

Title I – Commodities

The Commodity Title provides certainty and predictability to eligible producers by reauthorizing and improving commodity, marketing loan, sugar, dairy, and disaster programs.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) Programs

Reauthorizes the PLC, ARC County and the ARC Individual programs. Improvements to PLC include an opportunity to update PLC program yields and the required use of effective reference prices. Improvements to ARC County include additional requirements for yield data sources, the use of trend adjusted yields, and a higher yield plug percentage.

Restricts commodity program payment eligibility for base acres on farms that were entirely planted to grass and pasture from 2009 through 2017.

Producer Election

Provides producers a new election ahead of the 2019 crop year to obtain commodity program coverage with an annual opportunity to change the election beginning with crop year 2021.

Marketing Loans

Reauthorizes loan deficiency payments, recourse marketing loans, and adjusts rates for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans. Maintains the economic adjustment assistance for upland cotton users program as Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills.

Dairy Programs

Replaces the Margin Protection Program (MPP) with Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) which provides eligible dairy producers margin coverage between \$4 and \$9.50 per hundredweight (cwt.) coverage levels. Requires feed costs to be studied to ensure accuracy. Establishes the Milk Donation Program to encourage dairy organizations to donate milk through food banks and similar organizations. Adjusts the class I skim milk price formula.

Supplemental Disaster Programs

Improves programs utilized by farmers and ranchers recovering from natural disasters and adverse weather. Allows the Secretary to consider unique circumstances impacting unweaned livestock under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Improves the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Directs the Secretary to coordinate data collection, eligibility information, and to reduce paperwork for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Improves buy-up coverage and recognizes contract and premium prices.

Program Eligibility

Maintains current actively engaged requirements and amends the definition of family member to include “first cousin, niece, and nephew.”

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Maintains the adjusted gross income (AGI) eligibility limit at \$900,000.

TITLE II – CONSERVATION

The conservation title maintains the core voluntary conservation programs that farmers and ranchers use to improve their productivity and address natural resource concerns. Building upon the 2014 Farm Bill, this proposal increases program flexibility, expands public-private partnerships to leverage additional private investment in locally-led conservation initiatives, and provides conservation opportunities for farmers and ranchers to help them improve water quality, address drought, enhance wildlife habitat, and address other related natural resource concerns.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- **Funding:** Increases the maximum amount of enrolled acres in the program from 24 million to 27 million acres for each year. Targets the program based upon state historic enrollment rates. Aligns the program with market expectations by capping the rental rate for both general and continuous enrollments and limits cost-share and incentive payments under the program.
- Provides additional flexibilities for the use of haying and grazing activities on enrolled acres.
- Targets the enrollment of marginal and environmentally sensitive land in the program.
- Authorizes and gives priority to a new water quality initiative.
- Improves and authorizes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- Continues support for beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by providing \$50 million for the Transition Incentives Program.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- **Funding:** Provides additional funding for FY2019-FY2023 as follows: \$1.75 billion, \$1.75 billion, \$1.80 billion, \$1.850 billion, and \$2.03 billion.
- Maintains the program's role of helping agricultural producers to meet Federal, state and local regulatory requirements.
- Includes new conservation incentive contracts within the program to address priority resource concerns.
- Allows for certain entities to be eligible for implementing water conservation or irrigation practices under a watershed-wide project.
- Continues the function and flexibility of EQIP to address multiple natural resource concerns and agriculture production types.
- Sets the program's livestock allocation at 50 percent, expands it to include grazing practices, and increases the wildlife allocation to 10 percent.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **Funding:** Provides funding for FY2019-FY2023 as follows: \$700 million, \$725 million, \$750 million, \$800 million and \$1.0 billion.
- Includes administrative reforms to the program to work in conjunction with EQIP, enhance deliverability of the program, and help producers address priority resource concerns.
- Adds cover crops, advanced grazing management, resource-conserving crop rotations, a grassland conservation initiative, and conservation planning to practices supported by the program.

