

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1850

To expand and improve opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To expand and improve opportunities for beginning farmers  
and ranchers, 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,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of  
6 2011”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

## TITLE I—CONSERVATION

### Subtitle A—Conservation Reserve Program

- Sec. 101. Extension of conservation reserve program.
- Sec. 102. Contracts.

### Subtitle B—Farmland Protection Program

- Sec. 111. Farmland protection program.

### Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Sec. 121. Establishment and administration of environmental quality incentives program.
- Sec. 122. Conservation innovation grants and payments.

### Subtitle D—Funding and Administration

- Sec. 131. Funding of conservation programs under Food Security Act of 1985.
- Sec. 132. Assistance to certain farmers or ranchers for conservation access.
- Sec. 133. Comprehensive conservation planning.

## TITLE II—CREDIT

### Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans

- Sec. 201. Direct farm ownership experience requirement.
- Sec. 202. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.
- Sec. 203. Loan terms for down payment loan program.
- Sec. 204. Definition of qualified beginning farmer or rancher.

### Subtitle B—Operating Loans

- Sec. 211. Young beginning farmer or rancher microloans.

### Subtitle C—Administrative Provisions

- Sec. 221. Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program.
- Sec. 222. Transition to private commercial or other sources of credit.
- Sec. 223. Loan authorization levels.
- Sec. 224. Direct loans for beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Sec. 225. Borrower training.

## TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 301. Value-added producer grants.
- Sec. 302. Use of loans and grants for entrepreneurial farm enterprises.

## TITLE IV—RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION

- Sec. 401. Beginning farmer and rancher development program.
- Sec. 402. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

## TITLE V—CROP INSURANCE

- Sec. 501. Sense of Congress on beginning farmer and rancher access to crop and revenue insurance.
- Sec. 502. Risk management partnership programs.

## TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 601. Small and beginning farmer and rancher coordinators.

Sec. 602. Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison.

Sec. 603. Budgetary effects.

Sec. 604. Effective date.

1           **TITLE I—CONSERVATION**  
 2       **Subtitle A—Conservation Reserve**  
 3                   **Program**

4   **SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-**  
 5                   **GRAM.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Se-  
 7   curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by  
 8   striking “2012” and inserting “2017”.

9           (b) LAND ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT IN CON-  
 10   SERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231(b)(1)(B) of the  
 11   Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)(1)(B)) is  
 12   amended by striking “Food, Conservation, and Energy  
 13   Act of 2008” and inserting “Beginning Farmer and  
 14   Rancher Opportunity Act of 2011”.

15          (c) MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT OF ACREAGE IN CON-  
 16   SERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231(d) of the Food Se-  
 17   curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)) is amended—

18               (1) by striking the first sentence; and

19               (2) in the second sentence, by striking “2010,  
 20       2011, and 2012” and inserting “2010 through  
 21       2017”.

1 (d) PILOT PROGRAM FOR ENROLLMENT OF WET-  
 2 LAND AND BUFFER ACREAGE IN CONSERVATION RE-  
 3 SERVE.—Section 1231B of the Food Security Act of 1985  
 4 (16 U.S.C. 3831b) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “2012” and  
 6 inserting “2017”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking “2002  
 8 through 2007” and inserting “2008 through 2012”.

9 **SEC. 102. CONTRACTS.**

10 Section 1235 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 11 U.S.C. 3835) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking clause  
 13 (iii) and inserting the following:

14 “(iii) to facilitate a transition of land  
 15 subject to the contract from a retired or  
 16 retiring owner or operator to a beginning  
 17 farmer or rancher, socially disadvantaged  
 18 farmer or rancher, or limited resource  
 19 farmer or rancher who is or will be actively  
 20 engaged in farming or ranching with re-  
 21 spect to the land transferred under this  
 22 subsection for the purpose of returning  
 23 some or all of the land into production  
 24 using sustainable grazing or crop produc-  
 25 tion methods that meet or exceed the re-

1 source management system quality criteria  
2 for erosion, soil quality, water quality, and  
3 fish and wildlife; or”; and

4 (2) in subsection (f)(1)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
6 (A), by striking “or socially disadvantaged  
7 farmer or rancher” and inserting “socially dis-  
8 advantaged farmer or rancher, or limited re-  
9 source farmer or rancher who is or will be ac-  
10 tively engaged in farming or ranching with re-  
11 spect to the land transferred under this sub-  
12 section”; and

