

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1479

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to improve the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. THUNE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

---

## A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to improve the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs, and for other purposes.

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

3       **SECTION 1. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AS-**  
4                   **SISTANCE.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1501 of the Agricultural  
6       Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) is amended—

7                   (1) in subsection (b)(1)—  
8                          (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
9                          (A), by striking “2012” and inserting “2019”;

- 1                             (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”  
2                             at the end;  
3                             (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
4                             period at the end and inserting “; or”; and  
5                             (D) by adding at the end the following:  
6                                 “(C) disease in livestock that has been ex-  
7                             acerbated by adverse weather described in sub-  
8                             paragraph (B)—  
9                                 “(i) subject to the condition that a li-  
10                             censed veterinarian shall verify that the  
11                             adverse weather created conditions contrib-  
12                             uting to the livestock death; and  
13                                 “(ii) without regard to any manage-  
14                             ment practice, vaccination protocol, or lack  
15                             of vaccination by the producer relating to  
16                             the disease.”;
- 17                             (2) in subsection (c)—  
18                                 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
19                             ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2012”  
20                             and inserting “2019”; and  
21                                 (B) in paragraph (3)(D)(ii)(I)—  
22                                 (i) by striking “at least 8 consecutive”  
23                             and inserting the following: “not less  
24                             than—

1                         “(aa) 4 consecutive weeks  
2                         during the normal grazing period  
3                         for the county, as determined by  
4                         the Secretary, shall be eligible to  
5                         receive assistance under this  
6                         paragraph in an amount equal to  
7                         1 monthly payment using the  
8                         monthly payment rate deter-  
9                         mined under subparagraph (B);  
10                         or  
11                         “(bb) 8 consecutive”; and  
12                         (ii) in item (bb) (as so designated), by  
13                         striking “1 monthly payment” and insert-  
14                         ing “2 monthly payments”; and  
15                         (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “2012”  
16                         and inserting “2019”.  
17                         (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
18                         this section take effect on October 1, 2018.

19                         **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS FOR GRAZ-**  
20                         **ING LEASES AND PERMITS.**

21                         Section 402(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
22                         agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752(a)) is amended by  
23                         striking “lands within National Forests” and inserting  
24                         “National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of

- 1 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning
- 2 Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)) land”.

○