TITLE II – CONSERVATION

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- **Funding:** Provides increased funding of \$450 million for each FY2019-2023 increasing program funding over \$2.0 billion in mandatory funding over 10 years.
- Provides modifications to increase the flexibility and execution of both the Agriculture Land Easement and Wetland Reserve Easement portions of the program.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- **Funding:** Provides \$300 million per year in mandatory funding. Through partnerships, the Federal investment will leverage nearly \$3.0 billion in private funding for conservation over the next 10 years.
- Encourages partnerships to leverage Federal resources to carry out innovative conservation projects at the local or regional level to address water quality and quantity issues.
- Provides administrative flexibilities to deliver the program more efficiently and effectively to address natural resource concerns like water quality and drought.

Providing Producers Certainty and Regulatory Relief:

- Provides producers certainty with regard to working lands and wildlife conservation practices by continuing the Working Lands for Wildlife model of conservation. Ensures that a landowner, who voluntarily maintains certain wildlife practices for species habitat, receives protections under the Endangered Species Act.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA)

- **Funding:** Provides \$50 million in mandatory funding and encourages farmers and ranchers to open their land to public recreation.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566)

- **Funding:** Provides \$50 million in mandatory funding annually for 10 years for watershed and flood prevention activities.

Other Programs

- Reauthorizes and makes amendments to the following programs: the Emergency Conservation Program, the Grassroots Source Water Source Program, the Healthy Forest Reserve Program, the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and the Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program.
- Maintains current conservation compliance requirements for highly erodible land and wetlands.

Title III – Trade

Trade Programs

- Consolidates the Market Access Program, the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program, the Emerging Markets Program, and Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops under one Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation section. This consolidation will maintain the unique functions of each program while establishing permanent mandatory funding for agricultural export promotion activities.
- Establishes a Priority Trade Fund for the Secretary to allocate additional funds to any of the four export programs to address immediate or additional needs.
- Provides \$255 million annually in overall mandatory funding for export programs, which includes:
 - \$200 million for the Market Access Program
 - \$34.5 million for the Foreign Market Development Program
 - \$8 million for the Emerging Markets Program
 - \$9 million for Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops
 - New funding of \$3.5 million for the Priority Trade Fund

International Food Security Programs

- Continues support for critical international food security programs including Food for Peace (P.L. 480 Title II), Food for Progress, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, and Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Projects.
- Eliminates the 15 percent monetization requirement in Food for Peace, adding additional flexibility in program implementation while maintaining the level of U.S. commodities.
- Establishes a pilot agreement authority under Food for Progress allowing for supplemental appropriated funds to be used directly for development activities.
- Permits up to 10 percent of McGovern-Dole program funds to be used for local and regional procurement, which will promote the long-term sustainability of school meals programs in developing countries.
- Extends and strengthens the Cochran Emerging Market Fellowship Program and Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program.
- Establishes an International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program for young agriculturalists in eligible developing countries, which will provide international experience for emerging American agricultural leaders.

Title IV – Nutrition

Budget Neutral Nutrition Title that Improves Program Integrity and Access and Invests in Employment & Training and Public-Private Partnerships

Improves SNAP Program Integrity While Protecting Access for Those in Need

- Ends all “state performance bonuses,” increases oversight of states’ quality control processes, and protects against misreporting of SNAP error rates that resulted in Inspector General and Justice Department investigations.
- Modernizes states’ SNAP verification processes to check for multi-state issuances and to require action on information that could indicate a change in SNAP household benefits.
- Directs USDA to continue improvements to SNAP electronic benefits transaction (EBT) systems to be more compatible to online transactions, mobile payments, and farmers markets while protecting data security and individual privacy.
- Gives tribal communities more flexibility over the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) by reducing administrative costs and increasing tribal control over procurement.
- Simplifies the certification process for elderly recipients of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and streamlines the shelter deduction for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Increases Accountability to Improve SNAP Participants’ Path to Sustainable Employment

- Provides additional funding for employment and training (E&T) activities, and refocuses the use of reallocated funds to target successful E&T pilot activities and populations with additional barriers to employment.
- Improves existing SNAP E&T programs through evidence-based comprehensive case management and a new supervised job search component.
- Increases engagement with employers, WIOA Boards, and non-profits to better match E&T programs with local workforce needs.
- Requires state agencies to check-in with SNAP households with working-age and work-capable individuals without reported income regarding available E&T options.
- Establishes a non-subsidized Workforce Partnership to allow employers and non-profits to offer additional employment and training opportunities.

