

FARM BILL 2.0

SECTION - by - SECTION

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Agricultural Act of 2026 Title I — Commodities

Subtitle A — Commodity Policy

Sec. 1101 Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority

- Suspends the permanent price support authority through 2031.

Sec. 1102 Servicing of Loans

- Requires USDA to continue servicing marketing assistance loans, sugar processing loans, and loan deficiency payments in the case of a lapse in appropriations.

Sec. 1103 Certification of Average Adjusted Gross Income by Enrolled Agents

- Adds federally licensed tax practitioners to the list of professionals authorized to provide the certified statements and certifications used to document compliance with adjusted gross income limitations.

Sec. 1104 Commodity Credit Corporation Records, Reports, and Data

- Requires the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to biannually submit and make publicly available a report similar to the Commodity Estimate Books formerly published by the FSA, with both actual and estimated years of budgetary data by program and account for the Corporation.

Sec. 1105 Storage Facility Loans

- Expands the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program to authorize loans for constructing or upgrading propane and fertilizer storage facilities used primarily for agricultural production.
- Directs the Secretary to revise the program regulations to implement the expansion, ensuring fertilizer loans cover, at a minimum, dry storage, blenders, liquid tanks, anhydrous ammonia pressure vessels, and the related receipt, storage, and removal infrastructure.

Sec. 1106 Strengthening Domestic Food Production Supply Chains

- Establishes the preservation and domestic production of covered agricultural commodities from which food ingredients that serve an important function throughout the domestic food supply chain are derived as a priority objective of the President.



Sec. 1107 Dry Edible Beans Study

- Directs the Secretary to contract with one or more qualified entities to conduct a study to determine whether the inclusion of dry edible beans as a covered and loan commodity would provide producers of dry edible beans with an effective safety net and submit a report with the findings to Congress.
- Authorizes appropriations to establish a mitigation program under which the Secretary shall reduce stocks to use ratios of dry edible beans to achieve and maintain average historical levels.

Subtitle B — Dairy

Sec. 1201 Reauthorizations

- Removes the sunset date for the Dairy Forward Pricing Program.
- Reauthorizes the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program through 2031.
- Reauthorizes the Dairy Promotion and Research Board through 2031.

Sec. 1202 Mandatory Reporting of Dairy Product Processing Costs

- Requires manufacturers to report production cost and yield information for all products produced in the same facility to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).
- Requires the Secretary to publish a report every two years on the data used to set minimum prices for Class III or Class IV milk under a federal milk marketing order to inform any future changes to make allowances.

Sec. 1203 Dairy Reports

- Clarifies the deadline for submitting the required annual Dairy Promotion and Research Board report, which details the Board's activities and use of funds, including an independent analysis of the program's effectiveness.

Subtitle C — Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

Sec. 1301 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

- Directs the Secretary to provide noninsured crop disaster assistance to producers who rely on a community ditch to irrigate for losses resulting from a qualifying cause, such as drought, flood, or other natural disaster.

Sec. 1302 Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Expands eligibility to include unweaned livestock. Specifies that predation by Mexican Gray Wolves and panthers are eligible for LIP. Codifies weight categories of under and over 400 pounds for calves to more accurately compensate ranchers with calf losses. Clarifies that documentation establishing either the probable occurrence or confirmation of an animal or avian attack satisfies the requirements for payment eligibility.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP): Expands ELAP's use-of-funds authority to cover transportation costs for hauling feed



and water and adds adverse weather and drought as loss causes. Establishes winter stockpile grazing losses as a new ELAP-eligible loss category.

Sec. 1303 Tree Assistance Program

- Expands Tree Assistance Program eligibility to cover producers of biennial tree crops and tree losses caused by pest infestation, and authorizes replanting with an alternative variety, stand density, or location.
- Requires replanting and rehabilitation to be completed within two years of approval, extendable as needed for tree survival, directs the Secretary to approve or deny applications within 120 days, and establishes an optional initial payment based on estimated costs to begin replanting investments.

Sec. 1304 Specialty Crop Assistance Framework

- Directs the Secretary to establish a framework to disperse assistance to specialty crop producers in the event of market disruption or economic crisis, should Congress provide additional funds for this purpose, and provides guidance for and limitations in creating and using the framework.

Sec. 1305 Assistance in the Form of Block Grants

- Authorizes the Secretary, when additional funds are made available by Congress for natural disaster losses not covered under other existing programs, to deliver that assistance to States in the form of block grants.

