precision
15 agriculture.

16 (5) SYSTEMS RESEARCH.—The term “systems
17 research” means an integrated, coordinated, and it-
18 erative investigative process that considers the mul-
19 tiple interacting components and aspects of precision
20 agriculture systems, including synthesis of new
21 knowledge regarding the physical-chemical-biological
22 processes and complex interactions with cropping
23 and natural resource systems, precision agriculture
24 technologies development and implementation, data
25 and information collection and interpretation, pro-

1 duction scale planning, production-scale implementa-
2 tion, and farm production efficiencies, productivity,
3 and profitability.

4 (b) GRANTS.—After consultation with the Advisory
5 Board, the Secretary may make competitive grants, for
6 periods not to exceed 5 years, to eligible entities to carry
7 out research, education, and information dissemination
8 projects for the development and promotion of precision
9 agriculture. The projects shall address 1 or more of the
10 following:

11 (1) The study and promotion of components of
12 precision agriculture technologies using a systems
13 research approach designed to increase long-term
14 site-specific and whole-farm production efficiencies,
15 productivity, and profitability.

16 (2) The improvement in the understanding of
17 agronomic systems, including soil, water, land cover,
18 and meteorological variability.

19 (3) The development, demonstration, and dis-
20 semination of information regarding precision agri-
21 culture technologies and systems into an integrated
22 program.

23 (4) The promotion of systems research and edu-
24 cation projects focusing on the integration of the
25 multiple aspects of precision agriculture, including

1 development, production-scale implementation, and
2 farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profit-
3 ability.

4 (5) The education of agricultural producers and
5 consumers regarding the benefits of precision agri-
6 culture as it relates to increased long-term farm pro-
7 duction efficiencies, productivity, and profitability,
8 as well as the maintenance of the environment and
9 improvements in international trade.

10 (6) The provision of training and educational
11 programs for State cooperative extension services
12 agents, agricultural producers, agricultural input
13 machinery, product, and service providers, and cer-
14 tified crop advisers and other professionals involved
15 in agricultural production and the transfer of inte-
16 grated precision agriculture technology.

17 (c) EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINA-
18 TION.—Of the funds allocated for grants under this sec-
19 tion, the Secretary shall reserve a portion of the funds
20 for education and information dissemination grants re-
21 garding precision agriculture.

22 (d) PRECISION AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out this sec-
24 tion, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory
25 Board, shall encourage the establishment of appro-

1 appropriate multistate and national partnerships or con-
2 sortia among—

3 (A) land-grant colleges and universities;

4 (B) State agricultural experiment stations;

5 (C) State cooperative extension services;

6 (D) other colleges and universities with de-
7 monstrable expertise regarding precision agri-
8 culture;

9 (E) agencies of the Department;

10 (F) national laboratories;

11 (G) agribusinesses;

12 (H) agricultural equipment and input man-
13 ufacturers and retailers;

14 (I) certified crop advisers;

15 (J) commodity organizations;

16 (K) other Federal or State government en-
17 tities and agencies;

18 (L) nonagricultural industries and non-
19 profit organizations with demonstrable expertise
20 regarding precision agriculture; and

21 (M) agricultural producers and other land
22 managers.

23 (2) AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF EN-
24 ERGY AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The
25 partnerships established pursuant to this subsection

1 may include the agreement entered into (before the
2 date of enactment of this Act) by the Secretary of
3 Energy (on behalf of the national laboratories of the
4 Department of Energy) and the Secretary of Agri-
5 culture (on behalf of agencies of the Department)
6 to promote cooperation and coordination between the
7 national laboratories of the Department of Energy
8 and agencies of the Department of Agriculture in
9 the areas of systems research, technology research
10 and development, and the transfer, utilization, and
11 private-sector commercialization of technology.

12 (3) ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS.—Partnerships de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be eligible grantees
14 for conducting systems research (including on-farm
15 research) regarding precision agriculture and preci-
16 sion agriculture technologies.

17 (e) LIMITATION.—A grant made under this section
18 may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation,
19 acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

20 (f) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may not take
21 the offer or availability of matching funds into consider-
22 ation in making a grant under this section.