13 (B) by striking subparagraphs (C), (D),  
14 and (E) and inserting the following:

15 “(C) require the covered farmer or rancher  
16 to develop and implement a comprehensive con-  
17 servation plan that addresses all resource con-  
18 cerns and meets such sustainability criteria as  
19 the Secretary may establish;

20 “(D) provide to the covered farmer or  
21 rancher an opportunity to enroll in the con-  
22 servation stewardship program or the environ-  
23 mental quality incentives program at any time  
24 beginning on the date that is 1 year before the  
25 date of termination of the contract, including

1 technical and financial assistance in the devel-  
2 opment of a comprehensive conservation plan;

3 “(E) if the land transferred under this  
4 subsection remains in grass cover, provide to  
5 the covered farmer or rancher an opportunity to  
6 enroll in a long-term or permanent easement  
7 under the grassland reserve program or farm-  
8 land protection program at any time beginning  
9 on the date that is 1 year before the date of  
10 termination of the contact; and

11 “(F) continue to make annual payments to  
12 the retired or retiring owner or operator for not  
13 more than an additional 2 years after the date  
14 of termination of the contract, except that, in  
15 the case of a retired or retiring owner or oper-  
16 ator who is a family member (as defined in sec-  
17 tion 1001) of the covered farmer or rancher,  
18 the additional payments shall be made only if  
19 title to the land is sold or transferred to the  
20 covered farmer or rancher on termination of the  
21 contract.”.

1     **Subtitle B—Farmland Protection**  
2                     **Program**

3     **SEC. 111. FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

4             Section 1238I of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
5     U.S.C. 3838i) is amended—

6                     (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “to promote  
7             farm viability for future generations” before the pe-  
8             riod at the end; and

9                     (2) in subsection (g)(4)—

10                         (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
11             “and” at the end;

12                         (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as  
13             subparagraph (D); and

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

16                             “(C) provide a funding priority, to the  
17             maximum extent practicable, for—

18                                 “(i) eligible land for which there exists  
19                             a farm or ranch succession plan or similar  
20                             plan established to create opportunities for  
21                             beginning farmers and ranchers and en-  
22                             courage farm viability for future genera-  
23                             tions;

1 “(ii) easements that exercise an op-  
 2 tion to purchase at a price that is equal to  
 3 the agricultural use value;

4 “(iii) qualified beginning farmers or  
 5 ranchers with contracts to purchase the  
 6 land to be protected;

7 “(iv) land owned by a nongovern-  
 8 mental organization that will be sold to a  
 9 qualified beginning farmer or rancher;

10 “(v) contemporaneous farm transfers  
 11 of eligible land to qualified beginning farm-  
 12 ers and ranchers that may not occur with-  
 13 out the financial assistance of the pro-  
 14 gram; and

15 “(vi) other similar mechanisms to  
 16 maintain the affordability of farm and  
 17 ranch land for successive generations of  
 18 farmers and ranchers; and”.

## 19 **Subtitle C—Environmental Quality** 20 **Incentives Program**

### 21 **SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF ENVI-** 22 **RONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-** 23 **GRAM.**

24 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 25 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2012” and  
 2 inserting “2017”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(4)(B), by striking “30  
 4 percent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

5 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “2012” and  
 6 inserting “2017”.

7 **SEC. 122. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**  
 8 **MENTS.**

9 Section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 10 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;  
 13 and” and inserting a semicolon;

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

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

17 “(E) provide environmental and resource  
 18 conservation benefits through increased partici-  
 19 pation by beginning farmers and ranchers and  
 20 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”;  
 21 and

22 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “2012”  
 23 and inserting “2017”.

## **Subtitle D—Funding and Administration**

### **SEC. 131. FUNDING OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UNDER FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2012” and inserting “2017”.

(b) CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—Section 1241(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(1)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2017”.

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—Section 1241(a)(6)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(6)(E)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2012” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2012 through 2017”.

