

yield for the covered commodity by giving priority to the use of actual county yields from a single source that provides the greatest national coverage of county-level data. Requires the Secretary to pro rate the base acres and payments in the case of a farm that has a tract with base acres that crosses a county boundary.

- **Sec.1104 (6)** requires the publication of county guarantees, county yields, and sources of data used to calculate county yields for each covered commodity.

Sec. 1105 Repeal of Transition Assistance for Producers of Upland Cotton

- Repeals section 1119 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Subtitle B—Marketing Loans

Sec. 1201 Extensions

- **Sec.1201 (a)** amends section 1201(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for the availability of nonrecourse marketing assistance loans through 2023.
- **Sec.1201 (b)** amends section 1202(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for loan rates for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans through 2023.
- **Sec.1201 (c)** amends section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for repayment of loans for cotton through 2023.
- **Sec.1201 (d)** amends section 1205(a)(2)(B) and section 1206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for loan deficiency payments and payments in lieu of loan deficiency payments for hay, silage, and grazed acreage through 2023.
- **Sec.1201 (e)** Amends section 1208(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for special competitive provisions for extra long staple cotton through 2024.
- **Sec.1201 (f)** Amends section 1209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for the availability of recourse loans for high moisture feed grains and seed cotton through 2023.

Sec. 1202 Repeal; Unshorn Pelts

- Amends section 1205 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to repeal loan deficiency payments for nongraded wool in the form of unshorn pelts.

Sec. 1203 Economic Adjustment Assistance for Upland Cotton Users

- Section 1203 (a) amends Section 1207 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by striking subsection (c).
- Section 1203 (b) amends Section 1207 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by striking subsection (c).

Subtitle C—Sugar

Sec. 1301 Sugar Program

- **Section 1301 (a)** amends section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to extend current law for loans available to sugarcane processors for raw cane sugar and loans available to sugar beet processors for refined beet sugar through 2023.
- **Section 1301 (b)** amends sections 359b(a)(1) and 359b(a)(1) of the Agricultural

Adjustment Act of 1938 to extend current law for annual sugar estimates and flexible marketing allotments through 2023.

Subtitle D—Dairy

Part I—Dairy Risk Coverage

Sec. 1401 Dairy Risk Coverage

- Amends section 1401 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to replace the Margin Protection Program with Dairy Risk Coverage through 2023.
- Amends section 1405(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by ending adjustments to the production history of participating dairy operations with the 2019 calendar year.
- Amends section 1406 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by adding coverage levels of \$8.50, and \$9.00, and by eliminating the 25 percent coverage requirement.
- Amends section 1407(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to set forth the premiums for participation in dairy risk coverage and provides discounts for dairy operations with a production history that less than two million pounds and between two million and ten million pounds, and requires the repayment of certain premiums under the Margin Protection Program for calendar years 2015 through 2017.

Part II—Reauthorizations and Other Dairy Related Provisions

Sec. 1411 Reauthorizations

- **Sec.1411 (a)** amends section 1502(e) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to extend current law for the Dairy Forward Pricing Program through 2023.
- **Sec.1411 (b)** amends Section 3 of Public Law 90–484 to extend current law for the Dairy Indemnity Program through 2023.
- **Sec.1411 (c)** amends Section 113(e)(2) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 to extend current law for the Dairy Promotion and Research Program through 2023.

Sec. 1412 Class I Skim Milk Price

- **Sec.1412 (a)** amends section 8c(5)(A) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to amend the formula for determining the prices for milk of the highest use classification for Class I milk.
- **Sec.1412 (b)** requires that the amendments take effect on the first day of the first month no more than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Act.

Part III — Milk Donation Program

Sec. 1413 Milk Donation Program

- Amends Part III of subtitle D of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to establish and administer a milk donation program to reimburse eligible dairy organizations costs incurred for donating milk by accounting to the Federal Milk Marketing Order pool the difference in the Class I milk value and the lowest classified price for the applicable

month (either class III milk or class IV milk). Provides \$5 Million for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.

- Defines eligible dairy organization, eligible distributor, eligible milk, eligible partnership, and partnership.

Subtitle E—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

Sec. 1501 Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance

- **Sec.1501 (a)** amends section 1501(a)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to add an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) as an eligible producer.
- **Sec.1501 (b)** amends section 1501(b)(1)(B) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to allow coverage under the Livestock Indemnity Program of unweaned livestock which have not been vaccinated, and directs the Secretary to seek input annually from the bison industry to ensure LIP rates are consistent with market value.
- **Sec.1501 (c)** amends section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require a reimbursement of 75 percent of the losses for beginning farmers, ranchers and veterans under the Tree Assistance Program.

Subtitle F—Noninsured Crop Assistance.

Sec. 1601 Noninsured Crop Assistance Program

- Amends section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to direct the Secretary to coordinate between the agencies of the Department data collection, eligibility, and reduce paperwork for the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program.
- Clarifies required reductions in benefits for eligible crops for any 4 years after native sod acreage has been tilled for producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, adds a governor of a State may elect to have the provision apply to the State, and requires an annual report describing the reductions in benefits.
- Establishes separate payment limits of \$125,000 for catastrophic coverage and \$300,000 for additional coverage.
- Increases the service fees for eligible crops to the lesser of \$325 per crop per county or \$825 per producer per county, but not to exceed a total of \$1,950 per producer.
- Eliminates the expiration date for additional coverage.

Subtitle G—Administration

Sec. 1701 Regulations

- Amends section 1601(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 which provided for expedited rulemaking for certain provisions of the 2014 bill. Section 1701 extends the authority for the 2018 bill.

Sec. 1702 Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority

- Amends section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend current law for the suspension of permanent price authority in the Agriculture Marketing Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1949 through 2023.

Sec. 1703 Implementation

- Amends section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to update the requirements of the acreage report streamlining initiative and require the de-obligation of unliquidated obligations five years after the date on which the payment is obligated or made available.

Sec. 1704 Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

- Amends section 1001D(b)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 by striking “\$900,000” and inserting “\$700,000”.

Sec. 1705 Base Acres Review

- Requires the Secretary to review the establishment, calculation, reallocation, adjustment, and reduction of base acres under Subtitle A of Title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and to report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees on the results of the review.

Sec. 1706 Farm Service Agency Accountability

- Requires the Secretary to establish policies, procedures and plans to improve program accountability and integrity through activities including utilizing data mining to identify and reduce errors, waste, fraud, and abuse in Farm Service Agency programs and to report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

Sec. 1707 Technical Corrections

- Amends sections 1112(c)(2) and 1614(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

TITLE II — Conservation

Subtitle A – Conservation Reserve Program

Sec. 2101 Extension and Enrollment Requirements of Conservation Reserve Program

- Authorizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through FY2023 and increases the maximum acreage enrolled to 25 million acres.
- Extends the existing grasslands acreage limitation through 2023 and requires the prioritization of certain land, including expiring contracts and wildlife habitat, within that acreage, as well as continuous signup.
- The Secretary is directed to allow producers to submit applications, including for grasslands, on a continuous basis and, subject to availability of acreage, enter into contracts each fiscal year.
- Prioritizes land designated as a State acres for wildlife enhancement area (SAFE area) that is enrolled through a continuous signup on certain practices for wildlife habitat. This priority applies to not less than 30 percent of continuous acres.

- Prioritizes certain land or land enrolled through continuous signup, including consideration of sediment and nutrient issues, which will have a positive impact on water quality. This priority applies to not less than 40 percent of continuous acres.
- Authorizes a State or Indian Tribe, in consultation with FSA State Technical Committee to submit a request to designate a SAFE area. The Secretary is directed to give priority to certain requests, including wildlife habitat for targeted species and where a commitment of funds for incentive payments is provided, and to maintain a regional balance when making designations.

Sec. 2102 Farmable Wetland Program

- Authorizes the program through 2023

Sec. 2103 Duties of the Secretary

- Authorizes cost-share for fencing and other water distribution practices and for the purposes of paragraph (b)(1), expands emergency haying and grazing authority to allow the Governor of a State to declare an emergency if caused by drought or wildfire, with certain requirements. The Secretary is required to permit harvesting and grazing on all land, but, with consultation, is restricted from authorizing harvesting and grazing if it would cause long-term damage to vegetative cover.

Sec. 2104 Payments

- Directs the Secretary to make incentive payments for continuous enrollment contracts if the national average market price is above a 10-year floor. It also requires the Secretary, when evaluating offers, to prioritize the enrollment of marginal and environmentally sensitive land. The Secretary is required to conduct a yearly survey under paragraph (5)(A). Subject to the valuation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), directs the Secretary to apply the current payment limit and to use estimates from subparagraph (A) to determine rental rates. Payments are limited to 88.5 percent of the estimated rental rate. Certain entities are exempted from applicable payment limits for wellhead protection.

Sec. 2105 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Authorizes a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which applies to not less than 20 percent of continuous acres. The Secretary is authorized to enter into an agreement with eligible partners to carry out the CREP. The agreement must include a description of the project and conservation concerns to be addressed and must include a commitment of funds from the eligible partner, which can be cash, in-kind, or technical assistance. Existing CREP agreements are not impacted but they can be modified if requested by the parties. The Secretary is required to provide cost share payments as components are completed. The Secretary is also required to make incentive payments for a program that includes riparian buffers, but not to exceed 100 percent of the management cost. For forested riparian buffers, allows a participant to plant and harvest food-producing woody plants and requires technical assistance to be provided to the State forestry agency.

Sec. 2106 Contracts

- Amends the transition incentives program to authorize transition from contract holders to existing covered farmers and ranchers beginning 2 years before contract termination. Also authorizes a short-term lease as a transition option, establishes a priority for certain land for enrollment in the transition program and provides for reenrollment of grassland in the same.
- Defines a ‘covered contract’ for the purposes of the conservation reserve easement program in Sec. 2107, and includes conditions for enrollment of covered contracts in CRP or the easement program in Sec. 2107.

Sec. 2107 Conservation Reserve Easements

- Authorizes Conservation Reserve Easements as a way to permanently protect certain land enrolled in a conservation reserve program covered contract (as defined in Section 2106 of this Act). The authority defines terms, makes requirements for the agreement between the owner and the Secretary, sets out the terms and conditions of the easement, addresses violations of the easement, authorizes compatible economic uses in certain circumstances, sets a floor and restrictions for compensation for the easement, including form, timing and assignment of payments, technical assistance for owners from the Secretary or through other entities. Finally, the Secretary is directed to develop a conservation reserve easement plan for land subject to the easement and may delegate various responsibilities to different agencies and organizations.

Sec. 2108 Eligible Land; State Law Requirements

- Directs the Secretary, in consultation with the State technical committee, to make certain land eligible for enrollment through regulation.

Subtitle B – Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 2201 Definitions

- Authorizes inclusions into the definition of the term “conservation activities,” including conservation planning, soil health planning, and assisting producers with adapting to increasing weather volatility, and amends the definition of “stewardship threshold”.

Sec. 2202 Establishment

- Authorizes the Conservation Stewardship Program through 2023.

Sec. 2203 Stewardship Contracts

- Directs the Secretary to rank applications based upon certain conservation and environmental benefits, the increase of those benefits and relative cost. The Secretary is authorized to consider improved conservation activities on operations as well as operations that will demonstrate improvement when renewing the contract for an additional 5-year period.