23 (g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than January 1 of
24 each year, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress an an-
25 nual report describing the policies, priorities, and oper-

1 ations of the grant program authorized by this section
2 during the preceding fiscal year.

3 (h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate
4 such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to
5 carry out this section.

6 (i) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The Federal
7 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII
8 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281
9 et seq.) shall not apply to a panel or board created for
10 the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submit-
11 ted under this section.

12 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry
15 out this section for each of fiscal years 1998 through
16 2002, of which, for each fiscal year—

17 (A) not less than 30 percent shall be avail-
18 able to make grants for research to be con-
19 ducted by multidisciplinary teams;

20 (B) not less than 40 percent shall be avail-
21 able to make grants for research to be con-
22 ducted by eligible entities conducting mission-
23 linked systems research; and

24 (C) not more than 4 percent may be re-
25 tained by the Secretary to pay administrative

1 costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out
2 this section.

3 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds made
4 available under paragraph (1) shall be available for
5 obligation for a 2-year period beginning on October
6 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds are made
7 available.

8 **SEC. 233. FORMOSAN TERMITE ERADICATION PROGRAM.**

9 (a) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—The Secretary may make
10 competitive research grants for terms of not to exceed 5
11 years to regional and multijurisdictional entities, local gov-
12 ernment planning organizations, and local governments
13 for the purpose of conducting research for the control,
14 management, and possible eradication of Formosan ter-
15 mites in the United States.

16 (b) ERADICATION PROGRAM.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
18 into cooperative agreements with regional and multi-
19 jurisdictional entities, local government planning or-
20 ganizations, and local governments for the purposes
21 of—

22 (A) conducting projects for the control,
23 management, and possible eradication of For-
24 mosan termites in the United States; and

1 (B) collecting data on the effectiveness of
2 the projects.

3 (2) FUNDING PRIORITY.—In allocating funds
4 made available to carry out this subsection, the Sec-
5 retary shall provide a higher priority for regions or
6 locations with the highest historical rates of infesta-
7 tion of Formosan termites.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

11 **SEC. 234. NUTRIENT COMPOSITION DATA.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall update, on a
13 periodic basis, nutrient composition data.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
15 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
16 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
18 Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

19 (1) the method the Secretary will use to update
20 nutrient composition data, including the quality as-
21 surance criteria that will be used and the method for
22 generating the data; and

23 (2) the timing for updating the data.

1 **SEC. 235. CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND LABORA-**
2 **TORY FACILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Federal
4 Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40
5 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40
6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or section 5 of the Public Buildings
7 Amendments of 1972 (40 U.S.C. 602a), the Secretary, in
8 consultation with the Administrator of General Services,
9 may enter into contracts for the design, construction, and
10 operation of a consolidated administrative and laboratory
11 facility of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
12 to be located in or near Ames, Iowa.

13 (b) AWARDING OF CONTRACT.—

14 (1) SOLICITATION.—The Secretary may solicit
15 contract proposals from interested parties to carry
16 out subsection (a).

17 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding contracts under
18 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

19 (A) review the proposals; and

20 (B) provide a higher priority to proposals

21 that—

22 (i) are—

23 (I) the most cost effective for the
24 Federal Government; or

25 (II) safer, based on the relative
26 safety of the proposed facility in com-

1 parison to facilities of the Animal and
2 Plant Health Inspection Service lo-
3 cated in Ames, Iowa, in existence on
4 the date of enactment of this Act; and
5 (ii) allow for the use of donated land,
6 federally owned property, or lease-purchase
7 arrangements.

8 (c) DONATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the
9 Secretary may, in connection with real property, buildings,
10 and facilities, accept on behalf of the Animal and Plant
11 Health Inspection Service such gifts or donations of serv-
12 ices or property, real or personal, as the Secretary deter-
13 mines necessary.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
16 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
17 1998 through 2002, to remain available until expended.

18 **SEC. 236. NATIONAL SWINE RESEARCH CENTER.**

19 Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry
20 out this section, or through a reprogramming of funds
21 provided for swine research to carry out this section pur-
22 suant to established procedures, during the period begin-
23 ning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending De-
24 cember 31, 1998, the Secretary, acting through the Agri-
25 cultural Research Service, may accept as a gift, and ad-

1 minister, the National Swine Research Center located in
2 Ames, Iowa.

