

The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024

Section-by-Section Summary

TITLE I—Commodities

Subtitle A – Commodity Policy

Sec. 1101. Definitions

- Changes the definition of “effective reference price” by updating the formula for the 2025 through 2029 crop years to incorporate recent high price years.
- Increases by 5% the statutory reference price for commodities such as seed cotton, rice, and peanuts that have not or are not expected to benefit from the existing escalator.

Sec. 1102. Base Acres

- Provides for a limited opportunity for underserved producers that own or operate a farm to establish new base acres or add base acres if recent plantings exceed the existing base acres.

Sec. 1103. Payment Yields

- Establishes the parameters for farms that lack a payment yield and for which new base acres are established.

Sec. 1104. Payment Acres

- Carries forward current law on payment acres for the 2025 through 2029 crop years.
- Restricts commodity program payments from being made on land owned by an individual or legal entity for which the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) exceeds \$700,000 to discourage further investor purchases, which would restrict, for the first time, wealthy investors and absentee landlords from benefitting from farm safety net programs intended to support the active farmers that are taking the risk and producing the crops.

Sec. 1105. Producer Election

- Maintains the annual choice for producers to choose between Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) on a crop-by-crop basis. Provides clarity that the farm program election for producers will continue for those who do not change their farm program election.

Sec. 1106. Price Loss Coverage

- Establishes that for the 2025 through 2029 crop years, PLC payments will be based on the difference between the newly-improved effective reference price and the effective price for each covered commodity.
- Establishes a payment band on PLC based on 20% of the effective reference price, similar to the payment band on ARC based on 10% of the revenue guarantee.

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Sec. 1107. Agriculture Risk Coverage

- Increases the ARC guarantee to 88% of the benchmark revenue for the 2025 through 2029 crop years.

Subtitle B – Marketing Loans

Sec. 1201. Extensions

- Includes extensions for provisions under Subtitle B of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Sec. 1202. Loan Rates for Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans

- Establishes a cost-of-production escalator on marketing assistance loans based on a comparison of the estimated cost of production from USDA's Economic Research Service to the five-year average cost of production, which will provide a higher floor price and improved low-cost credit option that is targeted to producers actually incurring the expenses and producing a crop that year. If the estimated cost of production is higher than the five-year average in any of the 2025 through 2029 crop years, the loan rates for that crop year will increase by the same percentage, up to 110% of the statutory loan rate.

Sec. 1203. Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills

- Increases the rate for payments made under the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills program from 3 cents to 4 cents to encourage domestic use and support U.S. jobs.

Sec. 1204. Special Competitive Provisions for Extra-Long Staple Cotton

- Extends current law for special competitiveness provisions for extra-long staple cotton through July 31, 2030.

Sec. 1205. Availability of Recourse Loans

- Extends current law for the availability of recourse loans through 2029.

Subtitle C – Sugar

Sec. 1301. Sugar Policy

- Increases sugar loan rates and adjusts the relationship between raw sugar and refined sugar to reflect more recent production and transportation costs.
- Restricts the Secretary's authority to increase the quota for imports of raw sugar prior to April 1. Assures that USDA can only adjust the tariff rate quota for raw sugar imports before April 1 in response to specific emergency situations to align with longstanding Congressional intent.
- Modernizes beet sugar marketing allotments and allocations.

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- Requires the Secretary to reallocate any forecasted shortfall in the fulfillment of the minimum tariff rate quotas for raw cane sugar by March 1 in order to facilitate the orderly marketing and supply of sugar in the United States.

Subtitle D – Dairy

Part I – Dairy Margin Coverage

Sec. 1401. Dairy Margin Coverage

- Extends the authorization of the Dairy Margin Coverage Program through December 31, 2029.
- Updates production history for participating dairy operations, based on the highest production in any one of the 2021, 2022, or 2023 calendar years to ensure meaningful risk protection based on recent production rather than outdated production history from 2011-2013.
- Increases the quantity of milk eligible for Tier I coverage by 20%, from 5 million pounds to 6 million pounds.
- Extends the option for producers to receive an additional 25% discount on their premium cost by locking-in their coverage level and coverage percentage for five years.

Part II – Reauthorizations and Related Provisions

Sec. 1411. Reauthorizations

- Extends the authorization of the Dairy Forward Pricing Program through December 31, 2029.
- Extends the authorization of the Dairy Indemnity Program through fiscal year 2029.
- Extends the authorization of the Dairy Promotion and Research Program, which funds foreign market development efforts through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 1412. Related Provisions

- Directs the Department of Agriculture to improve collection of organic dairy market data.
- Directs the Department of Agriculture to conduct mandatory surveys of dairy plants every two years to estimate the average costs of manufacturing dairy products (i.e., “make allowance”).

Subtitle E – Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

Sec. 1501. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

- Includes unweaned livestock as eligible for compensation through livestock disaster programs.
- Improves the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) by ensuring farmers are paid based on more accurate market data by requiring the Secretary in coordination with the

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Agricultural Marketing Service to update livestock market values on a quarterly basis and directing USDA to use the livestock weight categories specified in regulation.

- Directs USDA to more accurately adjust for normal mortality to streamline access to assistance for depredation losses covered by the LIP.
- Expands coverage to include losses of winter stockpile grazing, as well as transportation costs for feed and water due to shortages during drought through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) program.
- Amends the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to:
 - Eliminate the requirement that tree mortality exceed 15% (adjusted for normal mortality) for eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to access TAP;
 - Clarify that a TAP recipient may use assistance to replant using alternative varieties, crops, stand density, and location;
 - Give TAP recipients 2 years to carry out replacement or rehabilitation activities;
 - Expand access to crops grown on a biennial cycle; and
 - Add pest infestation as an eligible natural disaster.

Sec. 1502. Disaster Assistance Authorization

- Authorizes and provides an authorization of appropriations for a permanent standing disaster program, which will provide a consistent framework for potential future ad hoc funding from Congress to speed up the delivery of disaster assistance.
- Establishes a mechanism to pre-position appropriated funds to be available for use as disasters occur, similar to other disaster programs like the Emergency Conservation Program.
- Requires that any producer receiving assistance under this program be required to purchase Federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for the next two years.

Subtitle F – Noninsured Crop Assistance

Sec. 1601. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

- This section makes enhancements to the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to provide better protection for farmers who do not have access to crop insurance, and to help facilitate the transition of producers into the crop insurance program.
- Provides for a whole farm option for coverage for beginning farmers.
- Provides flexibility for beginning farmers to establish a revenue guarantee.
- Directs data coordination between the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency to facilitate the use of historical production records for crop insurance policies and to ensure that data can be used to establish new crop insurance products for crops for which coverage does not currently exist or is lacking.
- Codifies recent administrative action to provide for automatic enrollment in catastrophic coverage for underserved producers.

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- Directs the establishment of a streamlined process for submission of records and acreage reports to assist producers to graduate on a voluntary basis to Whole Farm Revenue Protection or Micro Farm insurance by establishing the requisite actual production history.
- Clarifies that producers that rely on community ditches, including acequia systems, are eligible for NAP.
- Provides for increased buy-up coverage levels up to 70% and 75% coverage for non-forage crops, with associated premium fees for such coverage levels.
- Removes average AGI eligibility requirements and increases the payment limit on indemnities.
- Applies sequestration consistently to both the premiums paid and the indemnity payments instead of only the indemnities.

Subtitle G – Administration

Sec. 1701. Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority

- Extends current law for the suspension of permanent price support authority in the Agriculture Marketing Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1949 through 2029.

Sec. 1702. Commodity Program Payments on Land Owned by Foreign Persons.

- Restricts commodity program payments from being made on land owned by foreign persons.

Sec. 1703. Adjusted Gross Income Limitations

- Updates eligibility requirements to better target assistance to those who need it, by accommodating producers of specialty and other high-value crops, and by providing exceptions in the disaster programs when producers experience a severe decline in production:
 - Closes a loophole that allows some farmers to avoid average AGI requirements.
 - Reduces the average AGI limitation to \$700,000 with an exception for specialty and high-value crop producers.
 - Establishes an average AGI limitation of \$1,500,000 for specialty and high-value crop producers.
 - Provides a waiver from AGI requirements for economically distressed producers in the disaster programs.
 - Maintains the existing AGI waiver for environmentally sensitive land of special significance for covered conservation programs.
 - Removes AGI requirements from eligibility for NAP.

Sec. 1704. Farm Program Implementation Coordination

- Directs coordination with the Office of Customer Experience and the Office of Digital Service in implementation of streamlining provisions in Section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Sec. 1705. Legal Entities

- For purposes of payment limitations, provides that a legal entity includes a legal entity created under Tribal law.

Sec. 1706. Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Increases to \$20 million per fiscal year the total amount of direct reimbursement payments allowed to be made to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under Section 1621 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

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Sec. 2001. Definitions

- Adds definitions of “Indian land”, “precision agriculture”, and “precision agriculture technology”.

Subtitle A – Wetland Conservation

Sec. 2101. Mitigation Banking

- Permanently authorizes \$5 million in appropriations for each fiscal year.

Subtitle B – Conservation Reserve Program (including Farmable Wetland Program)

Sec. 2201. Conservation Reserve

- Permanently authorizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and all of its subsidiary programs, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Farmable Wetlands Program, Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR), Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP), and State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) Program.
- Gradually increases the total CRP acreage cap from 27 million to 29 million acres between fiscal years 2025 and 2029, and then holds the permanent authorization at 29 million acres.
- Increases the minimum CRP Grasslands acreage from 2 million to 10 million acres and adds a grasslands enrollment acreage cap of 12 million acres.
- Expands the definition of eligible grassland for enrollment in CRP Grassland to include rangeland, pastureland, and pastureland devoted to silvopasture.
- Adds a priority for enrollment under CRP Grasslands for native grasslands.
- Expands the definition of eligible land under CRP to include lands that are required by local law to be treated for water quality issues.
- Clarifies the definition of eligible land under CREP to include additional rural land that will have a positive impact on water quality and be devoted to a riparian buffer if enrolled.
- Increases the percentage of program acres to be enrolled in the CLEAR Initiative from 40% to 45% of acres.
- Expands eligibility for Continuous Enrollment to include the farmable wetland program, CLEAR30, SHIPP, and land that will be enrolled under a State Acres for Wildlife enhancement practice.
- Continues the current enrollment floor for Continuous Enrollment at 8.6 million acres.
- Allows owners and operators with enrolled land devoted to riparian buffers and forest farming to specify the duration of their contract.
- Allows land planted with multi-year grasses and legumes to be considered to have a cropping history for the purposes of program eligibility.
- Allows land that includes grazing infrastructure established using cost-share assistance under CRP to reenroll upon expiration of the existing contract.
- Directs the Secretary to consider drought resilience and climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience in addition to the existing natural resource purposes of soil

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erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat when determining the acceptability of contract offers.

Sec. 2202. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Expands the definition of “eligible partner” under CREP to include Tribal organizations.
- Authorizes CREP agreements to determine whether payments occur in equal annual payments over the contract term or whether initial payments are made at a higher initial rate to assist in covering the capital costs of transitioning from irrigated to non-irrigated practices on acres enrolled in a Drought CREP agreement.
- Authorizes dryland agricultural uses and grazing to be included in the list of conservation practices specified in a CREP agreement.
- Creates an option for streamlined contract updates for existing CREP partners and participants to adopt new authorities established through this Farm Bill into existing agreements.
- Establishes a new producer payment structure for Drought and Water Conservation CREP Agreements that pay for retirement of water rights and the adoption of dryland agricultural uses and clarifies the terms of Drought and Water Conservation CREP Agreements.
- Requires the Secretary to identify obstacles that prevented or prolonged finalizing an agreement and make recommendations to address those obstacles in the program implementation report.

Sec. 2203. Farmable Wetland Program

- Permanently authorizes the Farmable Wetland Program.

Sec. 2204. Special Programs

- Makes improvements to CLEAR30 by:
 - Permanently authorizing the CLEAR30 program to allow 30-year conservation reserve contracts;
 - Allowing owners and operators enrolled in a CLEAR contract to transition to a CLEAR30 contract; and
 - Establishing parity for Tribal governments and organizations within the CLEAR30 program by adding them to the list of eligible entities to which the Secretary may delegate maintenance, management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities over CLEAR30 contracts.
- Makes improvements to SHIPP by:
 - Permanently authorizing and expanding SHIPP to provide an option to farmers to convert low productivity or high-risk cropland to working grasslands to support forage, livestock, wildlife and conservation;
 - Expanding eligibility for enrollment in SHIPP from the Prairie Pothole Region to be nationwide through the continuous enrollment procedure;
 - Adding flexibility and updating cost share for establishing conservation covers;

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- Allowing nonprofit conservation organizations or other non-federal entities to provide payments to owners and operators enrolled in SHIPP contracts in exchange for an agreement from the owner or operator not to harvest the conserving use cover;
- Within the now national SHIPP, directing the Secretary to prioritize eligibility and enrollment toward high-risk counties and fields using data from crop insurance, disaster programs, and prevented planting reporting to encourage conversion of marginal and high-risk areas into resource conserving working lands uses; and
- Increasing the annual rental rate for SHIPP contract payments from 50% to 75% of the average county rental rate, with caps based on commodity program and crop insurance risks and indemnities to control costs and ensure that more productive land is not enrolled.
- Establishes a CRP Agroforestry Pilot Program that allows owners and operators to enroll eligible land to implement and maintain agroforestry systems that conserve and improve soil, water, and wildlife resources.

Sec. 2205. Conservation Reserve Easements

- Establishes a Conservation Reserve Easement program and requires the Secretary to offer to enroll land subject to an expired covered contract into a conservation reserve easement.

Sec. 2206. Duties of the Secretary

- Eliminates emergency haying during the primary nesting season but maintains allowable emergency grazing during the primary nesting season and provides greater flexibility on emergency grazing outside of the primary nesting season.
- Amends emergency haying and emergency grazing triggers to be based off of the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- Authorizes restoration of native plant species and prescribed burning (when done in consultation with State technical committees) on CRP Grasslands.
- Directs the Secretary to establish long-term monitoring of conservation outcomes from program enrollments and pilot projects to determine program results in terms of soil conservation, soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality and quantity, and biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Sec. 2207. Payments

- Authorizes cost-share payments, including seed cost, for establishing water quality and conservation measures and practices, with a 35% cost-share available for practices focused on establishing non-native habitat and a 50% cost share for all other establishment costs.
- Establishes a cap on the inflation adjustment that the Secretary may apply when determining annual rental payments based on an analysis of local rental rate trends.
- Authorizes State technical committees to select up to three water quality and conservation practices eligible for an increased 65% cost-share on the condition that the practices either (1) provide specific benefits in restoring high-conservation-value habitats or

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improving water quality or aquifer and groundwater recharge, or (2) are aligned with the State's climate plan.

- Authorizes the Secretary to make supplemental payments on CRP contracts, including for mid-contract management activities, forest management, the establishment of grazing infrastructure and water infrastructure, prescribed burning, or the transfer of land to new and beginning farmers.
- For land re-enrolled into the program, increases the rental rates from 85% to 95% for general enrollment contracts and from 90% to 100% for continuous enrollment contracts.
- Increases the rental rate limitation based on the county average soil rental rate (prior to adjustment for specific practices), from 85% to 95% for general enrollment and from 90% to 100% for continuous enrollment.
- Increases the limitation on total rental payments a person or legal entity may receive under the program from \$50,000 to \$125,000 to align with payment limits available under commodity programs.

Sec. 2208. Contracts

- Amends the Transition Incentive Program to also allow covered farmers, ranchers and contract holders to transition some or all of the land applicable to the contract into agroforestry or other productive perennial systems during the transition contract.
- Establishes rules for owner and operator election to transition eligible land under a conservation reserve easement.
- Authorizes owners and operators who are party to a CRP contract eligible for enrollment of the same land in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), as long as the owner or operator does not receive a double payment for establishing the same conservation practice under multiple programs.

Sec. 2209. Technical Corrections.

- Makes technical and conforming edits.

Subtitle C – Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program

Part I – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Sec. 2301. Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Purposes

- Expands the purposes of EQIP to include: 1) promoting environmental quality and climate change adaptation and mitigation as compatible goals with agricultural production and forest management; 2) assisting producers with complying with local, State, and national regulatory requirements concerning climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience; and 3) providing flexible assistance to producers to install and maintain conservation practices that sustain food and fiber production while sequestering

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carbon, increasing drought resilience, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and conserving energy.

Sec. 2302. Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Definitions

- Amends the definition of “incentive practice” to include land and livestock management practices.
- Amends the definition of “practice” to include native habitat restoration, planning for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and planning for the adoption of precision agriculture practices and precision agriculture technology.
- Amends the definition of “priority resource concern” to include natural resource concerns or problems identified by Tribal governments and that represent significant concerns on Tribal land.

Sec. 2303. Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Establishment and Administration

- Expands the calculation of payments for foregone income to allow the Secretary to accord greater significance to practices that promote greenhouse gas emissions reductions as part of air quality improvement.
- Authorizes a producer receiving payments for EQIP practices on eligible land to also receive a loan or loan guarantee under the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program and requires the Secretary to notify producers participating in EQIP that they may be eligible to participate in the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program.
- Directs State technical committees to consult with Tribal conservation advisory councils for Tribal land when selecting state high-priority practices that receive an increased cost-share under EQIP.
- Authorizes State technical committees to select high-priority practices that further efforts to implement a State, Tribe, or locality’s climate adaptation and resilience plan.
- Authorizes the Secretary to pay up to 75% of the cost associated with livestock management practices that reduce enteric methane emissions, including the cost of methane-inhibiting products for livestock.
- Continues the 50% livestock set-aside for EQIP funding not appropriated under the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Creates a 10% set-aside of EQIP funds for payments for practices implemented on small farms.
- Continues the 10% wildlife habitat set-aside and the wildlife habitat incentive program.
- Clarifies the Secretary’s waiver authority for the limitations in sections 1001D(b) and 1240G for water management entities to ensure they are eligible to participate in EQIP.
- Establishes payment cap parity for the separate competitive pool for organic producers by increasing that cap from \$140,000 to \$450,000 over a five-year period.
- Allows the Secretary and State technical committees to establish conservation incentive contracts in regions of the state where emissions of nitrous oxide or methane, or carbon storage, are a priority resource concern.