Sec. 2204 Duties of the Secretary

- Reauthorizes the acreage enrollment limitation through September 30, 2028 at 8.797 million acres. The section clarifies the Secretary will manage the program at the statutorily set national average rate of \$18/acre, notwithstanding any other provision for

this program. Authorizes payment for cover crop activities at a particular amount and authorizes supplemental payments for advanced grazing management. The term “resource-conserving crop rotation” is amended to include soil organic matter. Amends eligibility and payment purposes for supplemental payments. Directs the Secretary to provide an additional payment at a particular amount for those meeting the eligibility and payment purposes for advanced grazing management and resource-conserving crop rotations. Also authorizes a 1-time payment to a producer for comprehensive conservation plan. Authorizes the Secretary to allocate State funding for organic and transition to organic production. Requires the Secretary to coordinate and streamline the program with the environmental quality incentives program and to manage the program to enhance soil health. It also adds new reporting requirements for the Secretary.

Subtitle C – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Sec. 2301 Purposes

- Amends the purposes of the environmental quality incentives program.

Sec. 2302 Definitions

- Defines the term “conservation planning survey,” and “producer” and amends the definitions of “eligible land” and “practice.”

Sec. 2303 Establishment and Administration

- Extends the Environmental Quality Incentives Program through FY2023.
- Limits contracts for wildlife practices at no more than 10 years, including practices that incentivize for seasonal wetlands for waterfowl and migratory birds.
- Creates a floor for the amount of payment made in advance for certain producers and requires those advanced funds advanced to be expended within 180 days or be returned to the Secretary, and allows for an opt-out on advance payment.
- Requires the Secretary to review cost share rates and evaluate whether those rates are appropriate to encourage participation in the program and effectively address local natural resource concerns. Requires the Secretary to review conservation practice standards to evaluate the possibilities of increasing flexibility within a practice standard while maintaining equivalent natural resource benefits and issue guidance on the same. Directs the Secretary to review the process for determining annual funding allocations to States and the process used to evaluate State budget proposals.
- States, in consultation with the State technical committee, may designate certain practices for higher cost-share rates. .
- Allocates at least 50 percent of the funds for practices relating to livestock production and includes grazing. At least 10 percent of funds are allocated for wildlife habitat.
- Authorizes the Secretary to provide payment for particular water conservation or irrigation efficiency practices and prioritizes those efforts that address regional drought control.
- Increases the organic payment limit to \$160,000 for fiscal years 2019-2023.
- Authorizes a Micro-EQIP pilot program in 10 states regarding small-scale agricultural producers.

Sec. 2304 Evaluation of Applications

- Adds a criteria to the evaluation of applications to give priority to most effective practices to address natural resource concerns.

Sec. 2305 Duties of the Secretary

- Authorizes the Secretary to provide for streamlined and coordinated procedures and management between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program and provides direction to enhance soil health.

Sec. 2306 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Plan

- Amends the confined livestock feeding operation program plan requirement to include progressive implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

Sec. 2307 Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments

- Authorizes Conservation Innovation Grants for projects partnering with farmers to develop practices for urban, indoor or other emerging agricultural practices for certain purposes. Extends authorization and funding for air quality grants. Also authorizes these grants for “edge-of-field” and other monitoring practices.

Sec. 2308 Soil Health Demonstration Project

- Authorizes a soil health demonstration pilot project that includes financial incentives for producers in appropriate geographic regions, including at least 1 drought prone region, and establishes protocols for measuring gains in soil health. The section also authorizes a study on soil health and economic outcomes, report to Congress and provides \$15 million annually through 2023 to carry out the pilot.

Subtitle D Other Conservation Programs

Sec. 2401 Wetland Conservation

- Amends the on-site inspection requirement for delineation of wetlands requiring the presence of the person provided notice regarding a delineation.

Sec. 2402 Conservation Security Program

- Repeals the Conservation Security Program.

Sec. 2403 Conservation of Private Grazing Land

- Amends Conservation of Private Grazing Land to require the Secretary to conduct education and outreach activities through partnerships with land-grant colleges and NGOs and extends the authorization of appropriations through FY2023.

Sec. 2404 Soil Health and Income Protection Program

- Authorizes the soil health and income protection program to assist landowners with conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources. Allows agreements entered under this program to be for 3, 4, or 5 years. Provides an authorization of appropriations to carry out this program.

Sec. 2405 Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

- Reauthorizes the grassroots source water protection program with an authorization of appropriations for \$25 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 2406 Soil Testing and Remediation Assistance

- Authorizes soil testing and remediation assistance. Requires the Secretary to work with producers to mitigate the presence of contaminants in soil, including by establishing a soil testing protocol, providing technical assistance for testing and remediation, education, outreach. It also authorizes a referral to the Environmental Protection Agency if necessary for additional remediation assistance.

Sec. 2407 Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

- Merges the conservation innovation grant authority with the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program authority. Authorizes \$40 million of the funds made available for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for the period of FY2019-2023 for the voluntary public access program.

Sec. 2408 Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program

- Reauthorizes the program through 2023.

Sec. 2409 Remote Telemetry Data System

- The Secretary is directed to encourage the use of remote telemetry data systems for irrigation scheduling in the environmental quality incentives program.

Sec. 2410 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Clarifies that one of the purposes of the program is to limit non-agricultural uses of land that may negatively impact agricultural uses and values. Amends the definition of “eligible land” to exclude land and to include certain agricultural land owned by an organization defined in paragraph (2)(B) that will timely certify and transfer the ownership of the land to a farmer or rancher. The section also amends the non-federal share to eliminate the cash requirement and include various costs in the non-federal share. Requires an eligible entity to develop an agricultural land easement plan with the landowner that meets certain descriptions and requirements as a condition of assistance. The Secretary is directed to consider geographic nuances in consultation with the State technical committee when establishing evaluation and ranking criteria for applications and may give priority to applications that maintain agricultural viability.
- For the purpose of individual terms and conditions of an easement, the Secretary is directed to determine whether a deed minimum term and condition is consistent with agricultural activities and exclude a right of inspection, with monitoring reports. The section authorizes additional permitted terms and conditions to include those intended to keep the land in farmer ownership. The section also authorizes an additional certification criteria for eligible entities and appropriate State agencies and authorizes certified eligible entities to use their own deed terms to account for geographic and other differences among States and regions.
- Directs the Secretary to consider an additional environmental benefit when evaluating offers for wetland easements as well as to prioritize water quality. The Secretary is

authorized to establish or restore alternative vegetative communities on land subject to a wetland easement if it meets certain wildlife goals. The Secretary may acquire an easement on land owned by an acequia. The Secretary may terminate or modify a conservation reserve program contract if such contract is transferred into a wetland easement. Also, allows land subject to an agricultural land easement may be entered into a conservation reserve contract. Conforms several references to agricultural land easement plan.

Sec. 2411 Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Clarifies that grant agreements under section 1271C(d) are included as partnership agreements and that the program is established through program contracts with eligible producers to carry out conservation activities. Adds several new purposes for the program.
- Modifies the definition of a covered programs to mean a “purpose, activity or agreement” under the listed covered programs and adds to the list of covered programs the Conservation Reserve Program and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Changes the definition of “eligible activity” and “eligible land,” Adds land trusts, acequias, and conservation districts to the definition of eligible partners, and adds a definition of “eligible producer” and “program contract.”
- Clarifies that the maximum length of a partnership agreement can be no longer than 5 years, with two exceptions. Authorizes the Secretary to renew partnership agreements, including funding, through an expedited approval process under certain conditions.
- Maintains requirement for the eligible partner to define the scope of the project with modifications. Requires the project assessment to include the progress made in addressing the natural resource concern and other environmental, economic, or social outcomes of the project.
- Allows the partner contribution to be in the form of direct funding, in-kind support, or a combination, and allows any amounts expended during the development of the partnership agreement to count toward the partner contribution.
- Requires the Secretary to establish a timeline for carrying out their duties under a partnership agreement, designate a program coordinator in each State, provide guidance to assist partners with carrying out the assessment of the project’s effects, provide additional reports about the partnership agreements, allow new or modified conservation practice standards to be used under certain conditions, and ensure that the eligible activities in a partnership agreement effectively addresses the natural resource concerns.
- Clarifies that the Secretary shall make public the criteria used in evaluating applications and if a local conservation district is included as an eligible partner, evaluate their engagement with the lead partner. Requires the Secretary to develop a streamlined application process and to give priority to certain applications, adding several new priorities. Provides feedback to applicants throughout the application process for improvements that could be made to the application.
- Amends Section 1271C by striking subsections (a) and (b). Authorizes new authority for the Secretary to provide assistance to eligible producers. Establishes a program contract to be entered into by an eligible producer to receive financial or technical assistance. Authorizes and gives priority to application bundles that can be submitted by an eligible partner on behalf of a group of eligible producers. Clarifies that payments to producers do

not have to be made in accordance with the statutory requirements of the covered programs and maintains waiver authority for the adjusted gross income limitation for eligible producers.

- Provides new authority for the Secretary to enter into partnership agreements through grant agreements with eligible partners and gives examples of the types of projects that would be eligible for the grant agreement. The Secretary may provide technical and administrative assistance under the grant agreement. The adjusted gross income requirements shall not apply to the eligible partner who receives the grant under this subsection. Total funding for the grant agreements is limited to 30 percent of funding made available to carry out the program. The eligible partner must submit additional reports to the Secretary under a grant agreement.
- Provides \$200 million in mandatory funding for each fiscal year from 2018 through 2023. Also the Secretary shall transfer 7 percent of funds and acres made available from the Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program each fiscal year. The funds remain available within the program until expended. Requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to distribute the percent of funding or acres transferred from CSP, EQIP, and ACEP to projects that have purposes similar to the purposes of CSP, EQIP, and ACEP in an approximately equal percent.
- Increases the percent of funding for State projects to 40 percent and adds authority for multistate projects, eliminates funding for national projects, and increases the percent of funding for critical conservation areas to 60 percent.
- Authorizes the Secretary to advance reasonable amounts of funding for technical assistance to eligible partners for project development and outreach, including reimbursement of certain funds. Includes conditions on use of technical assistance funding by the Department.
- Modifies the report to Congress. Requires eligible producers to be in compliance with highly erodible and wetland conservation requirements. The Secretary shall work with eligible partners to maintain benefits for historically underserved producers through partnership agreements. The Secretary shall issue a regulation to carry out the program.
- Amends the requirements and definitions for critical conservation areas. Requires program contracts for projects in a critical conservation area to address the critical conservation condition in that area. It requires the Secretary to identify 1 or more critical conservation conditions for each existing critical conservation area. Strikes the expiration of critical conservation area designations and changes the criteria for reviewing and withdrawing the designation. Requires the Secretary to provide outreach to eligible partners and producers in critical conservation areas. Adds new reporting requirements for the Secretary for projects in critical conservation areas.

Sec. 2412 Wetland Conversion

- Provides that an exempt person under section 1222(b) is not ineligible under section 1221(d)(1).

Sec. 2413 Delineation of Wetlands

- Directs the Secretary, within 1 year, to identify categorical minimal effect exemptions in compliance with certain laws and regulations and in consultation with particular groups.

The section also provides for an authorization of appropriations for wetland mitigation banking at \$5 million for each of FY2019 through FY2023.

Sec. 2414 Emergency Conservation Program

- Provides a payment limit for the program. Establishes a set aside of program funds for repair and restoration of fencing.

Sec. 2415 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

- Authorizes the watershed protection and flood prevention act authorization of appropriations at \$200 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 2416 Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program

- Authorizes the small watershed rehabilitation program authorization of appropriations at \$20 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 2417 Repeal of the Conservation Corridor Demonstration Program

- Repeals the program.

Sec. 2418 Repeal of the Cranberry Acreage Reserve Program

- Repeals the program.

