

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4425

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, 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 “Food and Farm Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND CROP INSURANCE

Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies

Sec. 101. Repealing excessive subsidy programs for commodity crops.

Sec. 102. Comprehensive cap on total agricultural subsidies an eligible entity may receive.

Sec. 103. Adjusted gross income limitation.

Sec. 104. Elimination of separate payment limitation on peanut subsidies.

Sec. 105. Strengthening prevented planting coverage.

Sec. 106. Eliminating the yield transfer loophole.

Sec. 107. Ensuring planting on suitable land.

Sec. 108. Report on diversity in crop insurance.

Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole Farm Crop Insurance

Sec. 121. Expansion of whole farm crop insurance option for farms that grow multiple crops.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening Conservation Compliance

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Covered cropland program ineligibility.

Sec. 203. Exemptions.

Sec. 204. Development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation systems.

Sec. 205. Wetland program ineligibility.

Sec. 206. Delineation of wetlands; exemptions.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Environmental Quality Incentives

Sec. 211. Purposes.

Sec. 212. Definitions.

Sec. 213. Establishment and administration.

Sec. 214. Evaluation of applications.

Sec. 215. Environmental quality incentives program plan.

Sec. 216. Duties of the Secretary.

Sec. 217. Limitation on payments.

Subtitle C—Reforming the Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 221. Definitions.

Sec. 222. Conservation stewardship program.

- Sec. 223. Stewardship contracts.
- Sec. 224. Duties of the Secretary.

Subtitle D—Building on the Regional Conservation Partnership

- Sec. 231. Improvements to the regional conservation partnership program.

Subtitle E—Establishing Innovative Grants for Conservation and Loans for Structural Improvements

- Sec. 241. Repeal and reestablishment of EQIP conservation innovation grant program.
- Sec. 242. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

Subtitle F—Ensuring Greenhouse Gas Reporting for Agriculture

- Sec. 251. Greenhouse gas reporting.
- Sec. 252. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle G—Administration and Funding

- Sec. 261. Commodity credit corporation.

TITLE III—FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 301. Elimination of domestic procurement restriction for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 302. Elimination of cap on support for eligible organizations for certain purposes.
- Sec. 303. Elimination of minimum level of local sales requirement under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 304. Food for Peace Act extensions.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Increasing Access to Healthy Foods

- Sec. 401. Expanding Healthy Food Financing Initiative.
- Sec. 402. Helping schools serve healthier meals.
- Sec. 403. Strengthening the food and agriculture service learning program.
- Sec. 404. Harvesting health program.

Subtitle B—Improving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Sec. 411. Continuing the Farmers' Markets Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Support Grant Program.
- Sec. 412. Expanding and increasing support for the food insecurity nutrition incentives program.
- Sec. 413. Closing the Meal Gap.

TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN FARMERS

Subtitle A—Defining Beginning Farmer or Rancher

- Sec. 501. Beginning farmer or rancher defined.

Subtitle B—Providing Resources for Beginning, Retiring, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 511. Reauthorization and increased funding for outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers.
- Sec. 512. Ensuring permanent funding for beginning farmer and rancher development program.
- Sec. 513. Supporting beginning farmer participation in certain conservation programs.
- Sec. 514. Creating a priority for participation of beginning farmers and ranchers in Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program.
- Sec. 515. Supporting beginning farmers and ranchers through Farm Service Agency liaisons.
- Sec. 516. Facilitating succession planning through the creation of Farm Service Agency regional planners.
- Sec. 517. Ensuring a vibrant agricultural sector through the creation of a land tenure commission.

Subtitle C—Creating Financial Incentives To Benefit Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 521. Removing barriers to farming through an eligible farmer tax credit.
- Sec. 522. Ensuring Farm Service Facility loans can serve agricultural cooperatives.
- Sec. 523. Loans to cooperatives.

TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE

- Sec. 601. Sense of Congress regarding reducing food waste.
- Sec. 602. Establishment of Office of Food Waste.
- Sec. 603. Establishment of food loss and waste reduction task force.
- Sec. 604. Standardizing, aggregating, and publishing food waste data.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Investing in Sustainable Agriculture

- Sec. 701. Sustainable agriculture research, extension, and education programs.
- Sec. 702. National training program.

Subtitle B—Supporting Research To Help Farmers Adapt to a Disrupted Climate

- Sec. 711. Competitive, special, and facilities grants.
- Sec. 712. Specialty crop research initiative.

TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE

Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal Welfare in Farming

- Sec. 801. Definitions for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.
- Sec. 802. Requiring the issuance of the final rule for setting production standards for organic livestock and poultry without amendment.
- Sec. 803. Increasing market access for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.

Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors

- Sec. 811. Animal welfare.

Sec. 812. Establishing a research and extension program for humanely raised livestock and poultry certifications.

Subtitle C—Protecting Companion Animals

Sec. 821. Maintenance and public availability of regulatory records.

Sec. 822. Prohibiting the trade of dog and cat meat.

TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Subtitle A—Expanding Support for Local and Regional Food Systems

Sec. 901. Sense of the Congress.

Sec. 902. Expanding the Food Leveraging Investment for Network Coordination (LINC) Program.

Sec. 903. Ensuring success of regional food projects under the business and industry guaranteed loan program.

Sec. 904. Increasing support for the specialty crop block grant program.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional Food Infrastructure

Sec. 911. Supporting regional food infrastructure assessment and collaborative planning.

Sec. 912. Livestock, dairy, and poultry supply chain infrastructure grants and loans.

Subtitle C—Expanding Accessibility of Federal Grant Programs

Sec. 921. Publishing information about funded Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program projects.

Sec. 922. Streamlining of local and regional food program application procedures.

Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing Field for Small Farmers

Sec. 931. Ensuring fair practices in agriculture.

1 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND**
 2 **CROP INSURANCE**

3 **Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and**
 4 **Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies**

5 **SEC. 101. REPEALING EXCESSIVE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR**
 6 **COMMODITY CROPS.**

7 (a) REPEAL.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the
 8 Agriculture Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) is re-
 9 pealed.

1 (b) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR 2017 CROP
2 YEAR.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the Agriculture
3 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.), as in effect on the
4 day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
5 continue to apply through the 2017 crop year with respect
6 to each covered commodity (as defined in section 1111(6)
7 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 9011(6))) on a farm.

8 **SEC. 102. COMPREHENSIVE CAP ON TOTAL AGRICULTURAL**
9 **SUBSIDIES AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY MAY RE-**
10 **CEIVE.**

11 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
12 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
14 as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

15 (2) in such subsections, by striking “(b) and
16 (c)” and “(b) or (c)” each place it appears and in-
17 serting “(b), (c), and (e)” and “(b), (c), or (e)”, re-
18 spectively; and

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
20 lowing new subsection (e):

21 “(e) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law, the total amount of
23 payments and benefits described in section 1001D(b)(2)
24 received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity
25 (except a joint venture or general partnership) during a

1 crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, may not ex-
2 ceed \$125,000.”.

3 **SEC. 103. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.**

4 Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$900,000”
7 and inserting “\$500,000”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
9 following new subparagraph:

10 “(F) A crop insurance premium subsidy
11 under section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insur-
12 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)).”.

13 **SEC. 104. ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE PAYMENT LIMITA-
14 TION ON PEANUT SUBSIDIES.**

15 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
16 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
19 “(OTHER THAN PEANUTS)”; and

20 (B) in the text, by striking “(other than
21 for peanuts)”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
23 following new sentence: “Effective beginning with
24 the 2019 crop year, subsection (b), rather than this
25 subsection, shall apply to payments received as mar-

1 keting loan gains or loan deficiency payments under
2 subtitle B of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014
3 for peanuts.”.

4 **SEC. 105. STRENGTHENING PREVENTED PLANTING COV-**
5 **ERAGE.**

6 (a) PLANTING OF COVER CROP.—Section
7 508A(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
8 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting before
9 the semicolon the following: “, but, in that case, the pro-
10 ducer shall plant a cover crop on the same acreage for
11 the same crop year unless doing so would not constitute
12 a good farming practice, as determined by the Secretary”.

13 (b) AREA CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT.—
14 Section 508A(c)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
15 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(4)) is amended by striking “, in the area
16 where” and inserting “in the same county, in an adjoining
17 county, or operating within 100 miles of the affected pro-
18 ducers, whichever area is greater,”.

19 (c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—Section 508A(c) of
20 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508a) is
21 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
22 graphs:

23 “(6) SUCCESSFUL PLANTING.—In order to
24 qualify for prevented planting coverage, the land to

1 be covered must have been planted in at least one
2 of the preceding 3 crop years.

3 “(7) IRRIGATION GUIDANCE.—The Corporation
4 shall develop guidance on the efficient conservative
5 use of irrigation water when a crop is clearly lost to
6 ensure the program does not contribute to the ineffi-
7 cient use of water resources.

8 “(8) COVERAGE LEVELS.—Prevented planting
9 coverage levels shall not exceed the coverage factors
10 as determined by the Corporation.”.

11 **SEC. 106. ELIMINATING THE YIELD TRANSFER LOOPHOLE.**

12 Section 508(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1508(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph:

15 “(6) YIELD TRANSFER PROHIBITED.—The Cor-
16 poration shall not allow a producer’s actual produc-
17 tion records from one parcel of land to be used to
18 establish actual production history on a separate
19 parcel of land.”.

20 **SEC. 107. ENSURING PLANTING ON SUITABLE LAND.**

21 Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
22 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing paragraph:

24 “(9) PROHIBITION OF SUBSIDIES ON UNSUIT-
25 ABLE LAND.—The Corporation shall ensure that no

1 premium benefits are provided on lands, other than
2 for pasture, forage, or rangeland policy benefits,
3 that are classified as generally unsuitable for cultiva-
4 tion by the land capability classification system, as
5 determined by the Secretary.”.

6 **SEC. 108. REPORT ON DIVERSITY IN CROP INSURANCE.**

7 Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
8 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new subparagraph:

10 “(G) ANNUAL DIVERSITY REPORT.—Each
11 Standard Reinsurance Agreement shall include
12 a requirement for all approved insurance pro-
13 viders to submit to the Corporation on an an-
14 nual basis a report—

15 “(i) describing activities undertaken
16 to promote access to crop insurance for so-
17 cially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;
18 and

19 “(ii) containing demographic informa-
20 tion regarding the producers being served,
21 including information by race and gen-
22 der.”.

1 **Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole**
2 **Farm Crop Insurance**

3 **SEC. 121. EXPANSION OF WHOLE FARM CROP INSURANCE**
4 **OPTION FOR FARMS THAT GROW MULTIPLE**
5 **CROPS.**

6 (a) **ELIMINATION OF LIABILITY LIMITATION.**—Sec-
7 tion 522(c)(19)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
8 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)(A)) is amended by striking “, with a
9 liability limitation of \$1,500,000,”.

10 (b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 522(c)(19) of the
11 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)) is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
13 graphs:

14 “(E) **ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING**
15 **EXPENSES.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
16 sion of this subtitle, the Corporation shall allow
17 approved insurance providers to utilize alternate
18 compensation structures for the administration
19 of the plan developed under subparagraph (A)
20 that—

21 “(i) compensate agents based on the
22 actual time it takes to write and admin-
23 ister a policy under the plan; or

24 “(ii) another method approved by the
25 Corporation that proportionally com-

1 pensates agents for any increased time
2 commitments required by the plan.

3 “(F) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Cor-
4 poration shall seek to ensure that the paper-
5 work requirements of agents and producers as-
6 sociated with the plan developed under subpara-
7 graph (A) are minimized to the maximum ex-
8 tent possible, while still meeting actuarial
9 soundness standards.

10 “(G) EXPANDING OPERATIONS.—To the
11 maximum extent possible, the Corporation shall
12 ensure that all producers, including rapidly ex-
13 panding operations, are able to obtain coverage
14 under the plan developed under subparagraph
15 (A).”.

16 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**
17 **Subtitle A—Strengthening**
18 **Conservation Compliance**

19 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

20 Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
21 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (3)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
24 “highly erodible” and inserting “covered”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the
2 highly erodible” and inserting “covered”;

3 (2) in paragraph (4)—

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

6 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
7 as follows:

8 “(B) are designed to, in a cost effective
9 and technically practicable manner—

10 “(i) achieve a substantial improve-
11 ment in water quality;

12 “(ii) achieve a rate of soil erosion no
13 greater than the soil loss tolerance level, as
14 determined by the Natural Resources Con-
15 servation Service;

16 “(iii) prevent ephemeral gully erosion;
17 and

18 “(iv) establish and maintain a min-
19 imum of 50 feet of perennial vegetation be-
20 tween covered cropland and intermittent or
21 perennial waterways; and”;

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

23 “(C) are based on the most recent and
24 technically accurate soil erosion prediction mod-
25 els to determine if soil erosion by wind and

1 water exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance Level on
2 covered cropland subject to subtitle B.”;

3 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking “highly erod-
4 ible” and inserting “covered”;

5 (4) by amending paragraph (7)(A)(ii) to read
6 as follows:

7 “(ii) before such action, such land was wet-
8 land.”;

9 (5) in paragraph (9), by striking “Any highly
10 erodible land on which an agricultural commodity is
11 produced after December 23, 1985, and that is not
12 exempt under section 1212, shall be considered as
13 part of the field in which the land was included on
14 December 23, 1985, unless the owner and Secretary
15 agree to modification of the boundaries of the field
16 to carry out this title.”; and

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

18 “(28) COVERED CROPLAND.—The term ‘cov-
19 ered cropland’ means cropland, as defined in section
20 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, that
21 is planted to a row crop.”.

22 **SEC. 202. COVERED CROPLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1211 of the Food Security
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by striking “a field on which highly erodible
3 land” and all that follows through “shall be in-
4 eligible for” and inserting “covered cropland
5 shall be ineligible for”;

6 (B) in paragraph (1)(A)—

7 (i) by inserting “or income” after
8 “any type of price”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “, including a pay-
10 ment made under section 1116 or 1117 of
11 the Agricultural Act of 2014” before the
12 semicolon at the end; and

13 (C) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “ex-
14 cessive erosion of highly erodible land” and in-
15 serting “substantial erosion or degradation of
16 water quality”; and

17 (2) in the heading of subsection (b), by striking
18 “HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND” and inserting “COMPLI-
19 ANCE DETERMINATION”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle B of title
21 XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811
22 et seq.) is amended in the heading by striking “**Highly**
23 **Erodible Land**” and inserting “**Covered Crop-**
24 **land**”.

1 **SEC. 203. EXEMPTIONS.**

2 Section 1212 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3812) is amended—

4 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(a) **ELIGIBILITY BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH**
7 **CONSERVATION PLAN.**—

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, as of January 1, 2023,
9 or 2 years after the Natural Resources Conservation
10 Service has completed a conservation plan for the
11 farm, whichever is later, a person is actively apply-
12 ing the approved conservation plan, such person
13 shall have until January 1, 2028, to comply with the
14 plan without being subject to program ineligibility.

15 “(2) **MINIMIZATION OF DOCUMENTATION.**—In
16 carrying out this subsection, the Secretary, Natural
17 Resources Conservation Service, and local soil con-
18 servation districts shall minimize the quantity of
19 documentation a person must submit to comply with
20 this paragraph.

21 “(3) **EXPIRATION.**—On the expiration of a con-
22 tract entered into under subchapter B of chapter 1
23 of subtitle D, the provisions of this subtitle shall
24 apply to the acreage that was the subject of such
25 contract.”;

26 (2) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d);

1 (3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),
2 and (h) as subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), respec-
3 tively; and

4 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by
5 amending paragraph (4)(A)(i) to read as follows:

6 “(i) a person has failed to comply
7 with section 1211, and has acted in good
8 faith and without an intent to violate sec-
9 tion 1211; or”.