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- Authorizes conservation incentive contract payments for certain incentive practices that attain increased reductions of greenhouse gas emissions or increased levels of carbon storage.
- Allows participants in conservation incentive contracts to reduce the term of their contract in order to enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).
- Directs the Secretary to submit an annual report describing the amount of funding obligated with respect to each category of practice by state and the amount obligated under the program in each state, categorized by the size of operation.
- Directs the Secretary to provide for streamlined and coordinated procedures between EQIP and CSP.

Sec. 2304. Environmental Quality Incentives Program Plan

- Requires producers with confined livestock feeding operations to submit a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, in addition to the currently required comprehensive nutrient management plan, in order to be eligible to receive payments under the program.

Sec. 2305. Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Limitation on Payments

- Continues the \$450,000 five-year payment limitation for each person or legal entity for all contracts entered into under the program.

Sec. 2306. Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments

- Directs the Secretary to provide Conservation Innovation Grants for the development and evaluation of new and innovative conservation approaches, including for the purpose of establishing new conservation practice standards.
- Continues the current mandatory funding level of \$37.5 million for producers implementing practices to address air quality concerns from agricultural operations.
- Expands the types of “new or innovative conservation approaches” funded through On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials to include on-farm nutrient recycling, perennial production systems including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops, and livestock-related practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions including enteric methane emissions.
- Doubles the funding for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials from \$25 million to \$50 million for each fiscal year and directs that 50% of the funding be used for Soil Health Demonstration Trials.
- Directs the Secretary to conduct one or more studies on the changes in methane emissions and economic outcomes generated as a result of livestock-related practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including enteric methane emissions, and report on the results.
- Directs the Secretary to expand the current report on On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials to include any barriers to or best practices for the adoption of new and innovative conservation approaches.
- Requires the Secretary to publish public-facing reports submitted by partners that contain the results of the On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials conducted under this program.

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- Requires the Secretary to use the data collected from the results of On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials to evaluate data for new and emergency technology, make recommendations for State and regional applications of studied conservation practices, and consider practices studied under this program for establishment as new conservation practice standards.

Part II – Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 2311. Conservation Stewardship Program—Definitions

- Expands the definition of “conservation activities” to include conservation enhancements, livestock management practices, and activities that will assist the producer in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, including enteric methane emissions.

Sec. 2312. Conservation Stewardship Program—Stewardship Contracts

- Expands the list of criteria the Secretary may consider in ranking applications to include criteria related to targeting improvements to soil health to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to address other national, State, Tribal, and local priority resource concerns.

Sec. 2313. Conservation Stewardship Program—Duties of the Secretary

- Authorizes the Secretary to provide annual payments on one or more types of eligible land covered by a contract.
- Clarifies the calculation of payments for income forgone by a producer to include payments for increased economic risk and losses in revenue due to production changes, anticipated reductions in yield, transitioning to an organic resource-conserving system, or acreage converted to conservation uses.
- Establishes a minimum payment of \$4,000.
- Authorizes the Secretary to make payments for conservation activities related to organic production systems and transitioning to organic production.
- Authorizes the Secretary to make supplemental payments for livestock feed management that minimizes excess nutrients in surface water and groundwater or reduces emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Directs the Secretary to allow soil testing as an eligible conservation activity under a conservation stewardship contract and to incentivize nationwide collection of soil testing data to provide broader soil health analysis.

Sec. 2314. Conservation Stewardship Program—Pastureland Conservation and Gulf Hypoxia Reduction Initiative

- Establishes a new, one-time CSP subprogram focused on enrollment of up to 500,000 acres of native or improved pastureland used for livestock grazing in the Lower Mississippi River Valley to address water quality issues leading to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Subtitle D – Other Conservation Programs

Sec. 2401. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention

- Expands the definition of an eligible “work of improvement” to include multi-benefit projects that address public benefits or ecosystem services in addition to addressing flood prevention, water management, and land conservation.
- Requires that an eligible “work of improvement” contain benefits directly related to agriculture, conservation, or communities in rural areas.
- Expands the definition of “local organization” to include nongovernmental organizations with the capacity to engage in the planning or land treatment activities required for a work of improvement or the authority to construct and maintain structural measures.
- Authorizes State Conservationists to approve local organizations to outsource preliminary investigations and pre-planning activities to third parties.
- Authorizes sponsors to use Federal funds received from departments or agencies other than the Department of Agriculture to be used as part of the non-Federal share of the cost of the work of improvement.
- Directs the Secretary to review and update engineering standards and requirements in collaboration with State Conservationists and State technical committees to identify acceptable variances from national engineering standards that are suited to the geomorphology and purposes for which works of improvement are established within each state. Allows State Conservationists and State technical committees to consult with local municipalities undertaking works of improvement when developing variance requests.
- Authorizes the Secretary, when carrying out the cost-benefit analysis required when selecting works of improvement, to quantify the benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality to the extent practicable if insufficient data exists to monetize them accurately.
- Increases the maximum amount of loan or advancement allowed under the program from \$5 million to \$10 million.
- Requires the Secretary to publicly share data collected and maintained on expenditures under this program for individual flood control, conservation, and drought resilience, in addition to the expected environmental benefits that will result from such expenditures.

Sec. 2402. Soil and Water Resources Conservation

- Permanently extends USDA’s strategic assessment and planning authority for conservation, protection, and enhancement of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Sec. 2403. Emergency Conservation Programs

- Expands the scope of eligible cost shares under the Emergency Conservation Program to include repair and replacement of fencing and replacement or restoration of farmland or conservation structures in response to a natural disaster. Expands eligibility for the Emergency Conservation Program to include wildfires caused by the Federal Government.

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- Increases the timeline to deploy federal resources received through the Emergency Conservation Program from 60 to 180 days.
- Expands program eligibility to include producers holding a permit or lease from a Federal, State, or local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on Federal, State, or local land.
- Expands the types of emergency measures eligible for payments under the Emergency Conservation Program to include both permanent and temporary measures.
- Defines the “eligible purposes” of floodplain easements under the Emergency Watershed Program so that they may be used to restore, protect, maintain, and enhance hydrologic and other functions and values of floodplains, conserve natural ecosystems, and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and erosion.
- Authorizes the Secretary to restore the functions and values of wetlands on floodplain easements acquired by the Secretary through the Emergency Watershed Program.
- Requires the Secretary to restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor floodplain easements acquired through the Emergency Watershed Program.
- Permits the Secretary to authorize the use of an Emergency Watershed Program easement area by the landowner for compatible uses consistent with the long-term protection of the floodplain, riparian, wetland, and associated lands and natural values of the easement area.
- Establishes a deadline by which the State Conservationist must obligate funds and complete construction of emergency watershed protection measures, other than floodplain easements, once funds are committed to the State Conservationist.
- Authorizes project sponsors participating in the Emergency Watershed Program to, in consultation and agreement with the Secretary, count applicable pre-agreement costs as part of the contribution of the sponsor toward the cost of the project.
- Expands eligibility to participate in the Emergency Forest Restoration Program to include an owner of nonindustrial private forest land, a person that receives consent from the landowner to carry out emergency measures and holds a lease on the land for a minimum of 10 years, and a person that holds a permit or lease from a Federal, State, or local government to conduct livestock grazing on the applicable Federal, State, or local forest land.
- Expands the definition of “eligible land” under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program to include nonindustrial private forest land and Federal, State, or local forest land on which livestock is authorized to graze through a permit or lease.
- Expands the definition of “natural disaster” under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program to include wildfires that were spread by natural causes but were caused by the Federal Government.
- Continues the existing cost share allowed under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.
- Authorizes the Secretary to provide advance payments under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program based on the estimated fair market value of the emergency measure

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based on the applicable practice published in the Field Office Technical Guide and gives producers 180 days to spend advanced funds.

Sec. 2404. Conservation of Private Grazing Land

- Permanently authorizes appropriations for the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative at \$60 million for each fiscal year.
- Expands the program to provide technical assistance and education to owners and managers of private grazing land and public agencies who want to plan, manage, and coordinate grazing in agrivoltaics systems.

Sec. 2405. Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

- Authorizes appropriations at \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Continues mandatory funding at \$5 million for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 2406. Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

- Extends the authorization for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program through fiscal year 2029.
- Continues mandatory funding for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program at \$50 million for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Continues the \$3 million set-aside within program funding available for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for providing public access to wetland reserve easements through agreements with state and Tribal governments.

Sec. 2407. Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program

- Continues mandatory funding for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program at \$75 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 2408. Report on Small Wetlands.

- Continues the requirement for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct a report on small wetlands.

Sec. 2409. Terminal Lakes Assistance

- Permanently extends the authority for the Terminal Lakes Assistance program.

Sec. 2410. Colorado River Salinity Control Units

- Amends the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify the reimbursable cost-share paid to the Basin States Program to address drought-induced funding shortfalls in the Lower Colorado Basin Development Fund.

Sec. 2411. Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative

- Authorizes a new Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative to assist producers in implementing conservation activities on agricultural land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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Sec. 2412. Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative

- Authorizes a new Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative to reduce erosion and restore cold water stream corridors in the Driftless Area of the Midwestern United States.

Sec. 2413. Expansion of NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting

- Expands NRCS snow survey and water supply forecasting to the Northeastern United States.

Subtitle E – Funding and Administration.

Sec. 2501. Permanent Authority and Baseline

- Permanently extends the Secretary’s authority to use the Commodity Credit Corporation to fund conservation programs for CRP, EQIP, CSP, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), including associated technical assistance.
- Rescinds funds provided for conservation programs under the Inflation Reduction Act to reallocate for and build into permanent baseline climate-smart practices within the EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and RCPP.
- Requires NRCS to publish a schedule for the revision of existing, and establishment of new, conservation practice standards.

Sec. 2502. Delivery of Technical Assistance

- Improves the certification of Third-Party Service Providers with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation planning, watershed planning, environmental engineering, conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation to provide technical assistance to producers participating in NRCS conservation programs.
- Streamlines the process for NRCS approval of interim and final conservation practice standards and requires NRCS to consider conservation innovations, scientific and technical advancements, traditional ecological knowledge, and the results of Conservation Innovation Grant On-Farm Trials to proactively establish new and update existing conservation practice standards.
- Directs NRCS to allow flexibility for State, Tribal, and local governments to create interim conservation practice standards particular to specific regions.
- Requires NRCS to complete a review of conservation practices standards, including for feed management, or new conservation practice standards that would be appropriate to assist in reducing enteric methane emissions.
- Authorizes NRCS to enter into cooperative agreements with farmer-to-farmer networks, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, units of local government, institutions of higher education, or States to build capacity for mentoring networks to support consistent, science-based, site-specific practices designed to achieve conservation objectives and to increase the provision of technical assistance that meets the specific needs of farmers, ranchers, and forest owners.

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Sec. 2503. Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs

- Extends the alternative funding arrangement authority for Tribal governments to include EQIP, ACEP, CSP, and RCPP.
- Allows the Secretary to encourage the conservation of landscape corridors and hydrologic connectivity in administering any conservation program administered by NRCS.

Sec. 2504. Best Practices Guidance for Solar Energy Land Management

- Directs the Chief of NRCS to collaborate with the Secretary of Energy and the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development to develop nationally and regionally relevant guidance on best practices for the protection of soil health and productivity during the siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of solar energy systems on agricultural land, and make such guidance publicly available.

Subtitle F – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2601. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Definitions

- Clarifies the definition of “buy-protect-sell transaction” and creates a definition of “buy-sell-protect transaction” to aid in the implementation of these transactions within the Agricultural Land Easement Program (ACEP-ALE).
- Amends the definition of “eligible land” to include land subject to a buy-sell-protect transaction.

Sec. 2602. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements

- Clarifies that assistance under ACEP-ALE is also available for buy-sell-protect transactions.
- Increases the level of general cost-share assistance from 50% to 60%, with not less than 40% of the fair market value of the easement provided by the eligible entity.
- Increases the level of cost-share assistance for establishing agricultural land easements on grasslands of special significance from 75% to 80%, with not less than 20% of the fair market value of the easement provided by the eligible entity.
- Clarifies and streamlines the process and criteria for the certification of eligible entities under ACEP-ALE.
- Creates an expedited certification process for public entities and accredited land trusts under ACEP-ALE.
- Authorizes entity certification under ACEP-ALE to also apply to the establishment of easements by such eligible entity under RCPP.
- Requires the Secretary to review eligible entities certified under the ACEP-ALE every 3 years to ensure that such entities are meeting eligibility criteria. For entities that no longer meet eligibility criteria, requires the Secretary to provide the certified eligible entity a specified period of time to take necessary actions to meet eligibility criteria, and revoke the eligible entity’s certification after the period lapses if the entity is still noncompliant.

TITLE II—Conservation

Sec. 2603. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Wetland Reserve Easements

- Directs the Secretary to provide technical and financial assistance to owners of eligible land under the Wetland Reserve Easement program (ACEP-WRE) to carry out the establishment of conservation measures and practices to protect wetland functions and values.
- Directs the Secretary to use funds available to engage in easement stewardship under ACEP-WRE by regularly assessing and monitoring land enrolled, provide technical and financial assistance for the repair and necessary maintenance and enhancement of activities in the easement plan, and create and execute 5-year stewardship plans to ensure that wetland reserve easements fulfill the purposes of the program and individual wetland reserve easement plans.
- Authorizes the Secretary to pay up to 100% of the eligible costs for stewardship activities carried out on wetland reserve easements.
- Directs the Secretary to submit to Congress a report describing an inventory of existing stewardship needs on wetland reserve easements, a plan to address the stewardship needs identified, the amounts the Secretary will allocate to address identified stewardship needs, and the planned use of compatible uses, contracts or agreements, or wetland reserve easement plans to ensure stewardship needs are addressed.
- Directs the Secretary to assist landowners in complying with the terms and conditions of a wetland reserve easement.
- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with Federal, State, Tribal, or local governments; nongovernmental organizations or Tribal organizations; or private entities to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of wetland reserve easements.

Sec. 2604. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Administration

- Authorizes the Secretary to approve and make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land, or portion of such interests, administered under ACEP under limited circumstances related to protecting conservation values, the public interest, and practical administration of the program.
- Authorizes eligible entities that are both certified under the ACEP-ALE and specifically authorized by the Secretary to make certain de minimis adjustments under limited circumstances and requires such entities to notify the Secretary of each de minimis adjustment made.
- Requires the Secretary to ensure that landowners comply with all applicable conservation compliance requirements and ensure that purchasers of land under agricultural land easements or wetland reserve easements are treated equitably.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a groundwater conservation easement program for the purchasing of eligible water rights either in perpetuity or for a term, and how establishing such a program may incentivize farmers and ranchers to discontinue irrigation practices and adopt groundwater conservation management practices.

TITLE II—Conservation

Sec. 2605. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

- Excludes the income a person or legal entity receives for the establishment of an agricultural land easement or wetland reserve easement from the calculation of that person or legal entity’s adjusted gross income for eligibility in other conservation programs.

Subtitle G – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Sec. 2701. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Establishment and Purposes

- References two additional region-specific conservation programs—the Water Bank Program and the Agricultural Management Assistance Program—that may be considered under the purposes of the program.
- Expands the purposes of the program to include (1) encouraging the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change; (2) engaging producers and eligible partners in innovative methods of conservation delivery or leveraging of the Federal investment; (3) establishing or implementing the soil health plan or program of a State or Tribal government; and (4) facilitating the conversion from concentrated animal feeding operations to climate-friendly agricultural production systems (including regenerative grazing, agroforestry, organic, and diversified crop and livestock production systems).

Sec. 2702. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Definitions

- Adds a definition of “conservation benefit” to streamline the agency’s interpretation of benefits identified in partnership agreements.
- Expands the definition of “eligible activity” to include activities that propose an innovative approach to conservation, conservation funding delivery, or leveraging of the Federal investment.
- Expands the definition of “eligible land” to include land that can be used for urban agriculture or other innovative production methods, and on which identified or expected resource concerns related to agricultural production can be addressed under the program.
- Expands the definition of “eligible partner” to include Tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, not-for-profit conservation organizations, agricultural retailers, and other entities the Secretary deems appropriate.
- Establishes a definition of “performance-based-payments” under the program.

Sec. 2703. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Regional Conservation Partnerships

- Makes authorities under covered programs, like entity certification under the ACEP-ALE, available to partners in the implementation of a partnership agreement.
- Clarifies that partnership agreements may be renewed up to 1 time for a period of up to 5 years if the project meets or exceeds expectations under the partnership agreement and

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may be extended up to 2 times for up to 2 years each time if the project has made substantial progress toward meeting the objectives of the partnership agreement.