Bolsters Public-Private Nutrition Partnerships

- Strengthens partnerships between farmers, food makers, and food banks to harvest and process unused commodities into food for hungry families, and promotes Good Samaritan protections to foodservice and retail donors.
- Increases funding from 2014 Farm Bill levels for commodity purchases for food banks and pantries under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and increases input from local food banks.
- Allows retailers to incentivize healthier foods for SNAP customers.
- Increases accountability of and coordination between nutrition education programs.
- Establishes public private partnerships to address food insecurity.
- Expands the Food Insecurity and Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program, providing permanent mandatory funding to incentivize SNAP purchases of fruits and vegetables, increase information-sharing of the most effective incentive concepts and establishes new produce prescription program.
- Authorizes pilot projects to incentivize fluid milk purchases for SNAP participants to test and evaluate methods that would improve diet quality.

Title V – Credit

The 2018 Farm Bill extends and reauthorizes Department of Agriculture farm loan programs, while providing the Farm Credit Administration with modernized enforcement and receivership authority consistent with other financial regulators. The bill also eliminates obsolete programs and statutory language.

The title contains reauthorizations of programs, including:

- Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program.
- Farm Ownership Loans.
- Farm Operating Loans.
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program.

Other Provisions of Note:

- Modifies the State Agricultural Mediation Program to update the scope of eligible issues covered under voluntary mediation and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a report to Congress on the effectiveness of State mediation programs.
- Updates overall loan program authorization levels to reflect loan demand, and increases borrowing limits on individuals for both direct and guaranteed farm operating and farm ownership loans. Includes new USDA reporting requirement for farm loans.
- Modifies the 3-year experience requirement for purposes of eligibility for Farm Ownership Loans to better support young beginning farmers and military veterans looking to pursue careers in farming.
- Provides USDA the authority to work with cooperatives, and nonprofit organizations that specialize in assisting heirs resolve ownership and succession issues on farmland that has multiple owners.
- Increases the acreage limit exception for Farmer Mac from 1,000 to 2,000 acres to help expand credit availability, while authorizing a study to analyze current capital standards of Farm Credit System institutions.

Title VI – Rural Development

This title is a reauthorization of most U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development programs. The title contains reauthorizations and modifications of various programs, including the Farm Bill Broadband Program, the Community Connect Program, the Community Facilities Program and the Water, Waste Disposal and Wastewater Facility Grants and Loans Program. The bill also reestablishes the Undersecretary for Rural Development.

Summary of Mandatory Funding:

After current funding lapses at the end of FY 2021, Title VI provides mandatory funding for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, which supports projects in rural communities focused on business and community development.

Broadband, Rural Energy Savings and Infrastructure

The bill prioritizes funding in the Community Facilities and Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs for projects addressing prevention, treatment and recovery from substance abuse, specifically opioids.

The bill allows USDA to leverage grants along with loans and loan guarantees to fund projects that deploy high-speed broadband throughout rural America.

- Increases funding authorization from \$25 million to \$350 million annually.
- The bill updates the definition of broadband to 25/3 and authorizes the Secretary to establish broadband buildout requirements to ensure networks meet minimum acceptable standards for the life of the project.
- The bill prioritizes funding to applicants planning to build in the most hard to serve areas.
- Lastly, the bill expands reporting and transparency requirements for all USDA broadband fund recipients to better ensure limited taxpayer resources are focused on the most unserved areas.

The bill strengthens support for USDA water infrastructure programs, including provisions that target resources to address emerging contaminant issues in rural communities across the country.

The bill maintains and strengthens USDA support for rural small businesses, including new targeted technical assistance and training grants to areas of persistent poverty looking to access programs within the Rural Business and Cooperative Services.

The bill also updates the Rural Energy Savings Program to allow financing of off- grid renewable energy and energy storage systems.

The bill reforms the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Cushion of Credit program by ceasing new deposits and stepping down the interest rate paid on existing deposits from the current fixed 5 percent statutory rate to a more market-oriented rate tied to the interest rate paid on U.S. Treasury securities beginning in FY 2022. The bill authorizes current depositors to withdraw deposits to prepay RUS loans without a prepayment penalty through FY 2020.