10 **SEC. 204. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CON-**
11 **SERVATION PLANS AND CONSERVATION SYS-**
12 **TEMS.**

13 Section 1213 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3812a) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and eco-
17 nomically”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “undue”
19 and inserting “serious”;

20 (2) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
21 subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (b),
22 (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

23 (3) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-
24 graph (2))—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “If a person makes a
2 certification under paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retary shall not be required to” and insert-
4 ing “The Secretary shall annually”; and

5 (ii) by inserting “on not less than 5
6 percent of the covered cropland subject to
7 this subtitle” after “being applied”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the last
9 sentence and inserting “The Secretary may re-
10 vise the person’s conservation plan if the Sec-
11 retary determines the conservation plan is not
12 meeting the standards in section 1201(a)(4).”;
13 and

14 (4) by amending subsection (d) (as redesignated
15 by paragraph (2)) to read as follows:

16 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
17 shall—

18 “(1) provide technical assistance to a person
19 throughout the development, revision, and applica-
20 tion of the conservation plan and any conservation
21 system of the person; and

22 “(2) make available annually an amount equal
23 to 0.02 percent of the funding otherwise provided for
24 programs specified in section 1211(a), not to exceed
25 \$350 million, to provide technical assistance, con-

1 duct status reviews and other tasks required to fully
2 implement the provisions of this subtitle.”.

3 **SEC. 205. WETLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

4 Section 1221 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3821) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “, includ-
7 ing payments made under section 1116 or 1117 of
8 the Agricultural Act of 2014” before the period at
9 the end; and

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) by amending paragraph (2)(B) to read
12 as follows:

13 “(B) NEW CONVERSIONS.—In the case of
14 a wetland that the Secretary determines was
15 converted after the date of enactment of the
16 Agricultural Act of 2014, the person shall be
17 ineligible to receive crop insurance premium
18 subsidies in subsequent reinsurance years un-
19 less the Secretary determines that an exemption
20 pursuant to section 1222 applies.”;

21 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking subpara-
22 graph (E); and

23 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting at the
24 end the following:

1 “(D) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall
2 make available annually an amount equal to
3 0.01 percent of the funding otherwise made
4 available for programs specified in 1221(b), not
5 to exceed \$200 million, to provide technical as-
6 sistance, conduct status reviews and carry out
7 other tasks needed to fully implement the provi-
8 sions of this subtitle.

9 “(E) STATUS REVIEWS.—The Secretary
10 shall annually carry out a review of the status
11 of compliance of the person with the conserva-
12 tion plan under which the conservation system
13 is being applied on no less than 5 percent of the
14 covered cropland subject to this subtitle.”.

15 **SEC. 206. DELINEATION OF WETLANDS; EXEMPTIONS.**

16 Section 1222 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3822) is amended in subsection (f)(2)—

18 (1) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E); and

19 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and
20 (G) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively.

21 **Subtitle B—Enhancing**
22 **Environmental Quality Incentives**

23 **SEC. 211. PURPOSES.**

24 Section 1240 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
25 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 1240. PURPOSES.**

2 “The purpose of the environmental quality incentives
3 program established by this chapter is to assist producers
4 in implementing conservation systems, practices, and ac-
5 tivities on their operations in order to—

6 “(1) improve water quality, with special empha-
7 sis on reducing nutrient pollution and protecting
8 sources of drinking water;

9 “(2) avoid, to the maximum extent practicable,
10 the need for resource and regulatory programs by
11 assisting producers in protecting soil, water, air, and
12 related natural resources and meeting environmental
13 quality criteria established by Federal, State, tribal,
14 and local agencies;

15 “(3) conserve ground and surface water to sus-
16 tain or improve in-stream flows;

17 “(4) enhance the quality of soil fertility and
18 health;

19 “(5) control invasive species;

20 “(6) enhance critical aquatic and terrestrial
21 wildlife habitat for at-risk species;

22 “(7) reduce the amount and toxicity of pes-
23 ticides and other agricultural chemicals found on
24 food and in water or the air;

25 “(8) reduce the nontherapeutic use of medically
26 important antibiotics in food-producing animals in

1 order to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics used
2 in the treatment of human and animal disease;

3 “(9) help producers adapt to a changing and
4 unpredictable climate and increase resiliency to cli-
5 mate change impacts, including rising temperatures
6 and extreme weather events, while reducing green-
7 house gas emissions; and

8 “(10) address additional priority resource con-
9 cerns, as determined by the Secretary.”.

10 **SEC. 212. DEFINITIONS.**

11 (a) ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN.—Section 1240A of the
12 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is
13 amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating
14 paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through
15 (4), respectively.

16 (b) PRACTICE.—Section 1240A of the Food Security
17 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is further amended in
18 paragraph (3)(B) (as redesignated by subsection (a))—

19 (1) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and insert-
20 ing a semicolon;

21 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
22 and

23 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following
24 new clause:

1 “(ii) comprehensive conservation plan-
2 ning; and”.

3 **SEC. 213. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 1240B(a) of the
5 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(a)) is
6 amended by striking “2002 through 2015” and inserting
7 “2019 through 2023”.

8 (b) TERM.—Section 1240B(b)(2) of the Food Secu-
9 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(b)(2)(B)) is
10 amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “5 years”.

11 (c) PRIORITY.—Section 1240B(c) of the Food Secu-
12 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(c)) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 “(c) PRIORITY.—If the Secretary determines that the
15 environmental values of two or more applications for pay-
16 ments are comparable, the Secretary shall assign a higher
17 priority to a program application which will achieve the
18 environment and conservation values using practices and
19 systems the assessed cost of which is lower.”.

20 (d) PAYMENTS.—

21 (1) LIMITATION ON SUBSTANTIAL AND PRI-
22 MARY BENEFITS.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food
23 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is
24 amended—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “or” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
4 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
5 or”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(D) 50 percent of the cost of a practice
9 that substantially benefits the producer, as de-
10 termined by the Secretary.”; and

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

12 “(7) PRIMARY BENEFIT TO PRODUCER.—A pro-
13 ducer shall not be eligible for payments for a prac-
14 tice on eligible land under the program that pri-
15 marily benefits the producer, as determined by the
16 Secretary.”.

17 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRAC-
18 TICES.—Section 1240B(d)(3) of the Food Security
19 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(3)) is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 “(3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN
22 PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall provide supple-
23 mental payments and enhanced technical assistance
24 to producers implementing land management and
25 vegetative practices at a level that, as determined by

1 the Secretary, results in highly cost-effective treat-
2 ment of priority resource concerns, including—

3 “(A) residue and tillage management;

4 “(B) contour farming;

5 “(C) cover cropping;

6 “(D) integrated pest management;

7 “(E) nutrient management;

8 “(F) stream corridor improvement;

9 “(G) invasive plant species control;

10 “(H) contour buffer strips;

11 “(I) riparian herbaceous and forest buff-
12 ers;

13 “(J) filterstrips;

14 “(K) stream habitat improvement and
15 management;

16 “(L) grassed waterways;

17 “(M) wetland restoration and enhance-
18 ment;

19 “(N) pollinator habitat; or

20 “(O) conservation crop rotation.”.

21 (3) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN
22 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security
23 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further
24 amended by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(8) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN
2 PRACTICES.—A producer who owns or operates a
3 large confined animal feeding operation (as defined
4 by the Secretary) shall not be eligible for payments
5 under this chapter to construct an animal waste
6 management facility or any associated waste trans-
7 port or transfer device.”.

8 (e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f) of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f))
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 “(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the funds made
12 available for payments for each of fiscal years 2019
13 through 2023—

14 “(1) not less than 10 percent shall be targeted
15 at practices relating to improvement of fish and
16 wildlife habitat; and

17 “(2) not less than 5 percent shall be provided
18 to producers who participate in an independent ani-
19 mal welfare certification program, as defined in sec-
20 tion 801 of the Food and Farm Act.”.

21 (f) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
22 CIENCY PRACTICE.—

23 (1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Section
24 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

1 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(h)(1)) is amended to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
4 retary may provide payments under this subsection
5 to a producer for a water conservation or irrigation
6 practice that promotes ground and surface water
7 conservation on the agricultural operation of the
8 producer by—

9 “(A) improvements to irrigation systems;

10 “(B) enhancement of irrigation efficiencies;

11 “(C) conversion of the agricultural oper-
12 ation to—

13 “(i) the production of less water-in-
14 tensive agricultural commodities; or

15 “(ii) dryland farming;

16 “(D) improvement of the storage of water
17 through measures such as water banking and
18 groundwater recharge;

19 “(E) enhancement of fish and wildlife
20 habitat associated with irrigation systems, in-
21 cluding pivot corners and areas with irregular
22 boundaries; or

23 “(F) establishment of other measures, as
24 determined by the Secretary, that improve

1 groundwater and surface water conservation in
2 agricultural operations.”.

3 (2) PRIORITY.—Section 1240B(h)(2) of the
4 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
5 2(h)(2)) is amended—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
7 or” and inserting “; and”; and

8 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
9 as follows:

10 “(B) any associated water savings remain
11 in the original source of such water for the use-
12 ful life of the practice.”.

13 (3) DUTY OF PRODUCERS.—Section 1240B(h)
14 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
15 3839aa–2(h)) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following new paragraph:

17 “(3) DUTY OF PRODUCERS.—The Secretary
18 may not provide payments to a producer for a water
19 conservation or irrigation practice under this chapter
20 unless the producer agrees not to use any associated
21 water savings to bring new land, other than inci-
22 dental land needed for efficient operations, under ir-
23 rigated production, except where the producer is
24 participating in a watershed-wide project that will

1 effectively conserve water, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.”.

3 (g) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—

5 (1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Section
6 1240B(i)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
7 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(1)) is amended by striking
8 “subsection” and inserting “chapter”.

9 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
10 1240B(i)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
11 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(2)) is amended to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
14 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
15 producer shall agree to develop and implement con-
16 servation practices for certified organic production
17 that are consistent with the regulations promulgated
18 under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
19 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and the purposes of this chap-
20 ter.”.

21 (3) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS; COORDINATION
22 WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION; PLANNING.—Section
23 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
24 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)) is amended—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignig-
2 nating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs
3 (5) and (6), respectively; and

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
5 following new paragraphs:

6 “(3) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFI-
7 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish a trans-
8 parent means by which producers may initiate or-
9 ganic certification under the Organic Foods Produc-
10 tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) while par-
11 ticipating in a contract under this chapter.

12 “(4) PLANNING.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
14 provide planning assistance to producers
15 transitioning to certified organic production
16 consistent with the requirements of the Organic
17 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
18 et seq.) and the purposes of this chapter.

19 “(B) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The
20 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
21 ticable, eliminate duplication of planning activi-
22 ties for a producer participating in a contract
23 under this chapter and initiating or maintaining
24 organic certification consistent with the Organic

1 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
2 et seq.).”.

3 (h) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—Section 1240B of the Food
5 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(j) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
8 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—

9 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
10 shall provide payments under this chapter to live-
11 stock producers for three years, to assist in a transi-
12 tion to modified animal management and production
13 systems, for practices leading to the reduction in the
14 need for antibiotics, including modification of sys-
15 tems and spaces to—

16 “(A) improve sanitation;

17 “(B) improve ventilation; or

18 “(C) support the implementation of im-
19 proved animal management techniques at the
20 operation.

21 “(2) DUTY OF PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall
22 not make payments under this chapter for practices
23 related to antibiotic use unless the producer agrees
24 to provide information to the Secretary documenting

1 the resulting reduction in antibiotic use in the oper-
2 ation of the producer.”.

3 (i) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—
5 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa-2), as amended by subsection (h), is fur-
7 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(k) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
10 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
12 shall provide payments under this subsection for
13 conservation practices, on some or all of the oper-
14 ations of a producer, related—

15 “(A) to pasture-based, production systems;

16 or

17 “(B) to the transition to pasture-based
18 production systems managed under an approved
19 prescribed grazing plan in which animals are
20 regularly and systematically moved to fresh
21 pasture in such a way as to—

22 “(i) maximize the quantity and qual-
23 ity of forage growth;

24 “(ii) maximize the quality of soil fer-
25 tility and tilth;

1 “(iii) improve manure distribution and
2 nutrient cycling;

3 “(iv) increase the sequestration of car-
4 bon dioxide;

5 “(v) improve the quality and quantity
6 of cover for wildlife and pollinators;

7 “(vi) provide permanent cover to pro-
8 tect the soil from erosion; and

9 “(vii) improve water quality and infil-
10 tration.

11 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
12 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
13 producer shall agree to implement at least 3 prac-
14 tices and either—

15 “(A) develops and carries out a grazing
16 management plan that includes intensive man-
17 agement rotational grazing; or

18 “(B) develops and implements conservation
19 practices that are consistent with intensive rota-
20 tional grazing practices for pasture-based sys-
21 tems.

22 “(3) PAYMENT PRIORITIES.—In determining
23 the amount and rate of payments under paragraph
24 (2)(B), the Secretary may accord great significance
25 to practices that—

1 “(A) improve the quality of soil fertility
2 and tith;

3 “(B) protect water quality;

4 “(C) increase the sequestration of carbon
5 dioxide;

6 “(D) accelerate water infiltration; and

7 “(E) and expand pollinator habitat and
8 protection.”.

9 (j) **COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING.**—
10 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
11 U.S.C. 3839aa–2), as amended by subsection (i), is fur-
12 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(l) **COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING.**—
15 The Secretary shall provide technical and financial assist-
16 ance to producers under the program to develop a com-
17 prehensive conservation plan for the agricultural operation
18 of the producer.”.

19 **SEC. 214. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.**

20 (a) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—Section 1240C(a) of
21 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(a))
22 is amended by striking “national, State, and local con-
23 servation priorities” and inserting “priority resource con-
24 cerns identified under subsection (d)”.

1 (b) PRIORITIZATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Section
2 1240C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3839aa–3(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “achieving the
5 anticipated conservation benefits of the project” and
6 inserting “addressing priority resource concerns
7 identified under subsection (d)”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “designated
9 resource concern or resource concerns” and inserting
10 “priority resource concerns identified under sub-
11 section (d), including, in the case of applications
12 from nutrient-impacted watersheds, the degree to
13 which nutrient loadings would be reduced as a result
14 of the proposed project”.

15 (c) GROUPING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 1240C(c)
16 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(c))
17 is amended by striking “for evaluation purposes or other-
18 wise evaluate applications relative to other applications for
19 similar farming operations” and inserting “proposing to
20 address the same priority resource concerns for evaluation
21 purposes”.

22 (d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—Section
23 1240C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
24 3839aa–3) is amended by adding at the end the following
25 new subsection:

1 “(d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—For the pur-
2 poses of this section, the Secretary shall identify priority
3 resource concerns in a particular watershed or other ap-
4 propriate region or area within a State.”.

5 **SEC. 215. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
6 **GRAM PLAN.**

7 Section 1240E(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(a) PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
10 ceive payments under the program, a producer shall sub-
11 mit to the Secretary for approval a plan of operations
12 that—

13 “(1) specifies the priority resource concerns to
14 be addressed;

15 “(2) specifies the type, number, and sequencing
16 of conservation systems, practices, or activities to be
17 implemented to address the priority resource con-
18 cerns;

19 “(3) includes such terms and conditions as the
20 Secretary considers necessary to carry out the pro-
21 gram, including a description of the purposes to be
22 met by the implementation of the plan and a state-
23 ment of how the plan will achieve or take significant
24 steps toward achieving the relevant resource man-

1 agement system quality criteria, as determined by
2 the Secretary;

3 “(4) in the case of a confined livestock feeding
4 operation, provides for development and implementa-
5 tion of a comprehensive nutrient management plan,
6 if applicable;

7 “(5) in the case of a producer located within a
8 nutrient-impacted watershed, identifies methods by
9 which the producer will limit nutrient loss; and

10 “(6) in the case of forest land, is consistent
11 with the provisions of a forest management plan
12 that is approved by the Secretary, which may in-
13 clude—

14 “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in
15 section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
16 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a);

17 “(B) another practice plan approved by the
18 State forester; or

19 “(C) another plan determined appropriate
20 by the Secretary.”.