Subtitle D — Administration

Sec. 1401 Regulations

- Amends the Agricultural Act of 2014 to include title I of the Agricultural Act of 2026 and the amendments made by that title under the exemption from notice and comment provisions and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Sec. 1402 Technical Correction

- Corrects section 1001E(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985, replacing the reference to the obsolete Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Sec. 1403 Implementation

- Expands sequestration restoration and repayment protections to include the sugar program, streamlines the marketing assistance loan and sugar programs into defined terms, and corrects the citation to the sequestration authority.
- Extends the annual tilled-native-sod acreage reporting requirement through January 1, 2031.



Title II—Conservation

Subtitle A – Conservation Reserve Program

Sec. 2101 Conservation Reserve

- Reauthorizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through 2031, capping enrollment at 27 million acres.
- Caps Grasslands CRP at 12 million acres.
- Codifies the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Program within the Continuous CRP.

Sec. 2102 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Improves the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to address drought.

Sec. 2103 Farmable Wetland Program

- Reauthorizes the Farmable Wetland Program through 2031.

Sec. 2104 Duties of the Secretary

- Improves access to CRP acreage for haying and grazing by authorizing emergency responses to drought, flooding, and other natural disasters.
- Paragraph (2) ensures there are appropriate protections for wildlife habitat.

Sec. 2105 Payments

- Allows cost-sharing of grazing and water infrastructure and ensures cost-share for mid-contract management activities.
- Subsection (b) updates rental rate calculations to better incentivize marginal land versus prime farmland from entering CRP.
- Subsection (c) increases the payment limitation to \$125,000. This is the first increase in the program's history.

Subtitle B – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Sec. 2201 Definitions

- Provides an updated definition of “precision agriculture technology” and “precision agriculture.”



Sec. 2202 Establishment and Administration

- Ensures that producers who have Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts may also participate in the Conservation Loan Program to pay for the same practice.
- Subsection (a) streamlines USDA authorities for the implementation of EQIP to improve irrigation practice implementation.
- Subsection (a) allows EQIP cost-share for grasslands CRP contracts that support wildlife corridors.
- Subsection (b) extends the 50 percent reservation of funding from the program for practices relating to livestock production, including grazing management practices.
- Subsection (c) supports upland wildlife habitat in EQIP.
- Subsection (d) increases certain payment limits for Water Conservation and Irrigation Efficiency contracts, improving irrigation implementation and limiting requirements on producers.
- Subsection (e) extends the payment limit for the EQIP Organic set-aside.
- Subsection (f) reduces requirements and streamlines the EQIP program for producers.

Sec. 2203 Limitation of Payments

- Reauthorizes the limitation of payments.

Sec. 2204 Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments

- Reauthorizes Conservation Innovation Grants and payments.
- Subsections (a) and (b) link the conservation innovation grant program to improved conservation practice adoption.

Subtitle C – Conservation Stewardship Program

Sec. 2301 Conservation Stewardship Program

- Allows CSP enrollment for grasslands CRP contracts that support wildlife corridors.

Sec. 2302 Duties of the Secretary

- Reauthorizes the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payment limit.

Subtitle D – Funding and Administration

Sec. 2401 Funding

- Paragraph (1) ensures funding for grazing infrastructure through CRP.
- Paragraph (2) extends funding for EQIP and CSP.



- Paragraph (3) provides mandatory funding for the new Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP).

Sec. 2402 Conservation Standards and Requirements

- Ensures the adoption of new and modification of existing conservation practice standards.

Sec. 2403 Establishment and Review of Conservation Practice Standards

- Requires the Secretary to allow for public input during the review of conservation practice standards and publicly post comments received and decisions made in response to these comments.
- Paragraph (3) creates a public and transparent practice establishment process for programs. This process must allow for state and local flexibility and ensure that innovative technologies like precision agriculture technologies, biological sources of fertilizer and perennial production systems are prioritized. USDA must solicit input from State Technical Committees and allow for public submission of practices for consideration as interim conservation practice standards. USDA is required to publicize information on what constitutes a conservation practice and the data and metrics necessary to consider new practice standards.

Sec. 2404 Delivery of Technical Assistance

- Defines the term “approved non-federal certifying entity” for the purpose of the technical service provider (TSP) program and ensures that the purposes of the program are to deliver timely technical assistance.
- Paragraph (4) adds conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation to the list of areas for expertise in the TSP program. It creates a certification process for third-party providers to be certified by either the Secretary, a non-federal certifying entity, or a state agency. This paragraph creates timelines that must be met by the Secretary for the certification of providers and non-federal certifying entities.
- Paragraph (5) provides for a regular review of the TSP program, including reviewing certification requirements and potential barriers and opportunities for the continued use of third-party provider assistance to help the delivery of conservation programs. It also ensures that providers are reimbursed at fair and reasonable amounts to prevent payment rates from dissuading producers from accessing the program.