Sec. 2419 Repeal of the National Natural Resources Foundation

- Repeals the program.

Sec. 2420 Repeal of Flood Risk Reduction

- Repeals the authority.

Sec. 2421 Repeal of Study of Land Use for Expiring Contract and Extension of Authority

- Repeals the authority.

Sec. 2422 Repeal of Integrated Farm Management Program Option

- Repeals the program.

Sec. 2423 Repeal of a Clarification of a Definition of Agricultural Lands

- Repeals the authority.

Sec. 2424 Resource Conservation and Development Program

- Authorizes the program through 2023.

Sec. 2425 Wildlife Management

- Codifies the working lands for wildlife conservation partnership between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior and expands the authority to the conservation reserve program in the Farm Service Agency. Also authorizes the Secretary to assist a requesting federal, state or local agency regarding regulatory certainty through conservation practices, under certain conditions.

Sec. 2426 Healthy Forests Reserve Program

- Makes amendments to the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and adds as a purpose of the program to conserve habitats for candidate, threatened, endangered species or species of greatest conservation under State wildlife action plans. The provision eliminates the limitation on the use of cost-share agreements and easements. It also directs that restoration plans under the program include land management practices, vegetative treatments, structural practices and measure, practices that improve biological diversity, carbon sequestration, and other appropriate activities.

Sec. 2427 Watershed Protection

- Amends the definition of “works of improvement” and authorizes a waiver for the watershed plan under certain circumstances.

Sec. 2428 Sense of Congress

- Provides a sense of Congress regarding certain partnerships at the watershed level.

Sec. 2429 Modifications to Conservation Easement Programs

- Provides authority for the Secretary to modify or exchange land in a covered program and modify an agreement, contract or an easement in a covered program if such modifications meet certain requirements and costs are covered by the party requesting the modification or exchange.

Subtitle E – Funding and Administration

Sec. 2501 Funding

- Reauthorizes the Commodity Credit Corporation authority through FY2023, authorizes in mandatory funding both \$11 million for the period of FY2019-2023 for tree incentive payments and \$50 million for the period of FY2019-2023 for the transition incentives program under the conservation reserve program, including \$5 million for outreach and technical assistance; and provides mandatory funding for both the agricultural easement and environmental quality incentives programs for each of FY2019-2023. Reauthorizes the availability of funds through FY2023, until expended and authorizes 15 percent of certain programs in section 1241(h) for certain farmers or ranchers through FY2023. Directs the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency regarding conservation standards and requirements and provides for more local input on conservation practice standards.

Sec. 2502 Delivery of Technical Assistance

- Defines the term “third-party provider” and directs the Secretary regarding their certification processes. Provides for streamlined certification for a third-party provider that has a specialty certification as well as an administrative process for expedited revision of standards.

Sec. 2503 Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs

- Requires the Secretary to provide incentives to certain farmers, ranchers, acequias, and Indian Tribes. Increases the cap to 15 percent per county that may be subject to a wetland reserve easement. Requires the Secretary to enter into alternative funding agreements with Tribes. Certain reporting requirements will not apply to commodity program participants in the Farm Service Agency. The Secretary is directed to encourage source water protection practices in the conservation stewardship program and environmental quality incentives program. Provides administrative requirements for payments to acequias.

Sec. 2504 Definition of Acequia

- Defines an acequia.

Sec. 2505 Authorization of Appropriations for Water Bank Program

- Authorizes appropriations of \$5 million annually through 2023, until expended.

Sec. 2506 Report on Land Access, Tenure, and Transition

- Authorizes a report on land access, tenure and transition.

Sec. 2507 Report on Small Wetlands

- Authorizes a report to Congress on the number of wetlands at not more than 1 acre that have been delineated.

Sec. 2508 State Technical Committees

- Requires state technical committees to review new and innovative technologies and practices and make recommendations to the Secretary.

Subtitle F – Technical Corrections

Accomplishes various technical corrections and conforming changes.

TITLE III — Trade

Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act

Sec. 3101 Food Aid Quality

- Section 3101 amends Section 202(h)(3) to reauthorize funding for food aid quality activities under the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3102 Generation and Use of Currencies by Private Voluntary Organizations and Cooperatives.

- Section 3102 amends Section 203 of the Food for Peace Act by eliminating the 15% monetization requirement, and allows the Administrator of USAID to permit organizations to sell commodities distributed under nonemergency programs under this title to generate proceeds to be used as enumerated in this section.

Sec. 3103 Minimum Levels of Assistance

- Section 3103 amends Section 204 to reauthorize the minimum levels of assistance used in Food for Peace.

Sec. 3104 Food Aid Consultative Group

- Section 3104 reauthorizes the Food Aid Consultative Group and changes the consultation period for proposed regulations, handbooks, or guidelines concerning this title to 30 days.

Sec. 3105 Oversight, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Section 3105 amends Section 207(f) of the Food for Peace Act to allow the Administrator to use a percentage of appropriated funds for program oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

Sec. 3106 Assistance for Stockpiling and Rapid Transportation, Delivery, and Distribution of Shelf-Stable Prepackaged Foods

- Section 3106 amends Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize funding for distribution of shelf-stable prepackaged foods.

Sec. 3107 Allowance of Distribution Costs

- Section 3107 amends Section 406(b)(6) of the Food for Peace Act to clarify allowable distribution costs under this section.

Sec. 3108 Prepositioning of Agricultural Commodities

- Section 3108 reauthorizes Section 407(c)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace Act to allow for prepositioning of agricultural commodities in the United States and in foreign countries.

Sec. 3109 Annual Report Regarding Food Aid Programs and Activities

- Section 3109 amends Section 407(f)(1)(A) of the Food for Peace Act to allow the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Agriculture to file annual reports relating to their respective food aid programs and activities jointly or separately.

Sec. 3110 Deadline for Agreements to Finance Sales or to Provide Other Assistance

- Section 3110 reauthorizes Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act to extend the deadline for agreements to finance sales or provide other assistance.

Sec. 3111 Nonemergency Food Assistance

- Section 3111 amends Section 412(e) of the Food for Peace Act to provide not less than \$365 million of the amounts made available to carry out this title for nonemergency food assistance programs.
- Section 3111 also amends Section 412(e) of the Food for Peace Act to allow funds expended under Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act to be considered amounts expended for nonemergency food assistance programs under Section 412.
- Further, Section 3111 amends Section 412(e) of the Food for Peace Act to allow funds expended through Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to be considered amounts expended for nonemergency food assistance programs under certain circumstances.

Sec. 3112 Micronutrient Fortification Programs

- Section 3112 reauthorizes micronutrient fortification programs in Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3113 John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

- Section 3113 amends Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act to allow employees or staff of a State cooperative institution to volunteer for the purposes enumerated under Section 501.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

Sec.3201 Priority Trade Promotion, Development, and Assistance

- Section 3201 consolidates the Market Access Program, the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program, the E. (Kika) De La Garza Agricultural Fellowship Program, and Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops to create a new Priority Trade Promotion, Development, and Assistance program.
- Section 3201 also provides funding for the Priority Trade Promotion, Development, and Assistance program, subject to certain set-asides.

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

Sec. 3301 Food for Progress Act of 1985

- Section 3301 reauthorizes The Food for Progress Act of 1985.
- Section 3301 adds land grant universities as eligible entities.
- Further, Section 3301 provides a percentage of assistance to come directly from cash, rather than monetization of commodities.

Sec. 3302 Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act

- Section 3302 reauthorizes the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.

Sec. 3303 Promotion of Agricultural Exports to Emerging Markets

- Section 3303 reauthorizes the Promotion of Agricultural Exports to Emerging Markets in Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

Sec. 3304 Cochran Emerging Market Fellowship Program

- Section 3304 reauthorizes and amends Section 1543 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to add the development of agricultural extension services and regulatory systems governing sanitary and phytosanitary standards for agricultural products to the purposes of the program.

Sec. 3305 Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program

- Section 3305 reauthorizes and amends Section 1473G of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add the development of agricultural extension services in foreign countries to the purpose of the program.
- Further, the section encourages the ongoing engagement of prior fellowship recipients to contribute to new or ongoing agricultural development projects, including capacity-building projects.

Sec. 3306 International Food Security Technical Assistance

- Section 3306 amends the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary to compile and make available information on the improvement of international food security.
- Further, the section authorizes the Secretary to provide technical assistance to certain entities to implement programs for the improvement of international food security.

Sec. 3307 McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

- Section 3307 amends Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole program.
- Further, the section permits a percentage of assistance to be used for commodities produced in developing recipient countries or developing countries within the same regions of the recipient countries that meet nutritional, quality and labeling standards of the recipient countries, and provides for associated costs of transporting those commodities.
- Section 3307 also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that assistance provided under this section is provided in a timely manner and is made available when needed throughout the applicable school year.

Sec. 3308 Global Crop Diversity Trust

- Section 3308 amends Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize a United States contribution to the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Sec. 3309 Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Projects

- Section 3309 reauthorizes the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Projects in Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Sec. 3310 Foreign Trade Missions

Section 3310 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to support greater inclusion of Tribal agricultural and food products in trade-related activities.

TITLE IV — Nutrition

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 4101 Definition of certification period

- Amends Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act (“FNA”) to allow a State agency to extend the certification period for elderly and disabled households to up to 36 months.

Sec. 4102 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

(1) Amends Section 4(b) of the FNA to:

- Require the Secretary to pay at least 80 percent of the administrative costs and distribution costs on Indian reservations for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Reauthorize the Traditional and Locally-grown Food Fund through fiscal year 2023.
- Make administrative funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations available for obligation for two fiscal years.

(2) Establishes a demonstration project for one or more tribal organizations to enter into a self-determination contract to purchase agricultural commodities for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation administered by that tribal organization.

Sec. 4103 Work Requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(1) Amends Section 6 of the FNA to:

- Consolidate the work requirements under the supplemental nutrition assistance program by moving the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents from subsection (o) to subsection (d)(2).
- Require State agencies to consult with their State workforce development board or local employers to design the State agency's employment and training program in order to meet state or local workforce needs.
- Require State agencies that provide job search as a component in their employment and training programs to have at least one additional employment and training component.
- Allow pilot employment and training activities authorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 that have been demonstrated to be effective to be allowable components in all employment and training programs.
- Allow the State agency and the Secretary to certify additional training and work programs, known as workforce partnerships, to be operated by a private employer or a nonprofit organization. Workforce partnerships do not receive any funds authorized to be appropriated under the FNA. Individuals participating in a workforce partnership will be considered in compliance with any mandatory employment and training requirement and the work requirement for able-bodied adult without dependents.
- Establish a process for referral or reassessment of individuals subject to an employment and training requirement and determined to be ill-suited to the employment and training component to which they had been referred.

(2) Amends Section 16 of the FNA to:

- Provide \$185 million to conduct additional employment and training pilot projects on older workers, formerly incarcerated, disabled, homeless, those recovering from substance abuse, and family-focused approaches.
- Continue funding for state based Employment and Training program and grants to states that serve all Able Bodies Adults Without Dependents with training or workforce services.

(3) Amends Section 17 of the FNA to strike authority for unused work-related demonstration projects

Sec. 4104 Improvements to the Electronic Benefit Transfer System

(1) Amends Section 7 of the FNA to:

- Prohibit fees assessed by State benefit issuers related to the switching or routing of electronic benefit transfer transactions.
- Allow farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers to operate a point of sale EBT device at more than 1 location under the same supplemental nutrition assistance retailer authorization, provided that the farmers' market provides certain information to the Secretary to ensure the integrity of transactions processed.
- Require a GAO study to examine EBT fees, outages and intermediaries providing services in-between redemption at retail food store and state-contracted EBT processors.
- Require USDA to review state EBT contract service agreements and compatibility of such systems with USDA fraud monitoring systems, and the use of third-party applications that access EBT systems.
- Direct the Secretary to issue guidance and regulations as appropriate based on the findings of the GAO study and USDA review.