- Clarifies that granting an extension does not preclude the subsequent granting of a renewal, or vice versa.
- Makes the updated requirements on renewal and extension terms available retroactively for partnership agreements already in place under the program.
- Establishes a \$25 million cap on the amount of Federal funds that may be provided by NRCS to a single partnership agreement through the program.
- Clarifies the mandatory and discretionary duties of partners.
- Authorizes partners to contract or establish sub-agreements to provide financial or technical assistance to producers or other entities.
- Clarifies the contribution requirement on partners under the program to no longer require a 50% cost-share and instead establish a flexible contribution amount that may differ among partnership agreements.
- Authorizes a partner's contributions to be used to meet matching or cost-participation requirements under other Federal programs (other than Department of Agriculture programs) and non-Federal programs.
- Expands the forms that contributions may take to include project financing, such as revolving funds.
- Establishes timelines for the Secretary to implement partnership agreements, finalize renewal and extension agreements, and reimburse partners.
- Requires the Secretary to establish guidance, including suggested quantification models, to assist eligible partners with meeting their reporting requirements.
- Requires the Secretary to make funding available to not-for-profit entities and land grant universities to make project assessment tools on environmental outcomes more broadly available to partners.
- Requires the Secretary to publish the report submitted by partners on the implementation and outcomes of projects in a public-facing manner.
- Revises the criteria that the Secretary may use to prioritize applications to include a priority for projects that demonstrate that a significant number of historically underserved producers will benefit from a project.

Sec. 2704. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Assistance to Producers

- Authorizes the Secretary to provide producers with advance payments for costs related to purchasing materials or contracting associated with implementing an eligible activity and gives producers 120 days to expend advanced funds.
- Authorizes the Secretary to provide advance payments to partners related to project implementation of both RCPP Classic agreements and RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) agreements, as provided in a partnership agreement, and gives partners up to 120 days to expend advanced funds.
- Eliminates the 15-project cap on the AFA authority.

TITLE II—Conservation

- Authorizes the Secretary and Indian Tribes to develop projects under the Alternative Funding Arrangement authority to address eligible resource concerns on Tribal lands and allow for flexibility in conservation implementation and administration.
- Expands the types of projects eligible for Alternative Funding Arrangements to include projects that use innovative approaches to delivering conservation funding to producers, including by using innovative contracting or performance-based payments, supporting environmental markets, or accelerating the adoption and use of agricultural or processing equipment by producers that achieves conservation benefits.

Sec. 2705. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Funding

- Allocates a percentage of funding available to projects based on a State or multistate competitive process administered by the Secretary at the local level and advised by the applicable State technical committee.
- Allocates a percentage of funding available to projects for critical conservation areas.
- Allocates a small percentage of funding to establish partnerships with non-profit entities and land grant universities to develop project assessment tools on environmental outcomes more broadly available to partners.
- Allocates a small percentage of funding available for the Secretary to ensure the timely development and availability of integrated information technology and automated programmatic tools to support program implementation and develop protocols for eligible entities to access automatic programmatic tools of the Department in a manner that supports implementation of approved projects.
- Authorizes partners to receive payments for indirect costs to cover administrative expenses of the eligible partner under a partnership agreement. For those with an established negotiated indirect cost rate, the rate shall be the established rate (not to exceed 20% of the total project cost). For those without a negotiated indirect cost rate with the Department, the rate shall be 20% of the total project cost. In the case of a partnership agreement that primarily serves historically underserved producers, the rate of payment for indirect costs may be up to 30% of the total project cost.
- Authorizes an eligible partner to provide technical assistance to producers needed to support project planning and implementation for conservation benefits.
- Requires the Secretary to limit the costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to only those costs specific and necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.
- Prohibits the Secretary from using amounts provided under a partnership agreement for technical assistance provided by the Secretary without providing explicit notification to the eligible partner.
- Limits the Federal share of the cost of technical assistance provided by an eligible partner to not more than 30% of the total cost of the project.

Sec. 2706. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Administration

- Updates and streamlines the requirements for the Secretary's report to Congress on the implementation of the program.

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Sec. 2707. Regional Conservation Partnership Program—Critical Conservation Areas

- Amends the definition of “priority resource concern” under RCPP Critical Conservation Areas to include the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors.

*****Subject to final cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.***

TITLE III—Trade

Subtitle A – Food for Peace Act

Sec. 3101. United States Policy

- Adds that it is the policy of the United States to use agricultural commodities under the Food for Peace Act to combat child wasting and its causes.

Sec. 3102. Provision of Agricultural Commodities

- Establishes that agricultural commodities are an option for non-emergency programs.
- Eliminates the funding limitation in section 202(e) of the Food for Peace Act and establishes that funds under section 202(e) may be used to assist organizations in implementing resiliency-building activities and to pay all associated costs of acquiring and making available commodities through emergency and non-emergency programs.
- Strikes the current definition of “eligible organization” from section 202(d).

Sec. 3103. Levels of Assistance for Emergency Food Assistance

- Strikes the current minimum metric tonnage and requires that 40% of Food for Peace appropriated funds be spent on commodities and ocean shipping for emergency food assistance.
- Maintains the waiver on minimum levels of assistance, but if a waiver is utilized, USAID is required in the next fiscal year to meet the minimum commodity and ocean shipping requirement plus the amount of waived funding for commodities and ocean shipping from the prior fiscal year.

Sec. 3104. Food Aid Consultative Group

- Amends the termination date of the Food Aid Consultative Group to December 31, 2029.

Sec. 3105. Issuance of Regulations

- Requires USAID to issue all regulations and revisions to agency guidance necessary to implement amendments made to the Food for Peace Act, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 3106. Oversight, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Extends the authorization of funding through fiscal year 2029 for the monitoring of emergency food assistance, including early warning assessments and systems to help prevent famines.

Sec. 3107. Assistance for Stockpiling and Rapid Transportation, Delivery, and Distribution of Shelf-Stable Prepackaged Foods

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the preparation, transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable pre-packaged foods.

Sec. 3108. Definitions

- Adds “specialized nutrition products” to the definition of “agricultural commodity” to recognize products, like Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF), as an agricultural commodity.

TITLE III—Trade

- Adds the definition for “eligible organization” from section 202(d) of the Food for Peace Act (with the addition of a government of a foreign country) to section 402 in order to apply that definition to all sections of the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3109. Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

- Authorizes as an allowable Commodity Credit Corporation expense the transportation costs incurred in moving commodities from ports of entry abroad to storage and distribution sites and the program implementation costs to use the commodities.

Sec. 3110. Administrative Provisions

- Extends the authorization of funding through fiscal year 2029 for the Administrator to procure, transport, and store agricultural commodities for prepositioning within the United States and in foreign countries.
- Directs USAID and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to include an assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls in their annual reporting to Congress.

Sec. 3111. Deadline for Agreements to Finance Sales or to Provide Other Assistance

- Extends the deadline for entering into agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance under the Food for Peace Act to 2029.

Sec. 3112. Funds for Non-Emergency Food Assistance

- Directs that not less than 18% of Food for Peace funding to be spent on non-emergency assistance.

Sec. 3113. Micronutrient Fortification Programs

- Extends the authority for micronutrient fortification programs through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3114. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

- Extends the current minimum amount of Food for Peace funding for the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program through fiscal year 2029.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for Farmer-to-Farmer programming for sub-Saharan African and Caribbean Basin countries and other developing or middle-income countries or emerging markets through fiscal year 2029.
- Extends the authority for the Administrator to develop a grant program to facilitate new and innovative partnerships and activities through fiscal year 2029.

Subtitle B – Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

Sec. 3201. Preserving Foreign Markets for Goods Using Common Names

- Defines “common name” with factors, including customary usage, product labeling and standards, and competent sources, and expands the definition of “unfair trade practice” to include the prohibition or disallowance of the use of a common name of an agricultural or food product from the United States.

TITLE III—Trade

- Adds a new section to Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate with the U.S. Trade Representative to secure the right of U.S. producers and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets and requires USDA and USTR to submit a report to Congress every 2 years regarding their efforts to secure access for common names.

Sec. 3202. Technical Assistance to Improve Infrastructure in Foreign Markets for United States Agricultural Commodities

- Authorizes appropriations of \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Foreign Market Development program for the purposes of enhancing cold chain infrastructure through needs assessment, training, and other technical assistance.

Sec. 3203. Report on Competitiveness of United States Exports of Specialty Crops

- Expands the annual report required under the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program to include further details on barriers to U.S. exports of specialty crops.

Sec. 3204. Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation

- Extends the \$255 million in annual mandatory funding for export promotion programs under section 203 through fiscal year 2029, including:
 - \$200 million for the Market Access Program;
 - \$34.5 million for the Foreign Market Development Program;
 - \$8 million for the Emerging Markets Program;
 - \$9 million for Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops; and
 - \$3.5 million for the Priority Trade Fund.

Sec. 3205. Interagency Seasonal and Perishable Fruits and Vegetable Working Group

- Creates an interagency working group with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to monitor and assess market impacts of seasonal and perishable fruit and vegetable imports and recommend actions to support the competitiveness of U.S. producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

Subtitle C – Other Agricultural Trade Laws

Sec. 3301. Food for Progress Act of 1985

- Amends the authorization dates for the Food for Progress Act to 2029.
- Prohibits USDA from awarding the entirety of Food for Progress annual funding to a single entity or a single country.

Sec. 3302. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act

- Extends the authorities for the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust through 2029.

Sec. 3303. Promotion of Agricultural Exports to Emerging Markets

- Extends the authorization of export credit guarantee programs, including the Facilities Guarantee Program, through fiscal year 2029.

TITLE III—Trade

Sec. 3304. Growing American Food Exports

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3305. International Food Security Technical Assistance

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Secretary of Agriculture to compile information from appropriate USDA mission areas relating to the improvement of international food security.

Sec. 3306. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

- Directs the program to prioritize women-led and women-owned organizations, in addition to indigenous and local organizations, in the development of programs and activities.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Increases the percentage of program funding for procurement of local and regionally produced agricultural commodities and allows the Secretary to use such funds for capacity-building activities to support purchases of local and regionally produced commodities.

Sec. 3307. Global Crop Diversity Trust

- Extends the contribution limit of Federal Government funds at \$5.5 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Global Crop Diversity Trust through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3308. Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Projects

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for USDA's Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3309. International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program through fiscal year 2029.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

Subtitle A – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Sec. 4101. Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in the Thrifty Food Plan

- Requires that Thrifty Food Plan reevaluations include an external peer review process, be submitted to Congress and the Government Accountability Office, and make the computer code and data used to generate the market baskets publicly available.
- Requires the Secretary to promulgate an interim final rule regarding the calculation of the Hawaii Thrifty Food Plan.

Sec. 4102. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

- Reauthorizes the Traditional and Locally-Grown Food Fund through fiscal year 2029.
- Requires the Secretary to pay at least 90% of the administrative costs and distribution costs on Indian Reservations for the administration of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Makes permanent the demonstration projects authorized under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 for tribal organizations to enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Provides up to \$20 million in mandatory funding annually and \$10 million in discretionary funding for the self-determination contracts.
- Allows the Secretary to modify or waive regulatory requirements during emergencies and disasters in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Sec. 4103. Income Exclusion for Military Basic Allowance for Housing

- Excludes the value of the military basic allowance for housing from SNAP income.

Sec. 4104. SNAP Materials for Health Care Professionals

- Requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services, to develop materials to train health care professionals to inform their patients about SNAP and other USDA nutrition assistance programs.

Sec. 4105. College Students

- Exempts individuals 24 years and younger who are in college and have aged out of foster care from SNAP college student restrictions.
- Requires the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education, to issue guidance on SNAP eligibility and access to other anti-hunger resources for college students.

Sec. 4106. Improvements to SNAP Employment and Training

- Excludes income from employment and training programs, including subsidized employment, and certain work programs from being counted as income for SNAP purposes.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

- Allows for job retention services to continue up to 180 days after a SNAP employment and training participant gains employment.
- Requires that the Governor of a state annually submit to the Secretary a statement certifying compliance with the requirements for the employment and training program and with the state plan for employment and training, in addition to certain data on the state's employment and training program.
- Requires that a state's plan for employment and training includes a description of how the state is screening for all exemptions.
- Requires States to provide information on available employment and training services to households with at least 1 individual over the age of 15 and under 60 at certification and recertification, while requiring that states with mandatory employment and training programs notify in writing households with members exempt from the requirements in section 6(d)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act that they are not required to participate in the employment and training activities.
- Allows an individual in a state with a voluntary employment and training program to request to be assessed for employment and training activities.
- Increases employment and training funding from \$103.9 million to \$110 million per fiscal year and makes the funds available for 36 months.
- Requires GAO to conduct a study on federally funded employment and training programs, including the SNAP employment and training program.

Sec. 4107. Ensuring EBT Integrity

- Requires the Secretary to issue regulations to make upgrades to point-of-sale equipment for more secure transactions.
- Requires States to review EBT contracts to reflect the most up-to-date security standards.
- Directs the Secretary to issue interim final rules to establish specific Federal standards for security measures for EBT systems, including prohibiting the use of common personal identification numbers, allowing households to temporarily lock activities on their EBT cards, and validating the card authentication value of an EBT card, with a requirement for the Secretary to review and update these standards not less than once every 5 years.
- Makes permanent the fee prohibition added by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and prohibits states and their contractors from imposing a fee on retailers to pay for costs associated with updating the EBT processing infrastructure.
- Directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Inspector General, to issue regulations that would establish procedures to block benefit transactions likely to be in flagrant violation of the Act based on real-time transaction data, provided that the Secretary provides prompt notification to the retailer, household, and benefit issuer.
- Makes the authority to replace stolen benefits permanent.

Sec. 4108. Retail Food Stores

- Amends the stocking standards for SNAP-authorized retail food stores to provide more healthy options for SNAP households.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

- Requires that SNAP retail food stores own their own food inventory, while requiring the Secretary to study entities that do not own their own food inventory, to establish standards to allow such entities to accept and redeem SNAP benefits while ensuring the Department is able to conduct appropriate oversight over such entities, and to conduct a pilot to test those standards.
- Requires USDA to establish delivery standards related to food safety for retailers that are authorized to accept benefits online.

Sec. 4109. Improving Customer Service to Retail Food Stores

- Requires the Food and Nutrition Service to develop and make publicly available a plan to enhance customer service for retailers, with consideration for store owner and operator training and agency timeliness.

Sec. 4110. Restoring SNAP Benefits for Drug-Related Convictions

- Eliminates the prohibition on individuals with drug felony convictions from participation in SNAP.
- Allows a state to consider a SNAP application from an incarcerated individual who is set to be released within 30 days.

Sec. 4111. Streamlining SNAP Applications

- Allows states that use the telephonic signature option to record verbal or gestured assents in writing.

Sec. 4112. Improving State Administration and Quality Control

- Requires the Secretary to notify States if their quality control data indicate that their payment error rate is trending higher than 6%. Requires the Secretary, through an Office of Technical Assistance at the Food and Nutrition Service, to provide 1-on-1 assistance to state agencies to 1) identify the causes for the payment errors and 2) develop a plan to improve eligibility and benefit determinations that would help reduce payment errors.
- Requires State agencies to submit monthly reports to USDA starting in fiscal year 2027, which shall include data on activities related to SNAP application processing and certification, and increases the Federal cost-share for State administrative costs relating to developing a system for monthly reports to 90%. Also requires that the Secretary make these monthly reports publicly available.
- Requires the Secretary to use the information submitted by the States to calculate an annual customer service metric, which shall be included with the Secretary's annual notification to States of their payment error rates.

Sec. 4113. Process and Technology Innovation Grants

- Increases funding for process and technology innovation grants from \$5 million each fiscal year to \$25 million each fiscal year.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

- Allows American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico to apply for process and technology innovation grants.

Sec. 4114. National Accuracy Clearinghouse

- Allows State agencies the option to use the determination of multiple issuances in SNAP to prevent duplicate participation in other Federal and State assistance programs administered through the same integrated eligibility system as SNAP.

Sec. 4115. Elderly Simplified Application Option

- Codifies the state option to simplify the application and certification process for households where all members are elderly with no income. Waives the recertification interview requirement, allows greater flexibility in verification, and extends the certification period for these households to 36 months.

Sec. 4116. Hot Foods

- Requires the Secretary to study the impact of allowing hot foods to be purchased with SNAP benefits at different types of SNAP retail food stores, including retail food stores with co-located entities.
- Following the study, the Secretary may conduct pilots designed to test the effect of allowing hot foods on the program.

Sec. 4117. Authorization of Appropriations

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 4118. Inclusion of Puerto Rico in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Authorizes Puerto Rico to transition its nutrition assistance program to SNAP over a period of not less than 10 years and adds Puerto Rico to the definition of “state agency” under SNAP after the transition period.
- Provides such sums funding for costs relating to transitioning Puerto Rico from the nutrition assistance program to SNAP.

Sec. 4119. Assistance for Community Food Projects

- Increases funding for community food projects from \$5 million to \$10 million each fiscal year.

Sec. 4120. Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program

- Increases funding for SNAP-Ed by \$150 million over 10 years.
- Specifies that interventions consider traditional and cultural foods appropriate for the target populations.
- Requires the Secretary to allow states to submit a description of the successes and challenges of their projects and interventions through the electronic reporting system.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

- Requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by this section and request and consider comments on the usability of the electronic reporting system.
- Provides waiver of SNAP-Ed statutory and regulatory requirements during a disaster or emergency.

Sec. 4121. Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking

- Modernizes the program to allow states to target benefit theft.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$10 million through fiscal year 2029.

Subtitle B – Emergency Food Assistance Program

Sec. 4201. TEFAP Farm-to-Food Bank

- Increases the federal share of the state and federal match from 50% to 90%.
- Makes the program permanent and increases funding from \$4 million to \$8 million for each fiscal year.

Sec. 4202. Kosher, Halal, and Culturally Relevant Foods

- Creates a competitive grant program for State agencies or private nonprofit entities to purchase for distribution through the Emergency Food Assistance Program kosher, halal, or culturally relevant foods that meet the demonstrated needs of the area served by the State or private nonprofit entity.
- Provides \$8 million for each fiscal year in mandatory funding and \$8 million for each fiscal year in discretionary funding.

Sec. 4203. Flexibilities for Geographically Isolated States

- Allows Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and Virgin Islands to request alternative delivery options for TEFAP commodities
- Also allows these states and territories to request the Secretary to transfer the cash value of the TEFAP commodities to instead procure their own food.