Sec. 2405 Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs

- Reauthorizes administrative requirements for conservation programs.



Sec. 2406 Temporary Administration of Conservation Programs

- Provides USDA flexibility to implement conservation programs using existing regulations until updated regulations are promulgated.

Sec. 2407 Definitions

- Defines “native big game species” in the Food Security Act of 1985.

Subtitle E – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2501 Definitions

- Authorizes buy-protect-sell transactions through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Allows multiple entities to participate in these easement arrangements.

Sec. 2502 Agricultural Land Easements

- Increases the cost-share rates for conservation easements from 50 percent to 60 percent and increases cost-share for grasslands off special significance from 75 percent to 80 percent.
- Subsection (b) creates a lower cost-share option with a federal share at 25 percent in exchange for no right of enforcement for the Secretary. Subsection (b) sets a standard for the certification of eligible entities to minimize administrative burdens on the Secretary and recognize experience with the purpose of the program. Subsection (b) sets out the expectations of certified entities and the process the Secretary may take to revoke certification if necessary.

Sec. 2503 Wetland Reserve Easements

- Clarifies the various options of enrollment an owner of eligible land may select from.
- Paragraph (5) elevates stewardship of easements as a priority by ensuring there is regular monitoring of easements and provides the authority for technical and financial assistance for the repair and maintenance of easements. This requires a report to Congress detailing progress on the monitoring and stewardship of easements and gives the Secretary the option to enter into agreements with a partner to accomplish the new requirements and authorities added to the program.

Sec. 2504 Administration

- Defines the types of adjustment to easements that qualify as “de minimis adjustments” for the ACEP program and gives authority to certified entities to make these adjustments. Creates a notification requirement on the behalf of certified entities to



ensure the Secretary is aware of these changes. Ensures that any adjustments are consistent with the program's purposes and does not decrease the conservation value of the easement.

Sec. 2505 Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

- Exempts easement payments from adjusted gross income eligibility limits for other programs at USDA and eliminates the payment limit on easement payments.

Subtitle F – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Sec. 2601 Establishment and Purposes

- Clarifies the purpose of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to include addressing the effects of flooding and drought as well as improvements to flood resiliency.

Sec. 2602 Definitions

- Modifies the eligible entity definition to include agricultural retailers.

Sec. 2603 Regional Conservation Partnership

- Requires USDA to perform faster execution of partnership agreements within 180 days after the project is selected and limits what may be included in a partnership agreement to only those required. Ensures the authorities of covered programs, including the use of certified eligible entities in ACEP, may be used through a partnership agreement.

Sec. 2604 Assistance to Producers

- Allows advanced payments to producers and eligible conservation partners and requires timely reimbursements under partnership agreements.
- Confirms that funding through alternative funding arrangements are not considered federal grants.

Sec. 2605 Funding

- Sets a limit on federal funding for any single project to ensure there is robust acceptance of applications to the program.
- Amends the limitation on administrative expenses that may be funded through a partnership agreement by allowing those partners with a negotiated rate a cost rate to receive not more than 15 percent and for those partners without a negotiated rate a rate of 10 percent.



- Prohibits the Secretary from requiring a separate agreement for technical assistance and streamlines technical assistance by limiting costs by the Secretary to those necessary to carry out the objectives of the program and limiting technical assistance to 30 percent of the total project cost.

Sec. 2606 Critical Conservation Areas

- Adds wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors as a priority resource concern in critical conservation areas.

Subtitle G – Forest Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2701 Forest Conservation Easement

- Establishes the Forest Conservation Easement Program at USDA as Section 1267 of the Food Security Act.
- Section 1267 defines eligible entities, eligible land, forest land easement and other necessary definitions to implement the program.
- Section 1267A establishes the purposes of the program.
- Section 1267B authorizes the Secretary to facilitate the purchase of forest land easements by eligible entities and develop forest management plans. Sets the criteria and priorities for applications and requires a forest management plan if one does not already exist. Establishes the minimum terms and conditions for these easements and provides a 50 percent federal share for the purchase of these easements, except for a 75 percent federal share for a forest of special significance or land owned by a socially disadvantaged landowner.
- Section 1267C authorizes the Secretary to facilitate the acquisition of forest reserve easements. This sets the criteria and priorities for applications and requires a forest reserve easement plan to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary to restore, maintain and enhance wildlife habitat. Sets the terms and conditions for forest reserve easements and provides for a safe harbor under the Endangered Species Act when an increased conservation benefit for wildlife species occurs.
- Section 1267D sets out which land is considered ineligible for assistance using funding provided for FCEP. Allows subordination, modification, exchange, and termination when certain conditions are met such as limiting negative conservation values and ensures that the Secretary may not limit enrollments based on acreage or type of ownership, among other limitations.