(2) Amends Section 9 of the FNA to require that the Secretary issue guidance to retail food stores on selecting EBT equipment and service providers that are able to provide sufficient transaction information to minimize the risk of fraudulent transactions. Also allows the Secretary to require applicant retailers to provide certain EBT-related information to the Secretary during the retail authorization process.

Sec. 4105 Retail incentives

- Amends Section 9 of the FNA to clarify the waiver process to allow retail food stores to offer incentives to households participating the supplemental nutrition assistance program to purchase certain foods recommended for increased consumption by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Sec. 4106 Required Action on Data Match Information

- Amends Section 11 of the FNA to require that State agencies contact the household to clarify or verify, if applicable, certain information received from data matches relating to the circumstances of the household.

Sec. 4107 Income Verification

- Amends Section 17 of the FNA to allow the Secretary to conduct pilot projects that would test methods to verify earned income at certification and recertification.

Sec. 4108 Pilot Projects to Improve Healthy Dietary Patterns Related to Fluid Milk in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Amends Section 17 of the FNA to allow the Secretary to conduct pilot projects to test and evaluate methods that would improve diet quality, consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, through the increased purchase of fluid milk for SNAP participants that under-consume fluid milk.

Sec. 4109 Interstate Data Matching to Prevent Multiple Issuances

- Amends Section 11 of the FNA to establish an interstate data system for data-matching to prevent the issuance of supplemental nutrition assistance benefits to the same individual by more than 1 State at the same time.

Sec. 4110 Quality Control

(1) Amends Section 11 of the FNA to:

- Require that State agencies provide the Secretary with access to State systems containing records relating the supplemental nutrition assistance program for inspection and audit purposes.

(2) Amends Section 16 of the FNA to:

- Require the Secretary to issue interim final regulations within 180 days of date of enactment to ensure the integrity of the quality control system.
- Require the Secretary to debar persons who knowingly submit or cause to be submitted, false information to the Secretary in carrying out the quality control system.
- Eliminate performance bonuses to States for high or most improved payment error rates.

Sec. 4111 Requirement of Live-Production Environments for Certain Pilot Projects Relating to Cost Sharing for Computerization

- Amends Section 16 of the FNA to require that State agencies test the automatic data processing and information retrieval systems in a live production environment prior to implementation.

Sec. 4112 Authorization of Appropriations

- Amends Section 18 of the FNA to extend authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2023.

Sec. 4113 Assistance for Community Food Projects

- Amends Section 25 of the FNA to provide funding for Community Food Projects through fiscal year 2023.

Sec. 4114 Nutrition Education State Plan

Amends Section 28 of the FNA to:

- Require that a State's nutrition education program use an electronic reporting system that measures and evaluates projects. Also requires the State agency to submit an annual evaluation report to the Secretary.
- Direct the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service to consult with the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and to coordinate activities through SNAP nutrition education and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

Sec. 4115 Emergency Food Assistance Program

Amends the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to:

- Provide \$4 million per year through fiscal year 2023 for State agencies to partner with emergency feeding organizations to establish projects to harvest, process, or package commodities that are donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors.

Provides mandatory funding for State agencies to pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of the projects.

- Require the Secretary to issue guidance outlining best practices to minimize food waste of commodities donated to State agencies and emergency feeding organizations.
- Provide emergency feeding organizations and eligible recipient agencies the opportunity to provide input on the commodity needs and preferences of those entities.
- Extend the authorization of appropriations for emergency food program infrastructure grants through fiscal year 2023.

Amends Section 27 of the FNA to:

- Extend funding for the purchase of commodities to distribute to states under the Emergency Food Assistance Program through fiscal year 2023.
- Maintains and raises funding increases from 2014 Farm Bill for commodity purchases under The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Sec. 4116 Technical and Conforming Amendments

Amends various provisions in the FNA to make technical and conforming edits.

Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution Programs

Sec. 4201 Commodity Distribution Program

Amends Section 4 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Commodity Distribution Program through fiscal year 2023.

Sec. 4202 Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Amends Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to:

- Extend the authorization of appropriations for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program through fiscal year 2023.
- Require that a State to establish a minimum certification period of 1 year for Commodity Supplemental Food Program participants 60 years or older. Allows a State to establish a 3 year certification period for Commodity Supplemental Food Program participants 60 years or older, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

Sec. 4203 Distribution of Surplus Commodities; Special Nutrition Projects

Amends Section 1114 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 to extend the authorization of the distribution of surplus commodities to special nutrition projects through fiscal year 2023.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

Sec. 4301 Purchase of Specialty Crops

Amends Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2023.

Sec. 4302 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Amends Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2023.

Sec. 4303 Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive

Amends Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to:

- Permanently establish and name the program the Gus Schumacher Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program.
- Clarify the definition of eligible entity and the partners and collaborators with whom eligible entities may partner or subgrants.
- Clarify that a tribal agency may use certain federal funds, including funds provided through the Indian Health Service, to satisfy the non-federal matching requirement for a project.
- Require the Secretary to establish 1 or more Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program Training and Technical Assistance Centers to assist eligible entities in designing proposed projects and sharing best practices. Also requires the Secretary to establish 1 or more Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program Information and Evaluation Centers to collect project data from eligible entities and submit evaluations for each project to the Secretary.
- Require the Secretary to conduct an evaluation of the projects.

Sec. 4304 Harvesting Health Pilot Projects

Establishes a pilot project for nonprofit organizations or State or local agencies to partner with certain healthcare providers to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to certain low-income individuals that suffer from or are at-risk of developing a diet-related health conditions.

TITLE V — CREDIT

Subtitle A – Farm Ownership Loans

Sec. 5101 Modification of the 3-Year Experience Requirement for Purposes of Eligibility for Farm Ownership Loans

- Section 5101 amends Section 302 (b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow for people who have less than 3 years of farming experience to qualify for ownership loans if they have other acceptable experience related to farming or are a veteran.

Sec. 5102 Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

- Section 5102 amends Section 304 (h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the conservation loan and loan guarantee program through 2023.

Sec. 5103 Limitations on Amount of Farm Ownership Loans

- Section 5103 amends Section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase to \$600,000 the total amount any one borrower may owe on FSA direct farm ownership loans and \$1,750,000 on FSA guaranteed farm ownership loans.

Subtitle B – Operating Loans

Sec. 5201 Limitations on Amount of Operating Loans

- Section 5201 amends Section 313 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase to \$400,000 the total amount any one borrower may owe on FSA direct operating loans and \$1,750,000 on FSA guaranteed farm operating loans.

Sec. 5202 Cooperative Lending Pilot Projects

- Section 5202 amends Section 313 (c) (4) (A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize cooperative lending pilot projects through 2023.

Subtitle C – Administrative Provisions

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

- Section 5301 amends Section 333B (h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program through 2023.

Sec. 5302 Loan Authorization Levels

- Section 5302 amends Section 346 (b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow the Secretary to make or guarantee farm ownership and farm operating loans for not more than \$12 billion for each year 2019 through 2023.
- Of the \$12 billion total loan authorization, \$4 billion is authorized for all direct farm ownership and farm operating loans and \$8 billion is authorized for all guaranteed farm ownership and farm operating loans.

Sec. 5303 Loan Fund Set-Asides

- Section 5303 amends Section 346 (b) (2) (A) (ii) (III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the direct farm operating loan fund set-asides for beginning farmers and ranchers through 2023.

Sec. 5304 Equitable Relief

- Section 5304 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by inserting after Section 365 a new section authorizing the Secretary to provide equitable relief to a farmer or rancher whose failure to comply with the terms of a loan was caused by an action of USDA.

Sec. 5305 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers; Qualified Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Section 5305 amends Section 366 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by inserting after Section 366 a new section authorizing USDA to waive the guarantee fee and guarantee up to 95% of all guaranteed farm loans issued to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers.

Sec. 5306 Emergency Loan Eligibility

- Section 5306 amends Section 373 (b) (2) (B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow borrowers who have received a debt write down or restructuring of a farm loan to maintain eligibility for an emergency loan.

Subtitle D – Miscellaneous

Sec. 5401 State Agricultural Mediation Programs

- Section 5401 amends Sections 501, 505 and 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize the State Agricultural Mediation Programs through 2023 and updates the scope of eligible issues covered under the voluntary mediation program. This section also requires the Secretary issue a report to Congress on State mediation programs.

Sec. 5402 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Section 5402 amends Section 4.19 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to require Farm Credit System associations adopt programs to provide sound and constructive credit and related services to young, beginning, small, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Sec. 5403 Sharing of Privileged and Confidential Information

- Section 5403 amends Section 5.19 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to state that Farm Credit System institutions do not waive attorney client privilege if System institutions provide the content of a communication to the Farm Credit Administration as part of a regulatory or supervisory process.

Sec. 5404 Removal and Prohibition Authority; Industry-Wide Prohibition

- Section 5404 amends Part C of Title V of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 by inserting after section 5.29 a new section to allow the Farm Credit Administration to issue an order preventing any individual who has been removed or suspended for violating a law, engaged in a breach of fiduciary duty, or participated in any unsafe or unsound practice while employed at a Farm Credit System institution from working in another sector of the financial industry during the period of the order. This new authority mirrors existing authority provided other financial industry regulators.

Sec. 5405 Jurisdiction over Institution-Affiliated Parties

- Section 5405 amends Part C of Title V of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 by inserting after section 5.31 a new section providing the Farm Credit Administration jurisdiction to initiate actions against institution affiliated parties even after separation from employment within the Farm Credit System. This new authority mirrors existing authority provided other financial industry regulators.

Sec. 5406 Definition of Institution-Affiliated Party

- Section 5406 amends Section 5.35 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to define individuals under the jurisdiction of the Farm Credit Administration.

Sec. 5407 Repeal of Obsolete Provisions; Technical Corrections

- Section 5407 amends various sections of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, and other statutes, to repeal obsolete provisions and include other technical corrections pertaining to the Farm Credit Administration and Farm Credit System.

Sec. 5408 Corporation as Conservator or Receiver; Certain Other Provisions

- Section 5408 amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation with conservator and receiver authorities similar to those of the Federal Deposit Insurance Cooperation.

Sec. 5409 Reporting

- Section 5409 adds a new section requiring USDA to publish an annual report detailing each outstanding FSA direct and guaranteed farm operating and ownership loan.

Sec. 5410 Sense of the Senate

- Section 5410 adds a new section stating that it is the sense of the Senate that USDA strive to encourage beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers utilize FSA loans.

TITLE VI — RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBTITLE A – CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

Sec. 6101 Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants

- Section 6101 amends Section 306 (a) (2) (B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase to \$200,000 the maximum amount of financing an eligible entity can receive to fund water and wastewater projects, while also reauthorizing the Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects Program through 2023.

Sec. 6102 Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Programs

- Section 6102 amends Section 306 (a) (14) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to prioritize rural water technical assistance and training to communities affected by emerging contaminants detected in drinking water and surface water supplies, while also increasing the percentage of overall funding that can be reserved for the Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program.