Title VII – Research

The Research Title includes the reauthorization of the primary USDA research, education, and extension authorities that are currently utilized and funded. The authorities for the Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and the Land-Grant University formula funds (Hatch Act, Smith-Lever and McIntire-Stennis) have been extended. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) has been reauthorized.

Mandatory Funding: The Research title includes \$780 million in mandatory funding over 5 years for the following programs:

- Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions – \$40 million
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative – \$800 million over 10 years
- Organic Research and Extension Initiative – \$395 million over 10 years
- Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production, Education, and Extension Initiative – \$10 million
- Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research – \$185 million

Other Provisions of Note:

- Improves provisions for 1890 institutions, including a scholarship program for students in the field of food and agriculture, the allowance for the carryover of funds, requirements for state match reporting, and the prioritization of Centers of Excellence.
- Improves provisions for 1994 institutions including extended eligibility for McIntire-Stennis forestry research and the Smith-Lever Community Extension Program.
- Establishes an initiative to support tribal students attending land-grant colleges or universities.
- Establishes the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA) pilot, a new authority at USDA intended to carry out advanced research and development of qualified products and projects, agricultural technologies, and research tools.
- Expands and strengthens provisions related to biosecurity planning and response.
- Furthers investment and support of organic research efforts.
- Establishes a research initiative for urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production methods.
- Reauthorizes and strengthens the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network intended to support farmers and individuals who work in agriculture facing highly stressful working conditions, which can contribute to serious behavioral health concerns.
- Builds upon the hemp research pilot program established by the Agricultural Act of 2014, requiring a USDA study of economic viability of domestic hemp production, and makes industrial hemp eligible for certain funding under existing research authorities.
- Removes the universal matching requirement for competitive grants established in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Title VIII – Forestry

The Forestry title reauthorizes and maintains the primary authorities that allow the U.S. Forest Service to carry out the agency's mission and programs. The title streamlines and eliminates unused and unfunded authorities while also reducing the discretionary spending level for the agency to bring it in line with historical appropriations. Additional forest management tools are provided to reduce administrative burdens and increase efficiencies to promote cross-boundary, landscape-scale forest restoration projects.

New Authorizations:

- Good Neighbor Authority
 - Expands eligibility for the use of Good Neighbor agreements to tribes and counties to allow for forest and rangeland restoration activities to occur on respective land. Provides clarification that states can retain Good Neighbor timber revenues to do more restoration work.
- Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation
 - Establishes a grant program to State foresters to carry out hazardous fuel reduction projects across landscapes on Federal, State, and private forested land.
- Categorical Exclusion for Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat
 - Authorizes the development and use of a categorical exclusion for the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land, and the Secretary of Interior, 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. The authority establishes a cap of 4,500 acres for projects utilizing the categorical exclusion.
- State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program
 - A new competitive grant program for financial and technical assistance to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
 - Extends the authority for the program and provides appropriations at \$80 million annually through 2023.
- Timber Innovation
 - Clarifies Forest Service can conduct research to facilitate the use of innovative wood products and offer grants to entities to advance the use of these products.

Title IX– Energy

The 2018 Farm Bill includes reauthorization of a majority of the 2014 Farm Bill Energy programs. Policy improvements include streamlining the Biobased Markets Program while improving the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program to allow standalone facilities that produce only biobased products or renewable chemicals to qualify for loan guarantees. The Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels is updated to allow for more equitable distribution of payments to biofuel producers. In addition, the Rural Energy for America Program is expanded to allow for new energy efficient equipment or systems to qualify for a percentage of total loan guarantee funding.

Lastly, the Biomass Research and Development Initiative is moved to Title VII (Research, Extension, and Related Matters) and the Community Wood Energy Program is updated and moved to Title VIII (Forestry).