21 **SEC. 216. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

22 Section 1240F(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
23 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–6(2)) is amended by striking “infor-
24 mation” and inserting “technical assistance, informa-
25 tion,”.

1 **SEC. 217. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

2 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 1240G. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

5 “(a) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Subject to
6 subsection (b), a person or legal entity may not receive,
7 directly or indirectly, cost-share or incentive payments
8 under this chapter, in the aggregate, for all contracts en-
9 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity (ex-
10 cluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes under
11 this chapter), regardless of the number of contracts en-
12 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity,
13 that—

14 “(1) during any fiscal year exceed \$30,000; and

15 “(2) during any five-year period exceed
16 \$150,000.

17 “(b) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—In the case of contracts
18 under this chapter for projects of special environmental
19 significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
20 may waive the limitation otherwise applicable under sub-
21 section (a)(1).

22 “(c) **PREVENTION OF DUPLICATION.**—The Secretary
23 shall not approve a contract or provide payments to any
24 individual for a practice that has already been paid for
25 as part of a previously approved and completed contract
26 for any particular parcel of land.”.

1 **Subtitle C—Reforming the Con-**
2 **servation Stewardship Program**

3 **SEC. 221. DEFINITIONS.**

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

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(B)—

7 (A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
8 (iii);

9 (B) by striking clause (i) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(i) vegetative measures, and land
12 management measures, including inte-
13 grated pest, nutrient, crop residue, crop
14 rotation, and managed rotational grazing
15 management measures, as determined by
16 the Secretary;

17 “(ii) structural measures that are in-
18 tegrated with and essential to the success-
19 ful implementation of such vegetative and
20 land management measures; and”;

21 (C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated by
22 subparagraph (A), by inserting “designated”
23 before “priority”;

24 (2) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2 “designated” before “priority”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “new
4 and existing conservation activities” and insert-
5 ing “conservation activities needed to com-
6 prehensively address the designated priority re-
7 source concerns”;

8 (3) by amending paragraph (5) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(5) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERN.—The
11 term ‘priority resource concern’ means the cause of
12 a specific impairment that—

13 “(A) threatens—

14 “(i) public health or quality of life
15 through degradation of air or water qual-
16 ity; or

17 “(ii) natural resources, including soil,
18 fish, and wildlife; and

19 “(B) is identified at the national, State, or
20 local level as a priority for a particular area of
21 a State.”;

22 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as
23 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

24 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(6) DESIGNATED PRIORITY RESOURCE CON-
2 CERN.—The term ‘designated priority resource con-
3 cern’ means 1 to 5 priority resource concerns identi-
4 fied by the Secretary that must be addressed by the
5 program within a local watershed or specific natural
6 resource boundary.”; and

7 (6) by amending paragraph (8), as redesignated
8 by paragraph (4), to read as follows:

9 “(8) STEWARDSHIP THRESHOLD.—The term
10 ‘stewardship threshold’ means the conservation ac-
11 tivities, as determined by the Secretary, to com-
12 prehensively address a priority resource concern
13 using—

14 “(A) conservation measurement tools;

15 “(B) the resource management system
16 quality criteria for the particular priority re-
17 source concerns;

18 “(C) data from past and current program
19 enrollments; and

20 “(D) other similar means to measure im-
21 provement and conservation of the priority re-
22 source concern.”.

23 **SEC. 222. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

24 Section 1238E of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
25 U.S.C. 3838e) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2014 through
3 2018” and inserting “fiscal years 2019 through
4 2023”;

5 (B) by striking “to address priority” and
6 inserting “to comprehensively address des-
7 ignated priority”; and

8 (C) by striking “comprehensive manner—
9 ” and all that follows through “managing exist-
10 ing conservation activities” and inserting “com-
11 prehensive manner”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter pre-
13 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the date of
14 enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014” and in-
15 serting “October 1, 2018”.

16 **SEC. 223. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.**

17 Section 1238F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
18 U.S.C. 3838f) is amended—

19 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(a) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—To be eli-
22 gible to participate in the conservation stewardship pro-
23 gram, a producer shall submit to the Secretary a contract
24 offer for the agricultural operation that demonstrates to
25 the satisfaction of the Secretary that the producer will

1 meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for one or more
2 designated priority resource concerns by the end of the
3 contract period.”;

4 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(b) EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—

7 “(1) RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—In evalu-
8 ating contract offers submitted under subsection (a),
9 the Secretary shall rank applications based on—

10 “(A) the level of conservation treatment on
11 all applicable designated priority resource con-
12 cerns at the time of application;

13 “(B) the number of designated priority re-
14 source concerns that meet or exceed the stew-
15 ardship threshold at the end of the contract pe-
16 riod;

17 “(C) the degree to which the proposed con-
18 servation activities effectively, efficiently, and
19 comprehensively address the designated priority
20 resource concerns;

21 “(D) the extent to which the contract offer
22 will meet or exceed the stewardship threshold
23 for one or more designated priority resource
24 concerns at a lower cost relative to other simi-
25 larly beneficial contract offers; and

1 “(E) the extent to which priority resource
2 concerns will be addressed when transitioning
3 from the conservation reserve program to agri-
4 cultural production.

5 “(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not as-
6 sign a higher priority to any application because the
7 applicant is willing to accept a lower payment than
8 the applicant would otherwise be eligible to receive.

9 “(3) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary
10 may develop and use such additional criteria that
11 the Secretary determines are necessary to ensure
12 that designated priority resource concerns are effec-
13 tively and efficiently treated to meet or exceed the
14 stewardship threshold.”;

15 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(c) ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After a determination that
19 a producer is eligible for the program under sub-
20 section (a), and a determination that the contract
21 offer ranks sufficiently high under the evaluation
22 criteria under subsection (b), the Secretary shall
23 enter into a conservation stewardship contract with
24 the producer to enroll the eligible land to be covered
25 by the contract.

1 “(2) FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.—Consistent with
2 section 1238G(c)(4), a contract entered into under
3 paragraph (1) shall not create an obligation for fi-
4 nancial assistance until the first October 1 after the
5 contract is entered into.”;

6 (4) in subsection (d)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
8 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting
10 “that comprehensively address a designated pri-
11 ority resource concern” after “conservation ac-
12 tivities”; and

13 (5) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
15 by striking “5-year” and inserting “10-year”;
16 and

17 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
18 follows:

19 “(3) has met or exceeded, or agrees to meet or
20 exceed, the stewardship threshold of all designated
21 priority resource concerns identified for the region
22 or area in which the land that is subject to the con-
23 tract is located.”.

1 **SEC. 224. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

2 Section 1238G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3838g) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 1238G. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the conservation
6 goals of a contract under the conservation stewardship
7 program, the Secretary shall—

8 “(1) make the program available to eligible pro-
9 ducers on a continuous enrollment basis with one or
10 more ranking periods, of which shall occur in the
11 first quarter of each fiscal year;

12 “(2) identify not more than 5 designated pri-
13 ority resource concerns in a particular watershed or
14 other appropriate region or area within a State;

15 “(3) for any region or area that includes any
16 part of a nutrient-impacted watershed (as deter-
17 mined by the Secretary), ensure that one of the pri-
18 ority resource concerns identified under paragraph
19 (2) is water pollution caused by excess nutrient
20 loads;

21 “(4) develop reliable conservation measurement
22 tools for purposes of carrying out the program; and

23 “(5) ensure that conservation measurement
24 tools are transparent and available to producers
25 by—

1 “(A) making interactive, user-friendly con-
2 servation measurement tools publically available
3 online;

4 “(B) making conservation activity natural
5 resource and environmental benefit scores avail-
6 able in an easy to understand format for study
7 both before and during application; and

8 “(C) taking other steps, as determined by
9 the Secretary.

10 “(b) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall
11 allocate acres to States for enrollment, based on each
12 State’s proportion of eligible land to the total acreage of
13 eligible land in all States as follows:

14 “(1) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION.—At least
15 20 percent of the funds made available for financial
16 and technical assistance under the program shall be
17 for contracts addressing designated priority resource
18 concerns related to enhancing the quality and quan-
19 tity of source water (as that term is used in the Safe
20 Drinking Water Act).

21 “(2) PEST MANAGEMENT.—At least 20 percent
22 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
23 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
24 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
25 cerns related to reducing the need for pesticides in

1 agricultural production including organic farming
2 systems and intensive integrated pest management.

3 “(3) SOIL CONSERVATION.—At least 20 percent
4 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
5 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
6 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
7 cerns related to reducing soil erosion and improving
8 soil fertility and tith.

9 “(c) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—

10 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
11 retary shall provide annual payments under the pro-
12 gram to compensate the producer for—

13 “(A) installing and adopting additional
14 conservation activities that will meet or exceed
15 the stewardship threshold for a designated pri-
16 ority resource concern; and

17 “(B) improving, maintaining, and man-
18 aging conservation activities in place on the ag-
19 ricultural operation of the producer at the time
20 the contract offer is accepted by the Secretary.

21 “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of the
22 annual payment shall be determined by the Sec-
23 retary and based, to the maximum extent prac-
24 ticable, on the following factors:

1 “(A) Costs incurred by the producer asso-
2 ciated with planning, design, materials, installa-
3 tion, labor, management, maintenance, or train-
4 ing.

5 “(B) Income forgone by the producer.

6 “(C) Expected conservation benefits, based
7 to the maximum extent possible on conservation
8 measurement tools.

9 “(D) The extent to which designated pri-
10 ority resource concerns will be addressed
11 through the installation and adoption of con-
12 servation activities on the agricultural oper-
13 ation.

14 “(E) The level of stewardship in place at
15 the time of application and maintained over the
16 term of the contract.

17 “(F) The degree to which the conservation
18 activities will be integrated across the entire ag-
19 ricultural operation for all designated priority
20 resource concerns over the term of the contract.

21 “(G) Such other factors as are determined
22 appropriate by the Secretary.

23 “(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer
24 under this subsection shall not be provided for—

1 “(A) the design, construction, or mainte-
2 nance of animal waste storage or treatment fa-
3 cilities or associated waste transport or transfer
4 devices for animal feeding operations; or

5 “(B) conservation activities for which there
6 is no cost incurred or income forgone to the
7 producer.

8 “(4) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—In making
9 payments under this subsection, the Secretary shall,
10 to the extent practicable—

11 “(A) prorate conservation performance
12 over the term of the contract so as to accommo-
13 date, to the extent practicable, producers earn-
14 ing equal annual payments in each fiscal year;
15 and

16 “(B) make such payments as soon as prac-
17 ticable after October 1 of each fiscal year for
18 activities carried out in the previous fiscal year.

19 “(5) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—If a contract re-
20 quires a comprehensive conservation plan the imple-
21 mentation of which will, by the end of the contract
22 term, meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for
23 all designated priority resource concerns, the min-
24 imum payment shall be not less than \$3,000.

1 “(d) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-
2 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS, MANAGED INTENSIVE
3 ROTATIONAL GRAZING, AND TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
4 CROP OR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS.—

5 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall provide additional payments to pro-
7 ducers that, in participating in the program, agree
8 to—

9 “(A) improve, maintain, and manage or
10 adopt and maintain—

11 “(i) resource-conserving crop rotations
12 to achieve beneficial crop rotations as ap-
13 propriate for the eligible land of the pro-
14 ducers; or

15 “(ii) managed intensive rotational
16 grazing; or

17 “(B) transition to organic crop or livestock
18 systems.

19 “(2) BENEFICIAL CROP ROTATIONS.—The Sec-
20 retary shall determine whether a resource-conserving
21 crop rotation is a beneficial crop rotation eligible for
22 additional payments under paragraph (1) based on
23 whether the resource-conserving crop rotation is de-
24 signed to address designated priority resource con-
25 cerns while providing production benefits.

1 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
2 payment described in paragraph (1), a producer
3 shall agree to adopt and maintain beneficial re-
4 source-conserving crop rotations for the term of the
5 contract.

6 “(4) RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTA-
7 TION.—In this subsection, the term ‘resource-con-
8 serving crop rotation’ means a crop rotation that—

9 “(A) includes at least 1 resource con-
10 serving crop (as defined by the Secretary);

11 “(B) reduces erosion;

12 “(C) prevents pollution of surface water or
13 groundwater;

14 “(D) improves soil fertility and tilth;

15 “(E) interrupts pest cycles; and

16 “(F) in applicable areas, reduces depletion
17 of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need
18 for irrigation.

19 “(5) MANAGED INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZ-
20 ING.—In this subsection, the term ‘managed inten-
21 sive rotational grazing’ means a system in which
22 animals are regularly and systematically moved to
23 fresh pasture in such a way as to—

24 “(A) maximize the quantity and quality of
25 forage growth;

1 “(B) improve manure distribution and nu-
2 trient cycling;

3 “(C) increase carbon sequestration from
4 greater forage harvest;

5 “(D) improve the quantity and quality of
6 cover for wildlife;

7 “(E) provide permanent cover to protect
8 the soil from erosion; and

9 “(F) improve water quality.

10 “(6) TRANSITION TO ORGANIC CROP OR LIVE-
11 STOCK SYSTEMS.—In this subsection, the term ‘tran-
12 sition to organic crop or livestock systems’ means
13 adoption of conservation activities for certified or-
14 ganic production on land or for herds not previously
15 certified organic that meet all the requirements of
16 the program and that are consistent with the regula-
17 tions promulgated under the Organic Foods Produc-
18 tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

19 “(e) PAYMENT LIMITATION.—A person or legal enti-
20 ty may not receive, directly or indirectly, payments under
21 the program that, in the aggregate, exceed \$200,000
22 under all contracts entered into during any 5-year period,
23 excluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes, re-
24 gardless of the number of contracts entered into under the
25 program by the person or legal entity.

1 “(f) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRODUCERS.—
2 The Secretary shall ensure that outreach and technical as-
3 sistance are available, and program specifications are ap-
4 propriate to enable specialty crop and organic producers
5 to participate in the program.

6 “(g) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFI-
7 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish a transparent
8 means by which producers may initiate organic certifi-
9 cation under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990
10 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) while participating in a contract
11 under the program.

12 “(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promul-
13 gate regulations that—

14 “(1) prescribe such other rules as the Secretary
15 determines to be necessary to ensure a fair and rea-
16 sonable application of the limitations established
17 under subsection (f); and

18 “(2) otherwise enable the Secretary to carry out
19 the program.

20 “(i) DATA.—The Secretary shall maintain detailed
21 and segmented data on contracts and payments under the
22 program to allow, at a minimum, with respect to each con-
23 tract—

1 “(1) quantification of the type and extent of
2 conservation activities for which payments were
3 made;

4 “(2) quantification of the amount of payments
5 made for—

6 “(A) the installation and adoption of addi-
7 tional conservation activities and improvements
8 to conservation activities in place on the oper-
9 ation of a producer at the time the conservation
10 stewardship offer is accepted by the Secretary;
11 and

12 “(B) the maintenance of existing conserva-
13 tion activities; and

14 “(3) identification of the watershed and county
15 in which the agricultural operation receiving pay-
16 ments is located.

17 “(j) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES RE-
18 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
20 payments for conservation activities related to or-
21 ganic production.

22 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
23 tion for receiving payments under the program, a
24 producer shall agree to develop and implement con-
25 servation activities for certified organic production

1 that are consistent with the regulations promulgated
2 under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
3 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and the purposes of the pro-
4 gram.

5 “(3) PLANNING.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 provide planning assistance to producers
8 transitioning to certified organic production
9 consistent with the requirements of the Organic
10 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
11 et seq.) and the purposes of this subchapter.

12 “(B) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The
13 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
14 ticable, eliminate duplication of planning activi-
15 ties for a producer participating in a contract
16 under this subchapter and initiating or main-
17 taining organic certification consistent with the
18 Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
19 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).”.