Sec. 6103 Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

- Section 6103 amends Section 306 (a) (22) (B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program at \$25 million for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6104 Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities

- Section 6104 amends Section 306 (a) (25) (C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities Program through 2023.

Sec. 6105 Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

- Section 6105 amends Section 306 (a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a new section to prioritize loan and grant funding for development of community facilities that provide substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Sec. 6106 Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program

- Section 6106 amends Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistant Grant Program at \$50 million for each year 2019 through 2023, while prioritizing funding of projects that address water contamination posing a threat to human health or the environment.
- This section also creates an interagency task force to study drinking water and surface water contamination in rural communities and submit its findings to Congress.

Sec. 6107 Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska

- Section 6107 amends Section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act with a technical change to clarify that a consortium of Alaska Native Villages are eligible recipients of these grants.

Sec. 6108 Rural Decentralized Water Systems

- Section 6108 amends Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide loans and grants to fund the construction, refurbishing and servicing of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems, while also authorizing \$40 million for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6109 Solid Waste Management Grants

- Section 6109 amends Section 310B (b) (2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Solid Waste Management Grants Program through 2023.

Sec. 6110 Rural Business Development Grants

- Section 6110 amends Section 310B (c) (4) (A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Rural Business Development Grants program at \$65 million each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6111 Rural Cooperative Development Grants

- Section 6111 amends Section 310B (e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Rural Cooperative Development Grants program through 2023 with minor technical changes regarding cooperative research agreements.

Sec. 6112 Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products

- Section 6112 amends Section 310B (g) (9) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products Program through 2023.

Sec. 6113 Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program

- Section 6113 amends Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize ATTRA through 2023.

Sec. 6114 Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones

- Section 6114 amends Section 310B (j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones through 2023.

Sec. 6115 Intermediary Relending Program

- Section 6115 amends Section 310H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum loan amount an intermediary may lend to a qualified project, reduces matching amounts for preferred lenders, and allows for return of equity consistent with loan amortization schedules.

Sec. 6116 Single Application for Broadband

- Section 6116 amends Section 331 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow for no more than 10% of any Rural Development grant, loan, or loan guarantee be used to fund broadband facilities and service.

Sec. 6117 Loan Guarantee Loan Fees

- Section 6117 amends Section 333 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and Section 601 (c) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to authorize the Secretary to charge lenders of guaranteed loans a fee to offset subsidy costs.

Sec. 6118 Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training

- Section 6118 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by inserting after section 365 a new section establishing a technical assistance and training grant program to assist persistently impoverished rural communities in accessing programs offered through Rural Business and Cooperative Services.

Sec. 6119. National Rural Development Partnership.

- Section 6119 amends Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the National Rural Development Partnership Program through 2023.

Sec. 6120 Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters

- Section 6120 reauthorizes the Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters Program through 2023.

Sec. 6121 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

- Section 6121 amends Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the minimum percentage of funding an eligible microenterprise development organization can receive in technical assistance grants, while reauthorizing the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program at \$20 million per year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6122 Health Care Services

- Section 6122 amends of Section 379G (e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Delta Health Care Services Program through 2023.

Sec. 6123 Strategic Economic and Community Development

- Section 6123 amends Section 379H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to give priority to applications for covered programs that support implementation of a strategic community investment plan while authorizing the program at \$5 million dollars for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6124 Delta Regional Authority

- Section 6124 amends Sections 382M (a) and 382N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural development Act to reauthorize the Delta Regional Authority through 2023.

Sec. 6125 Rural Business Investment Program

- Section 6125 amends Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the Rural Business Investment Program through 2023.

SUBTITLE B – RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936

Sec. 6201 Electric Loan Refinancing

- Section 6201 amends Section 2 (a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to authorize the Rural Utilities Service to refinance electric loans.

Sec. 6202 Technical Assistance for Rural Electrification Loans

- Section 6202 amends Section 2 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding language that authorizes the Secretary to enter into an MOU with the Department of Energy to provide technical assistance to borrowers applying for electrification loans.

Sec. 6203 Loans for Telephone Service

- Section 6203 amends Section 201 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 with technical changes to remove obsolete provisions.

Sec. 6204 Cushion of Credit Payments Program

- Section 6204 amends Section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to restrict future deposits into the Cushion of Credit while modifying the fixed interest rate of 5 percent to a rate more reflective of what depositors would earn in the marketplace. Additionally, this section provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program and authorizes an additional \$5 million in discretionary funding for years 2022 and 2023.

Sec. 6205 Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes

- Section 6205 amends Section 313A of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to allow cooperative lenders to lend to electric and telephone cooperatives for rural utility infrastructure loans (including for the generation of electricity) and reauthorizes this program through 2023.

Sec. 6206 Access to Broadband Telecommunications Services in Rural Areas

- Section 6206 amends Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to include matching grants as eligible funding mechanisms for broadband deployment in rural areas. It codifies USDA's current definition of minimum acceptable broadband service of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream, while prioritizing funding to areas that have no existing residential broadband service.
- This section requires that for an area to be eligible for funding; 90% of the households in the proposed service territory be underserved; that not more than 2 incumbent service providers exist in the area; extends to 30 days the time broadband providers may submit information concerning existing service in a proposed area; and reauthorizes the program at \$150 million for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6207 Community Connect Grant Program

- Section 6207 amends Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to codify the existing Community Connect Program, while authorizing the program at \$50,000,000 for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 6208 Transparency in the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

- Section 6208 amends Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to require transparency for the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees Program.

Sec. 6209 Refinancing of Broadband and Telephone Loans

- Section 6209 amends Sections 201 and 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide RUS the authority to refinance telephone and broadband loans.

Sec. 6210 Cybersecurity and Grid Security Improvements

- Section 6210 amends Title III of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding at the end a new section authorizing the Secretary to make or guarantee electric loans for cybersecurity and grid security improvements.

SUBTITLE C – MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 6301 Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- Section 6301 amends Section 2333 (c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to set aside 20% of Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant funding for applications related to substance use disorder treatment services while reauthorizing the program through 2023.

Sec. 6302 Rural Energy Savings Program

- Section 6302 amends Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to allow for financing of renewable energy and energy storage systems.
- This section excludes loans incurred under the RESP program in the calculation of a utility's debt-equity ratio for other loans offered by USDA, and provides intermediaries the ability to charge interest at a rate more reflective of the cost of administering the program.

Sec. 6303 Rural Health and Safety Education Programs

- Section 6303 amends Section 502(i) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 to prioritize grants for rural health and safety education on programs that focus on substance use disorder, education, prevention, or treatment.

Sec. 6304 Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization

- Section 6304 amends Section 15751(a) of title 40, United States Code, to reauthorize the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Southeast Crescent Regional Commission through 2023.

TITLE VII — RESEARCH

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

Sec. 7101 Purposes of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education

- Allows for federally supported research, extension, and education to collaborate internationally in order to leverage resources and advance domestic food and agriculture interests.

Sec. 7102 Option to be Included as Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture

- Requires Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture institutions to offer at least two baccalaureate or higher degrees in the study of food and agricultural sciences.

Sec. 7103 National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

- Reauthorizes the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Sec. 7104 Citrus Disease Subcommittee of Specialty Crop Committee

- Reauthorizes the citrus disease subcommittee of the specialty crops committee.

Sec. 7105 Veterinary Services Grant Program

- Reauthorizes the Veterinary Services Grant Program and includes entities exposing students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.
- Requires that two-thirds of grants be made available for entities with a focus on food animal medicine.

Sec. 7106 Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education

- Reauthorizes grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education.

Sec. 7107 Research Equipment Grants

- Authorizes grants for eligible institutions for the acquisition of research equipment for use in food and agricultural sciences programs.

Sec. 7108 Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers

- Reauthorizes Policy Research Centers.

Sec. 7109 Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

- Reauthorizes the education grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions.

Sec. 7110 Next Generation Agriculture Technology Challenge

- Establishes a next generation agriculture technology challenge competition.

Sec. 7111 Nutrition Education Program

- Reauthorizes the Nutrition Education program.

Sec. 7112 Authorization for Appropriations for Federal Agricultural Research Facilities

- Reauthorizes appropriations for Federal Agricultural Research Facilities.

Sec. 7113 Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

- Reauthorizes the Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program.

Sec. 7114 Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University; Report

- Allows for funds appropriated under this section to be carried over beyond the previous 20 percent restriction.
- Requires a report to Congress describing allocations made to and matching state funds received by eligible institutions for extension.

Sec. 7115 Report on Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Requires a report to Congress describing allocations made to and matching state funds received by eligible institutions for agricultural research.

Sec. 7116 Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Reauthorizes Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University.

Sec. 7117 Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions

- Reauthorizes grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area Land-Grant Institutions

Sec. 7118 New Beginning for Tribal Students

- Authorizes the Secretary to make competitive grants to support tribal students attending a land grant college or university.

Sec. 7119 Hispanic-Serving Institution

- Reauthorizes education grants programs for Hispanic-serving Institutions

Sec. 7120 Binational Agricultural Research and Development

- Expands the United States – Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) authorization to accelerate the demonstration, development, and application of agricultural solutions resulting from or relating to BARD Fund programs.

Sec. 7121 Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching

- Authorizes capacity building of covered Institutions and agricultural higher education institutions in lower and middle income countries through cooperation and coordination.

Sec. 7122 Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs

- Reauthorizes the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs.

Sec. 7123 University Research

- Reauthorizes university research.

Sec. 7124 Extension Service

- Reauthorizes Extension Service.

Sec. 7125 Supplemental and Alternative Crops; Hemp

- Reauthorizes a research project for supplemental and alternative crops including canola and hemp.

Sec. 7126 New Era Rural Technology Program

- Reauthorizes the New Era Rural Technology Program and adds precision agriculture to the list of technologies developed through the program.

Sec. 7127 Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions

- Reauthorizes capacity building grants for NLGCA institutions.

Sec. 7128 Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority

- Authorizes an advanced research and development authority pilot program to overcome long-term and high-risk agricultural and food related research and development challenges.

Sec. 7129 Aquaculture Assistance Programs

- Reauthorizes the aquaculture assistance programs.

Sec. 7130 Repeal of Rangeland Research Programs

- Repeals the Rangeland Research Programs

Sec. 7131 Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response

- Reauthorizes the agricultural research, education, and extension activities for biosecurity planning and response.

Sec. 7132 Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education

- Reauthorizes the Distance Education and Resident Instructions Grants Program for insular area institutions of higher education

Sec. 7133 Limitation on Designation of Entities Eligible to Receive Funds under a Capacity Program

- Prohibits the increase of the amount of funding a state can receive as a result of the designation of additional entities as eligible to receive funds under a capacity program.

Sec. 7134 Scholarship Program for Students Attending 1890 Institutions

- Establishes a scholarship program for students at 1890 institutions pursuing a career in food and agricultural sciences.

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

Sec. 7201 Best Utilization of Biological Applications

- Reauthorizes the sustainable agriculture research, extension, and education program.

- Reauthorizes the Farm Business Management competitive grants.

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

- Authorizes competitive research and extension grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of enhancing urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production.
- Provides \$4 million mandatory for each fiscal year 2019-2023.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct a census of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production.

Sec. 7213 Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions

- Requires the Secretary to establish at least three centers of excellence each led by an 1890 Institution

Sec. 7214 Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities.

- Reauthorizes the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities.

Sec. 7215 National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

- Reauthorizes the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

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

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

- Reauthorizes the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program.

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

- Reauthorizes 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*

- Reauthorizes the Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative at an increased level of \$15 million annually.

Sec. 7304 Grants for Youth Organizations

- Reauthorizes 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

- Reauthorizes the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, and includes additional critical needs as areas of focus.
- Eliminates mandatory funding set aside for citrus disease research.