### **SEC. 132. ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCHERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.**

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “2012” and inserting “2017”; and

1 (B) by striking “5 percent” each place it  
 2 appears and inserting “10 percent”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(but not  
 4 earlier than 120 days after the date that funding for  
 5 the fiscal year is allocated to the States)” after  
 6 “Secretary”;

7 (3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “(but not  
 8 earlier than 120 days after the date that acres for  
 9 the fiscal year are allocated to the States)” after  
 10 “Secretary”; and

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

12 “(4) PARTICIPATION BY BEGINNING AND SO-  
 13 CIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCH-  
 14 ERS.—Nothing in this subsection prohibits beginning  
 15 or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers from  
 16 participating in programs and receiving funding  
 17 available under this title that is not reserved under  
 18 paragraph (1).

19 “(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Within the  
 20 funds reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
 21 shall allocate to the Natural Resources Conservation  
 22 Service funding for technical assistance at a rate  
 23 that is not more than 10 percent higher than the  
 24 rate that would otherwise apply to allow the Service  
 25 to provide additional technical assistance to begin-

1       ning farmers or ranchers and socially disadvantaged  
 2       farmers or ranchers to establish conservation  
 3       plans.”.

4   **SEC. 133. COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING.**

5       Section 1244(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
 6   (16 U.S.C. 3844(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
 7   following:

8               “(3) COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN-  
 9       NING.—In carrying out this subsection, the Sec-  
 10      retary shall provide technical and financial assist-  
 11      ance using resources available under the environ-  
 12      mental quality incentives program, conservation  
 13      stewardship program, or such other programs as the  
 14      Secretary may determine to covered persons who re-  
 15      quest the assistance to develop a comprehensive con-  
 16      servation plan for the farming or ranching operation  
 17      of the covered person.”.

18                   **TITLE II—CREDIT**

19   **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

20   **SEC. 201. DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE RE-**  
 21       **QUIREMENT.**

22       Section 302(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
 23   Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended  
 24   by striking “3 years” and inserting “2 years”.

1 **SEC. 202. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**  
 2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
 4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

6 (A) by striking “shall meet” and inserting  
 7 “shall—

8 “(A) meet”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-  
 10 ignated), by striking the period at the end and  
 11 inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(B) be the owner or operator of not larg-  
 14 er than a family farm.”;

15 (2) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) by striking “The portion” and insert-  
 17 ing the following:

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
 19 graph (2), the portion”; and

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

21 “(2) BEGINNING AND SOCIALLY DISADVAN-  
 22 TAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—In the case of  
 23 beginning farmers or ranchers and socially disadvan-  
 24 taged farmers or ranchers, the portion of the loan  
 25 the Secretary may guarantee under this section shall

1 be 95 percent of the principal amount of the loan.”;  
2 and

3 (3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the  
4 following:

5 “(h) FUNDING.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
7 or guarantee loans under this section for not more  
8 than \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013  
9 through 2017, of which, for each fiscal year, not  
10 more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  shall be used for direct loans and not  
11 more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  shall be used for guaranteed loans.

12 “(2) QUALIFIED BEGINNING FARMERS AND  
13 RANCHERS.—

14 “(A) DIRECT LOANS.—Of the amount  
15 made available for direct loans for a fiscal year  
16 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall re-  
17 serve for qualified beginning farmers and  
18 ranchers until April 1 of the fiscal year not less  
19 than 50 percent of the amount.

20 “(B) GUARANTEED LOANS.—Of the  
21 amount made available for guaranteed loans for  
22 a fiscal year under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
23 shall reserve for qualified beginning farmers  
24 and ranchers until April 1 of the fiscal year not  
25 less than 50 percent of the amount.”.

1 **SEC. 203. LOAN TERMS FOR DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PRO-**  
 2 **GRAM.**

3 Section 310E(b)(1)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and  
 4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)(C)) is  
 5 amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting  
 6 “\$667,000”.

7 **SEC. 204. DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED BEGINNING FARMER**  
 8 **OR RANCHER.**

9 Section 343(a)(11)(F) of the Consolidated Farm and  
 10 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(F)) is  
 11 amended by striking “median” and inserting “average”.

12 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

13 **SEC. 211. YOUNG BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER**  
 14 **MICROLOANS.**

15 Section 311 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
 16 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1941) is amended by adding at  
 17 the end the following:

18 “(d) YOUNG BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER  
 19 MICROLOANS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
 21 microloans under this subtitle to beginning farmers  
 22 or ranchers who are not less than 19 and not more  
 23 than 35 years of age to enable the beginning farm-  
 24 ers or ranchers to obtain flexible capital to finance  
 25 operations.