3 **Subtitle E—Studies and**
4 **Miscellaneous**

5 **SEC. 241. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF AGRICUL-**
6 **TURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDU-**
7 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall conduct a
9 performance evaluation to determine whether federally
10 funded agricultural research, extension, and education
11 programs result in public goods that have national or
12 multistate significance.

13 (b) **CONTRACT.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter
15 into a contract with an expert in research assess-
16 ment and performance evaluation to provide input
17 and recommendations to the Secretary with respect
18 to federally funded agricultural research, extension,
19 and education programs.

20 (2) **GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURE-**
21 **MENT.**—

22 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The contractor under
23 paragraph (1) shall develop and propose to the
24 Secretary practical guidelines for measuring

1 performance of federally funded agricultural re-
2 search, extension, and education programs.

3 (B) CONSISTENCY WITH GPRA.—The
4 guidelines shall be consistent with the Govern-
5 ment Performance and Results Act of 1993
6 (Public Law 103–62) and amendments made by
7 that Act.

8 **SEC. 242. STUDY OF FEDERALLY FUNDED AGRICULTURAL**
9 **RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

10 (a) STUDY.—Not later than January 1, 1999, the
11 Secretary shall request the National Academy of Sciences
12 to conduct a study of the role and mission of federally
13 funded agricultural research, extension, and education.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall—

15 (1) evaluate the strength of science conducted
16 by the Agricultural Research Service and the rel-
17 evance of the science to national priorities;

18 (2) examine how the work of the Agricultural
19 Research Service relates to the capacity of the agri-
20 cultural research, extension, and education system of
21 the United States;

22 (3) examine the formulas for funding agricul-
23 tural research and extension; and

24 (4) examine the system of competitive grants
25 for agricultural research, extension, and education.

1 (c) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall prepare and sub-
2 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
4 and Forestry of the Senate—

5 (1) not later than 18 months after the com-
6 mencement of the study, a report that describes the
7 results of the study as it relates to paragraphs (1)
8 and (2) of subsection (b), including any appropriate
9 recommendations; and

10 (2) not later than 3 years after the commence-
11 ment of the study, a report that describes the results
12 of the study as it relates to paragraphs (3) and (4)
13 of subsection (b), including any appropriate rec-
14 ommendations.

15 **SEC. 243. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STATE MATCH FOR 1890**

16 **INSTITUTIONS.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that States should provide
18 matching funds for agricultural research and extension
19 formula funds provided by the Federal Government to
20 1890 Institutions.

1 **TITLE III—INITIATIVE FOR FU-**
2 **TURE AGRICULTURE AND**
3 **FOOD SYSTEMS**

4 **SEC. 301. INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND**
5 **FOOD SYSTEMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treas-
7 ury of the United States an account to be known as the
8 Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (re-
9 ferred to in this section as the “Account”) to provide
10 funds for activities authorized under this section.

11 (b) FUNDING.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the
13 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary
14 of the Treasury shall transfer to the Account—

15 (A) on October 1, 1997, \$100,000,000;

16 and

17 (B) on October 1, 1998, and each October
18 thereafter through October 1, 2001,
19 \$170,000,000.

20 (2) ENTITLEMENT.—The Secretary—

21 (A) shall be entitled to receive the funds
22 transferred to the Account under paragraph
23 (1);

24 (B) shall accept the funds; and

1 (C) shall use the funds to carry out this
2 section.

3 (c) PURPOSES.—

4 (1) CRITICAL EMERGING ISSUES.—The Sec-
5 retary shall use the funds in the Account—

6 (A) subject to paragraph (2), for research,
7 extension, and education grants (referred to in
8 this section as “grants”) to address critical
9 emerging agricultural issues related to—

10 (i) future food production;

11 (ii) environmental protection; or

12 (iii) farm income; and

13 (B) for activities carried out under the Al-
14 ternative Agricultural Research and Commer-
15 cialization Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.).