Sec. 7306 Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

- Reauthorizes the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program.

Sec. 7307 Office of Pest Management Policy

- Reauthorizes the Office of Pest Management Policy.

Sec. 7308 Forestry Products Advanced Utilization Research

- Reauthorizes the forestry and forestry products research and extension initiative.

Subtitle D—Other Laws

Sec. 7401 Critical Agricultural Materials Act

- Reauthorizes the Critical Agricultural Materials Act, and includes hemp as an eligible product.

Sec. 7402 Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

- Reauthorizes the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.
- Updates the names of institutions as well as provides for additional entities.
- Reauthorizes the Endowment for 1994 institutions.
- Reauthorizes institutional capacity building grants for 1994 institutions.
- Reauthorizes research grants for 1994 institutions.

Sec. 7403 Research Facilities Act

- Reauthorizes the Research Facilities Act.

Sec. 7404 Agricultural and Food Research Initiative

- Reauthorizes the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).
- Includes soil health and automation as priority areas.
- Includes biomedical and agricultural research under special considerations.

Sec. 7405 Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative

- Establishes a competitive grant program to encourage the design of adaptive prototype systems for extension and education.

Sec. 7406 Renewable Resources Extensions Act of 1978

Sec. 7417 Collection of Data Relating to the Size and Location of Dairy Farms

Directs the Economic Research Service to update a report on changes in the size and location of U.S. dairy farms.

Sec. 7418 Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program

Reauthorizes the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program.

Sec. 7419 Smith-Lever Community Extension Program

Allows 1994 Institutions to compete for funding under the Smith-Lever Community Extension Program.

Subtitle E Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

Part I – Agricultural Security

Sec. 7501 Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center

Reauthorizes the Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center.

Sec. 7502 Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response

Reauthorizes the Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response.

Sec. 7503 Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures

Reauthorizes the Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures.

Sec. 7504 Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program

Reauthorizes the Agricultural Biosecurity and Grant Program.

Part II – Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 7511 Farm and Stress Assistance Network

Reauthorizes the Farm and Stress Assistance Network to provide stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations.

Requires a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, describing the state of behavioral and mental health in farmers and ranchers.

Sec. 7512 Natural Products Research Program

Reauthorizes the Natural Products Research Program.

Sec. 7513 Sun Grant Program

- Reauthorizes the Sun Grant Program

Sec. 7514 Mechanization and Automation for Specialty Crops

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a review of programs at the Department of Agriculture that affect the production or processing of specialty crops.

Subtitle F—Matching Funds Requirement

Sec. 7601 Matching Funds Requirement

- Reinstates the pre-2014 Farm Bill matching requirements for Federal funds.

TITLE VIII — FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

Sec. 8101 State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program

- Establishes a competitive grant program for financial and technical assistance to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. The program requires collaboration and consultation regarding the identification of other applicable resources towards landscape-scale restoration. There is authorized to be appropriated \$20 million each fiscal year through 2023, to remain available until expended, deposited in the “State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Fund” towards these grants.

Subtitle B—Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978

Sec. 8201 Repeal of Recycling Research

- Repeals the wood fiber recycling research program.

Sec. 8202 Repeal of Forestry Student Grant Program

- Repeals the forestry student grant program.

Subtitle C—Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990

Sec. 8301 Repeals

- Repeals unused and unfunded authorities for biomass energy demonstration projects and a study for interagency cooperation to maximize biomass growth.

Subtitle D—Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

Sec. 8401 Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation

- Establishes a grant program to State foresters to carry out hazardous fuel reduction projects across landscapes on Federal and non-Federal land. Requires State foresters to consult with owners of State, county, tribal and private landowners to carry out cross-boundary hazardous fuels reduction projects. There is authorized to be appropriated \$20 million annually each year through 2023.

Sec. 8402 Authorization of Appropriations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land

- Reauthorizes the hazardous fuel reduction on Federal land program at \$660 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 8403 Repeal of Biomass Commercial Utilization Grant Program

- Repeals the biomass commercial utilization grant program.

Sec. 8404 Water Source Protection Program

- Establishes the Water Source Protection Program to carry forest restoration projects at watershed levels on National Forest System land to protect, maintain, or enhance water quality. Authorizes the use of partnership agreements with non-Federal partners to carry out activities. The Secretary shall require matching funds from non-Federal partners to be at least equal to the amount of Federal funds provided for the project. Provides \$10 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 8405 Watershed Condition Framework

- Amends title III of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to establish and maintain a watershed condition framework for National Forest System land.

Sec. 8406 Authorization of Appropriations to Combat Insect Infestations and Related Diseases

- Amends section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and provides termination of effectiveness in 2023.

Sec. 8407 Healthy Forests Reserve Program

- Amends Section 508(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and extends the authority for the program through 2023.

Sec. 8408 Authorization of Appropriations for Designation Treatment Areas

- Amends Section 602 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and eliminates the authorization of appropriations for insect and disease treatment areas.

Sec. 8409 Administrative Review of Collaborative Restoration Projects

- Amends Section 603(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and applies extraordinary circumstances procedures when using the categorical exclusion under this section.

Subtitle E—Repeal or Reauthorization of Miscellaneous Forestry Programs

Sec. 8501 Repeal of Revision of Strategic Plan for Forest Inventory and Analysis

- Amends section 8301 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and repeals the authority that provided for a one-time revision of strategic plan for forest inventory and analysis.

Sec. 8502 Semiarid Agroforestry Research Center

- Amends Section 1243(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and extends authority for the semiarid agroforestry research center through 2023.

Sec. 8503 National Forest Foundation Act

- Reauthorizes the National Forest Foundation at \$3 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 8504 Conveyance of Forest Service Administrative Sites

- Reauthorizes authority for the Forest Service to convey administrative sites through 2023.

Subtitle F—Forest Management

Sec. 8601 Definitions

- Provides definitions for the subtitle.

Subtitle F –Part I – Expedited Environmental Analysis and Availability of Categorical Exclusions to Expedite Forest Management Activities

Sec. 8611 Categorical Exclusion for Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat

- Authorizes the development and use of a categorical exclusion for both the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land, and the Secretary for the Department, with respect to public land, for certain forest management activities with the primary purpose of protecting, restoring, or improving habitat for the greater sage-grouse or mule deer. Projects through this authority must be developed and implemented

through a collaborative process and based on the best available scientific information. The authority establishes a cap of 3,000 acres for projects utilizing the categorical exclusion.

Subtitle F –Part II – Miscellaneous Forest Management Activities

Sec. 8621 Additional Authority for Sale or Exchange of Small Parcels of National Forest System Land

- Renews authority to the Forest Service to dispose of small parcels of land – 40 acres or less – in a manner to enhance the respective National Forest through new recreational access or acquisitions. Authorizes funds derived from any sale or exchange under this authority to be expended for, among other purposes, the acquisition of land or interest in the state from which the sale originated.

Sec. 8222 Forest Service Participation in Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program

- Provides a termination of effectiveness for the use of the authority in 2023.

Sec. 8623 Authorization for Lease of Forest Service Sites

- Expands authority to allow the Forest Service to lease unused administrative sites.

Sec. 8624 Good Neighbor Authority

- Expands the use of Good Neighbor Authority to tribes and counties for use of Good Neighbor agreements on respective land.

Sec. 8625 Wildland Urban Interface

- Prioritizes the use of funds for hazardous fuels reduction projects within the wildland-urban interface.

Sec. 8626 Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment

- Authorizes USDA to sell or exchange any or all interest of the United States in 30 tracts National Forest System land in Georgia totaling approximately 3,841 acres.

Sec. 8627 Tennessee Wilderness

- Designates specified federal lands in the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee as wilderness and as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sec. 8628 Virginia Wilderness

- Designates specified lands in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia as part of the Rough Mountain Wilderness area, and the Rich Hole Wilderness area and adds those lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sec. 8629 Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance

- Authorizes USDA to sell specified federal land in Winn Parish, Louisiana and requires USDA to sell a portion of that land to Collins Camp Properties for the Collins Campsites.

Sec. 8630 Purchase of Natural Resource Conservation Service Property

- Directs USDA to sell and quitclaim all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property located in Riverside, California, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District.

Sec. 8631 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

- Extends the authority for the program and provides authorization for appropriations at \$80 million annually through 2023.

Sec. 8632 Utility Infrastructure Rights-of-Way Vegetation Management Pilot Program

- Provides authority for a pilot program to encourage owners or operators of rights-of-way on National Forest System land to partner with the Forest Service to conduct vegetative management projects to protect utility infrastructure from wildfires.

Sec. 8633 Okhissa Lake Rural Economic Development Land Conveyance

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey 150 acres within the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi for the purpose of rural economic development.

Sec. 8634 Prairie Dogs

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a report on the impact of prairie dogs on grazing allotments and requires the Forest Service to take appropriate actions based upon the report within 1 year.

Subtitle F –Part III – Timber Innovation

Sec. 8641 Definitions

- Provides definitions for this subtitle.

Sec. 8642 Clarification of Research and Development Program for Wood Building Construction

- Clarifies that the Forest Service can conduct research and provide technical assistance to facilitate the use of innovative wood products.

Sec. 8643 Wood Innovation Grant Program

- Establishes a wood innovation grant program to promote research and development of innovative wood products. The Secretary may provide grants to carry out this work as long as those recipients provide an amount of non-federal funds equal to the amount of the Federal contribution.

TITLE IX — ENERGY

Sec. 9101 Definitions

- Section 9101 amends section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of “Biobased Product” to include “renewable chemicals”.
- The section expands the definition of the term “Biorefinery” to include facilities that convert renewable biomass into renewable chemicals, or an intermediate ingredient or feedstock of renewable biomass into any one or more, or a combination of biofuels, renewable chemicals, or biobased products.
- The section amends the term “Renewable Energy System” to include systems that produce usable energy from a renewable energy source including distribution components necessary to move energy produced by a system to the initial point of sale, and other ancillary infrastructure of a system such as a storage systems.

Sec. 9102 Biobased Markets Program

- Section 9102 amends section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to move the program from Departmental Management to the Office of Rural Development.
- The section instructs the Secretary to update the eligibility criteria used to determine which renewable chemicals qualify to receive the “USDA Certified Biobased Product” label issued by the Department of Agriculture.
- The section instructs the Secretary to work with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for renewable chemical manufacturers and producers of biobased products.
- The section instructs USDA to develop education and outreach efforts to assist stakeholders in navigating the federal procurement and voluntary labeling programs found under this section.
- The section instructs the Secretary to establish guidelines for an integrated and expedited process by which biobased products can be determined eligible for Federal Procurement preference and approved for the “USDA Certified Biobased Product” label.
- The section limits other agencies from imposing procurement limitations more restrictive than the regulations contained within this section and reauthorizes mandatory funding at \$3 million for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 9103 Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance

- Section 9103 amends section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of “Eligible Technologies” to technologies that produce any one or more or a combination of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals or biobased products, while reauthorizing mandatory funding at \$100 million for 2019 and \$50 million for 2020.

Sec. 9104 Repowering Assistance Program

- Section 9104 repeals section 9004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9105 Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

- Section 9105 amends section 9005 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize mandatory funding at \$15 million for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 9106 Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

- Section 9106 amends section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program through 2023.

Sec. 9107 Rural Energy for America Program

- Section 9107 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Rural Energy for America Program at \$50 million for each year 2019 through 2023, while maintaining mandatory baseline funding of \$50 million per year.