Sec. 4204. Fresh Produce Procurement Option

- Allows states to use up to 20% of the cost of the TEFAP commodities allocated to the state to purchase commodities through DOD Fresh.

Sec. 4205. Emergency Food Assistance

- Increases funding for the purchase of commodities to be distributed to states under the Emergency Food Assistance Program by \$900 million over 10 years.
- Codifies the authority to allow states to use up to 20% of their commodity funding for storage and distribution costs.

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- Increases the authorization of appropriations for funding for storage and distribution costs to \$200 million for each fiscal year.
- Adds a Tribal preference for infrastructure grants and increases the authorization of appropriations for infrastructure grants to \$20 million for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Subtitle C – Commodity Distribution Programs

Sec. 4301. Commodity Distribution Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 4302. Commodity Supplemental Food Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Excludes the value of Medicare benefits from income for determining eligibility for the commodity supplemental food program.

Sec. 4303. Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Subtitle D – Miscellaneous

Sec. 4401. Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- Increases mandatory funding by \$100 million over 10 years to expand SFMNP to states, territories, and Tribes not currently participating in the program.
- Adds maple syrup as an item eligible for purchase under the program.
- Provides authority for the Secretary to waive regulatory requirements to carry out program modernization efforts and during emergencies and disasters.

Sec. 4402. Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 4403. Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program

- Increases the federal match for GusNIP projects from 50% to 80%.
- Allows retailer associate wages to count towards the match.
- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with State agencies or non-profit entities to expand existing large-scale GusNIP projects.
- Makes program improvements to produce prescription projects, including allowing for all forms of fruits and vegetables, establishing standards for review panels, and establishing two categories of grant awards.
- Requires that the training, technical assistance, evaluation, and information centers develop training and guidance with FNS on providing and promoting the provision of direct incentives to participants electronically through state EBT systems.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

- Requires increased coordination between the partner agencies within USDA in the application review process for GusNIP grants and cooperative agreements.
- Increases mandatory funding to carry out this section by \$750 million over 10 years.

Sec. 4404. Healthy Dairy Nutrition Incentives Projects

- Renames the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Projects to the Healthy Dairy Nutrition Incentive Projects.
- Allows for the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements or grants to carry out projects that incentivize the purchase of dairy products that are consistent the most recent dietary recommendations and without flavoring or sweeteners.

Sec. 4405. Healthy Food Financing Initiative

- Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for each fiscal year.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct and publish an evaluation of the program that measures the short-term and long-term impact of a funded project on access to healthy foods in the community not later than four years after passage of the Act. Directs that a portion of funding provided be used for the evaluation.

Sec. 4406. Microgrants for Food Security

- Adds other financial assistance, in addition to subgrants, for eligible states to provide to eligible entities; eliminates the requirement that subgrants be awarded using a competitive process; and eliminates the match requirement for subgrants.

Sec. 4407. Study and Report on Nutrition Programs in Geographically Isolated States and Territories

- Requires GAO to conduct a study assessing the adequacy and availability of nutrition programs in geographically isolated states and territories, compared to the continental United States, including the availability of food price data for geographically isolated States and whether the food price data used by USDA accurately reflects food costs in each geographically isolated State.

Sec. 4408. Streamlining Application Process for Direct Marketing Farmers in Nutrition Programs

- Requires the Secretary to establish a streamlined application process for direct marketing farmers to apply to be authorized vendors in different nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP, the senior farmers market nutrition program, and WIC.

TITLE IV—Nutrition

Sec. 4409. Nutrition Security Report

- Requires the Secretary to submit annual reports analyzing the food security, nutrition security, and diet quality of SNAP participants and nonparticipants.

Sec. 4410. Senior Nutrition Task Force

- Requires the establishment of an interagency task force to identify and promote resources to address food insecurity among older adults and examine opportunities for interagency collaboration to address food insecurity among older adults.

Sec. 4411. Technical Corrections

- Makes technical and conforming edits.

Sec. 4412. Effective Date

- Sets an effective date of October 1, 2024, for the title and the amendments made by this title, unless otherwise provided.

TITLE V—Credit

Subtitle A – Farm Ownership Loans

Sec. 5101. Modification of Experience Eligibility Requirement for Farm Ownership Loans

- Amends the experience requirement for farm ownership loans to simplify eligibility by allowing people who have one year of farming experience or have an established relationship with a mentor approved by the Secretary.

Sec. 5102. Conservation and Precision Agriculture Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

- Allows conservation loan and loan guarantee program funds to be used for the adoption of precision agriculture practices and acquisition of precision agriculture technology.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 5103. Limitations on Amount of Farm Ownership Loans

- Increases to \$850,000 the total amount any one borrower may owe on FSA direct farm ownership loans and \$3 million on FSA guaranteed farm ownership loans, beginning in fiscal year 2025, and updates the inflation benchmark for guaranteed farm ownership loans to account for land values.

Sec. 5104. Refinancing of Guaranteed Loans into Direct Loans

- Authorizes the Secretary to refinance guaranteed loans into direct loans for distressed borrowers.

Sec. 5105. Down Payment Loan Program

- Increases the limitation for the Down Payment Loan Program to align with current FSA direct farm ownership loan limitations.

Sec. 5106. Support for Resolving Ownership and Succession on Farmland

- Establishes authority for the Secretary to make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, certain eligible entities to assist heirs with undivided ownership interests in resolving ownership and succession on farmland that has multiple owners.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 and requires that not more than 50% of appropriated funds be used for grants or cooperative agreements.

Subtitle B – Operating Loans

Sec. 5201. Limitations on Amount of Operating Loans

- Increases to \$750,000 the total amount any one borrower may owe on FSA direct farm operating loans and \$2.6 million on FSA guaranteed farm operating loans, beginning in fiscal year 2025.

Sec. 5202. Eligibility for Operating Loans

- Removes the limitation on the number of years a farmer or rancher can receive FSA direct farm operating loans to assist borrowers who need loan assistance beyond the current limitation.

TITLE V—Credit

Sec. 5203. Microloans

- Increases the total amount any one borrower may owe on microloans from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Sec. 5204. Cooperative Lending Pilot Projects

- Extends through fiscal year 2029 the authorization for the Secretary to carry out cooperative lending pilot projects.

Subtitle C – Administrative Provisions

Sec. 5301. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 5302. Loan Authorization Levels

- Updates overall farm loan program authorization levels to reflect loan demand.

Sec. 5303. Beginning Farmer Definition

- Modernizes the definition of qualified beginning farmers to expand loan eligibility to beginning farm operations whose members are all beginning farmers without regard to relationship.

Sec. 5304. Loan Fund Set-Asides

- Extends the authority for the FSA direct farm operating loan fund set-asides for beginning farmers and ranchers through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 5305. Temporary Prohibition of Loans to Borrowers that Have Received Debt Forgiveness

- Removes restrictions on new FSA direct or guaranteed loans for applicants who have received debt forgiveness or restructuring of a farm loan when at least 7 years has passed since that debt forgiveness or restructuring.

Sec. 5306. Guaranteed Farm Loan Applications

- Directs USDA Farm Service Agency to coordinate with the Office of Customer Experience to streamline loan applications for guaranteed farm loan programs.

Subtitle D – Miscellaneous

Sec. 5401. Technical Corrections to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

- Technical corrections and elimination of obsolete statutory language.

Sec. 5402. State Agricultural Mediation Programs

- Expands eligibility to include U.S. territories and Indian Tribes.

TITLE V—Credit

- Increases the maximum annual amount each state mediation program can receive to \$700,000.
- Increases authorization of appropriations to \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 5403. Financing of Essential Rural Community/Care Facilities

- Provides limited authority for Farm Credit institutions to finance certain rural community facilities in partnership with local lenders (with a priority for rural community banks) to support healthcare, mental or behavioral health, community centers, and certain other facilities.

Sec. 5404. Qualified Loan Definition

- Amends the definition of qualified loans for the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation to authorize loans originated by all types of lenders and to expand the types of loans to include USDA energy infrastructure loans.

Sec. 5405. Eligibility for Water and Wastewater Disposal Facility Loans

- Updates eligibility in the Farm Credit Act for cooperative lenders to provide loans for water and waste disposal facilities to align the “rural area” definition with USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal facility loan eligibility.

TITLE VI—Rural Development

Subtitle A – Rural Healthcare and Childcare

Sec. 6101. Improving Rural Healthcare

- Prioritizes awards under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program to projects that provide substance use disorder prevention, treatment, or recovery services or provide mental or behavioral health services for fiscal years 2025 through 2031.
- Prioritizes healthcare facilities or mental or behavioral health facilities in the Community Facilities program for fiscal years 2025 through 2031 and extends loan and grant flexibilities to allow awards to be used for medical supplies, increasing telehealth capabilities, and supporting staffing needs.

Sec. 6102. Improving Rural Childcare

- Prioritizes projects for facilities for childcare programs (including school-based programs, programs accommodating nontraditional work hours, and Early Head Start, Head Start or migrant and seasonal Head Start programs) in the Community Facilities program for fiscal years 2025 through 2031, with loan and grant funds eligible to be used to support staffing needs of the facility.
- Allows the Secretary to prioritize projects supporting childcare programs for financial assistance under the Rural Business Development grant program, Rural Cooperative Development grant program, the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance program, and the RISE program.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the projects carried out under this section including the economic and social impact of investments in rural childcare.
- Requires that the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Health and Human Services regularly coordinate and publish or update a resource guide to provide user-friendly information to rural stakeholders on improving access to childcare facilities.

Sec. 6103. Access to Credit for Rural Healthcare and Childcare

- Requires a set aside of not less than 10% of the amounts made available for Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans to support childcare programs and healthcare.

Subtitle B – Rural Partnerships and Prosperity

Sec. 6201. Definitions

- Includes definitions for “rural” and “Indian Tribe” for this part.

Sec. 6202. Rural Partnership Program Grants

- Establishes a program for the Secretary to make multiyear grant awards for rural capacity building and to coordinate Federal, nonprofit, and for-profit investment in rural areas through partnerships between 2 or more of the following: State agency or political subdivision of the State, a nonprofit with significant ties to the rural area, a cooperative with significant ties to the rural area, a for-profit with a significant presence in the rural area, an institution of higher learning, or an Indian Tribe.

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- Requires that the Secretary establish a graduated scale to allocate funding for each state, administered by the State USDA Rural Development office, including not less than 5% of the total funding to Indian Tribes.
- Allows grant awards to be used to coordinate Federal investments, complete comprehensive predevelopment activities and planning, create public-private partnerships that attract private investment, support eligible operational activities, provide capital to existing or new projects, support regional initiatives, and address economic recovery.
- Prioritizes projects that serve rural areas with significant workforce changes or changes in major employers or that have historically received minimal Federal funding, as well as economically distressed rural areas.
- Requires a cash or in-kind contribution of 25% but allows the Secretary to waive such matching requirement in economically distressed communities.

Sec. 6203. Rural Partnership Technical Assistance Grants

- Establishes a competitive grant program to advise and assist rural community organizations to support capacity building and economic development of identified rural areas and their local partners, including activities such as grant writing and grant management, training and supporting local staff, project development and predevelopment activities, and developing public-private partnerships.
- Allows the Secretary to prioritize projects that serve a nonmetropolitan area with a high poverty level or that serve an Indian Tribe.

Sec. 6204. Rural Partners Network

- Permanently authorizes the Rural Partners Network and requires that the Network develop recommendations to improve efficiency of Federal assistance to rural areas, including streamlining application processes and reducing administrative burdens.
- Allows the Secretary, as Chair to the Network, to carry out innovative strategies for coordinating with other Federal agencies with respect to programs serving rural areas.

Sec. 6205. Funding

- Provides \$50 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out the activities in this subtitle.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary for each fiscal year 2025 through 2029 to carry out the activities in this subtitle.
- Limits 25% of the total funding provided in this section to the Rural Partnership Technical Assistance Grants and limits 5% of the total funding provided in this section to the Rural Partners Network.

TITLE VI—Rural Development

Subtitle C – Rural Electrification Act

Part I – Rural Broadband Access

Sec. 6301. ReConnect Program

- Establishes a grant, loan, and grant and loan combination program for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural areas that provide speeds not less than 100-Mbps/100-Mbps.
- Requires eligible projects to provide broadband service of at least 100-Mbps/100-Mbps in areas where at least 75% of the households lack access to broadband service of at least 100-Mbps/20-Mbps.
- Requires the prioritization of projects in areas where at least 90% of the households lack access to broadband service of at least 100-Mbps/20-Mbps.
- Allows for the prioritization of projects proposing to serve areas with less than 10,000 residents, areas isolated from significant population centers, areas with high low-income populations, areas experiencing outmigration, areas with a need for precision agriculture technology, and applicants paying prevailing wages for construction.
- Allows applications from State and local governments, Tribes, corporations, organizations of two or more incorporated areas with an intermunicipal agreement to deliver communication services to residents, and cooperatives.
- Limits grant-only awards to projects serving Tribal organizations, colonias, persistent poverty counties, and socially vulnerable communities or projects in areas where at least 90% of the households lack access to broadband service of at least 100-Mbps/20-Mbps.
- Restricts the use of assistance under this program to deploy broadband in areas where another entity is deploying broadband service using broadband grants and loans under other Federal or State programs.
- Improves mapping and award coordination between USDA, NTIA, and FCC.
- Requires the Secretary to consider FCC broadband maps in making awards.
- Allows the Secretary to require that the eligible entity provide a 25% cost-share for grants.
- Allows not more than 5% of ReConnect funding to provide technical assistance and training for eligible entities applying for grants in priority areas under the ReConnect program and allows awardees to use funds to pay for costs associated with applying for the ReConnect program.
- Requires awardees to participate in federal internet affordability assistance programs.
- Rescinds unobligated amounts made available to carry out section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 and appropriates an amount equal to that rescission for this program; authorizes \$650 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this program; authorizes \$350 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to provide direct loans under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act, as in effect before the date of enactment of this Act.

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Sec. 6302. Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure into Rural Areas

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6303. Innovative Broadband Advancement Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6304. Community Connect Grant Program

- Expands eligible service areas under the Community Connect Grant Program to allow rural areas where the broadband service capacity is less than 25-Mbps/3-Mbps.
- Increases build out speed requirements to 100-Mbps/20-Mbps.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Part II – Additional Amendments

Sec. 6311. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6312. Rural Development Loans and Grants

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6313. Expansion of 911 Access

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Subtitle D – Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

Sec. 6401. Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants

- Specifies that Tribal organizations are eligible for water and wastewater programs under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.
- Allows the Secretary to waive the 25% match requirement for predevelopment and development costs in areas with demonstrated need.
- Increases the maximum amount of financing to eligible entities for predevelopment and short-term costs from \$200,000 to \$500,000.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$30 million through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6402. SEARCH Grants

- Allows in-kind contributions to count toward the non-Federal match in the Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households program in communities with demonstrated need.

Sec. 6403. Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

- Allows for multiyear awards for the Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program.

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Sec. 6404. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6405. Rural Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Circuit Rider Program

- Establishes a Rural Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Circuit Rider program to assess the ability of rural water and wastewater systems to respond to cybersecurity threats and to assist in enhancing cybersecurity protection.
- Authorizes \$10 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6406. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6407. Essential Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training

- Requires that some of the grants awarded in the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program be used for national or multi-State awards.

Sec. 6408. Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Assistance Program

- Establishes an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters.
- Authorizes \$20 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6409. Assistance to Provide Water and Wastewater Services in Financially Distressed Rural Areas

- Authorizes the Secretary to provide financial or technical assistance under a rural water or wastewater program to eligible associations for the purpose of providing water and wastewater services to residents in a financially distressed rural area that is contiguous to or in the locality of the service area of the eligible association and that is unable provide water and wastewater services to its residents.

Sec. 6410. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Specifies Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations as eligible entities.

Sec. 6411. Additional Assistance for Rural Water Systems

- Allows the Secretary to make grants or zero or one percent interest loans or to modify existing rural water and wastewater program loans for the purpose of improving or constructing public utilities to maintain or enhance public health, safety, or affordability.

Sec. 6412. Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska

- Clarifies that grants may be used for the construction of community-based water and wastewater systems in rural or Native villages in Alaska and requires that the Secretary consult with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

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- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6413. Rural Decentralized Water Systems

- Specifies Tribes and Tribal organizations as eligible entities for the grant program.
- Allows sub-grants up to \$25,000 to an individual whose household income is less than 60% of the median nonmetropolitan household income of the area and loans up to \$25,000 to an individual whose household income is between 60% and 100% of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the area.
- Allows sub-grants and loan amounts to cover performance warranties on the household decentralized wastewater system.
- Allows eligible entities to use up to 10% of the grant to provide technical assistance and support relating to the maintenance and support of household decentralized water and wastewater systems.
- Requires that eligible entities allow multiple methods for determining ownership to account for undivided ownership interests.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6414. Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Assistance Program

- Establishes a program to provide grants for water quality testing, purchase, and installation of point-of-use or point-of-entry water filtration systems that remove or significantly reduce health contaminants from drinking water such as lead, arsenic, nitrate, or PFAS.
- Requires USDA to publish public annual reports on the technologies available and purchased by eligible grant recipients, trends on steps taken to ensure safe drinking water in communities and households, and recommendations on increasing utilization of treatment when appropriate.
- Authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6415. Rural Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans

- Adds workforce housing as an eligible project for Business and Industry loan guarantees.
- Specifies that certain Tribal entities or corporations are eligible for Business and Industry loan guarantees.
- Requires that the Secretary publish an annual report with the name and description of each entity that closed on a Business and Industry loan (including whether the entity is a minority, Tribal, or woman-owned entity), a description of the project funded by the loan, and the amount of the loan.
- Directs the Secretary to conduct a review and revision of regulations governing this program to consider additional ineligible purposes and entity types as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 6416. Solid Waste Management Grants

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$20 million for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

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- Specifies Tribes and Tribal organizations as entities eligible for solid waste management grants.