16 (2) PRIORITY MISSION AREAS.—

17 (A) FISCAL YEAR 1998.—In making grants
18 under this section for fiscal year 1998, the Sec-
19 retary shall address priority mission areas relat-
20 ed to—

21 (i) food genome;

22 (ii) food safety, food technology, and
23 human nutrition;

1 (iii) new and alternative uses and pro-
2 duction of agricultural commodities and
3 products;

4 (iv) agricultural biotechnology; and

5 (v) natural resource management, in-
6 cluding precision agriculture.

7 (B) FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2002.—

8 In making grants under this section for each of
9 fiscal years 1999 through 2002, the Secretary
10 shall address—

11 (i) priority mission areas described in
12 subparagraph (A); or

13 (ii) after consultation with the Advi-
14 sory Board, new or different priority mis-
15 sion areas.

16 (d) ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.—The Secretary may make
17 a grant under this section to—

18 (1) a Federal research agency;

19 (2) a national laboratory;

20 (3) a college or university or a research founda-
21 tion maintained by a college or university; or

22 (4) a private research organization with an es-
23 tablished and demonstrated capacity to perform re-
24 search or technology transfer.

25 (e) USE OF GRANTS.—

1 (1) SMALLER INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary
2 may award grants under this section to ensure that
3 the faculty of small and mid-sized institutions who
4 have not previously been successful in obtaining
5 competitive grants awarded by the Secretary under
6 subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
7 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) re-
8 ceive a portion of the grants.

9 (2) PRIORITIES.—In making grants under this
10 section, the Secretary shall provide a higher priority
11 to—

12 (A) a project that is multistate, multi-insti-
13 tutional, or multidisciplinary; or

14 (B) a project that integrates agricultural
15 research, extension, and education.

16 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants under this
18 section, the Secretary shall—

19 (A) seek and accept proposals for grants;

20 (B) determine the relevance and merit of
21 proposals through a system of peer review in
22 accordance with section 103;

23 (C) award grants on the basis of merit,
24 quality, and relevance to advancing the pur-

1 poses and priority mission areas established
2 under subsection (c); and

3 (D) solicit and consider input from stake-
4 holders in accordance with section 102(b)(1).

5 (2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—A grant under this
6 section shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

7 (3) TERM.—A grant under this section shall
8 have a term that does not exceed 5 years.

9 (4) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of mak-
10 ing a grant under this section, the Secretary shall
11 require the funding of the grant be matched with
12 equal matching funds from a non-Federal source if
13 the grant is—

14 (A) for applied research that is commodity-
15 specific; and

16 (B) not of national scope.

17 (5) DELEGATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ad-
19 minister this section through the Cooperative
20 State Research, Education, and Extension Serv-
21 ice of the Department.

22 (B) INSTITUTES.—The Secretary may es-
23 tablish 1 or more institutes to carry out all or
24 part of the activities authorized under this sec-
25 tion.

1 (6) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds for
2 grants under this section shall be available for obli-
3 gation for a 2-year period.

4 (7) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
5 may use not more than 4 percent of the funds made
6 available for grants under this section for adminis-
7 trative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying
8 out this section.

9 (8) BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.—Funds made
10 available for grants under this section shall not be
11 used for the construction of a new building or facil-
12 ity or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or al-
13 teration of an existing building or facility (including
14 site grading and improvement and architect fees).

15 **TITLE IV—EXTENSION OR RE-**
16 **PEAL OF CERTAIN AUTHORI-**
17 **TIES; TECHNICAL AMEND-**
18 **MENTS**

19 **SEC. 401. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES.**

20 (a) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-
21 SION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—The Na-
22 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
23 Policy Act of 1977 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (1) of section 1417 (7 U.S.C.
2 3152) (as redesignated by section 202(1)), by strik-
3 ing “1997” and inserting “2002”;

4 (2) in section 1419(d) (7 U.S.C. 3154(d)), by
5 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

6 (3) in section 1419A(d) (7 U.S.C. 3155(d)), by
7 striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting
8 “each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”;

9 (4) in section 1424(d) (7 U.S.C. 3174(d)), by
10 striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting
11 “each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”;