1 **Subtitle D—Building on the**
2 **Regional Conservation Partnership**

3 **SEC. 231. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REGIONAL CONSERVA-**
4 **TION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 (a) PROGRAM PURPOSES.—Section 1271(b) of the
6 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “use covered
9 programs to”; and

10 (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
11 following new paragraphs:

12 “(3) To encourage eligible partners to cooperate
13 with producers in implementing projects that en-
14 hance and protect the health and quality of life of
15 individuals in the United States by—

16 “(A) enhancing and protecting the quality
17 and quantity of source water (as that term is
18 used in the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
19 U.S.C. 300f et seq.));

20 “(B) reducing the use of antibiotics and
21 pesticides in crop and livestock production;

22 “(C) enhancing opportunities for natural-
23 resource-based recreation by improving water
24 quality and fish and wildlife habitat; and

1 “(D) addressing other opportunities to im-
2 prove public health and quality of life, as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary.

4 “(4) To avoid, to the maximum extent prac-
5 ticable, the need for statutory and regulatory pro-
6 grams related to the conservation of natural re-
7 sources by assisting producers in protecting soil,
8 water, air, and related natural resources and in
9 meeting environmental quality criteria established by
10 Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental agen-
11 cies.”.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271A of the Food Secu-
13 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a) is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraph (1);

15 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph
16 (A) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

17 “(A) Water quality restoration or enhance-
18 ment projects relating to the quality of surface
19 water and groundwater used to supply drinking
20 water by community water systems and domes-
21 tic wells, including projects that—

22 “(i) improve the management of crops
23 and livestock production systems to avoid
24 or control runoff and leaching of farm
25 chemicals and manure;

1 “(ii) change (including through diver-
2 sifying) the agricultural practices, includ-
3 ing crop rotations; and

4 “(iii) trap or capture pollutants before
5 the pollutants enter surface water or
6 ground water.”; and

7 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
8 (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively.

9 (c) PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.—Section 1271B of the
10 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “a period not
13 to exceed” and all that follows through the period at
14 the end and inserting “a period of at least 10 years,
15 but shall not exceed 15 years.”;

16 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

17 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
18 through (F) as subparagraphs (B) through (G);

19 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B)
20 (as so redesignated) the following new subpara-
21 graph:

22 “(A) complete natural resource and water-
23 shed assessments to effectively support plan-
24 ning and implementation of the proposed

1 project that is the subject of the agreement;”;
2 and

3 (C) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated
4 by subparagraph (A)), by inserting “monitor re-
5 sults and” before “conduct”; and

6 (3) in subsection (d)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3), in subparagraph (C),
8 by striking “, including the covered programs to
9 be used and estimated funding needed from the
10 Secretary”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (4)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
13 “or”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
15 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;
16 and

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

19 “(G) enhance the quality of surface water
20 and groundwater used to supply drinking water
21 by community water systems (as defined in the
22 Safe Drinking Water Act) and domestic wells.”.

23 (d) ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.—Section 1271C of
24 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “assistance
2 to” and all that follows through “of an eligible part-
3 ner.” and inserting the following: “assistance, under
4 the programs under this subtitle, to producers pro-
5 posing to implement conservation activities that
6 meet the objectives of the partnership agreement en-
7 tered into under section 1271B.”;

8 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
9 following new subsection:

10 “(b) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of pro-
12 viding assistance for land described in subsection (a)
13 and section 1271F, the Secretary may enter into al-
14 ternative funding arrangements with a multistate
15 water resource agency or authority if—

16 “(A) the Secretary determines that the
17 goals and objectives of the program will be met
18 by the alternative funding arrangements;

19 “(B) the agency or authority certifies that
20 the limitations established under this section on
21 agreements with individual producers will not
22 be exceeded; and

23 “(C) all participating producers meet ap-
24 plicable payment eligibility provisions.

1 “(2) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of receiving
2 funding under paragraph (1), the multistate water
3 resource agency or authority shall agree—

4 “(A) to submit an annual independent
5 audit to the Secretary that describes the use of
6 funds under this paragraph;

7 “(B) to provide any data necessary for the
8 Secretary to issue a report on the use of funds
9 under this paragraph; and

10 “(C) not to use any of the funds provided
11 pursuant to paragraph (1) for administration or
12 to provide for administrative costs through con-
13 tracts with another entity.

14 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may enter
15 into not more than 20 alternative funding arrange-
16 ments under this subsection.”; and

17 (3) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “In ac-
19 cordance with statutory requirements of the
20 covered programs involved, the Secretary” and
21 inserting “The Secretary”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A), by striking “a period of 5
25 years” and inserting “a period of at least

1 10 years, but that does not exceed 15
2 years”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
4 “and” at the end;

5 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 the period at the end and inserting “;
7 and”; and

8 (iv) by adding at the end the following
9 new subparagraph:

10 “(C) to producers participating in a
11 project involving an activity described in section
12 1271A(2)(A).”.

13 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1271D of the Food Security
14 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “each of fiscal
16 years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “fiscal year
17 2018 and \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2019 through 2023”;

19 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(c) RESOURCE ASSESSMENT, OUTREACH, AND
22 MONITORING.—Of the funds made available for the pro-
23 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall allocate 10
24 percent to eligible partners to share the cost of imple-
25 menting the duties under section 1271B(c).”; and

1 (3) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
2 paragraph (1)—

3 (A) by striking “and acres”; and

4 (B) by striking “and reserved for the pro-
5 gram under subsection (c)”.

6 (f) CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.—Section
7 1271F(b)(1)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3871f(b)(1)(C)) is amended by inserting “enhanc-
9 ing the quality of surface water and groundwater used to
10 supply drinking water by community water systems (as
11 defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act) and domestic
12 wells,” after “sediment control,”.

13 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply with respect to partnership agree-
15 ments entered into on or after October 1, 2018.

16 **Subtitle E—Establishing Innovative**
17 **Grants for Conservation**
18 **and Loans for Structural Im-**
19 **provements**

20 **SEC. 241. REPEAL AND REESTABLISHMENT OF EQIP CON-**
21 **SERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-
23 MENTS.—

1 (1) REPEAL.—Section 1240H of the Food Se-
2 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is re-
3 pealed.

4 (2) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

5 (A) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—

6 The amendment made by this subsection shall
7 not affect the validity or terms of any contract
8 entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture
9 under section 1240H of the Food Security Act
10 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) before October
11 1, 2018, or any payments required to be made
12 in connection with the contract.

13 (B) FUNDING.—The Secretary may use

14 funds made available to carry out conservation
15 innovation grants and payments under section
16 1240S of title XII of the Food Security Act of
17 1985, as added by subsection (b) of this sec-
18 tion, to continue to carry out contracts referred
19 to in subparagraph (A) using the provisions of
20 law and regulation applicable to such contracts
21 as they existed on September 30, 2018.

22 (b) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
23 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
24 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amend-
25 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 1240S. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-
4 SERVATION APPROACHES.—The Secretary shall, for each
5 of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, carry out a conserva-
6 tion innovation grant program to encourage innovation in
7 conservation on private farmland, rangeland, wetlands,
8 grasslands, and forest lands.

9 “(b) USE.—The Secretary shall provide grants under
10 this section to governmental and nongovernmental organi-
11 zations and persons, on a competitive basis, to carry out
12 projects that—

13 “(1) develop and test innovative and cost-effec-
14 tive technologies and practices and methods of con-
15 servation delivery to address priority resource con-
16 cerns;

17 “(2) involve producers who are eligible for pay-
18 ments or technical assistance under this title;

19 “(3) leverage Federal funds made available to
20 carry out this section with matching funds provided
21 by State and local governments and private organi-
22 zations to promote environmental enhancement and
23 protection in conjunction with agricultural produc-
24 tion;

25 “(4) ensure efficient and effective transfer of
26 innovative technologies and approaches dem-

1 onstrated through projects that receive funding
2 under this subsection, such as market systems for
3 pollution reduction and practices for the storage of
4 carbon in soil;

5 “(5) provide environmental and resource con-
6 servation benefits through increased participation by
7 producers of specialty crops;

8 “(6) provide payments to producers to imple-
9 ment cost-effective and innovative technologies to
10 address priority resource concerns related to air
11 quality from agricultural operations; or

12 “(7) provide environmental and resource con-
13 servation benefits through increased participation by
14 beginning farmers and ranchers and socially dis-
15 advantaged farmers and ranchers.

16 “(c) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall
17 develop criteria for evaluating applications for competitive
18 grants under this section that will ensure that priority re-
19 source concerns are effectively addressed.”.

20 **SEC. 242. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 Subtitle E of title XII of the Food Security Act of
23 1985 (16 U.S.C. et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 1246. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make or
4 guarantee qualified conservation loans to eligible bor-
5 rowers under this section.

6 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) QUALIFIED CONSERVATION LOAN.—The
8 term ‘qualified conservation loan’ means a loan, the
9 proceeds of which are used to cover the costs to the
10 borrower of carrying out a qualified conservation
11 project.

12 “(2) QUALIFIED CONSERVATION PROJECT.—
13 The term ‘qualified conservation project’ means con-
14 servation measures that address provisions of a com-
15 prehensive conservation plan of the eligible borrower.

16 “(3) CONSERVATION LOAN PLAN.—The term
17 ‘conservation loan plan’ means a plan, approved by
18 the Secretary, that, for a farming or ranching oper-
19 ation, identifies—

20 “(A) the conservation activities that will be
21 addressed with loan funds provided under this
22 section, including—

23 “(i) the installation of conservation
24 structures to address soil, water, and re-
25 lated resources;

1 “(ii) the establishment of forest cover
2 for sustained yield timber management,
3 erosion control, or shelterbelt purposes;

4 “(iii) the installation of water con-
5 servation measures;

6 “(iv) the installation of waste manage-
7 ment systems;

8 “(v) the establishment or improve-
9 ment of permanent pasture; or

10 “(vi) other purposes consistent with
11 the plan, including the adoption of any
12 other emerging or existing conservation
13 practices, techniques, or technologies ap-
14 proved by the Secretary; and

15 “(B) how and to what extent the conserva-
16 tion project will support the implementation of
17 a comprehensive conservation plan and improve
18 the conditions of identified priority resource
19 concerns.

20 “(c) ELIGIBLE BORROWERS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
22 or guarantee qualified conservation loans under this
23 section to—

1 “(A) farmers or ranchers engaged pri-
2 marily and directly in agricultural production in
3 the United States; or

4 “(B) farm cooperatives, private domestic
5 corporations, partnerships, joint operations,
6 trusts, or limited liability companies that are—

7 “(i) controlled by farmers or ranchers;

8 and

9 “(ii) engaged primarily and directly in
10 agricultural production in the United
11 States.

12 “(2) CONSERVATION LOAN PLAN.—In order to
13 be eligible to receive a loan or loan guarantee under
14 this section, an entity described in paragraph (1)
15 shall have a conservation loan plan.

16 “(d) PRIORITY.—In making or guaranteeing qualified
17 conservation loans under this section, the Secretary shall
18 give priority to—

19 “(1) qualified beginning farmers or ranchers
20 and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;

21 “(2) owners or tenants who use the loans to
22 convert to sustainable or organic agricultural pro-
23 duction systems;

24 “(3) producers who use the loans to build con-
25 servation structures or establish conservation prac-

1 tices to implement a comprehensive conservation
2 plan;

3 “(4) projects that will do the most to address
4 priority resource concerns, as specified in a con-
5 servation loan plan; and

6 “(5) projects that are designed to help pro-
7 ducers comply with, or avoid the need for, local,
8 State, or Federal regulation.

9 “(e) LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO LOAN GUARAN-
10 TEES.—The portion of a qualified conservation loan that
11 the Secretary may guarantee under this section shall be
12 not more than 90 percent of the principal amount of the
13 loan.

14 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

15 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
16 retary shall ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
17 ticable, that qualified conservation loans made or
18 guaranteed under this section are distributed across
19 diverse geographic regions, while still prioritizing
20 qualified conservation projects with the greatest con-
21 servation or environmental benefit.

22 “(2) AGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary
23 shall ensure proper cooperation between the Natural
24 Resources Conservation Service, which shall review
25 and approve comprehensive loan plans and provide

1 technical assistance for qualified conservation
2 projects, and the Farm Service Agency, which will
3 approve and issue loans and loan guarantees under
4 this section.

5 “(3) INTEREST RATES.—The Secretary shall
6 ensure that a loan made under this section is made
7 at or below market rate.”.

8 **Subtitle F—Ensuring Greenhouse** 9 **Gas Reporting for Agriculture**

10 **SEC. 251. GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING.**

11 (a) REPORTING PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1,
13 2020, the Secretary, in consultation with the Admin-
14 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and
15 the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish and im-
16 plement a program to identify all major source cat-
17 egories of associated emissions and collect data on
18 associated emissions from the production of agricul-
19 tural commodities and their food products in the
20 United States, including—

21 (A) emissions of greenhouse gases from the
22 livestock industry, including from concentrated
23 animal feeding operations, as defined by the
24 Secretary; and

1 (B) emissions of greenhouse gases from
2 the production of commodity and specialty
3 crops, including the tilling of soil, and the use
4 of synthetic fertilizer.

5 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 12
6 months after the date that the Secretary implements
7 the program described in paragraph (1), and annu-
8 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report, to
9 be made available to the public and the appropriate
10 committees of Congress, on associated emissions, in-
11 cluding—

12 (A) identification of all major source cat-
13 egories of associated emissions;

14 (B) the total amount, expressed in tons of
15 carbon dioxide equivalent, of—

16 (i) carbon dioxide, methane, and other
17 greenhouse gases emitted through trans-
18 portation of agriculture products to market
19 within the United States during the pre-
20 ceding calendar year;

21 (ii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
22 other greenhouse gases emitted through
23 the rearing, raising, slaughter, and proc-
24 essing of poultry and livestock products in
25 the United States, including those carbon

1 dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
2 gases emitted by manure management sys-
3 tems;

4 (iii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
5 other greenhouse gases emitted by the use
6 of fertilizer in the production of commodity
7 and specialty crops; and

8 (iv) carbon dioxide, methane, and
9 other greenhouse gases emitted by the till-
10 age of soil in the production of commodity
11 and specialty crops; and

12 (C) identification of all major agricultural
13 practices that can reduce the emission of car-
14 bon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
15 gases, including—

16 (i) the use of cover crops;

17 (ii) the reduction and elimination of
18 soil tillage, the successive planting of dif-
19 ferent crops on the same land, and other
20 soil management practices;

21 (iii) the use of rotational grazing on
22 pasture for livestock;

23 (iv) the use of anaerobic digesters to
24 process organic material;

1 (v) the use of buffer crops to reduce
2 soil erosion; and

3 (vi) other practices that can yield sig-
4 nificant reductions in the emission of car-
5 bon dioxide, methane, and other green-
6 house gases by producers of agricultural
7 commodities and their food products.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

9 (1) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse
10 gas” has the meaning given such term under section
11 211(o)(1)(G) of the Clean Air Act, as in effect on
12 the date of the enactment of the Food and Farm
13 Act.

14 (2) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
15 States” has the meaning given such term under sec-
16 tion 5911(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code, as in
17 effect on the date of the enactment of the Food and
18 Farm Act.

19 **SEC. 252. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subtitle such sums as may be necessary for each of
22 fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

1 **Subtitle G—Administration and**
2 **Funding**

3 **SEC. 261. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Se-
5 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 “(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years
8 2019 through 2023, the Secretary shall use the funds, fa-
9 cilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
10 tion to carry out the following programs under this title
11 (including the provision of technical assistance):

12 “(1) The conservation reserve program under
13 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, including,
14 to the maximum extent practicable—

15 “(A) \$20,000,000 for the period of fiscal
16 years 2019 through 2023 to provide payments
17 under section 1234(c); and

18 “(B) \$66,000,000 for the period of fiscal
19 years 2019 through 2023 to carry out section
20 1235(f) to facilitate the transfer of land subject
21 to contracts from retired or retiring owners and
22 operators to beginning farmers or ranchers and
23 socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

24 “(2) The agricultural conservation easement
25 program under subtitle H, using, to the maximum

1 extent practicable, \$810,000,000 for each of fiscal
2 years 2019 through 2023.