Sec. 2702 Healthy Forests Reserve Program

- Repeals Title V of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, while preserving existing contracts.

Subtitle H – Other Conservation Programs

Sec. 2801 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act

- Reorganizes and simplifies several sections of the Act for clarity.
- Requires the Secretary to provide State Conservationists with increased authority for implementation of projects to ensure prompt implementation of the program.
- Allows a local organization sponsoring a work of improvement to utilize third parties for preliminary investigations and other pre-planning activities.
- Ensures that funding is only provided to projects for design and construction after a watershed plan is approved.
- Increases the total federal contribution for constructions costs to \$50 million from the current limit of \$25 million.
- Allows for variances for construction and engineering standards by State Technical Committees.

Sec. 2802 Emergency Conservation Programs

- Authorizes, within the Emergency Conservation Program, advance payments for practices and allows new and emerging technologies like virtual fencing to be eligible under certain circumstances.
- Ensures that wildfires caused by the federal government or that spread due to natural causes are eligible for assistance.
- Extends assistance to agricultural producers who hold permits or leases for grazing on federal or state land.
- Provides the Secretary the authority to restore and enhance the hydrological functions of floodplains for easement under the Emergency Watershed Program and authorizes the program to restore floodplains above that which would be necessary to address the immediate impairment of the watershed if it is in the best interest of the health of the watershed.
- Extends assistance in the Emergency Forest Restoration Program to agricultural producers who hold permits or leases for grazing on federal or state land.



Sec. 2803 Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program

- Reauthorizes the Federal Swine Eradication and Control Program and changes the ratio of federal funding so 40 percent is allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service and 60 percent to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Sec. 2804 Conservation of Private Grazing Land

- Reauthorizes Conservation of Private Land Grazing Lands.

Sec. 2805 State Conservation Assistance

- Creates a new State Conservation Assistance Program at USDA to support state efforts to promote agricultural conservation.
- Allows grants to states up to \$5 million to cover up to 50 percent of the cost of the state program or 75 percent of the cost of a Tribal program.
- Provides \$50 million annually for the State Conservation Assistance program.

Title III—Trade

Subtitle A – Food for Peace Act

Sec. 3101 United States Policy

- Updates the Food for Peace policy statement to include child wasting.

Sec. 3102 Food Aid Quality Assurance

- Provides that a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary, qualifies as an eligible organization
- Requires that no more than 50 percent of funds can be spent on expenses other than U.S.-grown agricultural commodities and ocean transportation.
- Clarifies that agricultural commodities may be used for nonemergency assistance.
- Extends the funding limitation for food aid quality oversight through 2031.

Sec. 3103 Repeal of Minimum Levels of Assistance

- Repeals section 204 of the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3104 Food Aid Consultative Group

- Reauthorizes the Food Aid Consultative Group through 2031.



Sec. 3105 Program Oversight, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Extends existing funding authority through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 3106 International Food Relief Partnership

- Increases the authorization of appropriations from \$10 million to \$15 million for each fiscal year through 2031.

Sec. 3107 Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

- Provides that the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) may pay all costs of commodities made available for emergency and private assistance programs and food for development under the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3108 Technical Corrections and Administrative Provisions

- Extends existing authority and funding through fiscal year 2031.
- Updates the annual reporting requirements to include a statement of the amount of funds provided to eligible organizations that received assistance and how those funds were used, as well as an assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls.

Sec. 3109 Expiration Date

- Extends the deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance through 2031.

Sec. 3110 Minimum Level of Nonemergency Food Assistance

- Extends the minimum levels of nonemergency food assistance through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 3111 Micronutrient Fortification Programs

- Reauthorizes the micronutrient fortification program through 2031.

Sec. 3112 John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

- Extends existing funding authority through fiscal year 2031.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

Sec. 3201 Preserving Foreign Markets for Goods Using Common Names

- Defines the term “Common Name,” provides examples of names that shall be considered common names, and authorizes the Secretary to determine additional common names.



- Directs the Secretary to advise and support the efforts of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to secure the right of U.S. agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names in foreign markets.