12 (5) in section 1425(c)(3) (7 U.S.C. 3175(c)(3)),
13 by striking “and 1997” and inserting “through
14 2002”;

15 (6) in the first sentence of section 1433(a) (7
16 U.S.C. 3195(a)), by striking “1997” and inserting
17 “2002”;

18 (7) in section 1434(a) (7 U.S.C. 3196(a)), by
19 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

20 (8) in section 1447(b) (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)), by
21 striking “and 1997” and inserting “through 2002”;

22 (9) in section 1448 (7 U.S.C. 3222c)—

23 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and
24 1997” and inserting “through 2002”; and

1 (B) in subsection (f), by striking “1997”
2 and inserting “2002”;

3 (10) in section 1455(e) (7 U.S.C. 3241(e)), by
4 striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “each of
5 fiscal years 1997 through 2002”;

6 (11) in section 1463 (7 U.S.C. 3311), by strik-
7 ing “1997” each place it appears in subsections (a)
8 and (b) and inserting “2002”;

9 (12) in section 1464 (7 U.S.C. 3312), by strik-
10 ing “1997” and inserting “2002”;

11 (13) in section 1473D(a) (7 U.S.C. 3319d(a)),
12 by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

13 (14) in the first sentence of section 1477 (7
14 U.S.C. 3324), by striking “1997” and inserting
15 “2002”; and

16 (15) in section 1483(a) (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)), by
17 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

18 (b) FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND
19 TRADE ACT OF 1990.—The Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
20 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended—

21 (1) in section 1635(b) (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)), by
22 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

23 (2) in section 1673(h) (7 U.S.C. 5926(h)), by
24 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

1 (3) in section 2381(e) (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)), by
2 striking “1997” and inserting “2002”; and

3 (4) in section 2412 (7 U.S.C. 6710), by striking
4 “1997” and inserting “2002”.

5 (c) CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.—
6 Section 16(a) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act
7 (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is amended by striking “1997” and
8 inserting “2002”.

9 (d) RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.—Section 6(a) of the
10 Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is amended by
11 striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting “each
12 of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”.

13 (e) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-
14 SION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF
15 1985.—Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Re-
16 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments
17 of 1985 (99 Stat. 1566) is amended by striking “1997”
18 and inserting “2002”.

19 (f) COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RE-
20 SEARCH GRANT ACT.—Subsection (b)(10) of the Competi-
21 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.
22 450i(b)(10)) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting
23 “2002”.

24 (g) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-
25 SION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF

1 1981.—Section 1432(b)(5) of the National Agricultural
2 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amend-
3 ments of 1981 (Public Law 97–98; 7 U.S.C. 3222 note)
4 is amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

5 (h) EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS
6 ACT OF 1994.—Sections 533(b) and 535 of the Equity
7 in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public
8 Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) are amended by strik-
9 ing “2000” each place it appears and inserting “2002”.

10 (i) RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF
11 1978.—Section 6 of the Renewable Resources Extension
12 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1675) is amended in the first sen-
13 tence by striking “the fiscal year ending September 30,
14 1988,” and all that follows through the period at the end
15 and inserting “each of fiscal years 1987 through 2002.”.

16 (j) NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.—Sec-
17 tion 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16
18 U.S.C. 2809) is amended in the first sentence by striking
19 “the fiscal years 1991, 1992, and 1993” each place it ap-
20 pears and inserting “fiscal years 1991 through 2002”.

21 **SEC. 402. REPEAL OF AUTHORITIES.**

22 (a) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-
23 SION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—Sections
24 1424A and 1476 of the National Agricultural Research,

1 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
2 3174a, 3323) are repealed.

3 (b) FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND
4 TRADE ACT OF 1990.—Subtitle G of title XIV and sec-
5 tions 1670, 1675, and 1676 of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5501 et seq.,
7 5923, 5928, 5929) are repealed.

8 (c) FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT AND RE-
9 FORM ACT OF 1996.—Subtitle E of title VIII of the Fed-
10 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996
11 (110 Stat. 1184) is repealed.