Continued Mandatory Funding for Energy Initiatives

- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP):** The bill maintains mandatory baseline funding for the REAP (\$50 million annually)

New Mandatory Funding for Energy Initiatives: \$125 million in new mandatory funding provided to the following programs

- **Biobased Markets Program** - \$3 million per year over 5 years
- **Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program** - \$50 million in fiscal year 2019 and \$25 million in fiscal year 2020
- **Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels** - \$7 million per year over 5 years

The following programs are repealed:

- Repowering Assistance Program
- Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative

Title X – Horticulture

Updates to Organic

- International Organics: Increases information-sharing to prevent fraudulent 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.
- Requires a 2/3 vote of the National Organic Standards Board to make any decisive vote regarding the organic "National List."
- Allows employees of companies or operations to serve as a representative on the National Organic Standards Board.
- Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives: allows use of remaining \$5 million, provides \$5 million in additional mandatory funding, and authorizes \$5 million through FY2023.
- National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program: \$24 million in mandatory funding for FY2019-FY2023.

Specialty Crops and Local Food

- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: Continues with \$85 million per year in mandatory funds. Requires states to include stakeholder input in state plans, evaluations, and best practices.
- Reauthorizes Specialty Crop Market News allocation through FY2023.
- Reauthorizes Food Safety Education Initiatives through FY2023.
- Local Agriculture Market Program: Combines the grant application process for value-added agricultural producer program with the farmers' market and local food promotion program, requires certain grant recipients to include the impact on farmers and food businesses, and provides \$50 million/year in mandatory funding.

Other Provisions

- Hemp Production: Amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to allow states and Indian tribes to regulate or follow a plan established by the Secretary to regulate hemp production that includes locations of hemp production, sample testing for THC concentration, sample inspections of producers, and disposal of plants that are out of compliance.
- Establishes an interagency working group to provide recommendations on improving the consultation process required under the Endangered Species Act for pesticide registration. Separately, includes a study related to methyl bromide use in response to an emergency.
- Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey: Provides \$500,000 to USDA, 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.

Title XI – Crop Insurance

The Crop Insurance Title provides certainty and predictability to producers by improving risk management tools and crop insurance coverage, and by encouraging private sector innovation in the development and maintenance of policies.

Enterprise Units

Allows producers to establish a single enterprise unit by combining enterprise units across counties, or enterprise units with basic units and optional units in one or more other counties.

Research and Development

Directs research and development to improve existing policies or develop policies for: Whole Farm Revenue Protection, tropical storm or hurricane insurance, quality loss, citrus, hops, subsurface irrigation practices, grain sorghum, limited irrigation practices, irrigation practices for rice, greenhouse, local foods, and batture land.

Cover Crops

Clarifies conditions for voluntary conservation practices to be considered as good farming practices for crop insurance purposes and requires continuing education for loss adjusters and agents regarding conservation activities and agronomic practices.

Specialty Crops

Updates the role of the Specialty Crop Coordinator and requires a Specialty Crop Liaison in each regional office. Requires the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board to annually review research and development of insurance for new crops, expansion of existing insurance to additional counties or States, and crops with existing insurance. Requires data collected through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program be provided for improving crop insurance coverage

Treatment of Forage and Grazing

Permits separate crop insurance policies for crops that can be both grazed and mechanically harvested on the same acres during the same growing season. Provides that such separate policies can be independently indemnified for different causes of loss covered by these programs and for each intended use.

Crop Production on Native Sod

Clarifies that the reductions in benefits for native sod acreage that has been tilled apply to any insurable crops. Further clarifies that the reduction in benefits would apply for not more than four cumulative years during the first ten years after initial tillage.

Title XII – Miscellaneous

Subtitle A: Livestock

Animal Disease Prevention and Management

The existing National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) authority is revised to also establish the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB). In coordination, these three programs will improve how the U.S. protects against, prepares for, and responds to animal and zoonotic disease outbreaks, including Foot and Mouth Disease.

Provides \$120 million of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the period of fiscal years 2019-2022, of which \$20 million is reserved for the NADPRP, and \$100 million is to be allocated among the NAHLN, the NADPRP and the NAVVCB. For fiscal year 2023 and each year thereafter, the bill provides \$30 million of Commodity Credit Corporation funds, of which \$18 million is reserved for the NADPRP, and \$12 million is to be allocated among the NAHLN, the NADPRP and the NAVVCB. Additionally, the authorization of appropriations for NAHLN is increased to \$30 million per year for fiscal years 2019-2023, and an authorization for appropriations is established for the NADPRP and the NAVVCB for such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2019-2023.