3 “(3) The conservation security program under
4 subchapter A of chapter 2 of subtitle D, using such
5 sums as are necessary to administer contracts en-
6 tered into before September 30, 2008.

7 “(4) The conservation stewardship program
8 under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D.

9 “(5) The environmental quality incentives pro-
10 gram under chapter 4 of subtitle D, using, to the
11 maximum extent practicable, \$3,200,000,000 for
12 each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

13 “(6) The conservation innovation grant pro-
14 gram under section 1240S, using, to the maximum
15 extent practicable, \$100,000,000 for each fiscal
16 year.

17 “(7) The conservation loan and loan guarantee
18 program under section 1246, using, to the maximum
19 extent practicable, for each fiscal year—

20 “(A) \$200,000,000 for direct loans; and

21 “(B) \$150,000,000 for loan guarantees.”.

22 (b) GUARANTEED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Sec-
23 tion 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
24 3841) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (i)
2 as subsections (c) through (j), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
7 graph (2), amounts made available by subsection (a)
8 shall be used by the Secretary to carry out the pro-
9 grams specified in such subsection for fiscal years
10 2019 through 2023 and shall remain available until
11 expended. Amounts made available for the programs
12 specified in such subsection during a fiscal year
13 through modifications, cancellations, terminations,
14 and other related administrative actions and not ob-
15 ligated in that fiscal year shall remain available for
16 obligation during subsequent fiscal years, but shall
17 reduce the amount of additional funds made avail-
18 able in the subsequent fiscal year by an amount
19 equal to the amount remaining unobligated.

20 “(2) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
21 GRAM.—Amounts made available by subsection
22 (a)(6) for a fiscal year and not obligated in that fis-
23 cal year shall be made available for the environ-
24 mental quality incentives program under chapter 4

1 of subtitle D, and shall remain available until ex-
2 pended.”.

3 (c) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCH-
4 ERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section 1241(i) of the
5 Food Security Act of 1985 (as redesignated by subsection
6 (b)) is amended, in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
7 subparagraph (A), by striking “2018” and inserting
8 “2023”.

9 **TITLE III—FOOD ASSISTANCE**

10 **SEC. 301. ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT RE-** 11 **STRICTION FOR EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE** 12 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER THE FOOD** 13 **FOR PEACE ACT.**

14 Title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721)
15 is amended—

16 (1) in section 201 (7 U.S.C. 1721), in the mat-
17 ter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “agricul-
18 tural commodities” and inserting “assistance, in-
19 cluding agricultural commodities,”; and

20 (2) in section 202 (7 U.S.C. 1722)—

21 (A) in the section heading, by striking
22 “**AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**” and insert-
23 ing “**ASSISTANCE**”;

1 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “agricul-
2 tural commodities” and inserting “assistance,
3 including agricultural commodities,”;

4 (C) in subsection (b)(1)—

5 (i) by striking “agricultural commod-
6 ities” and inserting “assistance, including
7 agricultural commodities,”; and

8 (ii) by striking “the commodities” and
9 inserting “the assistance”;

10 (D) in subsection (c), by striking “Agricul-
11 tural commodities” and inserting “Assistance,
12 including agricultural commodities,”; and

13 (E) in subsection (f)—

14 (i) in the subsection heading, by strik-
15 ing “COMMODITIES” and inserting “AS-
16 SISTANCE”;

17 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
18 (1), by striking “agricultural commodities”
19 and inserting “assistance, including agri-
20 cultural commodities,”;

21 (iii) in the matter preceding para-
22 graph (1), by striking “such commodities”
23 and inserting “such assistance”; and

24 (iv) in paragraph (5), by striking
25 “commodities” and inserting “assistance”.

1 **SEC. 302. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON SUPPORT FOR ELIGI-**
2 **BLE ORGANIZATIONS FOR CERTAIN PUR-**
3 **POSES.**

4 Section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7
5 U.S.C. 1722) is amended by striking “not more than 20
6 percent”.

7 **SEC. 303. ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM LEVEL OF LOCAL**
8 **SALES REQUIREMENT UNDER THE FOOD FOR**
9 **PEACE ACT.**

10 Section 203 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1723) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
13 riod at the end the following: “to generate proceeds
14 to be used as provided in this section”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

16 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
17 subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

18 **SEC. 304. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT EXTENSIONS.**

19 (a) **FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**—Section
20 202(h)(3) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1722(h)(3)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
22 “2023”.

23 (b) **MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**—Section
24 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724(a)) is
25 amended in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking “2018”
26 both places it appears and inserting “2023”.

1 (c) FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP TERMI-
2 NATION.—Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7
3 U.S.C. 1725(f)) is amended by striking “2018” and in-
4 serting “2023”.

5 (d) DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—
6 Section 207(c)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1726a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “the Agricultural Act
8 of 2014” and inserting “the Food and Farm Act”.

9 (e) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVAL-
10 UATION.—Section 207(f)(4) of the Food for Peace Act (7
11 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)) is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2018”
13 both places it appears and inserting “2023”; and

14 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “2018”
15 and inserting “2023”.

16 (f) ASSISTANCE FOR STOCKPILING AND RAPID
17 TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF
18 SHELF-STABLE PREPACKAGED FOODS.—Section 208(f)
19 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b(f)) is amended
20 by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

21 (g) PREPOSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-
22 ITIES.—Section 407(c)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace Act
23 (7 U.S.C. 1736a(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “2018”
24 the both places it appears and inserting “2023”.

1 (h) AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES OR TO PRO-
2 VIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 408 of the Food for
3 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking
4 “2018” and inserting “2023”.

5 (i) MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-
6 SISTANCE.—Section 412(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act
7 (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2018” and
8 inserting “2023”.

9 (j) MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—
10 Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1736g–2(c)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
12 “2023”.

13 (k) FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.—Section 501 of
14 the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended in
15 subsections (d) and (e)(1) by striking “2018” both places
16 it appears and inserting “2023”.

17 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**

18 **Subtitle A—Increasing Access to** 19 **Healthy Foods**

20 **SEC. 401. EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIA-** 21 **TIVE.**

22 (a) INCLUSION OF INVESTMENTS IN MID-TIER
23 VALUE CHAIN COORDINATION.—Section 243 of the De-
24 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
25 U.S.C. 6953) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by inserting “, to build and sustain
3 mid-tier value chain coordination” after “qual-
4 ity jobs”; and

5 (B) by inserting “and local and regional
6 food supply networks” after “healthy food re-
7 tailers”; and

8 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
11 clause (i);

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

14 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
15 following new clause:

16 “(ii) to link farmers, ranchers, and
17 fisheries with local and regional food sup-
18 ply networks moving agricultural products
19 of mid-tier value chains to consumers in
20 underserved areas with moderate- and low-
21 income populations; and”; and

22 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

23 (i) by redesignating subclause (VI) as
24 subclause (VII); and

1 (ii) by inserting after subclause (V)
2 the following new subclause:

3 “(VI) The project creates or
4 strengthens a mid-tier value chain.”.

5 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 243(b) of the Depart-
6 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
7 6953(b)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
9 (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and
10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
11 lowing new paragraph:

12 “(3) MID-TIER VALUE CHAIN.—The term ‘mid-
13 tier value chain’ has the meaning given the term in
14 section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act
15 of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a).”.

16 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MANDATORY FUNDING.—Sub-
17 section (d) of section 243 of the Department of Agri-
18 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953) is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
21 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out
22 the Initiative \$25,000,000, to remain available until ex-
23 pended, for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

1 **SEC. 402. HELPING SCHOOLS SERVE HEALTHIER MEALS.**

2 Section 6(f) of the Richard B. Russell National
3 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) is amended—

4 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “PILOT PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROC-
6 ESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES” and inserting
7 “PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROCESSED
8 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES”;

9 (2) by striking “pilot project” each place it ap-
10 pears and inserting “program”;

11 (3) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall facili-
14 tate the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vege-
15 tables in not fewer than 15 States receiving funds
16 under this Act.”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(6) FUNDING.—

20 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
21 propriated to carry out this section, including
22 through the provision of technical assistance,
23 outreach, and other implementation assistance,
24 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
25 through 2023.

1 “(B) RESERVATION.—Of the funds appro-
2 priated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
3 year, \$6,000,000 shall be used to carry out
4 technical assistance to eligible vendors to be-
5 come certified to participate in the program
6 under this section.”.

7 **SEC. 403. STRENGTHENING THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**
8 **SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM.**

9 Section 413 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7633) is
11 amended—

12 (1) subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, to promote
13 agricultural education, and raise awareness about
14 the consequences of wasted food and encourage the
15 implementation of food recovery initiatives to reduce
16 the quantity of wasted food” before the semicolon;

17 (2) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
20 “and where food comes from; and” and in-
21 serting “where food comes from, the con-
22 sequences of food waste, and food recovery
23 initiatives;”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 and”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new subparagraph:

6 “(E) have the capacity to execute regional
7 or national projects that include 2 or more
8 States.”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(3) RESERVATION.—The majority of the funds
12 made available to carry out this subsection shall be
13 reserved for projects that—

14 “(A) are larger in scale as compared to
15 other proposed projects;

16 “(B) are national or regional in scope; and

17 “(C) include 2 or more States.”; and

18 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking the para-
19 graph and inserting in its place the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
22 available to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
23 Secretary shall use \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
24 years 2019 through 2023 to carry out the Initiative.

1 Amounts made available under this subsection shall
2 remain available until expended.”.

3 **SEC. 404. HARVESTING HEALTH PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary Agriculture shall,
5 in coordination with other Federal agencies, award grants
6 to eligible entities to conduct pilot projects to demonstrate
7 and evaluate the impact of produce prescription programs
8 for low-income individuals and households.

9 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot projects re-
10 quired under this section is to demonstrate and evaluate
11 the impact of produce prescription programs in areas with
12 poverty and households with diet-related health issues with
13 respect to the following:

14 (1) The reduction of individual and household
15 food insecurity.

16 (2) The support for local and regional agri-
17 culture and economic development.

18 (3) The increased domestic consumption of
19 produce.

20 (4) The reduction in health care use and associ-
21 ated costs.

22 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term “el-
23 igible entity” means—

24 (1) an emergency feeding organization (as de-
25 fined in section 201A of the Emergency Food Assist-

1 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501)), in partnership
2 with—

3 (A) a hospital;

4 (B) a Federally-qualified health center (as
5 such term is defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of
6 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1396d(l)(2)(B)));

8 (C) a hospital or clinic operated by the De-
9 partment of Veterans Affairs; or

10 (D) a provider group;

11 (2) a farmer’s market, community supported
12 agriculture entity, cooperative, local public benefit
13 corporation, nonprofit organization, retail food store
14 authorized under the supplemental nutrition assist-
15 ance program;

16 (3) a local or State government agency, in part-
17 nership with any of the entities described in sub-
18 paragraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1); and

19 (4) any of the entities described in subpara-
20 graphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1), in part-
21 nership with an—

22 (A) emergency feeding organization;

23 (B) entity described in paragraph (2); or

24 (C) a local or State government agency.

1 (d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—To be eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall
3 submit an application, at such time, in such manner, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
5 including—

6 (1) a description of methods for how the
7 produce prescription program would be targeted to
8 low-income individuals and households with existing
9 diet-related health issues;

10 (2) a description and plan for the screening and
11 recruitment of low-income individuals and house-
12 holds with existing diet-related health issues;

13 (3) a description of plans for the evaluation of
14 program participants and partners focused on pur-
15 poses described under subsection (b);

16 (4) a description of plans for the inclusion of
17 nutrition education opportunities for program par-
18 ticipants;

19 (5) a description of the program partnerships
20 and the role of each partner in implementing and
21 evaluating an effective program;

22 (6) documentation of the necessary partnership
23 agreements with the relevant State Medicaid agency
24 or other appropriate entity for the purpose of evalu-

1 ating the programs effectiveness in reducing health
2 care use and associated costs; and

3 (7) data as requested by the Secretary for pur-
4 poses of analyzing the impact of the project.

5 (e) EVALUATION.—In carrying out this section, the
6 Secretary may enter into memorandums of understanding
7 with Federal and States agencies and private partners to
8 ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of the
9 program.

10 (f) PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM DEFINED.—
11 In this section, the term “produce prescription program”
12 means a program—

13 (1) under which fresh fruits and vegetables are
14 prescribed to individuals or households who are at-
15 risk due to health status or income; and

16 (2) that may provide—

17 (A) financial incentives for individuals de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1) to purchase fruits and
19 vegetables;

20 (B) education resources on nutrition to
21 such individuals; and

22 (C) accessible locations for participants to
23 procure fresh fruits and vegetables.

24 (g) FUNDING.—

1 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
2 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
3 shall use to carry out this section \$10,000,000, to
4 remain available until expended, for each of fiscal
5 years 2019 through 2023.

6 (2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—There is au-
7 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this sub-
8 section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
9 through 2023.

10 **Subtitle B—Improving the Supple-**
11 **mental Nutrition Assistance**
12 **Program**

13 **SEC. 411. CONTINUING THE FARMERS' MARKETS SUPPLE-**
14 **MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
15 **SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

17 (1) to support the participation of farmers'
18 markets in the supplemental nutrition assistance
19 program by providing equipment and support grants
20 to new markets and those currently participating in
21 the program;

22 (2) to increase access to the supplemental nu-
23 trition assistance program and participation at farm-
24 ers' markets by households that receive program
25 benefits; and

1 (3) to support the establishment, expansion,
2 and promotion of electronic benefits transfer services
3 at farmers' markets for the acceptance of program
4 benefits.

5 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—To
6 carry out the purposes of this section, the Secretary of
7 Agriculture shall establish a program to make grants each
8 fiscal year to eligible entities to conduct tasks that are
9 necessary for the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
10 gram to operate at farmers' markets, and to increase the
11 frequency and effectiveness of farmers' market participa-
12 tion in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

13 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sec-
14 tion:

15 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—the term “eligible
16 entity” means—

17 (i) a Native American tribal organiza-
18 tion nonprofit organization;

19 (ii) a Native American tribal govern-
20 ment;

21 (iii) a State or unit of general purpose
22 local government of a State;

23 (iv) a farmers' market association;

24 (v) a public benefit corporation;

1 (vi) an economic development corpora-
2 tion;

3 (vii) a regional farmers' market au-
4 thority; or

5 (viii) a nonprofit organization engaged
6 in farmers' market management.

7 (B) DEFINITIONS.—

8 (i) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AS-
9 SISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term “supple-
10 mental nutrition assistance program”
11 means the supplemental nutrition assist-
12 ance program as defined in section 3 of the
13 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
14 2012).

15 (ii) STATE.—The term “State” means
16 any of the several States or the District of
17 Columbia.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the
20 fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

21 **SEC. 412. EXPANDING AND INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE**
22 **FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVES**
23 **PROGRAM.**

24 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
25 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

1 (1) subsection (b)(2)(B)—

2 (A) in clause (v) by striking “or” at the
3 end;

4 (B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause
5 (vii); and

6 (C) by inserting the following after clause
7 (v):

8 “(vi) facilitate the provision of supple-
9 mental nutrition assistance program
10 matching incentive programs, particularly
11 for locally sourced produce, at approved re-
12 tail stores, particularly those located in un-
13 derserved areas; and”;

14 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(c) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 subsection (b) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2019 through 2023.

21 “(2) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
22 available to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
23 Secretary shall use to carry out subsection (b)
24 \$70,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
25 2023.”.