Sec. 9108 Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative

- Section 9108 repeals section 9009 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9109 Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

- Section 9109 amends section 9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers through 2023.

Sec. 9110 Biomass Crop Assistance Program

- Section 9110 amends section 9011 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add algae as an eligible material and clarifies material harvested for the purpose of hazardous woody fuel reduction qualifies for matching payments, while reauthorizing the program with \$25 million of mandatory funding for each year 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 9111 Biogas Research and Adoption of Biogas Systems

- Section 9111 amends Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by inserting after Section 9011 a new section establishing an Interagency Biogas Opportunities Task Force to coordinate policies and programs to accelerate biogas research and investment in biogas systems. This section also authorizes a study on advancing biogas markets and analyzing data related to biogas systems.

Sec. 9112 Community Wood Energy Program

- Section 9112 amends section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Community Wood Energy Program through 2023.

Sec. 9113 Carbon Utilization Education Program

- Section 9113 amends Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add a new section authorizing the Secretary to provide grants to eligible entities for educating the public and biogas producers about the benefits of carbon sequestration, while authorizing \$2 million in mandatory funding for each year 2019 through 2023.

TITLE X — HORTICULTURE

Sec. 10101 Specialty Crops Market News Allocation.

- Reauthorizes Specialty Crop Market News allocation through FY2023.

Sec. 10102 Local Agriculture Market Program.

- Combines the authority for value-added agricultural market development program grants and the farmers' market and local food promotion program. Grant functions would continue to be administered through Rural Development and Agriculture Marketing Service, respectively. One feature of the grant program would support partnerships to plan and develop a local or regional food system. Requires certain grant recipients to report the impact on farmers and businesses.
- Provides \$60 million in mandatory funding allocated for FY2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.
- Authorizes \$20 million to be appropriated for FY 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 10103 Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives.

- Reauthorizes Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives through FY2023 and requires an annual report.
- Allows use of remainder of \$5 million funding through FY2018.
- Provides \$5 million in mandatory one-time funding, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 10104 Organic Certification.

- Requires the Secretary to issue regulations to limit the type of foreign operations that are excluded from organic certification.

- Establishes a definition of foreign operations, authorizes the Secretary to oversee any certifying agent operating in a foreign country as part of the accreditation of the foreign organic certifying agents, and creates expedited investigative procedures for foreign certifying agents.
- Requires an agricultural product being imported into the United States to be represented as organically produced.
- Requires that foreign certifying agents be certified for a period of time consistent with domestic certifying agents.
- Requires 2/3 of the votes cast at a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board at which a quorum is present to be a decisive vote regarding changes made to the organic “National List”.
- Establishes a mandatory National Organic Program (NOP) import certificate and tracking system.
- Requires the Secretary to modernize international trade tracking and data collection systems, and allow data access between Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to engage in inspection, trade data collection, or enforcement of trade requirements for organic products. Requires an annual report on organic imports.
- Allows information sharing between all parties during investigations of violations of the title.
- Establishes an Organic Agricultural Product Imports Interagency Working Group and an annual report on the coordination of CBP, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and APHIS, as well as an annual report on enforcement actions taken on organic imports.
- Increases the authorization for the National Organic Program to \$16.5M in FY2019, \$18M in FY2020, \$20M in FY2021, \$22M in FY2022, and \$24M in FY2023.
- Provides \$5 million in mandatory funding for the modernization of trade tracking and data collection systems.
- Requires that the changes made to organic import certificates and data collection, accreditation of foreign certifying agents, and investigations be carried out in a manner consistent with U.S. obligations under international agreements.

Sec. 10105 National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.

- Provides \$11.5 million in mandatory funding to the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program for each fiscal year in FY19 through FY23.

Sec. 10106 Food Safety Education Initiatives.

- Reauthorizes Food Safety Education Initiatives through FY2023.

Sec. 10107 Specialty Crop Block Grants.

- Reauthorizes the Specialty Crop Block Grants Program through FY2023.
- Updates the State plan to set performance measures for an evaluation and provide best practices to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.
- Requires the Secretary to provide guidance regarding best practices and national and regional priorities, based on stakeholder input, prior to the submission of State plans.
- Adds an evaluation based on performance measures to the audit requirements.

- Increases the administrative cap to 4 percent of funds for the Secretary and 9 percent of funds for States.
- Designates the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service as the administrator of multistate projects and provides \$5 million per year in mandatory funding for multistate projects.

Sec. 10108 Plant Variety Protection.

- Amends section 42(a) of the Plant Variety Protection Act to expand the authorized types of reproduction to include asexual reproduction for the purposes of variety protection under the Act.

Sec. 10109 Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey.

- Provides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Office of Pest Management Policy, to conduct multiple crop and pesticide use surveys for the use of risk assessment modeling and mitigation for active ingredients.
- Provides a \$2.5 million authorization for appropriations, to remain available until expended to carry out this surveying.

Sec. 10110 Clarification of Use of Funds for Technical Assistance.

- Excludes any funding used to provide technical assistance under Title X of this Act from the cap on salary and expenses paid for under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

Sec. 10111 Hemp Production.

- Amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to allow states to regulate hemp production, based on a state or tribal plan that includes information on locations of hemp production, testing for THC concentration, disposal of plants that are out of compliance, and negligence or other violations of the state or tribal plan.
- Requires the Secretary to establish a plan, in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General, for states and tribes without USDA approved plans, to monitor and regulate hemp production.
- Clarifies that nothing in this subtitle affects or modifies the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or authorities of the HHS Secretary and FDA Commissioner.

Sec. 10112 Rule of Construction.

- Clarifies that nothing in this title authorizes interference with the interstate commerce of hemp.

TITLE XI—Crop Insurance

Sec. 11101 Definitions.

- Defines cover crop termination and defines hemp as used in section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

Sec. 11102 Data collection.

- Amends section 506(h)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require appropriate data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service and through the noninsured crop disaster assistance program be provided to the Corporation.

Sec. 11103 Sharing of records.

- Amends section 506(h)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Secretary to share records with private developers of crop insurance products who have received payment under section 522(b)(2)(E).

Sec. 11104 Use of resources.

- Amends section 507(f) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to update the resources, data, boards, and the committees the Board should use within the Department, including sharing information to support the transition of crops from the noninsured crop disaster assistance program to crop insurance.

Sec. 11105 Specialty crops.

- Amends section 507(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to update the role of the Specialty Crop Coordinator and require a Specialty Crop Liaison in each regional office.
- Amends section 508(a)(6) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the manager of the Corporation to prepare and present annually to the Board for review research and development of insurance for a new crop, expansion of existing insurance to additional counties or States, including malting barley endorsements or contract options, and research and development for a new policy or plan of insurance for crops with existing insurance.

Sec. 11106 Insurance period.

- Amends section 508(a)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act by adding hemp.

Sec. 11107 Cover crops.

- Amends section 508(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to clarify conditions for voluntary conservation practices, including cover crops, to be considered as good farming practices.

Sec. 11108 Underserved producers.

- Amends section 508(a)(7) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to update the term underserved producer as a beginning farmer or rancher, a veteran farmer or rancher, or a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, and update the required review and report regarding underserved producers and types of production.

Sec. 11109 Expansion of performance-based discount.

- Amends Section 508(d)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to allow the Corporation to

offer discounts for practices that can be demonstrated to reduce risk.

Sec. 11110 Enterprise units.

- Amends section 508(e)(5) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to allow a producer to establish a single enterprise unit by combining enterprise units or enterprise units with basic units and optional units in one or more other counties.

Sec. 11111 Pasture, rangeland, and forage policy for members of Indian tribes.

- Amends section 508(e)(7) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide additional support for a member of an Indian tribe for the first purchase of pasture, rangeland, and forage insurance.

Sec. 11112 Submission of policies and materials to board.

- Amends section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to allow the Corporation to waive the viability and marketability requirement in the case of a policy or pilot program relating to the production of hemp.

Sec. 11113 Whole farm revenue agent incentives.

- Amends section 508(k) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide an additional reimbursement to an agent that sells a Whole Farm Revenue Policy in certain circumstances.

Sec. 11114 Crop production on native sod.

- Amends section 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to clarify required reductions in benefits for insurable crops for any four years after certain native sod acreage has been tilled for producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, a governor of a State may elect to have the provision apply to the State; and requires an annual report describing the reductions in benefits.

Sec. 11115 Use of national agricultural statistics service data to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

- Amends section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to allow National Agricultural Statistics Service data to be included in existing data mining efforts.

Sec. 11116 Submission of information to corporation.

- Amends section 515(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require approved insurance providers to submit the actual production history used to establish insurable yields to the Corporation not later than 30 days after the applicable production reporting date for the crop to be insured.

Sec. 11117 Acreage report streamlining initiative.

- Amends section 515(j) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to update the requirements of the acreage report streamlining initiative.

Sec. 11118 Continuing education for loss adjusters and agents.

- Amends section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to

ensure that loss adjusters and agents of approved insurance providers are familiar with conservation activities and agronomic practices through continuing education.

Sec. 11119 Funding for information technology.

- Amends Section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide funding for information technology in fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

Sec. 11120 Agricultural commodity.

- Amends section 518 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act by adding hemp.

Sec. 11121 Reimbursement of research, development, and maintenance costs.

- Amends section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to allow the Board and Corporation to waive the viability and marketability requirements in the case of research and development relating to a policy to insure the production of hemp.

Sec. 11122 Research and development authority.

- Amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act by allowing the Corporation to conduct activities or enter into contracts to carry out research and development to maintain or improve existing policies or develop new policies. Provides direction for the following priorities: effectiveness of whole farm plans, irrigated grain sorghum, limited irrigation, quality loss, citrus, greenhouses, hops, local foods, irrigation practices for rice, and batture lands.

Sec. 11123 Education assistance.

- Amends section 524(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act by adding conservation activities.

TITLE XII — MISCELLANEOUS

Subtitle A – Livestock

Sec. 12101 Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program

- Authorizes appropriations for \$1.5 million per year for fiscal years 2019-2023.

Sec. 12102 National Animal Health Laboratory Network

- Authorizes appropriations for \$30 million per year for fiscal years 2019-2023 (an increase from current authorization of \$15 million per year).

***Sec. 12103 National Animal Disease Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program;
National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank***

- Establishes a National Animal Disease Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program to be carried out by USDA through cooperative agreements with partners from states, universities, industries and other entities to address animal health challenges.
- Establishes a National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank for acquiring vaccine and veterinary countermeasures needed to respond to devastating animal disease outbreaks.
- Authorizes such sums as necessary to be appropriated for the National Animal Disease Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Program and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank.

Sec. 12104 Study on Livestock Dealer Statutory Trust

- Directs the Secretary to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a Livestock Dealer Statutory Trust. The study shall analyze the potential impacts such a trust would have on livestock producers, dealers, markets, financiers, and others in the livestock sector, specifically with regard to credit availability.

Sec. 12105 Definition of Livestock

- Amends the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 to include "alpacas, llamas, live fish and crawfish" in the definition for livestock. The Department of Transportation refers to this definition in regulations that allow limited flexibilities for the transportation of livestock.

Subtitle B – Agriculture and Food Defense

Sec. 12201 & 12202 Office for Homeland Security

- Repeals and replaces the Office of Homeland Security created in the 2008 Food Conservation and Energy Act with updated and clarified responsibilities for departmental coordination and representation related to homeland security.

Sec. 12203 Agriculture and Food Defense

- Directs response planning, in coordination with State authorities, for biological disease threats to agriculture.
- Authorizes planning and surveillance for plant diseases and pests (National Plant Diagnostic Network); and preparedness and research planning for plant diseases and pests (National Plant Disease Recovery System).

