

Luján 1st degree #13

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To support provision of assistance to farmer-to-farmer networks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENTS intended to be proposed by Mr. LUJÁN (for
himself and Mr. MORAN)

Viz:

1 In section 2404(1), strike subparagraph (A) and in-
2 sert the following:

3 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
4 (2) as paragraphs (2) and (4), respectively;

5 In section 2404(1)(B), insert “and” after the semi-
6 colon at the end.

7 In section 2404(1), add at the end the following:

8 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so
9 redesignated) the following:

1 “(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORK.—The
2 term ‘farmer-to-farmer network’ means any affli-
3 ation or association of farmers that share informa-
4 tion, technical assistance, or any other type of mutu-
5 ally beneficial support.”;

6 In section 2404(4)(C), strike “and” after the semi-
7 colon at the end.

8 In section 2404(5)(C), strike the period at the end
9 and insert “; and”.

10 In section 2404, add at the end the following:

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

12 “(j) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-
13 FARMER NETWORKS.—

14 “(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this sub-
15 section are—

16 “(A) to build capacity for farmer-to-farmer
17 networks, connect farmers with mentors or
18 group learning opportunities, and support goal
19 setting to increase long-term adoption of con-
20 sistent, science-based, site-specific practices de-
21 signed to achieve conservation objectives on

1 land active in agricultural, forestry, or related
2 uses;

3 “(B) to increase the provision of technical
4 assistance that meets the specific needs of, and
5 is accessible to, farmers, ranchers, and forest
6 owners using different farming models, prac-
7 tices, and scales;

8 “(C) to establish and steward farmer-to-
9 farmer networks; and

10 “(D) to establish reporting requirements
11 for activities carried out under this subsection.

12 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
14 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
15 entities to carry out the purposes described in
16 paragraph (1).

17 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
18 ble to enter into a cooperative agreement with
19 the Secretary under subparagraph (A) is—

20 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
21 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
22 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
23 under section 501(a) of that Code;

24 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

25 “(iii) an Indian Tribe;

1 “(iv) a Tribal organization (as defined
2 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
3 tion and Education Assistance Act (25
4 U.S.C. 5304));

5 “(v) a unit of local government (in-
6 cluding a conservation district and a con-
7 servation district association);

8 “(vi) an institution of higher edu-
9 cation;

10 “(vii) a State; and

11 “(viii) any other entity designated by
12 the Secretary.

13 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting eligi-
14 ble entities with which to enter into cooperative
15 agreements under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
16 retary shall give priority to eligible entities that
17 seek to meet the specific needs of, and are ac-
18 cessible to—

19 “(i) historically underserved farmers,
20 ranchers, and forest owners, including lim-
21 ited-resource farmers, ranchers, and forest
22 owners (as determined by the Secretary);
23 or

1 “(ii) farmers, ranchers, and forest
2 owners operating in high-poverty areas, as
3 determined by the Secretary.

4 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDERS OF AS-
5 SISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
7 provides assistance to establish a farmer-to-
8 farmer network using assistance provided
9 through a cooperative agreement under para-
10 graph (2), the eligible entity shall be responsible
11 for not less than 2 of the following actions:

12 “(i) Facilitating and increasing farm-
13 er access to farmer-to-farmer networks.

14 “(ii) Facilitating mentor and mentee
15 matchmaking among farmers.

16 “(iii) Coordinating training and re-
17 sources to build the skills of farmer-to-
18 farmer network leaders and participants
19 for effective education, grassroots-based
20 learning, and cross-training with respect to
21 the facilitation of, information about, and
22 other skills with respect to building effec-
23 tive farmer-to-farmer networks.

24 “(iv) Maintaining and promulgating a
25 list of relevant entities, associations, and

1 individuals that are supporting, or have an
2 interest in supporting, farmer-to-farmer
3 networks.

4 “(v) Administering subawards to in-
5 crease farmer access to farmer-to-farmer
6 assistance in accordance with paragraph
7 (4).

8 “(vi) Other actions determined appro-
9 priate by the Secretary.

10 “(B) LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE.—If an eligi-
11 ble entity provides assistance described in sub-
12 paragraph (A) to a non-English speaking farm-
13 er, rancher, or forest owner, the eligible entity
14 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide
15 that assistance in the native language of the
16 farmer, rancher, or forest owner.

17 “(C) REPORTING.—An eligible entity that
18 enters into a cooperative agreement under para-
19 graph (2) shall annually submit to the Sec-
20 retary a report describing—

21 “(i) the conservation activities carried
22 out under the cooperative agreement; and

23 “(ii) any subawards administered pur-
24 suant to subparagraph (A)(v).

25 “(4) SUBAWARDS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
2 awards a subaward pursuant to paragraph
3 (3)(A)(v) to an eligible subawardee described in
4 subparagraph (B), the eligible subawardee shall
5 use that award—

6 “(i) to plan and conduct events, and
7 identify and develop innovative activities,
8 to support building capacity for farmer-to-
9 farmer networks, connecting farmers with
10 mentors or group learning opportunities,
11 and supporting goal setting to increase
12 long-term adoption of consistent, science-
13 based, site-specific conservation objectives
14 on land active in agricultural, forestry, or
15 related uses; and

16 “(ii) to compensate participants in the
17 events and activities described in clause (i)
18 at market rates.

19 “(B) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—An entity
20 eligible for a subaward under paragraph
21 (3)(A)(v) is—

22 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
23 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
24 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
25 under section 501(a) of that Code;

1 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

2 “(iii) an Indian Tribe;

3 “(iv) a Tribal organization (as defined
4 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
5 tion and Education Assistance Act (25
6 U.S.C. 5304));

7 “(v) a unit of local government (in-
8 cluding a conservation district and a con-
9 servation district association);

10 “(vi) an institution of higher edu-
11 cation;

12 “(vii) an individual; and

13 “(viii) any other entity designated by
14 the Secretary.

15 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, in
16 conjunction with the Chief of the Natural Re-
17 sources Conservation Service, shall establish
18 any necessary additional requirements for sub-
19 awards under paragraph (3)(A)(v).

20 “(5) REPORTING.—Not later than 4 years after
21 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-
22 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
23 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
24 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-

1 ate a report describing the status of activities funded
2 under this subsection, including—

3 “(A) funding awarded;

4 “(B) the results of the activities, including,
5 if feasible, conservation practice adoption out-
6 comes; and

7 “(C) if applicable, outreach activities the
8 Secretary has considered incorporating into
9 other conservation technical assistance efforts
10 as a result of the program established under
11 this subsection.

12 “(6) FUNDING.—In carrying out this sub-
13 section, the Secretary may use funds appropriated
14 by Congress under section 6 of the Soil Conservation
15 and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590f).”.