1           “(2) LIABILITY.—In the case of a microloan  
 2           under this subsection, the Secretary may accept the  
 3           personal liability of a cosigner of the promissory  
 4           note in addition to the personal liability of the bor-  
 5           rower.

6           “(3) PRINCIPAL BALANCE.—The principal bal-  
 7           ance for a microloan made under this subsection  
 8           shall not exceed \$35,000.

9           “(4) TERM.—Loan repayment under this sub-  
 10          section shall be required in not less than 1 and not  
 11          more than 7 years.

12          “(5) INTEREST RATE.—The interest rate on a  
 13          loan made under this subsection shall not exceed the  
 14          maximum interest rate that may be charged low in-  
 15          come, limited resource borrowers under section  
 16          316(a)(2).

17          “(6) BORROWER TRAINING.—

18               “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
 19               graph (B), to be eligible for a microloan under  
 20               this subsection, the borrower shall have success-  
 21               fully completed, or will complete within 1 year,  
 22               borrower training described in section 359.

23               “(B) WAIVERS.—In carrying out subpara-  
 24               graph (A), the Secretary shall not grant a waiv-  
 25               er described in section 359(f) except in the case



1 of a borrower who successfully completed, or  
 2 will complete within 1 year, an equivalent train-  
 3 ing program, including programs established  
 4 under section 7405 of the Farm Security and  
 5 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C.  
 6 3319f), as determined by the Secretary.”.

## 7 **Subtitle C—Administrative** 8 **Provisions**

### 9 **SEC. 221. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL** 10 **DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

11 Section 333B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
 12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b) is amended by striking  
 13 subsection (h) and inserting the following:

14 “(h) FUNDING.—On October 1, 2012, and on each  
 15 October 1 thereafter through October 1, 2016, of the  
 16 funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
 17 shall use to carry out this section \$5,000,000, to remain  
 18 available until expended.”.

### 19 **SEC. 222. TRANSITION TO PRIVATE COMMERCIAL OR** 20 **OTHER SOURCES OF CREDIT.**

21 (a) CONDITIONS FOR DIRECT LOANS.—Section  
 22 311(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
 23 Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(c)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking the  
2 semicolon at the end and inserting “; and”;

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

5 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

6 (2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and in-  
7 serting the following:

8 “(3) TERM LIMITS.—Subject to paragraph (4),  
9 if a farmer or rancher has received a direct oper-  
10 ating loan pursuant to this section in each of 9 con-  
11 secutive years, the farmer or rancher may not re-  
12 ceive a direct operating loan from the Secretary  
13 under this section for the next year.

14 “(4) WAIVERS FOR FARM AND RANCH OPER-  
15 ATIONS ON TRIBAL LAND.—The Secretary shall  
16 waive the limitation under paragraph (3) for a direct  
17 loan made under this subtitle to a farmer or rancher  
18 whose farm or ranch land is subject to the jurisdic-  
19 tion of an Indian tribe and whose loan is secured by  
20 1 or more security instruments that are subject to  
21 the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe if the Secretary  
22 determines that commercial credit is not generally  
23 available for the farm or ranch operations.”.

24 (b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD BORROWERS ARE ELIGI-  
25 BLE FOR GUARANTEED ASSISTANCE.—Section 319 of the

1 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
 2 1949) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting  
 3 the following:

4 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD BORROWERS ARE ELI-  
 5 GIBLE FOR GUARANTEED ASSISTANCE.—If a borrower  
 6 has received a guaranteed loan under this subtitle in each  
 7 of 15 consecutive years, the borrower may not receive a  
 8 loan guaranteed by the Secretary for the next year.”.