1 **SEC. 413. CLOSING THE MEAL GAP.**

2 (a) CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The
3 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in section 3 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

6 (A) by striking subsection (u);

7 (B) by redesignating subsections (n)
8 through (t) as subsections (o) through (u), re-
9 spectively; and

10 (C) by inserting after subsection (m) the
11 following:

12 “(n) ‘Low-cost food plan’ means the diet required to
13 feed a family of four persons, consisting of a man and
14 a woman nineteen through fifty, a child six through eight,
15 and a child nine through eleven years of age, determined
16 in accordance with the Secretary’s calculations. The cost
17 of such diet shall be the basis for uniform allotments for
18 all households regardless of their actual composition, ex-
19 cept that the Secretary shall—

20 “(1) make household-size adjustments (based
21 on the unrounded cost of such diet) taking into ac-
22 count economies of scale;

23 “(2) make cost adjustments in the low-cost food
24 plan for Hawaii and the urban and rural parts of
25 Alaska to reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and
26 urban and rural Alaska;

1 “(3) make cost adjustments in the separate
2 low-cost food plans for Guam, and the Virgin Is-
3 lands of the United States, to reflect the cost of food
4 in those States, but not to exceed the cost of food
5 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

6 “(4) on October 1, 2018, and each October 1
7 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect the
8 cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round the
9 result to the nearest lower dollar increment for each
10 household size.”;

11 (2) in section 8(a) (7 U.S.C. 2017(a))—

12 (A) by striking “thrifty food plan” each
13 place it appears, and inserting “low-cost food
14 plan”; and

15 (B) by striking “8 percent” and inserting
16 “10 percent”;

17 (3) in section 16(c)(1)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
18 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii))—

19 (A) in subclause (I) by striking “for fiscal
20 year 2014, at an amount not greater than \$37”
21 and inserting “for fiscal year 2018, at an
22 amount not greater than \$50”; and

23 (B) in subclause (II)—

24 (i) by striking “June 30, 2013” and
25 inserting “June 30, 2018”; and

1 (ii) by striking “thrifty food plan”
2 and inserting “low-cost food plan”; and
3 (4) in section 19(a)(2)(A) (7 U.S.C.
4 2028(a)(2)(A))—
5 (A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the
6 end;
7 (B) in clause (ii)—
8 (i) by striking “each fiscal year there-
9 after” and inserting “each of the fiscal
10 years 2004 through 2018”; and
11 (ii) by striking the period at the end
12 and inserting a semicolon; and
13 (C) by adding at the end the following:
14 “(iii) for fiscal year 2019,
15 \$2,650,000,000; and
16 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-
17 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal
18 year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter,
19 the amount determined under clause (iii),
20 as adjusted by the percentage by which the
21 low-cost food plan has been adjusted under
22 section 3(n)(4) between June 30, 2019,
23 and June 30 of the immediately preceding
24 fiscal year.”.

1 (b) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION.—
2 Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
3 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “an excess
5 medical” and all that follows through the period at
6 the end, and inserting “a standard medical deduc-
7 tion or to a medical expense deduction of actual
8 costs for the allowable medical expenses incurred by
9 the elderly or disabled member, exclusive of special
10 diets.”; and

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

12 “(D) The standard medical expense deduc-
13 tion shall be equal to \$140 for fiscal year 2019,
14 and for each subsequent fiscal year shall be
15 equal to the applicable amount for the pre-
16 ceding fiscal year as adjusted to reflect changes
17 for the 12-month period ending the preceding
18 June 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All
19 Urban Consumers: Medical Care published by
20 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
21 ment of Labor, except that for any such fiscal
22 year the State agency may establish a greater
23 standard medical expense deduction that satis-
24 fies cost neutrality standards established by the
25 Secretary for such fiscal year.”.

1 (c) ELIMINATION OF CAP OF EXCESS SHELTER EX-
2 PENSES.—Section 5(e)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act
3 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking subparagraph (B); and

5 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
6 (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

7 (d) WORK REQUIREMENT.—Section 6(o)(3) of the
8 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3))
9 is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (D) by striking “or” at the
11 end;

12 (2) in subparagraph (E) by striking the period
13 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (3) by adding at end the following:

15 “(F) not offered a position in a program
16 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of para-
17 graph (2).”.

18 (e) FUNDING OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PRO-
19 GRAMS.—Section 16(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II) of the Food and Nu-
20 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II)) is
21 amended by inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (E) of”
22 after “under”.

23 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—The
2 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
3 seq.) is amended—

4 (A) in section 10 (7 U.S.C. 2019) by strik-
5 ing “3(p)” and inserting “3(q)”;

6 (B) in section 11 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

7 (i) in subsection (a)(2) by striking
8 “3(t)(1)” and inserting “3(u)(1)”; and

9 (ii) in subsection (d)—

10 (I) by striking “3(t)(1)” each
11 place it appears and inserting
12 “3(u)(1)”; and

13 (II) by striking “3(t)(2)” each
14 place it appears and inserting
15 “3(u)(2)”;

16 (C) in section 19(a)(2)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
17 (a)(2)(A)(ii)) by striking “3(u)(4)” and insert-
18 ing “3(n)(4)”; and

19 (D) in section 27(a)(2) (7 U.S.C.
20 2036(a)(2))—

21 (i) in subparagraph (C) by striking
22 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (E) by striking
24 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”.

1 (2) LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
2 ACT OF 1981.—Section 2605(f)(2)(A) of the Low-In-
3 come Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42
4 U.S.C. 8624(f)(2)(A)) is amended—

5 (A) by striking “5(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I)” and in-
6 serting “5(e)(6)(B)(iv)(1)”; and

7 (B) by striking “(7 U.S.C.
8 2014(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.
9 2014(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I))”.

10 (g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Food and Nu-
11 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) in section 5(a) (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) by strik-
13 ing “3(n)(4)” each place it appears and inserting
14 “3(m)(4)”;

15 (2) in section 8(f)(1)(A)(i) (7 U.S.C.
16 2017(f)(1)(A)(i)) by striking “3(n)(5)” and inserting
17 “3(m)(5)”; and

18 (3) in section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa) (7 U.S.C.
19 2016(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa)) by striking “3(n)” and
20 inserting “3(m)”.

1 **TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN**
 2 **FARMERS**

3 **Subtitle A—Defining Beginning**
 4 **Farmer or Rancher**

5 **SEC. 501. BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER DEFINED.**

6 In this title, the term “beginning farmer or rancher”
 7 means an individual or entity who—

8 (1) has not operated a farm or ranch, or who
 9 has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10
 10 consecutive years; and

11 (2) will materially and substantially participate
 12 in the operation of the farm or ranch.

13 **Subtitle B—Providing Resources**
 14 **for Beginning, Retiring, and So-**
 15 **cially Disadvantaged Farmers**
 16 **and Ranchers**

17 **SEC. 511. REAUTHORIZATION AND INCREASED FUNDING**
 18 **FOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SO-**
 19 **CIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND**
 20 **RANCHERS AND VETERAN FARMERS AND**
 21 **RANCHERS.**

22 (a) **MANDATORY FUNDING.**—Subparagraph (A) of
 23 section 2501(a)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
 24 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)) is amended
 25 to read as follows:

1 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the
2 funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
3 Secretary shall make available to carry out this
4 section—

5 “(i) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

6 and

7 “(ii) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
8 years 2019 through 2023.”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 2501(a)(4)(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
11 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)(E)) is
12 amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

13 **SEC. 512. ENSURING PERMANENT FUNDING FOR BEGIN-**
14 **NING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 Section 7405(h)(1)(C) of the Farm Security and
17 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f(h)(1)(C))
18 is amended—

19 (1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting
20 “\$50,000,000”; and

21 (2) by striking “through 2018” and inserting
22 “and each fiscal year thereafter”.

1 **SEC. 513. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMER PARTICIPA-**
2 **TION IN CERTAIN CONSERVATION PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 Section 1241(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5 per-
7 cent” and inserting “20 percent”; and

8 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “5 per-
9 cent” and inserting “15 percent”.

10 **SEC. 514. CREATING A PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION OF**
11 **BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN**
12 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
13 **MOTION PROGRAM.**

14 Subsection (e) of section 6 of the Farmer-to-Con-
15 sumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(e) PRIORITIES.—In providing grants under the
18 Program, priority shall be given to applications that in-
19 clude—

20 “(1) projects that will benefit underserved com-
21 munities, including communities that are located in
22 areas of concentrated poverty with limited access to
23 fresh locally or regionally grown food; and

24 “(2) with respect to beginning farmers and
25 ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranch-

1 ers, and veteran farmers, projects in which such
2 farmers and ranchers are participants.”.

3 **SEC. 515. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-**
4 **ERS THROUGH FARM SERVICE AGENCY LIAI-**
5 **SONS.**

6 Section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
7 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6932) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following new subsection:

9 “(i) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS LIAI-
10 SON.—

11 “(1) POSITION ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
12 shall establish within each State office of the Con-
13 solidated Farm Service Agency the position of Be-
14 ginning Farmers and Ranchers Liaison to carry out
15 the duties described in paragraph (2).

16 “(2) DUTIES.—The Beginning Farmers and
17 Ranchers Liaison shall—

18 “(A) provide technical assistance to begin-
19 ning farmers and ranchers to direct such farm-
20 ers and ranchers toward appropriate Federal
21 resources and opportunities, including available
22 Federal grant programs; and

23 “(B) promote coordination among Federal
24 programs available to beginning farmers and
25 ranchers.”.

1 **SEC. 516. FACILITATING SUCCESSION PLANNING THROUGH**
2 **THE CREATION OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY**
3 **REGIONAL PLANNERS.**

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

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
7 section (i); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(h) REGIONAL PLANNERS.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
12 tablish a regional planner for each of the 12 regions
13 identified by the National Agricultural Statistics
14 Service.

15 “(2) DUTIES.—The regional planners estab-
16 lished under paragraph (1) shall—

17 “(A) establish and maintain one accurate,
18 current, and unbiased database of resources to
19 help farmers undertaking succession planning;
20 and

21 “(B) coordinate with Federal, State, and
22 private stakeholders, including land-grant col-
23 leges and universities and extension service, to
24 understand farmer and rancher needs in each
25 state within the respective regions, and to work
26 with these stakeholders to provide farmers and

1 ranchers information regarding relevant succes-
2 sion planning resources and opportunities based
3 on those needs.”.

4 **SEC. 517. ENSURING A VIBRANT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**
5 **THROUGH THE CREATION OF A LAND TEN-**
6 **URE COMMISSION.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 Agriculture shall establish a commission to be known as
10 the Land Tenure Commission (in this section referred to
11 as the “Commission”).

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission
14 shall be comprised of 10 members who shall be ap-
15 pointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years in ac-
16 cordance with paragraph (2).

17 (2) MEMBERS.—The Commission members
18 shall include one representative from each the fol-
19 lowing categories:

20 (A) The Farm Service Agency.

21 (B) The Natural Resources Conservation
22 Service.

23 (C) State programs focused on land ten-
24 ure.

1 (D) Private nonprofit organizations with
2 active land tenure programs.

3 (E) The Cooperative State Research, Edu-
4 cation, and Extension Service.

5 (F) Community colleges or other institu-
6 tions of higher education with demonstrated ex-
7 perience in land tenure issues.

8 (G) Other entities or persons providing
9 lending for, or technical assistance regarding,
10 land tenure.

11 (H) Beginning farmers and ranchers.

12 (I) Socially disadvantaged farmers and
13 ranchers.

14 (J) Veteran farmers and ranchers.

15 (K) Retiring or retired farmers and ranch-
16 ers.

17 (3) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
18 culture may reappoint members of the Commission
19 to a subsequent 3-year term.

20 (4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-
21 sion may not receive any compensation.

22 (5) VACANCIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture
23 shall make appointments to fill vacancies on the
24 Commission as soon as practicable after the vacancy
25 has occurred.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

2 (1) advise the Secretary of Agriculture on
3 issues involving access to land, farm business transi-
4 tion, and land tenure, including trends in ownership
5 and the status of farmland ownership;

6 (2) with respect to the Commission’s activities,
7 coordinate and consult with entities involved with
8 farmland ownership and operation;

9 (3) appoint technical advisors, comprised of
10 representatives from the National Agricultural Sta-
11 tistics Service of the Department of Agriculture,
12 not-for-profit organizations that assist farmers and
13 ranchers transitioning in and out of agricultural
14 business, and farm succession planners with exper-
15 tise in the field; and

16 (4) focus efforts of Federal agency staff and
17 programs toward ensuring the long-term sustain-
18 ability of the agriculture sector.

19 (d) REPORTS.—The Commission shall submit an an-
20 nual report to Congress that includes—

21 (1) a summary of the activities of the Commis-
22 sion; and

23 (2) recommendations with respect to access to
24 land, farm business transition, and land tenure, in-
25 cluding recommendations for Federal policy changes.

1 **Subtitle C—Creating Financial In-**
2 **centives To Benefit Beginning**
3 **Farmers and Ranchers**

4 **SEC. 521. REMOVING BARRIERS TO FARMING THROUGH AN**
5 **ELIGIBLE FARMER TAX CREDIT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part IV of sub-
7 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 section:

10 **“SEC. 30E. ELIGIBLE FARMER CREDITS.**

11 “(a) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY SALE CREDIT.—
12 In the case of a taxpayer who sells qualified farming prop-
13 erty to an eligible farmer during the taxable year, there
14 shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by
15 this chapter for such taxable year an amount equal to 10
16 percent of the sales price of such property.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY PURCHASE
18 CREDIT.—In the case of a taxpayer who is an eligible
19 farmer and purchases qualified farming property during
20 the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against
21 the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an
22 amount equal 10 percent of the purchase price of such
23 property.

24 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE FARMER.—For purposes of this
2 section—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible
4 farmer’ means—

5 “(i) any socially disadvantaged farmer
6 or rancher, as defined in section
7 2501(e)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
8 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
9 U.S.C. 2279(e)(2)),

10 “(ii) any veteran farmer or rancher
11 (as defined in section 2501(e)(7) of such
12 Act (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(7))), or

13 “(iii) any beginning farmer or ranch-
14 er.

15 “(B) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘begin-
17 ning farmer or rancher’ means an indi-
18 vidual or entity who—

19 “(I) has not operated a farm or
20 ranch, or who has operated a farm or
21 ranch for not more than 10 consecu-
22 tive years, and

23 “(II) will materially and substan-
24 tially participate in the operation of
25 the farm or ranch.

1 “(ii) MATERIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL
2 PARTICIPATION.—For purposes of clause
3 (i), the term ‘material and substantial par-
4 ticipation’ means—

5 “(I) in the case of an individual,
6 that the individual provides substan-
7 tial day-to-day labor and management
8 of the farm or ranch, consistent with
9 the practices in the county or State
10 where the farm is located, and

11 “(II) in the case of an entity,
12 that all shareholders, holders of a cap-
13 ital or profits interest in the case of a
14 partnership, or holders of a beneficial
15 interest in the case of a trust or coop-
16 erative provide some amount of the
17 management or labor necessary for
18 day-to-day activities such that if each
19 of the members did not provide these
20 inputs, operation of the farm or ranch
21 would be seriously impaired.

22 “(iii) PREDECESSOR.—Any prede-
23 cessor of any entity shall be treated as
24 such entity for purposes of clause (i)(I).

1 “(iv) AGGREGATION RULES.—All per-
2 sons which are treated as a single em-
3 ployer under subsections (a) and (b) of
4 section 52 shall be treated as a single em-
5 ployer for purposes of this subparagraph.

6 “(2) QUALIFIED FARMING PROPERTY.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
8 farming property’ means any property—

9 “(i) which is used in the trade or
10 business of farming or ranching in the
11 United States, and

12 “(ii) which is—

13 “(I) property of a character sub-
14 ject to an allowance for depreciation,
15 or

16 “(II) land used for the produc-
17 tion of crops, fruits, or other agricul-
18 tural products or for the sustenance
19 of livestock.