Sec. 12204 Biological Agents and Toxins List

- Amends the Agriculture Bioterrorism Protection Act to require weighing the negative impact on research that may occur when agents or toxins are placed on the biological agents and toxins list against the risk posed by not placing the agent or toxin on the list.

Sec. 12205 Authorization of Appropriations

- Authorizes the programs of Subtitle B for \$5 million per year for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

Subtitle C – Historically Underserved Producers and Limited Resource Producers

Sec. 12301 Farming Opportunities Training and Development

- Merges the authorization for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant Program and the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Rancher and Veteran Farmer and Rancher Program into a new section titled the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program. Sets award amount for grants made through these programs at \$250,000 for a maximum of three years, and requires peer review of applications.
- Provides \$50 million in mandatory funding in fiscal year 2018 and each year thereafter.
- Authorizes appropriations up to \$50 million in each fiscal year through 2023.

Sec. 12302 Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

- Establishes an Office and Director of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices.
- Provides for the assignment of a farm number for rooftop, indoor, and other urban farms.
- Provides authority to award competitive grants to operate community gardens or nonprofit farms, educate a community on food systems, nutrition, environmental impacts, and agricultural production, and help offset start-up costs for new and beginning farmers.
- Establishes an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee.
- Establishes pilot projects to increase compost and reduce food waste, and create urban and suburban county committees.

Sec. 12303 Office of Advocacy and Outreach

- Amends Section 226B(f) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Office of Advocacy and Outreach through 2023.

Sec. 12304 Tribal Advisory Committee

- Establishes the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary on tribal agricultural topics and annually report recommendations to the Secretary.

Sec. 12305 ACES

- Expands the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) program to provide technical, professional and administrative services to USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area. The authority terminates in 2023.

Sec. 12306 Youth Outreach and Beginning Farmer Coordination

- Establishes a National Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator to provide outreach and technical assistance to help beginning farmers and ranchers participate in Department programs.
- Directs the Secretary to designate one employee in each state as the State Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator responsible for developing a State plan to coordinate outreach and technical assistance in county and area Department offices.
- Establishes an Agricultural Youth Coordinator to promote and coordinate outreach to youth agricultural organizations and school-based agricultural education organizations and report annually on activities taken.

Sec. 12307 Availability of Department of Agriculture Programs for Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

- Amends the definition of veteran as any individual who has obtained veteran status within the previous 10 years.
- Extends benefits to veterans including Farm Service Agency down payment loans, reduced interest rates on guaranteed loans, increased coverage under Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), reduced premiums and fees for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and increased educational focus from the Food Safety Outreach Program and the Federal Crop Insurance Education Program.
- Amends the definition of veteran for the purpose of Risk Management Agency programs, as any individual who has gained veteran status within the previous 5 years and extends to veterans eligibility for increased premium subsidy, lower administrative fees, and assistance in establishing baseline yields.

Subtitle D – Reorganization

Sec. 12401 Office of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs

- Renames the Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations to the Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Sec. 12402 Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison

- Improves coordination between the Department and other federal agencies to assist in providing information to veterans about agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs. Directs the Military Veterans Liaison to report collected information annually and publish it on a dedicated website.

Sec. 12403 Civil Rights Analyses

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a civil rights analysis of certain actions of the Department. Allows the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights to grant on a case by case basis an expedited civil rights analysis or a waiver of the civil rights analysis. Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of various actions and efforts of the Department concerning civil rights.

Sec. 12404 Farm Service Agency

- Provides conforming technical corrections related to administrative reorganization actions including the creation of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area.

Sec. 12405 Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation

- Provides conforming technical corrections related to administrative reorganization actions including the creation of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area.

Sec. 12406 Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

- Establishes the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Sec. 12407 Administrator of Rural Utilities Services

- Allows the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service to be paid a salary consistent with other Administrators in the Department's Rural Development mission area.

Sec. 12408 Rural Health Liaison

- Establishes a Rural Health Liaison to coordinate the Department's role in rural health with other Federal agencies and improve communication to and coordination with stakeholders.

Sec. 12409 Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)

- Allows both retailers and enterprises to be eligible for loans and grants under HFFI.
- Amends requirement that entities accept benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Sec. 12410 Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Requires the Secretary to provide 60 day notice to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees before closing an office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or relocating personnel employed within NRCS or the Rural Development mission area.

- Provides conforming technical amendments to applicable statutes related to administrative reorganization actions including the creation of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area.

Sec.12411 Office of the Chief Scientist

- Technical change to update the name of the Research, Education, and Extension Office to the Office of the Chief Scientist, as it is known today, and changes the term of service for Division Chiefs.

Sec. 12412 Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

- Conforming technical corrections related to the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs created in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Sec. 12413 Repeals

- Section 211 (7 U.S.C. 6911) – Repeals outdated authority transferring functions pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 213 (7 U.S.C. 6913) – Repeals outdated authority reducing the number of personnel pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 214 (7 U.S.C. 6914) – Repeals outdated authority to consolidate Departmental offices pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 217 (7 U.S.C. 6917) – Repeals outdated and obsolete authority limiting the reports issued by the Secretary to Congress pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 247 (7 U.S.C. 6963) – Repeals outdated authority reorganizing the Forest Service pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 252 (7 U.S.C. 6972) – Repeals outdated authority for making personnel reductions pursuant Section 213 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.
- Section 295 (7 U.S.C. 7013) – Repeals outdated authority requiring the Secretary to propose conforming and technical amendments pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

Sec. 12414 Technical Corrections

- Corrects prior statutory drafting errors amending Department of Agriculture the Reorganization Act of 1994.

Sec. 12415 Effect of Subtitle

- Allows the technical amendments in Sections 12408 and 12414 to be effective retroactively.

Sec. 12416 Termination of Authority

- Updates the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to allow the Secretary to carry out the amendments made to this title by the Federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

Subtitle E – Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 12501 ACER Access and Development Program

- Reauthorizes ACER Access and Development Program to make competitive grants to promote the domestic maple syrup industry.

Sec. 12502 South Carolina Inclusion in Peanut Producing Region

- Amends the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add South Carolina to the Virginia/Carolina peanut producing region for the purpose of appointing members of the Peanut Standards Board.

Sec. 12503 Pet and Women Safety

- Authorizes appropriations for \$3 million a year for FY 2019-2023 for a grant program to provide emergency and transitional housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and their pets. Amends stalking and protection order protections to include crimes targeting pets. Allows restitution to cover veterinary care needed for victims' pets. Provides criminal penalties for violence against the pets.

Sec. 12504 Data on Conservation Practices

- Creates a secure data collection system through which the Department, pursuant to established privacy and confidentiality protocols, will allow for analysis, and review of data from various agencies regarding the impact of covered conservation practices on crop yields, soil health, and farm and ranch profitability. Establishes protocols and procedures to allow for the collection of data from existing Departmental databases and for the voluntary submission of data from producers. Establishes a data warehouse to contain the data collected under this section that can be accessed by an academic institution or researcher. Requires the Risk Management Agency to work with other agencies to conduct research and analyze how yield variability and risk are impacted by certain conservation practices.

Sec. 12505 Marketing Orders

- Amends the Agricultural Adjustment Act to add “pecans” and “cherries” to the list of imported commodities of which said commodity marketing orders are applicable.

Sec. 12506 Study on Measuring Food Waste

- Directs the Secretary to conduct a study to evaluate and determine methods of measuring food waste, factors creating food waste, particularly of fresh food products, and whether

USDA programs disrupt existing food waste recovery and disposal by commercial, marketing, or business relationships.

Sec. 12507 Report on Business Centers

- Requires GAO report examining the effectiveness of the Department's business centers, impacts on budgets and personnel, and recommendations to improve the operation and function of those business centers.

Sec. 12508 Information Technology Modernization

- Requires GAO report evaluating the Department's information technology modernization efforts.

Sec. 12509 Report on Personnel

- Requires the Department to annually submit to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees a bi-annual report describing the number of staff years and employees employed for each agency of the Department.

Sec. 12510 Report on Absent Landowners

- Requires the Secretary to conduct a study on absent landlords within one year of enactment. In conducting the study the Secretary shall consider certain impacts of absent landlords on land value, soil health, and economic viability and provide recommendations on how to mitigate these impacts.

Sec. 12511 Restrictions on Use of Certain Poisons for Predator Control

- Directs USDA to use sodium cyanide in predator control devices only in accordance with Wildlife Services Directive Number 2.415.

Sec. 12512 Century Farms Program

- Establishes a National Century Farms Program to recognize state programs and farms that have been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 100 years.

Sec. 12513 Report on the Importation of Live Dogs

- Directs the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretaries of Commerce, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security, to provide a report to Congress on the volume of live dogs imported to the U.S.

Sec. 12514 Establishment of Technical Assistance Program

- Directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to tribally designated housing entities to assist with access to USDA Rural Development programs.

Sec. 12515 Promise Zones

- Establishes the Tribal Promise Zones program in statute. Provides for the continuation of currently existing Tribal Promise Zones to leverage public-private investment.

Sec. 12516 Precision Agriculture Connectivity

- Establishes a Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the U.S. to identify gaps in rural technology and make policy recommendations to help address these issues.

Sec. 12517 Improved Soil Moisture and Precipitation Monitoring

- Allows the Secretary to consider findings from additional drought monitoring stations and to establish new stations, to improve the accuracy of the U.S. Drought Monitor utilized in determining grazing disaster assistance for livestock producers.

Sec. 12518 Study of Marketplace Fraud of Unique Traditional Foods

- Directs GAO to conduct a study of food in commerce that fraudulently mimics tribal foods and analyze how existing Federal laws can be used to protect tribal foods.

Subtitle F – General Provisions

Sec. 12601 Expedited Exportation of Certain Species

- Instructs the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to issue a rule proposing to amend FWS requirements pertaining to export permissions for certain species. The rule is to consider establishing expedited procedures for exporting sea urchins and sea cucumbers intended for human and animal food.

Sec. 12602 Baiting of Migratory Game Birds

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to revise agency regulations clarifying that certain practices for rice producers, when carried out as part of a normal agricultural operation, do not constitute baiting. The provision provides definitions for normal agricultural operation, post-disaster flooding, and certain agricultural practices related to rice production.

Sec. 12603 Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund

- Reauthorizes section 12314 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, clarifies how funds shall be distributed to yarn spinners, amends the requirements of the affidavit, makes technical changes and updates, and provides funding for the trust fund for each calendar year through 2023.

Sec. 12604 Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund

- Reauthorizes section 12315 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, makes technical changes and updates, and provides funding for the trust fund for each fiscal year through 2023.

Sec. 12605 Wool Research and Promotion

- Reauthorizes section 12316 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and provides funding for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

Sec. 12606 Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund

- Establishes a citrus trust fund and directs the Secretary to make payments annually for the purpose of citrus research and extension activities, technical assistance, and development activities to combat certain pests and diseases as well as to support dissemination and commercialization of certain relevant discoveries. Prioritizes payments for research priorities established through the Citrus Disease Subcommittee of the Specialty Crop Committee, with consideration towards citrus disease response and other research and extension projects. Requires that funds provided from the trust fund not supplant funds made available to carry out other activities by the Department of Agriculture, and provides funding for the trust fund for each fiscal year through 2023.

Sec. 12607 Extension of 19 U.S.C. 3805

- Extends the authority for 13 weeks.

Sec. 12608 Conforming Changes to Controlled Substances Act

- Amends the existing exemptions to the defined term.