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

- Establishes a new technical assistance program to improve infrastructure in foreign markets, whereby the Secretary shall enter into agreements with eligible trade organizations to provide technical assistance to enhance infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments, to ensure U.S. agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of that infrastructure.
- Provides that, in addition to any funds made available through an authorization of appropriations, not more than \$1.5 million per fiscal year may be made available from funding for the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) to carry out this program.

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

- Requires the Secretary, in consultation with USTR and the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), to submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress detailing the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crop exports, including by identifying barriers in foreign markets and actions taken to address those barriers. Directs the Secretary to seek comments from the public and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables in developing the report.

Sec. 3204 Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation

- Increases annual funding for Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation from \$255 million to \$515 million for fiscal year 2027, and then to \$533 million for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter. This includes increasing funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) from \$200 million to \$421 million for fiscal year 2027, and then to \$437 million for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031. This also includes increasing funding for FMD from \$34.5 million to \$73.5 million for fiscal year 2027, and then to \$75.5 million for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.
- Repeals Section 10602 Supplemental Agricultural Trade Promotion Program of Public Law 119–21 (7 U.S.C. 5623a).



- Repeals the prohibition on using funds to carry out a market promotion or market access program that provides assistance to any mink industry trade association.

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

- Requires the Secretary, USTR, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined by the Secretary, to jointly establish an interagency working group to monitor seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information, consult with seasonal and perishable agricultural producers regarding the impact of imports on the domestic industry, and coordinate regarding potential trade actions.

Subtitle C – Other Agricultural Trade Laws

Sec. 3301 Food for Progress Act of 1985

- Requires the Secretary to utilize more than one eligible commodity and designate more than one country to be the recipient and reauthorizes the program through 2031.

Sec. 3302 Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act

- Reauthorizes the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust through 2031.
- Provides the Secretary with the authority to determine if funds and commodities held in the trust are available for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act for a fiscal year if funds for such fiscal year are insufficient to meet emergency needs.
- Requires the Secretary to reimburse the CCC for the release of eligible commodities from funds made available to carry out the Food for Peace Act and the funds that shall be available to replenish the trust.

Sec. 3303 McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

- Allows eligibility for lower-middle income countries.
- Reauthorizes through fiscal year 2031.
- Provides that of the funds available to carry out the McGovern-Dole Program, not less than eight percent but not more than 15 percent shall be used to purchase agricultural commodities that are produced in and procured from developing countries that are McGovern-Dole recipients.

Sec. 3304 International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program

- Reauthorizes funding through fiscal year 2031.



- Requires the Secretary to implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than three consecutive years and ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multi-year.

Sec. 3305 International Agricultural Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program

- Establishes an International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program, authorizes appropriations of \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 3306 International Food Security Technical Assistance

- Reauthorizes through 2031.

Sec. 3307 Global Crop Diversity Trust

- Reauthorizes appropriations through 2031.
- Limits the aggregate contribution of federal funds provided to the trust to 33 percent while also ensuring the trust is not precluded from receiving additional competitive funding.

Sec. 3308 Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Projects

- Reauthorizes through 2031.

Subtitle D—Reports

Sec. 3401 Report on the Domestic Competitiveness of United States-Grown Agricultural Commodities

- Requires the Secretary, in consultation with USTR and the USITC, to submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress analyzing the competitiveness of U.S.-grown agricultural commodities in the domestic market. This includes identifying agricultural commodities produced in the U.S. that face unfair pressure from imports, any actions taken to enhance the domestic competitiveness of those commodities, and recommendations for any future actions.

Sec. 3402 Report on International Shrimp Trade

- Directs GAO to report on policy solutions to promote the competitiveness of the domestic shrimp and seafood industry in global and domestic markets.



Title IV—Nutrition

Subtitle A – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Sec. 4101 State Cost Share Delay

- Requires states to contribute a percentage of the cost of SNAP benefits beginning in fiscal year 2029 if their payment error rate is 6 percent or greater.
- Requires states with a payment error rate equal to or greater than 10 percent to pay 20 percent of the cost of SNAP benefits starting in fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4102 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

- Requires USDA to incorporate Tribal input in contracting decisions while strengthening the emergency response during supply chain disruptions.

Sec. 4103 Support for Wireless and Mobile Equipment for Certain Entities

- Requires USDA to ensure that program benefit processing systems made available by a state agency are appropriate for the entity, including farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets.

Sec. 4104 Prohibited Fees

- Prohibits the imposition of fees by States for EBT transactions including switching or routing such benefits through 2031.