20 In the case of any tree, vine, or livestock which
21 is not subject to an allowance for depreciation
22 solely by reason of not having reached the in-
23 come-producing stage or age of maturity, as the
24 case may be, such tree, vine, or livestock shall
25 be treated as property of a character subject to

1 an allowance for depreciation for purposes of
2 this section.

3 “(B) LAND USE MUST BE RESTRICTED AG-
4 RICULTURAL USE.—Such term shall not include
5 any land which is not subject to a State agricul-
6 tural land preservation program, permanent ag-
7 ricultural conservation easement, is not valued
8 as agricultural land using special use valuation
9 requirements, or is not under another long-term
10 or permanent protection.

11 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

12 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—No credit
13 shall be allowed to a taxpayer under this section un-
14 less, at such time and in such form and manner as
15 the Secretary shall prescribe—

16 “(A) there is submitted to the Secretary a
17 description of the qualified farming property
18 with respect to which the credit under this sec-
19 tion is determined,

20 “(B) the eligible farmer submits to the
21 Secretary an attestation of intent to treat such
22 property as qualified farming property during
23 the 8-year period beginning on the date of the
24 sale or purchase to which this section applies,
25 and

1 “(C) the taxpayer who sells such property
2 in the case of any credit determined under sub-
3 section (a), and the eligible farmer who pur-
4 chases such property in the case of any credit
5 determined under subsection (b), submits to the
6 Secretary an agreement consenting to the appli-
7 cation of paragraph (2).

8 “(2) RECAPTURE.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If any property with
10 respect to which a credit is allowed under this
11 section ceases to be qualified farming property
12 during the 8-year period beginning on the date
13 of the sale or purchase to which this section ap-
14 plies, the tax imposed by this chapter for the
15 taxable year during which such property so
16 ceases shall be increased by the applicable per-
17 centage of the amount of credit allowed under
18 this section with respect to such property.

19 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
20 purposes of this paragraph, in the case of prop-
21 erty which ceases to be qualified farming prop-
22 erty during the 8-year period, the applicable
23 percentage shall be determined under the fol-
24 lowing table:

“For property which so ceases during:	The applicable percentage is:
The first or second year	100 percent
The third or fourth year	75 percent
The fifth or sixth year	50 percent
The seventh or eighth year	25 percent.

1 “(C) PROPERTY BEYOND ACTUAL USEFUL
 2 LIFE.—For purposes of this paragraph, prop-
 3 erty which, during such 8-year period, is no
 4 longer capable of being used in the trade or
 5 business of farming shall be treated as ceasing
 6 to be qualified farming property.

7 “(3) RELATED PARTY RULES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A sale or purchase
 9 shall only be taken into account under this sec-
 10 tion if the property is not acquired from a per-
 11 son related to the person acquiring such prop-
 12 erty (or, if married, such individual’s spouse).

13 “(B) RELATED PERSONS.—A person shall
 14 be treated as related to another person if the
 15 relationship between such persons would result
 16 in the disallowance of losses under section 267
 17 or 707(b).

18 “(4) APPLICATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—

19 “(A) BUSINESS CREDIT TREATED AS PART
 20 OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—So much of
 21 the credit which would be allowed under this
 22 section for any taxable year (determined with-

1 out regard to this paragraph) that is attrib-
2 utable to property that is land used in a trade
3 or business of the taxpayer, or that in the
4 hands of the taxpayer is of a character subject
5 to an allowance for depreciation, shall be treat-
6 ed as a credit listed in section 38(b) for such
7 taxable year (and not allowed under this sec-
8 tion).

9 “(B) PERSONAL CREDIT.—The credit al-
10 lowed under subsection (a) (after the applica-
11 tion of paragraph (1)) for any taxable year
12 shall be treated as a credit allowable under sub-
13 part A for such taxable year.

14 “(5) REDUCTION IN BASIS.—For purposes of
15 this subtitle, the basis of any property for which a
16 credit is allowable under this section shall be re-
17 duced by the amount of such credit so allowed.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) of
19 such Code is amended by striking “plus” at the end of
20 paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of para-
21 graph (36) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the
22 end the following new paragraph:

23 “(37) the portion of the eligible farmer credit to
24 which section 30E(d)(3)(A) applies.”.

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
3 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new item:

“Sec. 30E. Eligible farmer credits.”.

5 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
7 December 31, 2018.

8 **SEC. 522. ENSURING FARM SERVICE FACILITY LOANS CAN**
9 **SERVE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES.**

10 Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
11 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended by insert-
12 ing “(including agricultural cooperatives)” after “for pro-
13 ducers”.

14 **SEC. 523. LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.**

15 Section 316(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)) is amended by add-
17 ing at the end the following:

18 “(3) LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.—Notwith-
19 standing subtitle A or this subtitle, the liability for
20 a farm ownership loan or farm operating loan under
21 such subtitles to a cooperative of family farm farm-
22 ers shall be required to attach to the individual
23 members of the cooperative, as determined by the
24 Secretary.”.

TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE

SEC. 601. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING REDUCING FOOD WASTE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Up to 40 percent of food in the United States is wasted, the equivalent of 1,250 calories per person, per day, and more than 400 pounds of food per person, per year.

(2) Growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of uneaten food is a significant burden on the United States economy, costing approximately \$218,000,000,000 annually.

(3) Considerable resources in the United States are invested in the production of food that is eventually wasted, including an estimated 18 percent of fertilizer used in agricultural production, 19 percent of crop land, and 21 percent of agricultural water usage.

(4) Growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of food that is eventually wasted contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

(5) Disposing of uneaten food costs the average household of four in the United States an estimated \$1,800 annually.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—In light of the findings
2 made in subsection (a), it is the sense of Congress that
3 the Federal Government should invest in programs, meth-
4 odologies, and actions to reduce food waste across the
5 United States at the Federal, State, and local levels, in-
6 cluding by—

7 (1) providing targeted funding for food waste
8 solutions;

9 (2) improving and standardizing the measure-
10 ment and reporting of food waste data;

11 (3) standardizing food date labels;

12 (4) removing barriers to food donation;

13 (5) supporting and encouraging local and re-
14 gional efforts to reduce food waste; and

15 (6) engaging and educating the American public
16 on how to reduce food waste.

17 **SEC. 602. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

18 Subtitle D of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
19 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following new section:

21 **“SEC. 244. OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

22 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
23 lish within the executive operations of the Department an
24 office to be known as the ‘Office of Food Waste’.

1 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Food Waste
2 shall be responsible—

3 “(1) for coordinating Federal programs to
4 measure and reduce the incidence of food waste in
5 the United States by serving as the central office
6 within the Department for food waste reduction ef-
7 forts, including food waste prevention, food dona-
8 tion, recovery of surplus food for commercial pur-
9 poses, and food scrap recycling;

10 “(2) for providing information about and rais-
11 ing awareness of food waste issues across sectors of
12 the United States economy and across Federal agen-
13 cies; and

14 “(3) for serving as the primary point of contact
15 for food waste reduction and food recovery issues
16 within the Department and across Federal agencies.

17 “(c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
18 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out
19 this section \$100,000,000 for the period of fiscal years
20 2019 through 2023.”.

21 **SEC. 603. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE RE-**
22 **DUCTION TASK FORCE.**

23 Subtitle D of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
24 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is further

1 amended by inserting after section 244, as added by sec-
2 tion 602, the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 245. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION TASK**
4 **FORCE.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
6 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
7 of Agriculture, in consultation with the Administrator of
8 the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish, in
9 the office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and
10 Consumer Services, a task force—

11 “(1) to advise and support the Secretary and
12 the Administrator in meeting the national food
13 waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030, as spec-
14 ified in the announcement made on September 16,
15 2015, by the Secretary and the Administrator;

16 “(2) to provide strategic direction for efforts to
17 meet the national food waste reduction goal;

18 “(3) to monitor progress toward meeting the
19 national food waste reduction goal;

20 “(4) to support effective public reporting in the
21 United States regarding progress toward meeting
22 the national food waste reduction goal and any rel-
23 evant benchmarks in meeting such goal;

1 “(5) to raise public awareness and visibility of
2 the national food waste reduction goal in the United
3 States; and

4 “(6) to recommend improvements to Federal ef-
5 forts to meet the national food waste reduction goal.

6 “(b) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall be com-
7 posed of 15 members, appointed jointly by the Secretary
8 and the Administrator. The task force shall include a rep-
9 resentative from each of the following industries and inter-
10 est groups:

11 “(1) The agriculture industry.

12 “(2) The food processing and manufacturing in-
13 dustry.

14 “(3) The food distribution industry.

15 “(4) The retail and grocery industry.

16 “(5) The restaurant industry.

17 “(6) The institutional food service industry.

18 “(7) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
19 ties focused on nutrition.

20 “(8) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
21 ties focused on consumer education.

22 “(9) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
23 ties focused on food waste entrepreneurship.

24 “(10) Nonprofit entities focused on food waste
25 prevention.

1 “(11) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
2 ties focused on food donation.

3 “(12) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
4 ties focused on food scrap recycling.

5 “(13) Educational institutions focused on food
6 systems and food waste.

7 “(14) A State or local government with a food
8 waste reduction program.

9 “(15) A scientist who specializes in the science
10 of food scrap recycling and other relevant scientific
11 processes.

12 “(c) TERMS.—A member of the task force shall serve
13 on the task force for a single term of 3 years. A member
14 may not be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled within
15 60 days in the same manner as the original appoint-
16 ment.”.

17 **SEC. 604. STANDARDIZING, AGGREGATING, AND PUB-**
18 **LISHING FOOD WASTE DATA.**

19 (a) **METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING FOOD**
20 **WASTE.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the
21 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
22 establish, through a rule made in accordance with section
23 553 of title 5, United States Code, a standardized method-
24 ology for consistently measuring food waste in the United
25 States economy, such as—

1 (1) on-farm losses during agricultural produc-
2 tion and harvesting;

3 (2) losses during processing and distribution;

4 (3) kitchen waste and post-consumer waste
5 from the restaurant and hospitality industries;

6 (4) food waste occurring in schools and other
7 institutions; and

8 (5) food waste occurring in other industries.

9 (b) **METHODOLOGY FOR AGGREGATING AND DIS-**
10 **SEMINATING DATA** .—The methodology established under
11 subsection (a) shall include aggregating and disseminating
12 any data or information collected with respect to food
13 waste. The methodology shall incorporate tools for describ-
14 ing why food waste occurs and the type of food wasted
15 and take into account existing protocols and tools that
16 may serve as resources.

17 (c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA**.—Information
18 collected with respect to food waste shall be made available
19 through a publicly accessible internet website of the De-
20 partment of Agriculture, which may be disaggregated by
21 private sector and State or local government data.

22 (d) **CONSULTATION**.—The Secretary of Agriculture
23 shall carry out this section in consultation with the Admin-
24 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

1 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
2 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
3 **TERS**

4 **Subtitle A—Investing in**
5 **Sustainable Agriculture**

6 **SEC. 701. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
7 **SION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

8 (a) FEDERAL-STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section
9 1623 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
10 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5813) is amended—

11 (1) in the section heading, by striking
12 “**MATCHING**”;

13 (2) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by striking “matching”; and

15 (B) by inserting “and centers” after “edu-
16 cation programs”;

17 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “, and shall
18 identify the sources of matching State funds for the
19 same fiscal year”; and

20 (4) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall provide grants
23 to eligible States for a period not to exceed 5 years.”.

1 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 1624 of the
 2 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
 3 (7 U.S.C. 5814) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 1624. MANDATORY FUNDING.**

5 “Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation,
 6 the Secretary shall make available to carry out this chap-
 7 ter \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through
 8 2023.”.

9 **SEC. 702. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.**

10 Section 1629(i) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)) is amend-
 12 ed to read as follows:

13 “(i) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the
 14 Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make
 15 available to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each
 16 of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

17 **Subtitle B—Supporting Research**
 18 **To Help Farmers Adapt to a Dis-**
 19 **rupted Climate**

20 **SEC. 711. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES**
 21 **GRANTS.**

22 Section 2 of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities
 23 Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
2 the following new subparagraph:

3 “(G) PLANT AND ANIMAL BREEDING.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Classical animal
5 and plant breeding—

6 “(I) intended to deliver public
7 plant cultivars and animal breeds;

8 “(II) to achieve germplasm con-
9 servation; and

10 “(III) to improve public access
11 and use of such cultivars and breeds.

12 “(ii) PRIORITY.—With respect to the
13 breeding described in clause (i), the Sec-
14 retary shall give priority to—

15 “(I) regionally-adapted cultivars
16 and breeds; and

17 “(II) breeds that perform well in
18 organic and sustainable production
19 systems.”;

20 (B) in paragraph (7), by inserting “, in-
21 cluding nonprofit organizations, private labora-
22 tories, Federal research entities, and other re-
23 search entities not affiliated with a university”
24 after “organizations”;

25 (C) by striking paragraph (9); and

1 (D) in paragraph (11)(A)—

2 (i) by striking “\$700,000,000” and
3 inserting “\$900,000,000”; and

4 (ii) by striking “2018” and inserting
5 “2023”; and

6 (2) in subsection (k)—

7 (A) in the heading, by inserting “AND CLI-
8 MATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION”
9 after “AGRICULTURE”; and

10 (B) by inserting “and climate change miti-
11 gation and adaptation” after “systems of sus-
12 tainable agriculture”.

13 **SEC. 712. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

14 (a) **ELEMENTS OF INITIATIVE.**—Section 412(b) of
15 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
16 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) by inserting “and improve the resil-
19 iency of such crops towards global climate
20 change” after “crop characteristics”; and

21 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
22 with priority given to responses and tolerances
23 to global climate change” after “tolerances”;
24 and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and threats
2 due to global climate change” after “pollinators”.

3 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 412(k)(1)(B) of
4 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
5 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(k)(1)(B)) is amended
6 by striking “\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each
7 fiscal year thereafter” and inserting “\$80,000,000 for
8 each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 and \$100,000,000
9 for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

10 **TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE**
11 **Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal**
12 **Welfare in Farming**

13 **SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-**
14 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATION PRO-**
15 **GRAMS.**

16 In this subtitle:

17 (1) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
18 CATION PROGRAM.—The term “independent animal
19 welfare certification program” means an entity ap-
20 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture that uses
21 qualified third-party on-farm auditors to routinely
22 assess a producer’s 100 percent compliance with
23 specific animal welfare standards exceeding industry
24 standards (based on industry guidelines), subject to
25 the following conditions:

1 (A) The standards' protocols are made
2 public.

3 (B) The standards include, at a minimum,
4 provisions for space allowance, environmental
5 enrichment and ability to engage in natural be-
6 haviors, pain control and physical alternations,
7 handling, and responsible antibiotic use.

8 (C) Routine caging, crating or tethering of
9 animals is prohibited.

10 (D) Auditors have no vested or financial
11 interest in audit outcomes.

12 (E) Auditors possess a background in ani-
13 mal welfare science or have received equivalent
14 training, and are able to recognize, review, and
15 apply established farm animal welfare stand-
16 ards and protocols.

17 (2) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The term “eligible
18 costs” means costs associated with application fees,
19 inspections, labeling, shipment and marketing.

20 **SEC. 802. REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF THE FINAL RULE**
21 **FOR SETTING PRODUCTION STANDARDS FOR**
22 **ORGANIC LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY WITH-**
23 **OUT AMENDMENT.**

24 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall imple-

1 ment, without amendment, the final rule entitled “Na-
2 tional Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and
3 Poultry Practices” and published in the Federal Register
4 by the Department of Agriculture on January 19, 2017
5 (82 Fed. Reg. 7042).