12 **SEC. 403. SHORT TITLES FOR SMITH-LEVER ACT AND**
13 **HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

14 (a) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—The Act of May 8, 1914
15 (commonly known as the “Smith-Lever Act”) (38 Stat.
16 372, chapter 79; 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 11. SHORT TITLE.**

19 “This Act may be cited as the ‘Smith-Lever Act’.”.

20 (b) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—The Act of March 2,
21 1887 (commonly known as the “Hatch Act of 1887”) (24
22 Stat. 440, chapter 314; 7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.), is amended
23 by adding at the end the following:

24 **“SEC. 10. SHORT TITLE.**

25 “This Act may be cited as the ‘Hatch Act of 1887’.”.

1 **SEC. 404. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO RESEARCH PROVI-**
2 **SIONS OF FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVE-**
3 **MENT AND REFORM ACT OF 1996.**

4 (a) SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS RE-
5 SEARCH.—Section 819(b)(5) of the Federal Agriculture
6 Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–
7 127; 110 Stat. 1167) is amended by striking “paragraph
8 (3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(3)”.

9 (b) JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
10 SCIENCES.—Section 1413(b) of the National Agricultural
11 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
12 U.S.C. 3128(b)) is amended by striking “Joint Council,
13 the Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”.

14 (c) ADVISORY BOARD.—

15 (1) SUPPORT FOR ADVISORY BOARD.—Section
16 1412 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
17 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 3127) is amended—

19 (A) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking
20 “their duties” each place it appears and insert-
21 ing “its duties”; and

22 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “their
23 recommendations” and inserting “its rec-
24 ommendations”.

25 (2) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Section 1413(a) of
26 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and

1 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3128(a)) is
2 amended by striking “their powers” and inserting
3 “its duties”.

4 (d) PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE CON-
5 TROL PROGRAM.—Section 1629(g) of the Food, Agri-
6 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
7 5832(g)) is amended by striking “section 1650,”.

8 (e) GRANTS TO UPGRADE 1890 LAND-GRANT COL-
9 LEGE EXTENSION FACILITIES.—Section 873 of the Fed-
10 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996
11 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 1175) is amended by
12 striking “1981” and inserting “1985”.

13 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section take effect on April 4, 1996.

15 **TITLE V—AGRICULTURAL** 16 **PROGRAM SAVINGS**

17 **SEC. 501. NUTRITION PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) FOOD STAMPS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the Food
20 Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended—

21 (A) in the first sentence of subsection (a),
22 by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
23 “Subject to subsection (k), the Secretary”;

1 (B) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting
2 “notwithstanding subsection (k),” after “(A)”;
3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(k) ADMINISTRATIVE COST CONTAINMENT.—

6 “(1) FISCAL YEAR 1998.—For fiscal year 1998,
7 the amount paid by the Secretary to a State under
8 subsection (a) (except for subsections (a)(6) and
9 (c)(1)(A)) shall not exceed 110 percent of the
10 amount the Secretary paid to the State under sub-
11 section (a) (minus any amount paid under sub-
12 sections (a)(6) and (c)(1)(A)) for fiscal year 1996.

13 “(2) AFTER FISCAL YEAR 1998.—For fiscal year
14 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount
15 paid by the Secretary to a State under subsection
16 (a) (except subsections (a)(6) and (c)(1)(A)) shall
17 not exceed 115 percent of—

18 “(A)(i) the amount the Secretary paid to
19 the State under subsection (a) (minus any
20 amount paid under subsections (a)(6) and
21 (c)(1)(A)) for fiscal year 1996, adjusted to re-
22 flect any change in the Consumer Price Index
23 published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for
24 all urban consumers for the period beginning
25 July 1, 1997, and ending the June 30 preced-

1 ing the fiscal year for which the amount is
2 being determined; divided by

3 “(ii) the average monthly number of food
4 stamp households in the State during fiscal
5 year 1996; multiplied by

6 “(B) the average monthly number of food
7 stamp households in the State during the appli-
8 cable fiscal year.”.

9 (2) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of
10 the United States shall submit a study to the Com-
11 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
12 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
13 and Forestry of the Senate on the effect of section
14 16(k) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (as amended
15 by paragraph (1)) on the ability of State agencies to
16 administer the food stamp program.