Sec. 6417. Rural Business Development Grants

- Specifies Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian organizations as eligible entities.
- Allows grants to be used for business opportunity projects that support outdoor recreation.
- Allows the Secretary to deliver multiyear grant awards, not to exceed 5 years.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6418. Rural Cooperative Development Grants

- Adds a definition of cooperative development to include outreach, education, training, and delivery of technical assistance to support new and existing cooperatives.
- Requires that applications that commit to the 25% matching contribution are awarded the maximum points for that scoring criteria.
- Requires that the Secretary award multiyear grants to applicants with demonstrated success in establishing and operating rural cooperative development centers.
- Requires that the Interagency Working Group publish annual reports on the effects of all types of cooperatives on the national economy.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6419. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products

- Makes tribally owned business enterprises and Tribal corporations eligible for the program.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6420. Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6421. Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6422. Intermediary Relending Program

- Specifies that Tribal organizations are eligible for the Intermediary Relending Program.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6423. Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6424. National Rural Development Partnership

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

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Sec. 6425. Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6426. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

- Specifies that Tribal organizations are eligible for the program.
- Increases the microloan amount to \$75,000 and allows for loans made by the Secretary to a microenterprise development organization to be used for 100% of a loan to a rural microenterprise and for up to 50% of demolition and construction and related real estate costs.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6427. Health Care Services

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6428. Strategic Community Investment

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6429. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program

- Specifies that Tribal organizations are eligible for grants under the RISE program.
- Expands eligible entities to job and technology accelerators.
- Requires that the Secretary ensure geographic diversity of awards across the United States.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6430. Rural Business Investment Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6431. Investments in Rural Infrastructure

- Provides \$200 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025 for rural water and waste disposal grants and community facility grants.

Subtitle E – Miscellaneous

Sec. 6501. Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- Allows a limited amount of financial assistance to be used for operating expenses that are reasonable and allocable to a project under this section.
- Requires that the Secretary waive the matching requirement in cases of demonstrated need and for Indian Tribes.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6502. Last Acre Projects

- Allows the Secretary to fund projects to advance precision agriculture by making grants and loans to broadband providers and wireless equipment or communication services

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providers to carry out projects that provide broadband service at speeds of not less than 100-Mbps/20-Mbps on agricultural land that lacks access to service speeds at that level.

- Requires providers to meet certain cybersecurity requirements and allows providers to use a certain percentage of the assistance under this section to address the requirements; requires that the public notice and assessments under section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act apply to project applications and assistance under this section.
- Requires reporting on the projects, including the number of covered producers subscribing to broadband service provided under each project funded under this section.
- Authorizes \$160 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 and terminates the authority to make grants or loans under this section on September 30, 2029.

Sec. 6503. Food Supply Chain Grant and Guaranteed Loan Program

- Establishes a program for the Secretary to make grants and guaranteed loans to a cooperative organization, for-profit entity, Tribal entity, public body, an individual, or a non-profit for projects to increase the capacity of the commercial food supply chain.
- Eligible uses for loan guarantees include purchasing machinery or equipment, debt refinancing or the financing of working capital, improving leased or owned property, and purchasing and developing real property.
- Eligible uses for grants include employee training and certification, food safety certification and training, and costs of an environmental assessment.
- Requires that prevailing wages be paid to all laborers and mechanics performing construction work financed by a loan guarantee or grant under this section.
- Authorizes \$30 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6504. Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program

- Adds agricultural enterprises and small business concerns engaged in manufacturing value-added agricultural products to be eligible for services provided by Agriculture Innovation Centers (AICs).
- Provides flexibility with respect to the number of representatives required to be on the board of directors for AICs and to account for AICs that service more than one state.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 6505. Rural Energy Savings Program

- Provides limited grants to eligible entities receiving loans under this section to offset administrative and program costs, including repairs to improved properties.
- Expands eligibility to consumers in the entire service area of the rural utility service or other eligibility entity, even if some areas are not rural.
- Extends the maximum repayment term for loans to consumers to match the useful life of the implemented energy efficiency measures, not to exceed 20 years.
- Specifies Indian Tribes and certain entities that use innovative financing techniques to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technology as eligible entities to receive loans.
- Codifies manufactured housing as an eligible improvement.

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- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 6506. Interagency Task Force on Outdoor Recreation Coordination

- Requires that the Secretary of Agriculture coordinate an interagency task force composed of the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Small Business Administration, and the Economic Development Administration to examine Federal programs supporting outdoor recreation in rural communities and better align Federal investments in outdoor recreation in or around Federal land.

TITLE VII—Research

Subtitle A – National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

Sec. 7101. National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

- Amends the termination date for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to September 30, 2029.
- Reduces the number of officers on the executive committee of the Advisory Board from 9 officers to 5 officers.
- Increases the maximum amount that may be used to cover annual necessary expenses of the Advisory Board from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Sec. 7102. Specialty Crop Committee

- Amends the termination date for the citrus disease subcommittee to September 30, 2029.
- Adds a non-voting member to the citrus disease subcommittee, representing a State with not less than 1,000 acres of citrus production.
- Requires that the citrus disease subcommittee review grant applications under the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program prior to the awarding of grants.

Sec. 7103. Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education

- Adds workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences as eligible grant activities.
- Increases authorization of appropriations to \$60 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7104. Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7105. Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

- Increases authorization of appropriations for education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions to \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Increases authorization of appropriations for education grants to Native Hawaiian serving institutions to \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7106. Nutrition Education Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the nutrition education program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7107. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

- Allows for unexpended funds appropriated under this section to be carried over into the following fiscal year.

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- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7108. Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to an amount not less than 40% of the total appropriations for that fiscal year under section 3(c) and (d) of the Smith-Lever Act.

Sec. 7109. Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to an amount not less than 40% of the total appropriations for that fiscal year under section 3 of the Hatch Act of 1887.
- Allows for funding to be used for graduate student tuition and fees.
- Makes technical edits, including clarifying the role of the agricultural research director.

Sec. 7110. Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions

- Provides \$10 million in mandatory funding for the 1890 scholarship program for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7111. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University.

Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at insular area land-grant Institutions.

Sec. 7113. Research and Extension Activities at 1890 Institutions

- Requires that each State attest to the Secretary on whether the State plans to fulfill the matching funds requirement to 1890 institutions under this section.
- Requires that the Secretary send a letter to each Governor whose States did not fulfill the matching funds requirement.
- Requires the State attestations and letters to each Governor be made publicly available on an annual basis.

Sec. 7114. New Beginning for Tribal Students

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the grant program to support tribal students attending a land-grant college or university.

TITLE VII—Research

Sec. 7115. Hispanic Serving Institutions

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for education grant programs for Hispanic-serving Institutions.

Sec. 7116. International Agriculture Partnerships and Grants Program

- Merges the authorization for competitive grants for international agricultural science and education programs into section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act and renames the section as International Agricultural Partnerships and Grants Program.
- Increases the authorization for appropriations for competitive grants to support international agricultural science and education and other activities under section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act to \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7117. Research Equipment Grants

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for research equipment grants through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7118. University Research

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for university research through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7119. Cooperative Extension Service

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for cooperative extension service through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7120. Supplemental and Alternative Crops

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the research program for developing supplemental and alternative crops through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7121. New Era Rural Technology Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the New Era Technology Program.

Sec. 7122. Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for capacity building grants for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture (NLGCA).

Sec. 7123. Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority

- Converts AGARDA from a pilot program and removes the termination date of the authority.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$100 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

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- Requires the AGARDA Director to work in close collaboration with the Office of the Chief Scientist and maintain a staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise.
- Clarifies that qualified projects under the program include water conservation technologies and that the goals of the program include water conservation, the reduction, avoidance, sequestration, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, and other stressors.

Sec. 7124. Capacity Building Grants for Community College Agricultural Programs

- Authorizes \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for competitive grants to junior and community colleges or a consortium of such colleges to support workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities related to food and agricultural sciences or agribusiness and farm business management.

Sec. 7125. Agricultural Innovation Corridors

- Authorizes \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Secretary to establish a network of regional research corridors for research and development in agricultural technology.

Sec. 7126. National Agroforestry Survey

- Authorizes \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Secretary to conduct a national agroforestry survey triennially.

Sec. 7127. Aquaculture Assistance Programs

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 and allows for a 30% indirect cost cap for the program.

Sec. 7128. Rangeland and Research Programs

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Rangeland Research Programs through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7129. Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the agricultural research, education, and extension activities for biosecurity planning and response.

Sec. 7130. Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Distance Education and Resident Instructions Grants Program for insular area institutions of higher education.

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Subtitle B – Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

Sec. 7201. Best Utilization of Biological Applications

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the sustainable agriculture research, extension, and education program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7202. Integrated Management Systems

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the research and education program for integrated resource management and integrated crop management.

Sec. 7203. Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7204. National Training Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7205. National Genetics Resources Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the National Genetics Resources Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7206. National Agricultural Weather Information System

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the National Agricultural Weather Information System through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7207. Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7208. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for competitive grants to support research and extension activities in high-priority research and extension areas.
- Makes improvements to the coffee plant health initiative, macadamia nut health initiative, and cattle fever tick program.
- Adds PFAS agricultural effects, peanut aflatoxin, biochar, spotted wing drosophila, spotted lanternfly, wheat resiliency, invasive species, agricultural application of artificial intelligence, aquaculture, white oak, and sunflower breeding as high priority initiatives.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Pulse Crop Healthy Initiative, Training Coordination for Food and Agriculture Protection, and Pollinator Protection.

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Sec. 7209. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.
- Continues the existing mandatory funding level of \$50 million for each fiscal year.

Sec. 7210. Enhanced Coordination of Organic Agriculture Research

- Requires the Chief Scientist to coordinate all research, extension, education, and economic activities of the Department relating to organic agriculture.
- Establishes an Organic Agriculture Research Coordinator within the Office of the Chief Scientist to coordinate and establish annual strategic priorities on organic agriculture research at USDA, to conduct and publish a survey of USDA research relating to organic agriculture, and to make recommendations to enhance USDA research and coordination on organic agriculture.

Sec. 7211. Farm Business Management

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for Farm Business Management competitive grants through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7212. Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the competitive research and extension grants program through fiscal year 2029 and adds managing waste streams of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices to the program.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct a census of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production and increases the authorization of appropriations to \$18 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7213. Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions

- Adds four new centers of excellence focusing on: climate change; forestry resilience and conservation; food safety, bioprocessing, and value-added agriculture; and food and agricultural sciences and the social sciences.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7214. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities.

Sec. 7215. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.

TITLE VII—Research

Subtitle C – Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Reform Act of 1998

Sec. 7301. National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program.

Sec. 7302. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities.

Sec. 7303. Support for Research Regarding Diseases of Wheat, Triticale, and Barley Caused by *Fusarium Graminearum* or by *Tilletia Indica*

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative.

Sec. 7304. Grants for Youth Organizations

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for grants available for youth organizations including the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization.

Sec. 7305. Specialty Crop Research Initiative

- Allows the Secretary to waive the matching funds requirement for grants under this section.
- Establishes the Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Development Program to provide competitive grants for research and extension activities to advance and accelerate specialty crop mechanization and automation.
- Increases mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to \$130 million for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, with not more than \$10 million allocated to the Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Development Program for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 7306. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program.

Sec. 7307. Office of Pest Management Policy

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$8 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 the Office of Pest Management Policy.

TITLE VII—Research

Sec. 7308. Forest Products Advanced Utilization Research

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the forestry and forest products research and extension initiative.

Subtitle D – Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

Part I – Agricultural Security

Sec. 7401. Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center.

Sec. 7402. Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response.

Sec. 7403. Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7404. Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program.

Part II – Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 7411. Grazinglands Research Laboratory

- Extends the prohibition to convey or transfer the Grazinglands Research Laboratory through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7412. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Farm and Stress Assistance Network.
- Encourages grant recipients to establish referral relationships with certified community behavioral health clinics, health centers, rural health clinics, Federally qualified health centers, and critical access hospitals.
- Requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to submit a report regarding the state of behavioral and mental health of individuals working in agriculture and opportunities to better serve those individuals through existing national hotlines.

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Sec. 7413. Natural Products Research Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Natural Products Research Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7414. Sun Grant Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Sun Grant Program through fiscal year 2029.

Subtitle E – Other Matters

Sec. 7501. Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

- Provides \$250 million in mandatory funds for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.
- Requires an annual notice of in-person and virtual opportunities for stakeholder engagement on agricultural research priorities and improves transparency in the grant-making process of the Foundation.
- Requires a quinquennial strategic plan that includes a description of the Foundation’s forecast of major agricultural challenge opportunities, transparency processes, financial goals and benchmarks, and goals on stakeholder engagement.

Sec. 7502. Heirs Property and Fractionated Land Legal Clinics

- Authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with 1890 Institutions, 1994 Institutions, and 1862 Institutions to provide legal services to resolve heirs property and fractionated land in partnership with a law school, nonprofit legal organization, or community-based organization.

Sec. 7503. Critical Agricultural Materials Act

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Critical Agricultural Materials Act through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7504. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants program through fiscal year 2029 and removes the \$100,000 cap.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Endowment for 1994 Institutions and Institutional Capacity Building grants for 1994 Institutions.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for research grants for 1994 Institutions and removes the partnership requirement.

Sec. 7505. Report on the Extension Service Needs of Tribal Lands and Populations

- Requires a GAO study on whether the cooperative extension program and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program are meeting the extension needs of Tribal lands and Tribal populations.

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Sec. 7506. Restoration of 4-H Name and Emblem Authority

- Re-establishes the Secretary’s authority to authorize the use of the 4-H emblem and name and allows for civil actions to be brought for unauthorized uses of the 4-H emblem or name.

Sec. 7507. Amendments to the Hatch Act

- Allows for graduate student tuition and fees to count toward a State’s match and makes clarifying edits relating to the payment of allotments to State agricultural experiment stations.

Sec. 7508. Research Facilities Act

- Provides \$100 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025 for agricultural research facilities.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for agricultural research facilities through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7509. Public Cultivar Development

- Adds regionally adapted cultivar and breed development to priority areas for the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative.
- Requires the Secretary submit a report to Congress on the public cultivar and animal germplasm research funded by USDA and any research gaps in these areas.

Sec. 7510. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative through fiscal year 2029.
- Adds shellfish; measuring, monitoring, reporting, and verifying greenhouse gas emissions; precision agriculture technologies; controlled-environment agricultural technologies; technologies for food loss and waste prevention and reduction; and agricultural climate adaptation and mitigation to priority areas for the Initiative.
- Allows the Secretary to award grants to a consortium of junior or community colleges for workforce training, research, and outreach related to food and agricultural sciences.

Sec. 7511. Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative.

Sec. 7512. Biomass Research and Development

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Biomass Research and Development Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7513. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 through fiscal year 2029.

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Sec. 7514. National Aquaculture Act of 1980

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 7515. Federal Agriculture Research Facilities

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for Federal agricultural research facilities.

Sec. 7516. Enhanced Use Lease Authority

- Amends the termination date for the Enhanced Use Lease Authority to September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7517. Agrivoltaic Systems

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, conduct a study on agrivoltaic systems and develop a plan for USDA to better support agrivoltaic systems that do not displace agricultural production.

Sec. 7518. Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation Joint Research and Development Activities

- Requires that the Secretary of Agriculture carry out collaborative research and development activities with the Secretary of Energy and the Director of the National Science Foundation.

Sec. 7519. National Institute of Food and Agriculture and Economic Development Administration Partnership on Cooperative Extension Activities

- Requires collaboration between the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to identify and provide outreach on EDA funding opportunities for State cooperative institutions.

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Subtitle A – Forest Data Modernization

Sec. 8101. Forest Inventory and Analysis

- Requires the Secretary to update the Forest Service strategic plan every five years.
- Modernizes and standardizes strategic plan development, including by integrating the use of new technologies and clarifying that forest carbon is among the resources to be measured.
- Mandates timber products and woodland owner surveys and improves the public’s access to Forest Inventory and Analysis data.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Sec. 8102. Data on Forest Management Projects

- Creates a publicly available database and map of completed fuel breaks, hazardous fuel reduction projects, functional roads and bridges, intact wetlands, and other forest management activities and features on federal land that are relevant to forest management planning and can be used by firefighters in the event of a wildland fire.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Sec. 8103. Forest and Wood Products Carbon Data

- Establishes a platform for Forest Service to measure and report data on the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related impacts of forest management and wood products.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle B – Forest Health and Management

Sec. 8201. Definition of National Forest System

- Defines “National Forest System” for the purposes of this subtitle.

Part I – Forest Service Management

Sec. 8211. Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for hazardous fuel reduction projects on federal land under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.

Sec. 8212. Insect Infestations and Related Diseases

- Extends the authorization through fiscal year 2029 for Forest Service programs and management activities that combat infestations by forest-damaging insects and associated diseases.

Sec. 8213. Insect and Disease Treatment Areas

- Extends the authorization through fiscal year 2029 for the Secretary to designate, at the request of a Governor, treatment programs on National Forest System lands in States experiencing declining forest health, increased tree mortality, or imminent risk to the

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public, including authority to categorically exclude treatments from additional documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sec. 8214. Study on Protection of Forests from Invasive Species

- Requires the Secretary to establish a national policy to counter threats posed by invasive species to tree species and forest ecosystems and identify areas for interagency cooperation.

Sec. 8215. Forest Service Participation in ACES Program

- Extends the authorization of the experienced-worker program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 8216. Tribal Consultation in Land Use Plans

- Requires the Secretary to consult with Tribes and affected Alaska Native Corporations when developing land use plans.