9 **SEC. 223. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**

10 Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
 11 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amend-  
 12 ed—

13 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
 14 by striking “\$4,226,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 15 2008 through 2012” and inserting “\$5,000,000,000  
 16 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
 19 striking “\$1,200,000,000” and inserting  
 20 “\$2,000,000,000”;

21 (B) in clause (i), by striking  
 22 “\$350,000,000” and inserting “\$750,000,000”;  
 23 and

1                   (C) in clause (ii), by striking  
 2           “\$850,000,000” and inserting  
 3           “\$1,250,000,000”; and  
 4           (3) in subparagraph (B)—  
 5                   (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
 6           striking “\$3,026,000,000” and inserting  
 7           “\$3,000,000,000”;  
 8                   (B) in clause (i), by striking  
 9           “\$1,000,000,000” and inserting  
 10           “\$1,500,000,000”; and  
 11                   (C) in clause (ii), by striking  
 12           “\$2,026,000,000” and inserting  
 13           “\$1,500,000,000”.

14 **SEC. 224. DIRECT LOANS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND**  
 15 **RANCHERS.**

16       Section 346(b)(2)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and  
 17 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)(A)) is  
 18 amended—

19           (1) in clause (i), by adding at the end the fol-  
 20       lowing:

21                               “(III) PRIORITY.—In order to  
 22                               maximize the number of borrowers  
 23                               served under this clause, the Sec-  
 24                               retary—

1 “(aa) shall give priority to  
 2 borrowers who apply under the  
 3 down payment loan program  
 4 under section 310E or joint fi-  
 5 nancing arrangements under sec-  
 6 tion 307(a)(3)(D); and

7 “(bb) may offer other fi-  
 8 nancing options only if the Sec-  
 9 retary determines that down pay-  
 10 ment or other participation loan  
 11 options are not a viable approach  
 12 for a particular borrower.”; and

13 (2) in clause (ii)(III), by striking “each of fiscal  
 14 years 2008 through 2012” and inserting “fiscal year  
 15 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

16 **SEC. 225. BORROWER TRAINING.**

17 Section 359 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
 18 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006a) is amended by adding  
 19 at the end the following:

20 “(g) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordi-  
 21 nate the borrower training program under this section  
 22 with the beginning farmer and rancher development pro-  
 23 gram established under section 7405 of the Farm Security  
 24 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) to  
 25 ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that financial

1 management training programs funded under the begin-  
 2 ning farmer and rancher development program are de-  
 3 signed in such a way that the financial management train-  
 4 ing programs will—

5           “(1) meet borrower training requirements under  
 6       this section; and

7           “(2) qualify as beginning farmer and rancher  
 8       development program projects covered by contracts  
 9       under subsection (b).”.

## 10                   **TITLE III—RURAL** 11                   **DEVELOPMENT**

### 12   **SEC. 301. VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS.**

13       Section 231(b) of the Agricultural Risk Protection  
 14 Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a(b)) is amended—

15           (1) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the  
 16       following:

17           “(6) PRIORITY.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants  
 19       under this subsection, the Secretary shall give  
 20       priority to projects that—

21                           “(i) contribute to increasing opportu-  
 22                           nities for operators of small- and medium-  
 23                           sized farms and ranches that are struc-  
 24                           tured as a family farm; or

1 “(ii) have applicants at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  
 2 whom are beginning farmers or ranchers  
 3 or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranch-  
 4 ers.

5 “(B) RANKING.—In evaluating and rank-  
 6 ing proposals under this subsection, the Sec-  
 7 retary shall provide very substantial weight to  
 8 the priorities described in subparagraph (A).”;  
 9 and  
 10 (2) in paragraph (7)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (i) by striking “October 1, 2008” and  
 13 inserting “October 1, 2012, and each Octo-  
 14 ber 1 thereafter through October 1, 2016”;  
 15 and

16 (ii) by striking “\$15,000,000” and in-  
 17 serting “\$30,000,000”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 19 “2012” and inserting “2017”; and

20 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

21 (i) in clause (i), by striking “benefit”  
 22 and inserting “have applicants at least  $\frac{1}{4}$   
 23 of whom are”; and

24 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “June  
 25 30 of the fiscal year” and inserting “the

1 close of the annual proposal review proc-  
 2 ess”.