Study on Livestock Dealer Statutory Trust

Provides for a USDA study on the feasibility of establishing a Livestock Dealer Statutory Trust, including analysis of the potential impacts a trust would have on livestock producers, dealers, markets, financiers, and other parties in the livestock sector. In cases of livestock dealer insolvency, producers and auctions can be unpaid substantial sums.

Subtitle B: Agriculture and Food Defense

Provides a new authorization for the USDA office of Homeland Security and requires States to develop comprehensive strategic response plans regarding several factors, as appropriate, and authorizes the National Plant Disease Recovery System.

Subtitle C: Historically Underserved Producers

Availability of USDA programs for Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Amends the definition of veteran as any individual who has obtained veteran status within the previous 10 years and 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). Reduces premiums and fees for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, and increases educational focus from the Food Safety Outreach Program and the Federal Crop Insurance Education Program. Also 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.

Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach

Authorizes the Secretary to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning through education and training and equitable participation in agricultural programs. Requires the Secretary to give priority in awarding grants to nongovernmental and community based organizations with expertise in working with socially disadvantaged, or veteran, farmers and ranchers, while authorizing the Secretary to waive the matching requirement to effectively reach an underserved area or population. Provides permanent mandatory funding for the program.

Tribal Advisory Committee

Establishes the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary on tribal agricultural topics and annually report recommendations to the Secretary. The Committee will be comprised of members selected by the Secretary, House and Senate Agriculture Committees, Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Urban Agriculture

Authorizes an Office for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to support new and innovative agricultural production, including production that occurs in urban areas, indoors, and on rooftops. The bill also authorizes an urban agriculture and innovative production advisory committee, grant program, and pilot projects for Farm Service Agency county committees and compost availability.

Subtitle D: Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 Amendments

Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison

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

Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Requires the Department to reestablish the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Civil Rights

Requires evaluations of various USDA actions on the impact on civil rights and on historically underserved producers.

Subtitle E: Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Protecting Animals With Shelter

Establishes a grant program to provide emergency and transitional housing assistance for domestic violence victims and their pets, horses, service animals and emotional support animals. Amends stalking and protection order protections to include crimes targeting pets, horses, service animals and emotional support animals. Allows restitution to cover veterinary care needed for victims' pets, horses, service animals and emotional support animals. Provides criminal penalties for violence against the pets, horses, service animals and emotional support animals.

Reauthorization of the National Oilheat Research Alliance

Reauthorizes the National Oilheat Research Alliance for an additional 10 years, through 2028.

Precision Agriculture Task Force

Establishes a new task force, comprised of a variety of private stakeholders and Federal, State and local government officials, to develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid deployment of expanded broadband Internet service on agricultural land.

Subtitle F: General Provisions

Exemption of Exportation of Certain Echinoderms from Permission and Licensing Requirements

Amends Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regulations pertaining to export permission requirements for green sea urchins to facilitate the exportation of these species for human and animal food. Requires annual provision of data on the conservation and management of green sea urchins to relevant government entities to ensure the continued conservation of these species. Current export-licensing requirements in place can result in delayed delivery to foreign markets of highly perishable green sea urchins.

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.

Trust Funds

Continues funding for calendar years 2019 through 2023 for the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund and the Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, as well as Wool Research and Promotion, and makes technical updates and clarifications. The trust funds are used to offset duties applied to cotton and wool products. Also establishes a new Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund, with funding for fiscal years 2019 through 2023, to support research and development activities to combat citrus diseases and pests.

Heirs Property

Clarifies that farm operators on land that has been passed down through multiple generations without formal probate proceedings, or heirs property, are eligible to receive farm numbers for the purposes of accessing programs offered by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency, if they provide certain documentation.

Rural Emergency Medical Services Training and Equipment

Reauthorizes the Rural Emergency Medical Services Training and Equipment Assistance Program through 2023, providing critical emergency medical support to rural communities.

Grain Standards

Allows a grain handling facility that lost a nonuse of service exception after October 1, 2015, to notify the Federal Grain Inspection Service to restore the prior exception.