Sec. 8217. Prescribed Fire Centers

- Requires the Secretary, with the Secretary of Interior, to establish 1 or more centers to train individuals in prescribed fire methods and other methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire risk.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Sec. 8218. Cost-Share Waiver for Rehabilitation from Wildland Fires

- Permits the Secretary to waive any requirement for States, Tribes, localities, or individuals to provide matching funds for a project in response to a wildland fire resulting from management activities conducted by the Secretary on National Forest System land.

Sec. 8219. Expedited Environmental Analysis and Availability of Categorical Exclusions to Expedite Forest Management Activities

- Expands Forest Service authority to categorically exclude certain vegetation management projects that enhance wildlife habitat and improve forest health.

Sec. 8220. Utility Infrastructure Rights of Way Vegetation Management Pilot Program

- Extends the authorization of the voluntary pilot program through fiscal year 2029 for owners or operators of rights-of-way on National Forest System land to conduct limited vegetation management projects on National Forest System land adjacent to those rights-of-way.

Sec. 8221. Permits and Agreements with Electrical Utilities

- Authorizes the Secretary to allow electrical utilities with special use permits or easements on National Forest System land to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within 150 feet of distribution lines or transmission lines without requiring a separate timber sale if the activities are consistent with applicable land management plans and conform with environmental laws.

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Part II – State, Private, and Tribal Partnerships

Sec. 8231. Support for State Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for States to conduct projects under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.

Sec. 8232. State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for a competitive grant program to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.

Sec. 8233. Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation

- Extends authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to provide grants to state foresters to carry out hazardous fuel reduction projects across landscapes on federal and non-federal land.

Sec. 8234. Water Source Protection Program

- Expands the categories of water end-users eligible to participate in the program and broadens the program to include watersheds adjacent to National Forest System lands.
- Prioritizes projects that benefit water supply, support aquatic restoration, improve resilience to drought, fire, and climate change, or include communities that have historically lacked access to resources for such projects.
- Streamlines the preparation of watershed planning documents.
- Increases the federal cost share to 60% from 50% and allows in-kind contributions to include forest restoration work on adjacent non-federal lands.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 8235. Watershed Condition Framework

- Requires the Secretary to ensure that forest management activities under the Watershed Condition Framework do not result in long-term degradation of watershed health or lower the classification of any National Forest watershed.
- Authorizes the appropriation of \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 8236. Tribal Forest Management

- Changes the name of the Tribal Forest Management Demonstration Project to the Tribal Forest Management Program to reflect that this is a permanent program within Forest Service and requires the agency to make available on its website a list of all forest management activities for which contracting is available under Section 8703 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Sec. 8237. Incorporation of Tribal Management Plans

- Requires Forest Service to incorporate Tribal land management plans, Tribal laws, and integrated resource management plans into contracts or agreements with Tribes.

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Sec. 8238. Healthy Forests Reserve Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to fund easements and financial assistance to forest landowners to restore and protect forest resources.

Sec. 8239. Authorization for Lease of Forest Service Sites

- Broadens the services Forest Service may consider as in-kind consideration and increases the maximum lease term to 100 years.
- Extends the authorization of this section through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 8240. Expansion of Good Neighbor Authority

- Expands the program to allow counties and Tribes to retain funds received from the sale of timber harvested from authorized restoration projects on federal land.
- Permits States, Tribes, and counties to conduct authorized restoration services under a good neighbor agreement on non-Federal land where those services are for the benefit of non-federal land, similar and complementary to services being performed on adjacent federal land (to include capacity building) and are carried out predominantly on federal land.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 8241. GAO Reports on Good Neighbor Authority

- Requires GAO to study and report to Congress on various metrics regarding good neighbor authority.

Sec. 8242. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)

- Enhances CFLRP by doubling the number of proposals the Secretary may select each year and increasing funding from \$4 million to \$8 million per proposal.
- Directs the Secretary to give special consideration to proposals that seek to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological restoration activities within areas across land ownerships, or that seek to enhance watershed health and drinking water sources.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 8243. Conservation Finance Projects

- Authorizes a pilot program to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and land management projects by leveraging non-federal investment in landscape-scale conservation and restoration projects conducted on National Forest System or adjoining land.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Sec 8244. Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program

- Makes this program permanent by moving its authorization from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.
- Expands eligible activities to address wildfire recovery and natural resource concerns across boundaries and improves agency coordination and outreach.
- Authorizes \$90 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

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Sec. 8245. Emergency Forest Watershed Program

- Authorizes a new program for the Secretary to address runoff, soil erosion, and flooding caused by a natural disaster that has damaged natural resources on National Forest System lands.

Sec. 8246. Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- Increases transparency around emergency measures for which forest landowners may receive a payment under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program by requiring the Secretary to publish this information on its website.

Section 8247. Nursery and Seed Orchard Support

- Builds on the REPLANT Act by establishing dedicated staff for the Forest Service Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources program, expands technical assistance and workforce development training for nursery and tree establishment programs, and creates a grant program for State, Tribal, and private nurseries to improve nursery production capacity.
- Authorizes \$25 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Section 8248. Reforestation Trust Fund

- Permits the Secretary to obligate funds from the Reforestation Trust Fund to support seed collection, storage, and nurseries, prioritizing projects in vulnerable forests and critical watershed areas.
- Mandates enhanced reporting on projects funded through the Reforestation Trust Fund.

Part III – Timber Innovation

Sec. 8251. Wood Innovations Grant Program

- Expands the reach of the Wood Innovations Grant Program by reducing the match requirement.

Sec. 8252. Community Wood Facilities Grant Program

- Updates the name of the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program to the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program.
- Expands the reach of the program by increasing the maximum amount of each grant that may be covered by USDA, increasing the project caps, doubling the authorization of appropriations to \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and providing the Secretary with greater flexibility to award grants to innovative wood product facilities.

Sec. 8253. Report on Use of Mass Timber in Construction of Federal Facilities

- Requires USDA to identify where mass timber may be used in the construction of federal facilities.

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Subtitle C – Forest Conservation

Sec. 8301. National and Regional Agroforestry Centers

- Broadens the mission of USDA’s national agroforestry research center to support research on climate change and the development of new agroforestry practices.
- Establishes at least one regional agroforestry center and a grant program to support agroforestry projects.
- Doubles the authorization of appropriations to \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 8302. American Forest Farming Association

- Requires the Secretary to collaborate with academic institutions to establish an association that supports the facilitation of agroforestry practices among forest farmers.
- Authorizes \$200,000 in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 8303. Rural Forest Market Investment Program

- Establishes a program for nonprofits and companies to offer guaranteed loans of up to \$150 million to help rural private forest landowners create and sell high-quality forest credits for storing carbon or providing other environmental benefits.

Sec. 8304. Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program

- Increases transparency in project selection by requiring the Secretary to accept and solicit public comment and publish annually in the Federal Register projects considered for funding.

Subtitle D – Land Designations

Sec. 8401. Chester County Reversionary and Mineral Interests Release

- Requires the Secretary to release the United States’ reversionary and mineral interests in .62-acre parcel of land in Chester County to the State of Tennessee.

Sec. 8402. Rough Mountain Wilderness and Rich Hole Wilderness Designations

- Adds 5,600 acres to the existing Rough Mountain and Rich Hole wilderness areas within the George Washington National Forest in Bath County, Virginia.

Sec. 8403. Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area and Wilderness

- Establishes in the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana approximately 30,000 acres as a national recreation area and approximately 15,000 acres as wilderness.

Sec. 8404. Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area

- Establishes a 92,000-acre Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Rockingham, Augusta, and Highland counties in Virginia.

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Sec. 8405. Flatside-Bethune Wilderness

- Adds 2,215 acres to the Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and redesignates the wilderness as the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.

Sec. 8406. Shawnee National Forest Designations

- Designates a 750-acre parcel of land in the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois as wilderness and establishes certain Special Management Areas within the Shawnee National Forest totaling approximately 12,700 acres.

Sec. 8407. Patrick Leahy Wilderness

- Renames the “Breadloaf Wilderness” in the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont as the “Patrick Leahy Wilderness.”

Sec. 8408. Black River State Forest Release of Reversionary Interest

- Permits the State of Wisconsin to convey to Deli, Inc. a 31-acre parcel of state forest land located in the Black River State Forest that is subject to a reversionary interest of the United States in exchange for the addition of a 37-acre parcel of land owned by Deli, Inc. to the Black River State Forest.

Subtitle E – Other Matters

Sec. 8501. Urban and Community Forestry

- Establishes an Urban and Community Forestry Office within the Forest Service and a microforest grant program.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$80 million annually for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Permits the Secretary to waive cost-share requirements for projects carried out under this section, with a priority for providing waivers for projects carried out by non-profits to benefit underserved communities.
- Requires the Forest Advisory Council to meet at least once a year and expands the membership to include a member of an underserved urban community.

Sec. 8502. National Forest Foundation Act

- Extends the authorization to provide matching funds and authorization of appropriations for the National Forest Foundation for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 8503. Conveyance of Forest Service Administrative Sites

- Makes permanent the authorization for Forest Service to convey administrative sites.

Sec. 8504. Rural Revitalization Technologies

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for a program to accelerate the use of biomass and small-diameter materials.

Sec. 8505. Resource Advisory Committees

- Extends the authorization of the Resource Advisory Committees and the appointment pilot programs through 2029.

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Sec. 8506. Rapid Ohia Death

- Requires the Secretary to continue to partner with the Secretary of the Interior and governors of affected States and Territories to address Rapid Ohia Death.
- Authorizes \$5 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

Sec. 8507. Civilian Conservation Centers

- Direct the Secretary to offer specialized training on wildland firefighting and forest and rangeland management to Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students.
- Offers pathways to careers in firefighting and establishes a pilot program to employ students to improve and expand the housing stock owned by the federal government for the purpose of housing wildland firefighters and other agency employees.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

Sec. 8508. Waiver of Special Use Authorization Fees

- Waives special use authorization fees for certain State and local governments; nonprofits engaged in activity to further public health, safety, or welfare; and amateur radio service operators.

Sec. 8509. Payments for Additional Lands Acquired in Northern Minnesota

- Codifies the amount of an annual payment, using National Forest System receipts not otherwise appropriated, from the United States to the State of Minnesota for the benefit of Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis counties.

Sec. 8510. Technical Corrections

- Makes technical and conforming edits.

TITLE IX—Energy

Sec. 9001. Definitions

- Adds definitions for “lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions,” “sustainable aviation fuel,” “ultra-low-carbon bioethanol,” and “zero-carbon bioethanol.”

Sec. 9002. Biobased Markets Program

- Requires each federal agency to increase its number of biobased-only contracts or biobased volume purchased under those contracts by at least 5% from the previous year, to report specific categories of biobased products not available to meet its procurement needs, and to establish a biobased procurement plan.
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to set acceptable price preferences for federal procurement under the BioPreferred Program.
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the minimum biobased content every 5 years for each product category, up to 5%.
- Requires training of procurement officers across the federal government on the procurement requirements under the BioPreferred program.
- Requires each federal agency to publicly report its federal procurement levels under the BioPreferred program.
- Increases biobased product information on online federal procurement systems and improves reporting of biobased products that are purchased through these online systems.
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to educate the public on biobased products and promote the BioPreferred label through public-private partnerships.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a review on whether certain biobased product labeling terms create public confusion and to promulgate regulations to define additional terms to reduce public confusion and protect the integrity of BioPreferred.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to identify available industry methodologies to establish lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment methodologies for biobased products.
- Directs the Secretary of Commerce to develop NAICS product codes for biobased products.
- Requires that the content of biobased products be determined using the most recent version of ASTM-D-6866 standard while allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to issue regulations to establish additional standards to determine the content of biobased products.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 and increases mandatory funding from \$3 million to \$6 million for each of those fiscal years.

Sec. 9003. Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance

- Updates the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program to allow for projects that develop advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased product manufacturing.
- Specifies that sustainable aviation fuel is an eligible technology for this program.

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- Removes the requirement for loan guarantee projects to be technologically new.
- Reinstates a competitive grant program providing up to 30% of the cost of a project to develop and construct biorefineries to demonstrate commercial viability for technologies not widely used in the production of eligible technologies.
- Removes statutory application requirements for loan guarantees and requires funding to be made available year-round.
- Allows the Secretary to waive the feasibility study requirement on loan guarantees for projects using proven or commercially available technologies.
- Increases the maximum principal amount from \$250 million to \$400 million.
- Provides \$75 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025.

Sec. 9004. Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels.

Sec. 9005. Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 for the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program.

Sec. 9006. Rural Energy for America Program

- Renames the “Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Assistance Grants” to the “Project Development Assistance Grants” and makes improvements to these grants by:
 - Allowing grant funds to be used to provide technical assistance in applying for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems grants and loan guarantees;
 - Designating agricultural producer cooperatives as eligible entities;
 - Requiring that the Secretary use a single application for any of the activities allowable under these grants; and
 - Allowing grant funds to be used to train individuals to perform energy audits and renewable energy assessments.
- Amends energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems grants and loan guarantees by:
 - Adding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a consideration for energy efficiency improvement loan guarantees and grants;
 - Increasing the federal cost share to 50% of the cost of the project funded by a grant;
 - Increasing the maximum guaranteed loan amount from \$25 million to \$50 million;
 - Simplifying the application process by: 1) striking the tiered application system and instead directing the Secretary to create a simplified application for projects under \$50,000, and 2) allowing for a single application for loan guarantees and grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy system projects;

TITLE IX—Energy

- Increasing the small project set aside by requiring not less than 25% of total Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) funding to provide grants of up to \$50,000; and
- Creating a new Rebate Pilot Program to allow applicants to apply for Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) after incurring eligible costs outside of the application cycle for energy efficiency equipment that are critical and time sensitive for the continuation of the applicants' operation, such as replacement of refrigeration units, livestock barn fans, and similar equipment.
- Improves program outreach to limited resource producers.
- Creates a new Regional Demonstration Project initiative to demonstrate on-farm carbon emission reduction projects through the use of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems.
- Increases the amount of funding for Project Development Assistance grants to 5% of the total funding under this section and authorizes the Secretary to reserve up to:
 - 10% of the total funding under this section to award energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems grants for underutilized technologies;
 - 5% of the total funding under this section for the rebate pilot project; and
 - 5% of the total funding under this section for administrative costs.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 and continues the existing mandatory funding level of \$50 million for each fiscal year.

Sec. 9007. Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9008. Biomass Crop Assistance Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9009. Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9010. Agrivoltaic System Projects

- Defines agrivoltaic systems.
- Requires outreach and education on agrivoltaics in REAP and other applicable programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service.
- Requires reporting on the projects in those programs that incorporate agrivoltaics.
- Requires coordination between USDA and the Department of Energy to issue guidance on best practices for agrivoltaics.

TITLE IX—Energy

Sec. 9011. Industrial Heat Pump Program

- Establishes a program to provide technical support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses relating to the use of industrial heat pumps and the availability of Federal programs that assist in the adoption of industrial heat pumps.
- Authorizes the appropriation of such sums as necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

*****Subject to final cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.***

TITLE X—Horticulture

Sec. 10001. Specialty Crops Market News Allocation

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10002. Food Loss and Waste Process Verification

- Expands the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Service to verify processes related to the production of food and agricultural products in a manner that reduces food loss and food waste.

Sec. 10003. Local Agriculture Market Program

- Removes matching funds requirements from Value-Added Producer Grants, the Farmers Market Promotion Program, and the Local Food Promotion Program.
- Adds “food hubs” as eligible entities under the Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Local Food Promotion Program, and the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program.
- Requires USDA to collect stakeholder input on the simplification of application and reporting requirements.
- Continues the existing mandatory funding level of \$50 million for each fiscal year for the Local Agricultural Market Program (LAMP), which includes the Value-Added Producer Grants, the Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Local Food Promotion Program, and the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program.
- Increases authorization of appropriations for LAMP to \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 10004. Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreements

- Codifies the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, which provides funds through a noncompetitive cooperative agreement process for State, Territory, and Tribal governments to procure food from local and underserved producers and distribute to food insecure communities.
- Provides \$200 million in mandatory funding for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Authorizes \$40 million to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.
- Sets aside 15% of available program funds for cooperative agreements with Tribal governments.

Sec. 10005. Organic Market Development Grant

- Authorizes \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for Organic Market Development Grants to increase the capacity of organic producers and businesses and develop new markets for organic products.

Sec. 10006. Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives

- Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

TITLE X—Horticulture

Sec. 10007. National Organic Program

- Authorizes the National Organic Program to provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to certified organic farmers and farmers transitioning to organic certification, including coordination with other USDA agencies and the ability to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit entities, state cooperative extension service, or other qualified entities to provide technical assistance and outreach.
- Directs the National Organic Program to solicit public input on the prioritization of organic regulations to be promulgated or revised.
- Directs the Secretary to publish an annual report regarding recommendations received from the National Organic Standards Board, all regulatory and administrative actions taken, and justifications on why actions were or were not taken on those recommendations.
- Directs GAO to conduct a study on the efforts of the National Organic Program to improve organic standards and provide recommendations on how the National Organic Program can ensure that organic program standards evolve in a timely manner to meet consumer expectations and benefit organic producers.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations for the National Organic Program to \$26 million in fiscal year 2025, \$28 million in fiscal year 2026, \$30 million in fiscal year 2027, \$32 million in fiscal year 2028, and \$34 million in fiscal year 2029.
- Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, for database and technology upgrades.

Sec. 10008. Assessment of National Organic Program Enforcement Authority

- Directs the National Organic Program to conduct an assessment of fraudulent organic claims for dietary supplements.

Sec. 10009. National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

- Provides such sums as necessary in mandatory funding for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program and increases the maximum payment to a producer or handler to \$1,000.