3 **SEC. 302. USE OF LOANS AND GRANTS FOR ENTREPRE-**  
 4 **NEURIAL FARM ENTERPRISES.**

5 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
 6 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 365  
 7 (7 U.S.C. 2008) the following:

8 **“SEC. 366. USE OF LOANS AND GRANTS FOR ENTREPRE-**  
 9 **NEURIAL FARM ENTERPRISES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve  
 11 grants and loans under any rural development program  
 12 established under this title to support farm and farm-re-  
 13 lated business enterprises that—

14 “(1) create new entrepreneurial employment op-  
 15 portunities for beginning farmers and ranchers;

16 “(2) have the effect of—

17 “(A) creating new small- and medium-size  
 18 family farms;

19 “(B) enhancing local and regional food  
 20 systems;

21 “(C) increasing value-added production  
 22 and new markets;

23 “(D) preserving farmland and rural herit-  
 24 age; and



1                   “(E) developing strong rural economies;  
2                   and

3                   “(3) are consistent with the purposes of the  
4                   program.

5                   “(b) LIMITATION.—Loans or grants made under this  
6                   section shall not be available for annual agricultural pro-  
7                   duction purposes.”.

8                   **TITLE IV—RESEARCH,**  
9                   **EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION**

10                  **SEC. 401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOP-**  
11                  **MENT PROGRAM.**

12                  Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
13                  ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

14                         (1) in subsection (c)—

15                                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16   (i) in subparagraph (Q), by striking  
17   “and” after the semicolon at the end;

18   (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
19   (R) as subparagraph (S); and

20   (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
21   (Q) the following:

22   “(R) agricultural rehabilitation and voca-  
23   tional training for veterans; and”;

24                                 (B) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) by striking “To be eligible” and in-  
 2 serting the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
 4 subparagraph (B), to be eligible”; and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 6 lowing:

7 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may  
 8 waive or modify the matching requirement in  
 9 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines a  
 10 waiver or modification is necessary to effectively  
 11 reach an underserved area or population.”;

12 (C) in paragraph (8)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 14 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
 16 the period at the end and inserting “;  
 17 and”; and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 19 lowing:

20 “(D) military veteran beginning farmers  
 21 and ranchers.”; and

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

23 “(11) INDIRECT COSTS.—To help facilitate par-  
 24 ticipation in the program under this subsection by  
 25 nongovernmental and community-based nonprofit or-

ganizations, the Secretary shall provide for an optional 10 percent indirect cost option in lieu of a higher negotiated rate.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section—” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2008 through 2012” and inserting “2013 through 2017”.

**SEC. 402. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(F)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (vi) as clauses (iv) through (vii), respectively; and

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

“(iii) new farming opportunities, including young, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and immigrant issues and

1 farm transition, farm transfer, farm entry,  
 2 and beginning farmer profitability issues;”;  
 3 (2) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding  
 4 subparagraph (A), by inserting “projects (including  
 5 integrated projects)” after “education”; and  
 6 (3) in paragraph (11)(A)—  
 7 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
 8 striking “2008 through 2012” and inserting  
 9 “2013 through 2017”; and  
 10 (B) in clause (i), by striking “pursuant to”  
 11 and inserting “under”.

## 12 **TITLE V—CROP INSURANCE**

### 13 **SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BEGINNING FARMER** 14 **AND RANCHER ACCESS TO CROP AND REV-** 15 **ENUE INSURANCE.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agri-  
 17 culture should, to the maximum extent practicable, remove  
 18 barriers and ensure effective access to crop and revenue  
 19 insurance by beginning farmers and ranchers on terms  
 20 that are fair and assist in the goal of increasing the num-  
 21 ber of new farming and ranching opportunities.

### 22 **SEC. 502. RISK MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS.**

23 Section 522 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
 24 U.S.C. 1522) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by striking “priority given to risk”

3 and inserting “priority given to—

4 “(A) risk”;

5 (ii) by striking the period at the end

6 and inserting “; and”; and

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

8 lowing:

9 “(B) underserved producers, including be-

10 ginning farmers and ranchers and socially dis-

11 advantaged farmers and ranchers.”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by striking “options for producers”

14 and inserting “options for—

15 “(A) producers”;

16 (ii) by striking the period at the end

17 and inserting “; and”; and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

19 lowing:

20 “(B) underserved producers, including be-

21 ginning farmers and ranchers and socially dis-

22 advantaged farmers and ranchers.”; and

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

24 “(4) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pro-

25 grams established under paragraphs (2) and (3), the

Secretary shall place special emphasis on risk management techniques, tools, and programs that are specifically targeted at—

“(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

“(B) legal immigrant farmers or ranchers that are attempting to become established agricultural producers in the United States;

“(C) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;

“(D) farmers or ranchers that—

“(i) are preparing to retire; and

“(ii) are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and

“(E) new or established farmers or ranchers that are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “\$12,500,000 for fiscal year 2008” and inserting “\$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2013”.