Sec. 4105 Permanent Authority for Online Purchasing

- Requires the Secretary to transition the SNAP online purchasing initiative from pilot status to a permanent program.

Sec. 4106 Enhanced Cybersecurity for EBT cards

- Requires the promulgation of cybersecurity regulations relating to the use of SNAP EBT cards and other purposes.

Sec. 4107 Approval of Retail Food Stores and Wholesale Food Concerns

- Ensures retailers solely operating the SNAP online purchasing initiative adhere to applications and processes that uphold the program's integrity.

Sec. 4108 Streamlining Applications for Farmers

- Streamlines the application process for farmers and ranchers to participate as authorized vendors under certain federal nutrition programs.



Sec. 4109 Administrative Processes for Retailers

- Requires retail food stores denied participation in SNAP to have been denied on two consecutive occasions within three years before the existing six-month waiting period to submit a new application.

Sec. 4110 Animal Protein as Eligible Incentive Food

- Adds animal protein to the list of eligible SNAP incentive foods.

Sec. 4111 Staffing Flexibility

- Allows State agencies to hire a contractor to perform SNAP certification or carry out other agency functions under SNAP.

Sec. 4112 Quality Control Improvements

- Requires the Secretary to issue a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for SNAP, on all payment errors, regardless of dollar amount.

Sec. 4113 Authorization of Appropriations

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4114 Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4115 The Emergency Food Assistance Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for emergency food program infrastructure grants and the availability of commodities through 2031.

Sec. 4116 Dairy Nutrition Incentive Program

- Expands the program to include all forms of fluid milk, certain hard cheeses, yogurt, and increases the authorization of appropriations from \$20 million to \$80 million.

Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution Programs

Sec. 4201 Delivering for Rural Seniors

- Establishes a three-year pilot program that awards grants for the purpose to expand home delivery options for participants in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, authorizing \$10 million annually for fiscal years 2027 through 2029.



Sec. 4202 Commodity Distribution Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4203 Commodity Supplemental Food Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4204 Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

Sec. 4301 Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- Adds tree nuts as a permitted resource to be provided in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program.

Sec. 4302 Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions

- Reauthorizes the purchase of specialty crops through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 4303 Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Reauthorization

- Expands what an eligible entity must prescribe from just “fresh fruits and vegetables” to “all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes.”

Sec. 4304 Buy American Requirements

- Codifies that the Secretary shall require that a school food authority must purchase at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category for each school year.
- Provides an exception for domestically unavailable food and requires the Secretary to make available to school food authorities a list of domestically unavailable products every two years.

Sec. 4305 Dietary Guidelines

- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and HHS to jointly publish Dietary Guidelines at least once every 10 years.
- Increases the level of scientific agreement required for information to be in the report from a mere preponderance of current scientific and medical knowledge to “significant scientific agreement determined by evidence-based review,” among other requirements.



- Creates an Independent Advisory Board to assist in updating the Dietary Guidelines as needed.
- Excludes the Secretaries from being permitted to publish in the report information or topics not relevant to dietary guidance.

Sec. 4306 Strengthening Local Food Security Program

- Requires the Secretary to establish a program for entering into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to strengthen local and regional food producers by authorizing \$200 million in discretionary funding for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 4307 Food Loss and Waste Reduction Annual Report

- Makes the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report annual and adds required information to be included in the report.

Sec. 4308 Healthy Food Financing Initiative

- Increases the authorization of appropriations from \$125 million to \$135 million.

Sec. 4309 Option for Purchasing Fresh TEFAP through DOD Fresh

- USDA may allow a State agency to use not more than 20% of the cost of the commodities allocated to that State agency under this section to order commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Sec. 4310 Technical Corrections

- Updates definitions and references to terms in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

Title V—Credit

Subtitle A—Farm Credit System

Sec. 5101 Extension of Credit to Businesses Providing Services to Producers or Harvesters of Aquatic Products

- Allows Farm Credit System institutions to provide financing to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products putting them in parity with businesses that support terrestrial agriculture.



Sec. 5102 Export Finance Authority

- Requires cooperative banks to guarantee or insure 95 percent of a loan for export financing if the balance of the loan exceeds 15 percent of the bank's total assets.

Sec. 5103 Support for Rural Water Systems

- Allows a bank for cooperatives to make loans and provide technical assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity to operate facilities in rural areas for the processing or disposal of waste or producing electricity.

Sec. 5104 Financing for Essential Rural Community Facilities

- Provides new authority for Farm Credit System institutions to work with community banks to provide financing and technical assistance for essential community facilities in rural areas.