Sec. 10010. Food Safety Education Initiatives

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10011. Specialty Crop Block Grants

- Requires coordination with specialty crop producers and producer groups as state program administrators establish priorities for each fiscal year.
- Increases mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants to \$100 million for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

TITLE X—Horticulture

Sec. 10012. Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey

- Provides \$500,000 in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 10013. Defining Plant Biostimulants

- Directs the Environmental Protection Agency to clarify the regulation of “plant biostimulants” under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

Sec. 10014. Soil Health Study

- Directs USDA to conduct a study on the types of plant biostimulant products, how they are used in production, and their impact on crop productivity and health, as defined by EPA under Section 10012, to determine their production benefits and uses.

Sec. 10015. Hemp Production

- Defines “industrial hemp” and lowers regulatory barriers for farmers who are growing industrial hemp for grain and fiber.
- Eliminates the ban on persons who were previously convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance from participating in the program or producing hemp.

Sec. 10016. FIFRA Interagency Working Group

- Extends the reporting requirement for the FIFRA Interagency Working Group through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10017. Interstate Movement Outside of the Continental United States

- Makes a technical fix to allow the Department of Agriculture to pay Departmental employees for performing services relating to the preclearance of imports and exports of plants, plant products, biological control organisms, or other articles in interstate commerce from areas outside of the continental United States.

Sec. 10018. Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Program Reserve Fee

- Makes a technical fix to allow the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to maintain a reserve fund for Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Program fees.

*****Subject to final cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.***

TITLE XI—Crop Insurance

Subtitle A – Producer Affordability

Sec. 11101. Enhancing Subsidies for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Extends and increases the existing crop insurance premium subsidy for beginning farmers and ranchers to be more consistent with other USDA benefits by:
 - Extending the eligibility period for beginning farmers and ranchers from 5 to 10 years; and
 - Increasing the additional subsidy available from 10 to 15 percentage points, which decreases over the first five years of participation from 15 to 10 points, in steps, and remains at 10 points for the final 5 years of participation.

Sec. 11102. Higher Area-Based Premium Subsidy

- Enhances the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) by:
 - Increasing the premium subsidy on SCO to 80%;
 - Increasing the coverage level to 88% to align with updates to the Agriculture Risk Coverage program;
 - Directing the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to continue to expand SCO coverage or other similar products to more crops; and
 - Allowing producers who purchase SCO to continue to be able to participate in the Price Loss Coverage program.

Sec. 11103. Expansion of Performance-Based Discount

- Authorizes the Secretary to offer additional performance-based discounts for practices that can be demonstrated to reduce risk relative to other practices, including by:
 - Directing USDA to consider offering discounts for precision irrigation or fertilization, crop rotations, and cover crops; and
 - Requiring USDA to annually seek expert opinion and consider additional practices based on new evidence.

Subtitle B – Producer Accessibility and Representation

Sec. 11201. Composition of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board

- Updates the structure of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors (Board) to improve crop insurance options for specialty crops and to provide additional producer perspectives into the consideration and approval of new insurance options, including:
 - Specifies that the second Under Secretary position on the Board will be filled by the Under Secretary of Agriculture responsible for marketing and regulatory programs, with a goal of leveraging their expertise in specialty crop, organic, and livestock production.
 - Adds an additional producer to the Board and continues the requirement that at least one member be a specialty crop producer, at least one be a producer of both livestock and crops, and at least one be an underserved producer.

TITLE XI—Crop Insurance

- Requires the Board, in conducting independent reviews of any policy, plan of insurance, or related material prior to approval, to seek to include at least one expert reviewer with subject matter expertise.
- Requires that each product be reviewed by at least one actuary.

Sec. 11202. Ensuring Access for Producers

- Codifies existing requirements in the Standard Reinsurance Agreement and provides discretionary authority for USDA to enforce those requirements in order to ensure that all eligible producers have access to crop insurance, including by:
 - Requiring an approved insurance provider to offer and market all plans of insurance for all agricultural commodities in any State in which actuarial documents are available and in which the approved insurance provider writes an eligible crop insurance or livestock price insurance contract;
 - Requiring an approved insurance provider to accept and approve applications from all eligible producers; and
 - Prohibiting the cancellation of producer contracts unless authorized by the FCIC.
- Provides that the procedural requirements and sanctions prescribed in section 515(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (FCIA) shall apply to the enforcement of this new subsection, and that failure of an approved insurance provider to comply with this new subsection may be considered a material breach.

Sec. 11203. Improvements to Whole Farm and Micro Farm Insurance Plans

- Updates the whole farm insurance plan to improve effectiveness and simplify access for specialty crops and diversified farms, including by:
 - Clarifying the required documentation to establish revenue history;
 - Establishing parameters around adjustments to the revenue guarantee;
 - Clarifying causes of loss for revenue declines;
 - Increasing the limit on growth expansion;
 - Setting deadlines for approval or rejection of applications and providing clarity to producers when applications are rejected;
 - Clarifying diversification requirements;
 - Providing additional educational and training opportunities to approved insurance providers and insurance agents;
 - Creating a pilot program for a pricing library for agents and insurance providers;
 - Improving the data used in establishing coverage; and
 - Improving producer access to agents experienced in selling whole farm insurance policies, among other provisions.
- Updates the micro farm insurance plan to improve effectiveness and simplify access by:
 - Allowing access to coverage for vertically-integrated operations;
 - Allowing producers who use micro farm to also buy underlying insurance policies;
 - Directing the FCIC to simplify micro farm for producers with less than \$1 million in revenue; and

TITLE XI—Crop Insurance

- Requiring RMA to undertake additional stakeholder engagement on additional improvements.

Sec. 11204. Research and Development of New Crops and Coverages

- Directs RMA to undertake research and development on potential new policies and coverage options for a number of crops and plans of insurance in order to continue USDA efforts to expand and fill in gaps in crop insurance coverage.
 - Directs research and development on several specific crops, including walnuts, wine grapes (against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure), cut flowers, mushrooms, oilseed crops, alfalfa, aquaculture products, and traditional foods.
 - Directs research and development on index policies, including a multiperil index policy that would insure crops (including specialty crops) against losses due to abnormal amounts of rainfall, extreme heat, wildfire, hail, drought, and other events, as well as an index policy to insure crops during the growing season against losses due to frost, freeze, or cold weather events.
 - Directs research and development on a policy to insure crops on fields that regularly utilize cover crops.
 - Directs research and development on ways to increase participation of organic producers in Federal crop insurance.
 - Directs research and development on the feasibility of splitting large counties into smaller administrative units for purposes of plans of insurance that trigger indemnities based on an area-wide loss.

Sec. 11205. Risk Management Education and Outreach

- Expands access to and understanding of available risk management options for underserved producers, specialty crop producers, and agents and loss adjusters in underserved communities by:
 - Adding specialty crop policies and plans of insurance and language translation services, as appropriate, to the requirements for continuing education for loss adjusters and agents of approved insurance providers;
 - Requiring the FCIC to enter into partnerships with appropriate public and private entities with demonstrated capabilities relating to underserved producers and underserved agricultural communities to enhance the effectiveness of education and outreach; and
 - Adding the provision of language translation services, as appropriate, to the authorized uses of competitive grants under section 524 of the FCIA, and adding specialty crop farmers and whole farm insurance plans to the list of targets for farm viability and risk management strategies, education, and outreach.

Sec. 11206. Underserved Producers Report

- Requires the Board to more regularly review the policies and plans of insurance that are offered by approved insurance providers, including policies and plans of insurance for

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underserved producers, to determine if each State is adequately served by the policies and plans of insurance.

Sec. 11207. Voluntary Good Farming Practices

- Provides that producers who follow conservation practices and enhancements that are approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or an agricultural expert as determined by the Secretary will not be disqualified from crop insurance eligibility for doing so, building on a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill clarifying that producers who use cover crops will not have their crop insurance affected.

Sec 11208. State Cover Crop Matching Payments

- Establishes federal matching of state cover crop payments made through a partnership with the Federal crop insurance program at up to \$5 per acre.
- Allows USDA to provide similar matching for other conservation practices that are offered by states and have a likelihood of improving long-term soil fertility or reducing indemnities through improvements such as better water-holding capacity or reducing prevented planting.

Sec. 11209. Enterprise Units for Fallow and Continuous Rotations

- Directs RMA to consider providing separate enterprise units for fallow and continuous rotations.

Sec. 11210. Eligibility for Prevented Planting Insurance Under Certain Drought Conditions

- Allows the Secretary to waive the eligibility requirement for prevented planting insurance, which requires that planting of a crop must have occurred once in the 4 most recent crop years preceding the current crop year, in certain counties that have experienced certain drought conditions.

Subtitle C – Agent Incentives and Options

Sec. 11301. Option for Agents to Underwrite Policies with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

- Creates a pilot program for the FCIC to underwrite whole farm insurance plans and similar policies for underserved producers, commodities, and geographic areas.

Sec. 11302. Updates to Administrative and Operative Subsidies

- Updates administrative and operating (A&O) subsidies in order to better reflect the work associated with relatively more complex policies like Whole Farm Revenue Protection and relatively less complex policies like area-based policies, and modernizes other A&O rules by:
 - Instituting a limitation on the combined total amount of reimbursements for administrative and operating expenses to approved insurance providers, and provides for two percent growth each year to account for inflation;

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- Establishing that a minimum percentage of A&O is to be passed through to agents on each policy to cover at least the agents' direct costs;
- Providing for minimum levels of A&O for sales of policies that are more intensive, such as whole farm and micro farm, or for smaller operators where the normal formula does not cover the agents' costs; and
- Reducing the A&O for area-based policies to account for the lack of costs associated with loss adjustment.

Sec. 11303. Compensation Data Collection

- Requires the Secretary to collect data regarding the administrative and operating subsidy payments made by the FCIC to approved insurance providers.
- Requires approved insurance providers to submit data on agent compensation, on an annual basis, to the Secretary.

Subtitle D – Specialty Crops

Sec. 11401. Specialty Crop Insurance Advisory Committee

- Requires the FCIC to create a Specialty Crop Insurance Advisory Committee, consisting of members representing the interests of a wide range of specialty crop insurance stakeholders in different geographical areas. The Advisory Committee may submit recommendations regarding new specialty crop policies, or the expansion of available specialty crop policies, to the Board, among other responsibilities.

Sec. 11402. Addition and Expansion of Specialty Crop Policies

- Requires the FCIC to consult with the Specialty Crop Insurance Advisory Committee established under Sec. 11401 regarding the expansion of existing policies or plans of insurance for specialty crops and research and development of new policies or plans of insurance for specialty crops.

Sec. 11403. Priorities for Private Development of New Policies and Expansion of Existing Policies

- Requires the FCIC to prioritize the private development of new policies and expansion of existing policies for specialty crops and commodities for which there is no insurance.
- Also requires the FCIC to prioritize the development or expansion of margin protection and coverage for cost-of-production risk to ensure that such coverage options are available to additional producers.

Sec. 11404. Advance Payments for Specialty Crop Insurance Policies in Development

- Allows the Board to approve an additional 25% advance payment to the submitter of a policy under section 508(h) of the FCIA in the additional circumstance where the Specialty Crop Insurance Advisory Committee has recommended the policy or plan of insurance for development.

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Sec. 11405. Priorities for Internal Development of New Policies and Expansion of Existing Policies

- Requires the FCIC to prioritize the development and expansion of policies that increase participation by underserved producers and producers of underserved agricultural commodities, including in part by:
 - Expanding the production revenue history policy or similar policies to additional specialty crops and States to ensure that coverage is available to producers for at least 1 new specialty crop and 1 new State each year; and
 - Increasing participation in whole-farm revenue protection policies by addressing barriers to producers, including barriers between agents and approved insurance providers in marketing and servicing those policies.

Subtitle E – Program Integrity

Sec. 11501. Actuarial Soundness of Existing Plans

- Requires the FCIC to more regularly review for actuarial soundness any policies, plans of insurance, or materials based on certain criteria; to take necessary actions to align them with the standard for actuarial soundness; and to report publicly on such review and actions; with a priority given to review of recently approved plans and those developed pursuant to section 508(h) of the FCIA. Other criteria for review include:
 - Policies or plans of insurance with more than \$500 million in liability annually;
 - Policies, plans of insurance, or regions of the country with consistently high or low loss ratios;
 - Policies, plans of insurance, or regions of the country that have been consistently placed in the assigned risk pool; and
 - Other criteria deemed appropriate by the FCIC.
- Provides flexibility in hiring of specialized experts like actuaries.
- Provides authority for the FCIC to take over maintenance of a product developed pursuant to section 508(h) of the FCIA if the developer fails to maintain the product or make adjustments to improve actuarial soundness after appropriate notice and due process.
- Requires the FCIC to correct overcharging of a producer as soon as possible and not impose a limit on the annual amount by which premium rates may be reduced.
- Imposes a marketability deadline for any policy, plan of insurance, or material approved under section 508(h) of the FCIA and finalized fewer than 120 days prior to the applicable sales closing date.
- Requires that for any plan or policy of insurance for which an approved insurance provider has provided a marketability assessment at the time of submission, that approved insurance provider shall have an opportunity to provide an updated marketability assessment before the Board takes final action on such plan or policy of insurance.

TITLE XI—Crop Insurance

Sec. 11502. Rating Methodology and Data Reporting Updates

- Requires the FCIC to more regularly review the methodologies employed for rating plans of insurance, and to ensure its rating methodology is regionally robust and appropriately models and weights changes in risk from crop genetics, increasing frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, and other factors known to be changing farm risks.

Sec. 11503. Data Analytics and Improvement

- Requires the Secretary to support advancing and improving the development of remote sensing, machine learning, and computational modeling to continually improve the administration and enforcement of the FCIA.
- Increases the authorization from \$4 million to \$10 million for activities of information technology and data analytics and improvement, of which not less than \$4 million shall be used for existing activities.

Sec. 11504. Reimbursement of Privately Developed Plans

- Amends section 522 of the FCIA to revise the definition of reasonable costs eligible for reimbursement to require the use of actual wage rates, with a cap.
- Allows the Board to require that applicants provide third-party documents as support for a request for reimbursement of actual costs.

Sec. 11505. Standard Reinsurance Agreement Negotiation

- Requires the FCIC to engage with entities representing crop insurance agents during any future renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement. This provision does not trigger a renegotiation.

Subtitle F – Other Matters

Sec. 11601. Native Sod

- Removes the geographic limitation on application of the reduction in benefits for crop production on native sod, as set forth in subsection 508(o) of the FCIA.
- Requires producers that have tilled native sod acreage for the production of an insurable crop to certify to the Secretary that acreage; the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress annually describing the tilled native sod acreage so certified, for each county and State.
- Amends section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to impose a similar requirement.

Sec. 11602. Technical Amendments

- Makes certain technical amendments to sections 508 and 523 of the FCIA.

*****Subject to final cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.***

TITLE XII—Miscellaneous

Subtitle A – Livestock

Sec. 12101. Animal Disease Prevention and Management

- Increases mandatory funding to \$35 million for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter and extends the authorization of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB) through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12102. Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program

- Provides \$2 million in mandatory funding for the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 12103. Resources and Grant Program for Small and Medium Meat Processors

- Requires the Secretary to establish a free, searchable database of food safety planning resources for small processing establishments, including peer-reviewed studies on food safety best practices and model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans.
- Increases the maximum federal share for expenses of state inspection from 50% to 55%.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct outreach for the purpose of State participation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program and submit a report each fiscal year.
- Increases the size of entities eligible to participate in the Cooperative Interstate Shipping Program and increases the percentage of State costs eligible for reimbursement.
- Establishes a program for the Secretary to make grants to small processing establishments, processing establishments subject to state meat and poultry inspection programs, and custom processing operations.
 - Eligible uses for grants include the development of food safety protocols, the purchase or establishment of facilities and equipment, the construction or purchase of humane handling infrastructure, employee training for food safety procedures, and the purchase of equipment that enables value-added sale of coproducts or byproducts; and
 - Authorizes \$25 million in appropriations for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12104. Exemption for Meat Processors of Livestock Market Ownership Under the Packers and Stockyards Act

- Exempts meat processing facilities with \$50 million of live animal purchases or less, or individuals with 10% ownership interest or less in a meat processing facility, from the prohibition on owning, financing, or participating in the management or operation of a livestock marketing agency.

TITLE XII—Miscellaneous

Sec. 12105. Prompt Payment

- Amends the Packers and Stockyards Act to allow additional time for buyers to submit payments using wire or ACH payments.

Sec. 12106. Animal Disease Regional Export Ban Agreements

- Provides USDA the authority to preemptively negotiate regionalization agreements with key export markets for known animal disease threats.

Sec. 12107. Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters

- Establishes an Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters headed by the Special Investigator for Competition Matters, who will be a senior career employee appointed by the Secretary.
- Requires the Special Investigator to use all available tools to investigate and prosecute violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act, maintain staff attorneys and other appropriate professionals, and coordinate with USDA's Office of the General Counsel and the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service.
- The Special Investigator will serve as a USDA liaison to and act in consultation with the Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, as well as consult with the Department of Homeland Security on issues related to national and critical infrastructure security.

Sec. 12108. Product of USA Label

- Establishes standards for voluntary U.S. origin labeling claims for Food Safety Inspection Service products.

Sec. 12109. Cattle Contracts Library

- Makes permanent USDA's Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program.

Sec. 12110. Livestock Consolidation Research

- Requires the Administrator of the Economic Research Service to publish a report within one year of the latest Census of Agriculture on consolidation and concentration within the livestock industry and its impacts on farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

Subtitle B – Historically Underserved Producers

Sec. 12201. Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach

- Adds interpretation and translation services to the program and clarifies that the program may provide outreach on programs that resolve ownership and succession on farmland with multiple owners.
- Moves administration of the program to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Continues the current mandatory funding level at \$50 million for each fiscal year.

TITLE XII—Miscellaneous

Sec. 12202. Strengthening the Transparency and Accountability Report

- Requires that the Secretary, in coordination with the Office of Customer Experience and the Office of Digital Services, ensure that the transparency and accountability report be user-friendly, such that the data in the report is easy for users to use and analyze.