## **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SEC. 601. SMALL AND BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER COORDINATORS.**

Section 226B of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (c)(4), by inserting before the  
 2           semicolon at the end the following: “, including re-  
 3           view of rulemakings to provide an assessment and  
 4           make recommendations regarding the impact of  
 5           rules on small farms and ranches, beginning and so-  
 6           cially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and re-  
 7           lated matters relevant to the structure of agri-  
 8           culture”;

9           (2) in subsection (e)(2)—

10                 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as  
 11                 subparagraph (E); and

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

14                 “(D)   STATE   SMALL   AND   BEGINNING  
 15                 FARMER AND RANCHER COORDINATOR.—

16                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Small Farms  
 17                 and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers  
 18                 Group shall designate a State small and  
 19                 beginning farmer and rancher coordinator  
 20                 from among the State office employees of  
 21                 the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Re-  
 22                 sources Conservation Service, the Risk  
 23                 Management Agency, the Rural Business-  
 24                 Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utili-  
 25                 ties Service.

1           “(ii) TRAINING.—The Small Farms  
2           and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers  
3           Group shall coordinate the development of  
4           a training plan so that each State coordi-  
5           nator shall receive sufficient training to  
6           have a general working knowledge of the  
7           programs and services available from each  
8           agency of the Department to assist small  
9           and beginning farmers and ranchers.

10          “(iii) DUTIES.—The coordinator  
11          shall—

12               “(I) coordinate technical assist-  
13               ance at the State level to help small  
14               and beginning farmers and ranchers  
15               gain access to programs of the De-  
16               partment;

17               “(II) develop and submit a State  
18               plan for approval by the Small Farms  
19               and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers  
20               Group to provide coordination to en-  
21               sure adequate services to small and  
22               beginning farmers and ranchers at all  
23               county and area offices throughout  
24               the State;



1 “(III) oversee implementation of  
2 the approved State plan; and

3 “(IV) work with outreach coordi-  
4 nators in the State offices of the  
5 Farm Service Agency, the Natural  
6 Resources Conservation Service, the  
7 Risk Management Agency, the Rural  
8 Business-Cooperative Service, and the  
9 Rural Utilities Service to ensure ap-  
10 propriate information about technical  
11 assistance is available at outreach  
12 events and activities.”;

13 (3) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (3);

14 and

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

16 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
18 such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2013  
19 through 2017.”.

20 **SEC. 602. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of  
22 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by in-  
23 serting after section 218 (7 U.S.C. 6918) the following:

1 **“SEC. 219. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.**

2       “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish  
3 in the Department the position of Military Veterans Agri-  
4 cultural Liaison.

5       “(b) DUTIES.—The Military Veterans Agricultural  
6 Liaison shall—

7           “(1) provide information to returning veterans  
8 about, and connect returning veterans with, begin-  
9 ning farmer training and agricultural vocational and  
10 rehabilitation programs appropriate to the needs and  
11 interests of returning veterans, including assisting  
12 veterans in using Federal veterans educational bene-  
13 fits for purposes relating to beginning a farming or  
14 ranching career;

15           “(2) provide information to veterans concerning  
16 the availability of and eligibility requirements for  
17 participation in agricultural programs, with par-  
18 ticular emphasis on beginning farmer and rancher  
19 programs;

20           “(3) serving as a resource for assisting veteran  
21 farmers and ranchers, and potential farmers and  
22 ranchers, in applying for participation in agricul-  
23 tural programs; and

24           “(4) advocating on behalf of veterans in inter-  
25 actions with employees of the Department.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 296(b) of  
2 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
3 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “or” after the  
5 semicolon at the end;

6 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at  
7 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

9 “(8) the authority of the Secretary to establish  
10 in the Department the position of Military Veterans  
11 Agricultural Liaison in accordance with section  
12 219.”.

13 **SEC. 603. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

14 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
15 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
16 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
17 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
18 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
19 by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, pro-  
20 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
21 vote on passage.

22 **SEC. 604. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 This Act and the amendments made by this Act take  
24 effect on October 1, 2012.

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