Sec 5105 Limitation on Rural Business Investment Companies

- Prohibits rural business investment companies from providing equity investment in entities not otherwise eligible to receive financing from the Farm Credit System if more than 75 percent of the rural business investment companies' shares are held by the Farm Credit System.

Sec. 5106 Loan Guarantees

- Expands qualified loans to include loans made under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 5107 Standards for Qualified Loans

- Establishes that the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation's tier 1 capital.



Subtitle B—Farm Ownership and Operating Loans

Sec. 5201 Limitations on Loan Amounts

- Increases the maximum allowable indebtedness for farm ownership loans, to \$850,000, or in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, to \$3.5 million, indexed for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2027.
- Increases the maximum allowable indebtedness for farm operating loans to \$750,000 or in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3 million, indexed for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Sec. 5202 Inflation percentage

- Adjusts the inflation percentage applicable to the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans to include the average of the per acre average U.S. farm real estate value, the per acre average U.S. cropland value, and the per acre average U.S. pasture value for the preceding year, weighted equally.

Sec. 5203 Precision agriculture under the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

- Clarifies precision agriculture and precision agriculture technology purchases are eligible under the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program.

Sec. 5204 Down Payment Loan Program

- Adjusts the principal amount a farm ownership loan made under the down payment loan program to be the lower of either 45 percent of the purchase price or the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired.

Sec. 5205 Persons Eligible for Loans

- Expands eligibility for direct farm ownership loans to individuals or entity members who hold at least a 50 percent interest.
- Expands eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members who hold at least a 50 percent interest.

Sec. 5206 Refinancing of Bridge Loans

- Provides additional flexibility for refinancing bridge loans.

Sec. 5207 Support for Resolving Ownership and Succession Issues Relating to Farmland

- Reauthorizes the Heirs' Property Relending Program.



- Requires an annual report to the Secretary from each eligible entity who receives a loan.
- Directs the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide legal or accounting services. Provides an authorization for appropriations in the amount of \$60 million for each year through 2031.

Sec. 5208 Limitation on Microloan Amounts

- Increases the limitation amount for microloan indebtedness from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Sec. 5209 Cooperative Lending Pilot Projects

- Reauthorizes the authority to conduct pilot projects to make loans to cooperative lenders through 2031.

Sec. 5210 Refinancing of Guaranteed Loans into Direct Loans

- Allows distressed loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans subject to certain conditions.

Sec. 5211 Pilot Projects for Preapproval of Direct Farm Ownership Loans

- Creates a pilot program for farmers and ranchers to be preapproved or prequalified for direct farm ownership loans.

Sec. 5212 Definition of Qualified Beginning Farmer or Rancher

- Adds flexibility to the definition of qualified beginning farmer or rancher.

Sec. 5213 Use of Additional Funds for Direct Operating Microloans Under Certain Conditions

- Reauthorizes the authority for the Secretary to continue to make microloans under certain circumstances.

Sec. 5214 State Agricultural Mediation Programs

- Increases maximum amount of matching grants to states from \$500,000 to \$700,000.
- Increases authorization for appropriations for state ag mediation programs to \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 5215 Prompt Approval of Loans and Loan Guarantees

- Requires notification of approval or disapproval to potential real estate or operating loan applicants within five business days, for loans within specific parameters.



Sec. 5216 Farm Operating Loans for Commercial Fishing

- Expands eligibility for farm operating loans to commercial fishing for the costs associated with acquiring, operating, or maintaining a commercial fishing vessel.

Subtitle C—Administrative Provisions

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

- Extends authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$5 million through 2031.

Sec. 5302 Loan Authorization Levels

- Reauthorizes existing funding levels for loan programs through 2031.

Sec. 5303 Loan Fund Set-Asides

- Extends the 50 percent operating loan funds set aside for qualified beginning farmers and ranchers through 2031.

Sec. 5304 Temporary Prohibition of Loans to Borrowers that Have Received Debt Forgiveness

- Allows borrowers who have received debt forgiveness to be eligible for loans after a period of seven years.

Sec. 5305 Technical Corrections

- Updates obsolete or outdated references to terms created or recognized by the Farmers Home Administration, which was replaced by the Farm Service Agency.

Title VI—Rural Development

Subtitle A—Rural Electrification Act of 1936

Part I – Rural Broadband Access

Sec. 6101 Streamlining Broadband Authorities

- Consolidates existing USDA broadband programs under a codified ReConnect program, which has operated as a pilot program since 2018.