Sec. 12203. USDA Ombudsperson

- Establishes the position of an Ombudsperson at the Department, independent of other Department agencies and offices.
- Requires the Ombudsperson to assist farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners with navigating agencies and offices within the Department; to work with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to review progress of complaints referred by the Ombudsperson; and to track efforts of the Department to implement recommendations made by relevant advisory committees.
- Requires the Ombudsperson to refer to the Office of the Inspector General systemic issues that may affect program delivery to members of protected classes, and to refer complaints of discrimination to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.
- Requires the Ombudsperson to submit annual reports to Congress.
- Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12204. Farmland Ownership

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12205. Civil Rights Accountability for USDA Employees

- Requires the Secretary to ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken with respect to any official or employee of the Department who has been found to have engaged in any discriminatory action, retaliatory action, harassment, a civil rights violation, or related misconduct while in the course of the employment of such official or employee or in administering a Department program or service.

Sec. 12206. Equitable Relief Recommendations by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

- Authorizes the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to recommend that the Secretary grant equitable relief in farm and conservation programs to a participant who files a civil rights program complaint.
- Requires the Secretary to provide a written explanation describing in detail the reasons for denial when equitable relief recommended by the Assistant Secretary is not granted.

Sec. 12207. Advisory Committee Improvements and Transparency

- Amends the Minority Farmer Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers to expand the scope of their advisory activities, and to require at least annual public reports describing their activities.

TITLE XII—Miscellaneous

Sec. 12208. Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

- Expands the responsibilities of the Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) to include providing guidance on establishing and managing farm tract numbers, as well as promoting conservation techniques appropriate for urban agriculture and urban environmental impacts.
- Authorizes OUAIP to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations, local government units, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, agricultural producer groups or cooperatives, and schools that serve children in kindergarten through grade 12 to support urban agriculture and innovative production operations.
 - Prioritizes establishing cooperative agreements with eligible entities that serve geographic areas with high concentrations of urban or suburban farms, have established relationships with historically underserved populations, have experience working with individuals with limited English proficiency, or demonstrate experience providing urban agriculture technical assistance in their geographic area; and
 - Allows eligibility entities to use funds from the cooperative agreement to provide microgrants to urban and innovative producers to support the growth of the farm or farm business of the producer.
- Makes improvements to competitive grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production by:
 - Prioritizing projects that improve access to local foods in areas where access to fresh, healthy food is limited; and
 - Adding agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures as eligible entities.
- Clarifies the rules and procedures governing the establishment of urban committees and supporting field staff and offices, as well as the responsibilities of urban committees.
- Makes the Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction pilot program permanent, allows for projects focused on developing food waste-to-energy operations, and expands eligibility to include State and Tribal governments, with not more than 40% of the program funding awarded to State governments.
- Provides \$10 million in mandatory funding for OUAIP for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations for OUAIP to \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12209. Office of Small Farms

- Establishes an Office of Small Farms in the Department, with a Director appointed by the Secretary. Requires the Director to advise the Secretary and coordinate activities of the Department regarding programs, policies, and issues relating to small farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners or operators; to regularly review USDA programs and policies and identify barriers for small farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners or operators; and to track application and participation rates of farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners or operators in USDA programs.

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- Requires the Secretary to designate National Small Farm Coordinators within agencies across the Department to coordinate with the Office of Small Farms and each other regarding small farm issues.
- Requires the Director to designate in each State a State small farms coordinator, from among the employees of State offices of the Department.
- Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to provide microgrants to small farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners or operators.

Sec. 12210. Strengthening the Farm and Food System Workforce

- Renames the position of Farmworker Coordinator within the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement to Farm and Food System Workforce Coordinator, and expands the duties of the Coordinator.
- Requires the heads of specified USDA agencies and offices to designate a farmworkers and food system workers liaison, responsible for coordinating with the Farm and Food System Workforce Coordinator.
- Requires the Coordinator to submit a public report at least annually to the Secretary describing the activities of the Coordinator during the previous year.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Coordinator through fiscal year 2029.
- Requires the Secretary to establish a Farmworker and Food System Worker Advisory Committee with a membership drawn from farmworkers and food system workers and related organizations, to advise the Secretary on improving farmworker and food system worker safety and agricultural education opportunities and job training programs for farmworkers and food system worker safety.
- Requires the Secretary to establish a Farm and Food System Workforce Interagency Council to facilitate interagency, cabinet-level leadership in planning, policymaking, coordination, and program development for services available to farmworkers and food system workers.
- Authorizes such sums as necessary for carrying out of the new provisions added by this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12211. Grocery, Farm, and Food Worker Stabilization Grant Program

- Establishes a grant program to provide grocery, farm, and food workers assistance during times of disaster.
- Authorizes \$50 million to carry out this section.

Sec. 12212. Tribal Advisory Committee; Tribal Self-Determination Pilots

- Requires that USDA mission areas that have programs with self-determination contracts designate an office or senior official within that mission area that shall be responsible for self-determination contracts and requires the Secretary to designate a senior official on self-determination within the Office of the Secretary to coordinate with the applicable mission area senior officials or offices on Tribal self-determination contracts.

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- Directs the Tribal Advisory Committee to make periodic recommendations to the Secretary on self-determination pilot projects of USDA programs and activities. Requires the Secretary to review and respond to the pilot recommendations made by the Tribal Advisory Committee, with the response submitted to the Tribal Advisory Committee, the Office of Tribal Relations, and the relevant committees of Congress.
- Requires that the Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish demonstration projects to enter into self-determination contracts with Tribal organizations to procure their own food for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and to enter into self-determination contracts with Tribal organizations to administer the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Sec. 12213. Tribal Promise Zones

- Requires the Secretary to designate Tribal Promise Zones before January 1, 2026.

Subtitle C – Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 Amendments

Sec. 12301. Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a cost-benefit analysis before relocating employees of any agency, office, division, or other unit of the Department, and for that analysis to be made public.
- Requires the Secretary to notify each affected employee not less than 365 days before the date of relocation, including providing the new duty station location.

Sec. 12302. Offices of Customer Experience and Digital Service

- Establishes the Office of Digital Service to coordinate the digital services functions and activities of the Department.
- Sets up a USDA Digital Service Fellows program for term-limited fellows who are highly skilled in the technical planning, developing, designing, or delivery of digital services to improve the Department’s digital systems, information management, data accessibility, and other technological functionalities.
- Establishes the Office of Customer Experience to advise and support the Department on the improvement and design of the programs of the Department using a human-centered design process, including program application streamlining efforts, and to carry out other responsibilities relating to customer experience.
- Authorizes the Secretary to establish one or more customer experience liaisons within each mission area, office, and agency of the Department to coordinate with the Office of Customer Experience and to provide services to improve customer experience.

Sec. 12303. Food Loss and Waste

- Establishes definitions of “food loss,” “food recovery,” “food waste,” and “upcycled food product.”
- Establishes regional coordinators for food loss and waste reduction within the Department and authorizes \$1 million for the regional coordinators.

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- Directs the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison to initiate a national food waste education and public awareness campaign and authorizes \$2 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out these activities.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration to carry out the terms of the federal interagency agreement related to reducing food loss and waste.

Sec. 12304. Housing and Urban Development Liaison

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Housing and Urban Development Liaison, who shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: 1) identify USDA programs and activities that impact urban communities; 2) identify related programs and activities at the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and 3) coordinate on these identified programs and rural housing programs.
- Requires the Secretary to make publicly available an annual report on the activities of the Housing and Urban Development Liaison.

Sec. 12305. Hubs for Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

- Requires the Secretary to establish a national network of offices (“Climate Hubs”), including one office focused on international collaboration and one office based in the State of Hawaii, to serve the Department in meeting the needs of farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in addressing the climate crisis, and to develop and deliver 1) support for integrating climate change into planning and decision-making, information and program support for science-informed decision-making, 2) tools and practices to address the causes and consequences of climate change, and 3) equitable access to information.
- Authorizes \$50 million to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12306. Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Extends the effective date for reporting any closures of NRCS field offices through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12307. Office of the Chief Scientist

- Removes the limitation on the length of service of certain Division Chiefs within the Office of the Chief Scientist and increases the aggregate number of staff for all Divisions to 50 full-time equivalent positions.

Sec. 12308. Regional Food Business Centers

- Establishes at least 12 regional food business centers that support small and medium-sized farms and food businesses through coordination, business technical assistance, and capacity building activities.

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- Requires that not fewer than 1 regional food business center shall exclusively serve Tribal producers and businesses and that not fewer than 3 regional food business centers shall serve producers and businesses in Hawaii, Alaska, the colonias, territories of the United States, and other remote areas.
- Requires that any center prioritize support for underserved and limited resource producers and farm and food businesses.

Sec. 12309. Aquaculture Liaison

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish in the Department the position of Aquaculture Liaison, who shall identify programs and activities of the Department that impact the aquaculture industry, and work to enhance such activities.

Sec. 12310. Termination of Authority

- Excludes the amendments made by this Act from the termination of authority in section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

Subtitle D – Agriculture and Food Defense

Sec. 12401. Amendments to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA)

- Requires that foreign persons who enter into leasing agreements for 5 years or more with respect to agricultural land or who hold at least 1% interest in the land shall submit a report to the Secretary under AFIDA.
- Establishes a minimum civil penalty amount while maintaining a cap on the total penalty amount if a person has failed to submit a report or has knowingly submitted a report under AFIDA with incomplete, false, or misleading information.
- Establishes civil penalties for shell corporations that fail to comply with the AFIDA reporting requirements.
- Directs USDA to carry out a nationwide outreach programs to increase public awareness and provide education regarding AFIDA reporting requirements.
- Requires the Secretary to designate a Chief of Operations within the Department to monitor compliance of AFIDA, conduct annual compliance audits, provide annual training to state and county-level personnel on AFIDA compliance, and other duties.
- Requires that the Secretary publish an annual report describing holdings of agricultural land by foreign persons and carry out research every 5 years on trends in foreign ownership of agricultural land and the production capacity and economic impact of foreign owned agricultural land.
- Makes permanent the requirement for USDA to establish an online database for AFIDA and a streamlined process for electronically submitting foreign ownership reports.

Sec. 12402. National Plant Diagnostic Network

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

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Sec. 12403. Office of Homeland Security

- Requires the Secretary to ensure that there are career employees within the agencies and offices of the Department that are designated to coordinate on agriculture and food defense with the Office of Homeland Security and the Intelligence Community Counterintelligence Office and to receive information from those offices on a need-to-know basis.
- Requires the Secretary, to increase intra-agency coordination on agriculture and food defense by detailing Department employees to the Office of Homeland Security, on a non-reimbursable basis.

Sec. 12404. Authorization of Appropriations

- Extends the authorization of appropriations in section 12205 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12405. Risk Assessment on Cybersecurity-Related Threats to Agriculture and Food Systems

- Requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Intelligence Community Counterintelligence Office, and the Department of Health and Human Services, to conduct a biennial assessment of cybersecurity-related threats to and vulnerabilities in the agriculture and food system.
- Requires the Secretary, within 1 year of the date of enactment, and biennially thereafter, to submit to Congress a report describing the most recently conducted such assessment.

Subtitle E – Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 12501. Maple Research and Market Promotion Program.

- Renames the Acer Access and Development Program as the Maple Research and Market Promotion Program.
- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12502. Protecting Animals with Shelter

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12503. Beagle Brigade

- Establishes the Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center.

Sec. 12504. Importation of Dogs into the United States

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation, to establish a process for dogs being imported into the United States.
- Requires that after regulations have been issued, before importing a dog over the age of six months into the United States, the importer submit to the Secretary electronic

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documentation demonstrating that the dog is in good health, has received all necessary vaccinations and parasitic treatments, and has demonstrated negative test results as issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian.

- Subjects an importer that fails to comply to penalties as determined by the Secretary and the deportation of each applicable dog, with due care for the welfare of the animal.

Sec. 12505. Veterinary Loan Repayment Program and Veterinary Services Grant Program Study and Report

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a study to review the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program and the Veterinary Services Grant Program to evaluate the efficacy and identify recommendations for improving each program.
- Requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress regarding the results of each study.

Sec. 12506. Report on Animal Depopulation

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to compile and make publicly available an annual report containing information on the Department's completion of animal depopulation events including the number of events, geographic region, animal species, method and cost of depopulation, and reason for depopulation.

Sec. 12507. Retirement of Research Animals

- Requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations to establish a process for the placement of federal research dogs and cats deemed suitable for retirement with animal rescue organizations or shelters.

Sec. 12508. Animal Welfare Act Enforcement

- Strengthens coordination between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Justice on Animal Welfare Act violations.

Sec. 12509. Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$36 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives.

Sec. 12510. Marketing Orders

- Amends the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the exclusion of dates for processing from the list of imported commodities to which commodity marketing orders are applicable.

Sec. 12511. Farmer Seed Liaison

- Establishes in the Agricultural Marketing Service the position of Farmer Seed Liaison, whose responsibilities include strengthening competition and choice in the seed marketplace and serving as a liaison and expert for all matters relating to seeds.
- Authorizes appropriations of \$2.5 million for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

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Sec. 12512. Procurement Study and Report

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a study to examine barriers to and opportunities for commodity food purchases by the Department.

Sec. 12513. Relief for Farmers

- Requires the Secretary to provide grants to states, territories, and Indian Tribes to monitor and remediate the impacts of PFAS contamination of agricultural land or farm products, including providing financial assistance to impacted producers and conducting research.
- Requires eligible governments receiving funding under this program to prioritize direct assistance to producers who are experiencing financial losses due to PFAS contamination.
- Authorizes \$500 million to carry out this section for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12514. Improvements to the United States Drought Monitor

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.
- Requires the Secretary to establish an interagency working group, with representatives from USDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Drought Mitigation Center, the Department of the Interior, and mesonet programs in States experiencing drought, to improve the availability of consistent, accurate, and reliable data for use in producing the United States Drought Monitor.
- Requires the working group to submit a report containing recommendations for changes in policies, regulations, guidance documents, or existing law to develop a means for the inclusion of in-situ data into the process of developing the United States Drought Monitor and requires the Secretary to incorporate to the extent practicable, the recommendations of the working group to improve the United States Drought Monitor.
- Terminates the working group 90 days after the report is submitted.

Sec. 12515. Program Data Protection and Access

- Requires that the Secretary make data related to crop yields, production practices, conservation practices, rural development investments, farm and conservation program participation and enrollment, and farm and conservation program eligibility, available to researchers with approved research proposals through a secure data access environment that protects confidential data. Also requires that the Secretary establish a process to review research using the data prior to public release to ensure no confidential data is disclosed.
- Authorizes \$4 million for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026 and \$2.5 million for each fiscal year thereafter and authorizes the Secretary to charge individuals and entities a fee for each approved research proposal, not to exceed the cost to the Department of providing secure data access to the researcher.

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Sec. 12516. Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Sequestration

- Requires the Secretary to develop a standardized methodology to directly measure soil carbon consistently over time for research and conservation purposes.
- Establishes a program to inventory, monitor, and analyze soil carbon changes on eligible land in the United States, in order to analyze soil properties and the impact of land management strategies, including conservation activities, on soil carbon sequestration.
- Directs the Secretary to develop and maintain a modeling tool to predict the impacts of different land management practices, including implementing conservation activities, on greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon sequestration across the United States.
- Authorizes \$50 million to carry out the activities under this section, of which not less than 30% must be used to provide culturally appropriate technical assistance and guidance to historically underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

Sec. 12517. Report on Personnel

- Extends the requirement that the Secretary submit a biannual report to Congress on Department personnel through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12518. Conversion Authority

- Authorizes the Secretary, subject to certain limitations, to convert to an appointment in the competitive service certain individuals, including a recent graduate or student that has completed certain USDA programs, a participant of the research associate post-doctoral scientists program, or a participant in an internship program administered by an eligible third party or a Federal agency.

Sec. 12519. Department of Agriculture Recruitment and Retention Authorities

- Improves the Secretary's authority to repay a portion of student loans for veterinarians employed by the Department.
- Authorizes the Secretary to establish special pay rates for veterinarians, FSA loan officers, and NRCS engineers and soil conservationists.

Sec. 12520. Authorization of Protection Operations for the Secretary of Agriculture and Others

- Extends the reporting requirement to September 30, 2029.

Sec. 12521. Commission on Farm Transitions

- Requires the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 to make recommendations in addition to conducting a study and expands the scope of the issues to be addressed to include unique barriers faced by historically underserved farmers and ranchers in the ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural assets, including land; leasing and ownership trends; and consolidation of farm and ranch operations.

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- Requires the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 to submit a report to the President and to the Congress not later than 2 years after the enactment of this Act, containing the results of its study and any recommendations.
- Delays the termination date of the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 to September 30, 2029.

Sec. 12522. Notifications and Reports from USDA

- Requires the Secretary to notify the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the House Committee on Agriculture in writing at least 15 days prior to any announcement on the use of funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation or on the commitment of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Requires the Secretary, with respect to each report or notification required by an annual appropriations Act to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations, to submit that report or notification to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives at the same time.

Sec. 12523. Standards for Precision Agriculture

- Requires the Secretary, within 2 years after the enactment of this Act, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to develop voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture that will promote economies of scale and ease the burden of the adoption of precision agriculture.
- Requires GAO to conduct a study assessing those standards, including the extent to which those standards are voluntary, were developed in coordination with relevant industry organizations, and have successfully encouraged the adoption of precision agriculture.

Sec. 12524. Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund

- Provides \$16 million in mandatory funding for each of calendar years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12525. Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund

- Provides \$30 million in mandatory funding for each of calendar years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12526. Wool Research and Promotion

- Provides \$2.25 million in mandatory funding for each of calendar years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 12527. Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund

- Provides \$25 million in mandatory funding for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

***Subject to final cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.*