6 **SEC. 803. INCREASING MARKET ACCESS FOR HUMANELY**
7 **RAISED LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFI-**
8 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
10 ing through the Agricultural Marketing Service, shall es-
11 tablish a cost-share program to assist producers and han-
12 dlers of livestock and poultry products in obtaining and
13 maintaining animal welfare certifications through an inde-
14 pendent animal welfare certification program.

15 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may cover not
16 more than 75 percent of the eligible costs, but not to ex-
17 ceed \$750, incurred by a producer or handler in obtaining
18 and maintaining an animal welfare certification through
19 an independent animal welfare certification program.

20 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
21 March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the
22 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
23 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
24 estry of the Senate a report that describes the requests
25 by, disbursements to, and expenditures for each State

1 under the program during the current and previous fiscal
2 year, including the number of producers and handlers
3 served by the program in the previous fiscal year.

4 (d) FUNDING.—

5 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
6 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
7 shall make available to carry out this section
8 \$1,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through
9 2023, to remain available until expended.

10 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 There is authorized to be appropriated \$22,000,000
12 for fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to carry out this
13 section.

14 **Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Wel-**
15 **fare in Agricultural Research**
16 **Endeavors**

17 **SEC. 811. ANIMAL WELFARE.**

18 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
19 2144) is amended—

20 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Any” and
21 inserting the following:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3),
23 any Federal research facility or any other”;

24 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “Any”
25 and inserting the following:

1 “(2) ANIMAL EXHIBITION.—Any”; and

2 (3) by adding at the end the following new
3 paragraph:

4 “(3) EXCLUSIONS NOT APPLICABLE.—For pur-
5 poses of the application of standards and other re-
6 quirements described in paragraph (1) to a Federal
7 research facility or any other department, agency, or
8 instrumentality of the United States having labora-
9 tory animal facilities, the exclusions contained in
10 section 2(g)(3) shall not apply.”.

11 **SEC. 812. ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**
12 **PROGRAM FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-**
13 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATIONS.**

14 (a) CONSUMER DEMAND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND
15 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS.—Section
16 1402(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
17 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101(6)) is
18 amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:
19 “, and meet growing consumer demand for animal welfare,
20 environmental sustainability, pasture-based rearing, and
21 compliance with independent animal welfare certifi-
22 cations”.

23 (b) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
24 CATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—Section 1404 of the Na-
25 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching

1 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following new paragraph:

3 “(21) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CER-
4 TIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘Independent ani-
5 mal welfare certification program’ has the meaning
6 given that term in section 801(1) of the Food and
7 Farm Act.”.

8 (c) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINA-
9 TION.—Section 1409A of the National Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 3124a) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “and
13 environmental” and inserting “environmental, ani-
14 mal welfare, and marketplace demand”;

15 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “pasture-
16 based rearing systems,” after “cooperatives,”; and

17 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “improving
18 animal well-being, facilitating enrollment in inde-
19 pendent animal welfare certification programs,”
20 after “marketing systems,”.

21 (d) ANIMAL WELL-BEING RESEARCH.—The heading
22 of subtitle E of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
23 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (title XIV of
24 Public Law 93–113) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“Subtitle E—Animal Health, Well-**
2 **Being, and Disease Research”.**

3 (e) AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY TO ACT.—Sec-
4 tion 1431(b)(2) of the National Agricultural Research,
5 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
6 3193(b)(2)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
8 graph (B);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
10 paragraph (C), and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 paragraph:

13 “(D) improve the flow of information to
14 producers regarding enrollment in, compliance
15 with, and marketing benefits of independent
16 animal welfare certification programs.”.

17 (f) SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

18 (1) SMALL FARM EXTENSION PROGRAM.—Sec-
19 tion 502 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7
20 U.S.C. 2662) is amended—

21 (A) in subsection (d), by inserting “, im-
22 proved animal husbandry techniques including
23 enrollment in independent animal welfare cer-
24 tification programs,” after “marketing tech-
25 niques”; and

1 (B) in subsection (h)(1)—

2 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
3 subparagraph (E);

4 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
5 (F) as subparagraph (H); and

6 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
7 (E) the following new subparagraphs:

8 “(F) opportunities for enrollment in inde-
9 pendent animal welfare certification programs;

10 “(G) animal husbandry; and”.

11 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 506 of the Rural De-
12 velopment Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2666) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (A) by redesignating subsections (a), (b),
15 and (c) as subsections (b), (c), and (d) respec-
16 tively; and

17 (B) by inserting before subsection (b), as
18 so redesignated, the following:

19 “(a) ‘independent animal welfare certification
20 program’ has the meaning given that term in section
21 801(1) of the Food and Farm Act.”.

1 **Subtitle C—Protecting Companion**
2 **Animals**

3 **SEC. 821. MAINTENANCE AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF**
4 **REGULATORY RECORDS.**

5 (a) MAINTENANCE OF INFORMATION.—Beginning
6 not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall maintain
8 information relating to the administration of the Animal
9 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and the Horse Protec-
10 tion Act (15 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.), including the following:

11 (1) The entirety of each report of any inspec-
12 tion conducted, and record of any enforcement ac-
13 tion taken, under—

14 (A) the Animal Welfare Act or the Horse
15 Protection Act; and

16 (B) any regulation issued under those
17 Acts.

18 (2) With respect to the Animal Welfare Act—

19 (A) the entirety of each annual report sub-
20 mitted by a research facility under section 13 of
21 that Act (7 U.S.C. 2143); and

22 (B) the name, address, and license or reg-
23 istration number of each research facility, ex-
24 hibitor, dealer, and other person or establish-
25 ment—

1 (i) licensed by the Secretary under
2 section 3 or 12 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
3 2133, 2142); or

4 (ii) registered with the Secretary
5 under section 6 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
6 2136).

7 (3) With respect to the Horse Protection Act,
8 the name and address of—

9 (A) any person that is licensed to conduct
10 any inspection under section 4(c) of that Act
11 (15 U.S.C. 1823(c)); or

12 (B) any organization or association that is
13 licensed by the Department of Agriculture to
14 promote horses through—

15 (i) the showing, exhibiting, sale, auc-
16 tion, or registry of horses; or

17 (ii) the conduct of any activity that
18 contributes to the advancement of horses.

19 (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The
20 information required to be maintained under subsection
21 (a) shall promptly be made available to the public in an
22 online searchable database in a machine-readable format
23 on the website of the Department of Agriculture.

1 **SEC. 822. PROHIBITING THE TRADE OF DOG AND CAT**
2 **MEAT.**

3 The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 30. PROHIBITION OF SLAUGHTER OF DOGS AND CATS**
6 **FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

7 “(a) PROHIBITION.—No person may—

8 “(1) knowingly slaughter a dog or cat for
9 human consumption; or

10 “(2) knowingly ship, transport, move, deliver,
11 receive, possess, purchase, sell, or donate—

12 “(A) a dog or cat to be slaughtered for
13 human consumption; or

14 “(B) dog or cat parts for human consump-
15 tion.

16 “(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates this section
17 shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than 1 year,
18 or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both.

19 “(c) SCOPE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only with re-
20 spect to conduct in or affecting interstate or foreign com-
21 merce or within the special maritime and territorial juris-
22 diction of the United States.

23 “(d) CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW.—This section
24 shall not be construed to limit any State or local law or
25 regulations protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent
26 a State or local governing body from adopting and enforce-

1 ing animal welfare laws and regulations that are more
2 stringent than this section.”.

3 **TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD**
4 **SYSTEMS**

5 **Subtitle A—Expanding Support for**
6 **Local and Regional Food Systems**

7 **SEC. 901. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of the Congress that:

9 (1) Local and regional food systems provide
10 jobs and economic opportunity for farmers and
11 ranchers, businesses, entrepreneurs, and employees
12 across the United States who cultivate, harvest,
13 store, process, market, and distribute food, particu-
14 larly in rural areas.

15 (2) Local and regional food systems provide
16 meaningful access to healthy, fresh, and affordable
17 foods that are grown and processed closer to mar-
18 kets, especially in food deserts and other under-
19 served areas.

20 (3) Local and regional food systems lower the
21 carbon footprint of America’s food system by grow-
22 ing, processing, distributing, and consuming prod-
23 ucts locally and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

24 (4) Local and regional food systems foster
25 American resiliency and independence by helping

1 communities become less dependent on external food
2 sources.

3 (5) Local and regional food systems increase
4 accountability for farmers, ranchers, and others em-
5 ployed in the field to engage in sustainable and eth-
6 ical practices.

7 (6) By supporting the growth and advancement
8 of local and regional food systems, the people of the
9 United States are investing in an environmentally
10 and economically resilient food and agriculture sys-
11 tem that provides opportunity and livelihoods for
12 farmers, ranchers, businesses, and employees
13 throughout the economy.

14 **SEC. 902. EXPANDING THE FOOD LEVERAGING INVEST-**
15 **MENT FOR NETWORK COORDINATION (LINC)**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VALUE CHAIN COOR-
18 DINATORS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall expand
19 Rural Development Agency participation in the Food
20 Leveraging Investment for Network Coordination (LINC)
21 program, a public-private partnership to enhance regional
22 food-value chains, to deploy during each of fiscal years
23 2019 through 2023 at least 25 full-time value chain coor-
24 dinators to provide local food sector coordination services.

1 (b) LOCATION OF VALUE CHAIN COORDINATORS.—

2 The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that at least 5
3 value chain coordinators deployed under subsection (a) are
4 located in each of the following:

5 (1) The Pacific Northwest region of the United
6 States.

7 (2) The Northeast region of the United States.

8 (3) The Western region of the United States.

9 (4) The Midwest region of the United States.

10 (5) The Southern region of the United States.

11 (c) COORDINATION SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The du-
12 ties of a value chain coordinator include the following:

13 (1) Identifying and connecting interested per-
14 sons through short-term engagement, helping to
15 build relationships across the food value chain by en-
16 gaging interested persons, maintaining communica-
17 tion channels, and fostering a trusting environment
18 among interested persons.

19 (2) Identifying and pursuing resources, such as
20 grants, loans, and services to support value-chain
21 collaborators as they develop their enterprises.

22 (3) Raising policy issues and partnering with
23 interested persons to address policies and procure-
24 ment requirements.

1 (4) Working with food chain members to build
2 capacity through education and training programs in
3 such areas as organics and other sustainable produc-
4 tion practices, food safety, marketing, and branding.

5 (5) Utilizing grants and other external re-
6 sources to test new business models to help lower
7 the financial risk of businesses engaged in the value
8 chain.

9 (d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
10 it Corporation, the Secretary of the Agriculture shall use
11 to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
12 years 2019 through 2023.

13 **SEC. 903. ENSURING SUCCESS OF REGIONAL FOOD**
14 **PROJECTS UNDER THE BUSINESS AND IN-**
15 **DUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.**

16 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the
17 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
18 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(v) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL AS-
21 SISTANCE.—Not more than 5 percent of
22 the amounts reserved under clause (iv) for
23 each fiscal year shall be used for outreach,
24 and to provide marketing and technical as-
25 sistance through Federal entities, and

1 through State and private universities and
2 nonprofit entities (including by contract),
3 to potential recipients of a loan or loan
4 guarantee under this subparagraph, to en-
5 sure the full utilization of any such loan or
6 loan guarantee.”.

7 (b) INCREASE IN FUNDING.—Section
8 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “5” and in-
10 serting “10”.

11 **SEC. 904. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIALTY CROP**
12 **BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
14 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2018” and
16 inserting “2023”; and

17 (2) in subsection (l)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
19 “and”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and
21 each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting a
22 semicolon; and

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

24 “(F) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

25 and

1 “(G) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2020
2 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

3 **Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional**
4 **Food Infrastructure**

5 **SEC. 911. SUPPORTING REGIONAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**
6 **ASSESSMENT AND COLLABORATIVE PLAN-**
7 **NING.**

8 (a) SUPPORT FOR REGION-WIDE ASSESSMENT AND
9 COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROJECTS.—Section 6(b) of
10 the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976
11 (7 U.S.C. 3005(b)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
13 (1);

14 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
15 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(3) full value chain assessments at the local
19 and regional levels, as well as projects by entities de-
20 scribed in subsection (c) that maximize efficient use
21 of existing food related infrastructure, identify gaps
22 in that infrastructure, and address such gaps.”.

23 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
24 tion 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing

1 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
4 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
5 shall use to carry out this section \$80,000,000 for
6 each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

7 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Paragraph (4) of
8 section 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing
9 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 “(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
12 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
13 year after fiscal year 2018—

14 “(A) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
15 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
16 (1) of subsection (b);

17 “(B) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
18 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
19 (2) of such subsection; and

20 “(C) not more than 20 percent of the
21 funds may be used for the purposes described
22 in paragraph (3) of such subsection.”.

1 **SEC. 912. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY CHAIN**
2 **INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS AND LOANS.**

3 Subtitle D of title III of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 379I. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY**
7 **CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
9 provide grants or make or insure loans under any of the
10 programs authorized by this Act, the Agricultural Mar-
11 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.), or the Rural
12 Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), as the
13 Secretary determines to be appropriate, to assist farmers
14 and rural businesses and cooperatives to maintain or in-
15 crease the production, aggregation, processing, distribu-
16 tion, and marketing of value-added, niche, or regionally-
17 marketed meat, dairy, and poultry products.

18 “(b) PRIORITY.—In implementing subsection (a), the
19 Secretary shall give priority to grants or loans that will
20 help increase or enhance the availability and geographic
21 distribution of State- and Department of Agriculture-in-
22 spected small processing facilities.

23 “(c) SMALL PROCESSING FACILITY DEFINED.—In
24 this section, the term ‘small processing facility’ means—

25 “(1) with respect to an establishment that is
26 subject to the requirements of the Federal Meat In-

1 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), a certain small
2 establishment that is eligible to be selected under
3 section 501(b) of such Act; or

4 “(2) a selected establishment (as defined in sec-
5 tion 31(a) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act
6 (21 U.S.C. 472(a))).”.

7 **Subtitle C—Expanding Accessi-**
8 **bility of Federal Grant Pro-**
9 **grams**

10 **SEC. 921. PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDED**
11 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
12 **MOTION PROGRAM PROJECTS.**

13 Section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Mar-
14 keting Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is amended by adding
15 at the end the following new subsection:

16 “(h) PROJECT DATABASE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, not later
18 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
19 subsection, shall publish, and update on an annual
20 basis, on the Internet website of the Department of
21 Agriculture a database, in a machine-readable for-
22 mat, that contains information with respect to any
23 project with respect to which a grant was awarded
24 under this section in the previous fiscal year.

1 “(2) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The database
2 under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to
3 each project for which a grant was awarded under
4 this section in the previous fiscal year—

5 “(A) a general overview of such project, in-
6 cluding a summary of, the timeline, goals, and
7 objectives for, and key partners and other
8 stakeholders involved in, such project;

9 “(B) the steps taken to carry out such
10 project;

11 “(C) any materials used to carry out such
12 project;

13 “(D) the delivery area of the project;

14 “(E) the total project cost and any non-
15 Federal funding sources for such project costs;

16 “(F) a general description of project bene-
17 ficiaries; and

18 “(G) the results of such project.”.

19 **SEC. 922. STREAMLINING OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD**
20 **PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
22 shall, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, identify procedures that coordinate and
24 streamline the application process for local and regional
25 food programs without compromising program or applica-

1 tion quality. The Secretary shall identify such procedures
2 with respect to each of the following:

3 (1) Streamlining application forms.

4 (2) Removing repetition from forms and the on-
5 line toolkit used to complete such applications.

6 (3) To the extent possible, accepting applica-
7 tions electronically (including through email).

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
11 2019 through 2023.

12 **Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing** 13 **Field for Small Farmers**

14 **SEC. 931. ENSURING FAIR PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE.**

15 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall imple-
17 ment, without amendment, the final rule entitled “Unfair
18 Practices and Undue Preferences in Violation of the Pack-
19 ers and Stockyards Act” and published in the Federal
20 Register by the Department of Agriculture on December
21 20, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 92703).

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