17 (b) MEALS FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING FAMI-
18 LIES.—

19 (1) GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME AREAS.—Section
20 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
21 1773) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
22 ing:

23 “(f) LOW-INCOME AREA GRANT PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble school’ means a school—

3 “(i) attended by children, a significant
4 percentage of whom are members of low-
5 income families, as determined by the Sec-
6 retary; and

7 “(ii)(I) as used with respect to a
8 school breakfast program, that agrees to
9 operate the school breakfast program es-
10 tablished or expanded with the assistance
11 provided under this subsection for a period
12 of not less than 3 years; and

13 “(II) as used with respect to a sum-
14 mer food service program for children, that
15 agrees to operate the summer food service
16 program for children established or ex-
17 panded with the assistance provided under
18 this subsection for a period of not less
19 than 3 years.

20 “(B) SERVICE INSTITUTION.—The term
21 ‘service institution’ means an institution or or-
22 ganization described in paragraph (1)(B) or (7)
23 of section 13(a) of the National School Lunch
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)).

1 “(C) SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
2 FOR CHILDREN.—The term ‘summer food serv-
3 ice program for children’ means a program au-
4 thorized by section 13 of the National School
5 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761).

6 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
7 tablish a program under this subsection to be known
8 as the ‘Low-Income Area Grant Program’ (referred
9 to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to assist eli-
10 gible schools and service institutions through grants
11 to initiate or expand programs under the school
12 breakfast program and the summer food service pro-
13 gram for children.

14 “(3) PAYMENTS.—

15 “(A) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any moneys
16 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the
17 Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the
18 Secretary \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and
19 each fiscal year thereafter.

20 “(B) ENTITLEMENT TO FUNDS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall be entitled to receive the funds
22 made available under subparagraph (A) and
23 shall accept the funds.

24 “(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall
25 use the funds made available under subpara-

1 graph (A) to make payments under the Pro-
2 gram—

3 “(i) in the case of the school breakfast
4 program, to school food authorities for eli-
5 gible schools; and

6 “(ii) in the case of the summer food
7 service program for children, to service in-
8 stitutions.

9 “(D) INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF APPLI-
10 CANTS.—The Secretary may expend less than
11 the amount described in subparagraph (A) for
12 a fiscal year to the extent that there is an in-
13 sufficient number of suitable applicants to initi-
14 ate or expand programs under this subsection
15 for the fiscal year.

16 “(4) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall make pay-
17 ments under the Program on a competitive basis and
18 in the following order of priority (subject to the
19 other provisions of this subsection) to:

20 “(A) School food authorities for eligible
21 schools to assist the schools with nonrecurring
22 expenses incurred in—

23 “(i) initiating a school breakfast pro-
24 gram under this section; or

1 “(ii) expanding a school breakfast
2 program.

3 “(B) Service institutions to assist the insti-
4 tutions with nonrecurring expenses incurred
5 in—

6 “(i) initiating a summer food service
7 program for children; or

8 “(ii) expanding a summer food service
9 program for children.

10 “(5) PAYMENTS ADDITIONAL.—Payments under
11 the Program shall be in addition to payments under
12 subsection (b) of this section and section 13 of the
13 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761).

14 “(6) PREFERENCES.—Consistent with para-
15 graph (4), in making payments under the Program
16 for any fiscal year to initiate or expand school
17 breakfast programs or summer food service pro-
18 grams for children, the Secretary shall provide a
19 preference to a school food authority for an eligible
20 school or service institution that—

21 “(A) in the case of a summer food service
22 program for children, is a public or private non-
23 profit school food authority;

24 “(B) has significant public or private re-
25 sources that will be used to carry out the initi-

1 ation or expansion of the programs during the
2 year;

3 “(C) serves an unmet need among low-in-
4 come children, as determined by the Secretary;
5 or

6 “(D) is not operating a school breakfast
7 program or summer food service program for
8 children, as appropriate.

9 “(7) RECOVERY AND REALLOCATION.—The
10 Secretary shall act in a timely manner to recover
11 and reallocate to other school food authorities for el-
12 igible schools or service institutions any amounts
13 under the Program that are not expended within a
14 reasonable period (as determined by the Secretary).

15 “(8) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Expenditures
16 of funds from State, local, and private sources for
17 the maintenance of the school breakfast program
18 and the summer food service program for children
19 shall not be diminished as a result of payments re-
20 ceived under the Program.”.

21 (2) MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—Section
22 13(b)(2) of the National School Lunch Act (42
23 U.S.C. 1761(b)(2)) is amended—

24 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
25 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

1 (B) by striking “(2) Any service” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(2) MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any service”;

5 (C) by striking “3 meals, or 2 meals and
6 1 supplement,” and inserting “4 meals”; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(B) CAMPS AND MIGRANT PROGRAMS.—A
9 camp or migrant program may serve a break-
10 fast, a lunch, a supper, and meal supple-
11 ments.”.

12 (3) NUMBER OF MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—
13 Section 17(f)(2) of the National School Lunch Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(2)) is amended by striking sub-
15 paragraph (B) and inserting the following:

16 “(B) NUMBER OF MEALS AND SUPPLE-
17 MENTS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
19 vided in clause (ii), no reimbursement may
20 be made to any institution under this para-
21 graph, or to a family or group day care
22 home sponsoring organization under para-
23 graph (3), for more than 2 meals and 1
24 supplement per day per child.

1 “(ii) CHILD CARE.—A reimbursement
2 may be made to an institution under this
3 paragraph (but not a family or group day
4 care home sponsoring organization) for 2
5 meals and 2 supplements, or 3 meals and
6 1 supplement, per day per child for chil-
7 dren that are maintained in a child care
8 setting for 8 or more hours per day.”.

9 (4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
10 by paragraphs (2) and (3) take effect on September
11 1, 1998.

12 (c) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 26(d)
13 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d))
14 is amended in the first sentence by striking “\$150,000”
15 and all that follows through “1998” and inserting
16 “\$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, and \$185,000 for each
17 of fiscal years 1998 through 2002”.

18 **SEC. 502. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(g) of the Commodity
20 Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714b(g)) is
21 amended in the first sentence by striking “\$275,000,000”
22 and inserting “\$193,000,000”.

23 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
24 subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 1997.

1 **SEC. 503. HAYING AND GRAZING ON CONSERVATION RE-**
2 **SERVE LAND.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1232(a) of the Food Se-
4 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3832(a)) is amended by
5 striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

6 “(7) not to conduct any harvesting or grazing,
7 nor otherwise make commercial use of the forage, on
8 land that is subject to the contract, nor adopt any
9 similar practice specified in the contract by the Sec-
10 retary as a practice that would tend to defeat the
11 purposes of the contract, except that—

12 “(A) on application by an owner or opera-
13 tor who has entered into the contract with the
14 Secretary, the Secretary shall permit harvesting
15 and grazing on land that the Secretary deter-
16 mines has a sufficiently established cover to
17 permit harvesting or grazing without undue
18 harm to the purposes of the contract if—

19 “(i) not more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the land
20 under the contract is harvested or grazed
21 in any calendar year;

22 “(ii) no land under the contract will
23 be harvested or grazed more than once in
24 a 3-year period;

25 “(iii) the owner or operator agrees to
26 a payment reduction under this subchapter

1 in an amount that the Secretary deter-
2 mines is commensurate with the value of
3 the cover crop that is harvested or grazed;
4 and

5 “(iv) the owner or operator agrees to
6 such other terms and conditions as the
7 Secretary may establish to ensure that the
8 harvesting or grazing is consistent with the
9 purposes of the program established under
10 this subchapter; and

11 “(B) the Secretary may permit grazing on
12 land under the contract if—

13 “(i) the grazing is incidental to the
14 gleaning of crop residues;

15 “(ii) the owner or operator agrees to
16 a payment reduction in annual rental pay-
17 ments that would otherwise be payable
18 under this subchapter in an amount that
19 the Secretary determines is commensurate
20 with the economic value of the forage that
21 is subject to the incidental grazing; and

22 “(iii) the owner or operator agrees to
23 such other terms and conditions as the
24 Secretary may establish to ensure that the
25 grazing is consistent with the purposes of

1 the program established under this sub-
2 chapter;”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 1997.