- Targets funding for broadband deployment to areas where 90 percent of households lack access to broadband infrastructure capable of delivering speeds of 25/3 Mbps or less.
- Requires a minimum build-to-speed of at least 100/20 Mbps for new projects.
- Improves coordination with relevant federal agencies and states to eliminate overbuilding.
- Streamlines the application process.
- Provides an authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$100 million each year through 2031.

Sec. 6102 Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure into Rural Areas

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6103 Community Connect Grant Program

- Increases program build-to-speed to 100/20 Mbps and directs funding toward areas where broadband service capacity is less than 25/3 Mbps.

Sec. 6104 Last Mile Broadband Deployment/Last Acre

- Establishes a new program to provide grants and loans for the purpose of deploying broadband service to farm and ranch land enabling greater adoption of precision agriculture.

Part II – Additional Amendments

Sec. 6111 Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Utility Infrastructure Purposes

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6112 Rural Development Loans and Grants

- Outlines acceptable collateral under which zero interest loans may be offered and reauthorizes the program through 2031 at current discretionary funding levels.
- Provides mandatory funding of \$5 million each year through 2031.

Sec. 6113 Expansion of 911 Access

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.



Subtitle B—Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

Sec. 6201 Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants

- Allows for the amount of a grant for necessary expenses of developing a complete application to carry out an eligible project under this program to exceed 75 percent, but no more than 100 percent of expenses to be incurred.
- Increases maximum financing amount from \$200,000 to \$500,000.
- Increases the maximum grant for re-development planning grants from \$30,000 to \$100,000
- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$15 million to \$30 million through 2031.

Sec. 6202 Search Grants

- Allows the non-federal share of the cost of a water or waste disposal project to be provided by in-kind contributions.

Sec. 6203 Rural Water, Wastewater, and Waste Disposal Facility Direct Loans

- Prioritizes waste disposal and water facilities direct loans to low-income rural communities with a population of less than 10,000.

Sec. 6204 Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Programs

- Establishes a floor of three percent and a ceiling of 10 percent for funds reserved from the amount appropriated for water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants for the Technical Assistance and Training grant program.

Sec. 6205 Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

- Increases authorization of funding levels from \$25 million to \$30 million for each fiscal year through 2031.
- Asserts that activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations.

Sec. 6206 Rural Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Circuit Rider Program

- Establishes a new rural water and wastewater cybersecurity circuit rider program to assist small and rural water systems in protecting critical water infrastructure against cybersecurity threats.



- Asserts that activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations.
- Authorizes funding of \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Sec. 6207 Tribal College and University Community Facilities

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6208 Essential Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training

- Directs the Secretary to use not less than two percent of funding to award grants for the purpose of providing on-site technical assistance and training on a national or multi-State regional basis.

Sec. 6209 Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Technical Assistance Program

- Establishes an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to provide communities that lack the financial resources and staff with the capacity to adequately prepare, restore, and protect critical water and wastewater services for and in the wake of manmade or natural disasters.
- Asserts that activities carried out under this paragraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities and may continue during a lapse in appropriations.

Sec. 6210 Assistance to Provide Water and Wastewater Services in Financially Distressed Rural Areas

- Allows eligible and experienced water and wastewater systems to receive financial and technical assistance from USDA to assist distressed rural water and wastewater systems that lack sufficient technical, managerial, or financial capacity to operate, maintain, or manage their facilities.

Sec. 6211 Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loans for Health Care Services

- Expands eligibility of community facilities loans to entities providing healthcare services not located in a rural area, if more than 50 percent of their interactions are with individuals who inhabit an area with a frontier and remote area code of level 3 or level 4.



Sec. 6212 Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program

- Expands eligibility to include uses related to water resources infrastructure, including facilities for potable water, wastewater, storm drainage, or solid waste.

Sec. 6213 Additional Assistance for Rural Water Systems

- Allows the Secretary to award grants, zero percent or one percent interest loans, forgiveness, or refinancing to eligible rural water systems to maintain and enhance public health in disadvantaged or economically distressed communities.

Sec. 6214 Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska

- Expands eligible uses to include community-based systems.
- Includes a requirement for consultation with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Sec. 6215 Rural Decentralized Water Systems

- Expands the USDA Rural Decentralized Water Systems Program to provide support for low- and moderate-income households to install or upgrade their water well and wastewater systems.
- Increases the maximum subgrant or loan amount from \$15,000 to \$25,000.
- Allows a subgrant to include funding to cover the cost of performance warranties.
- Provides for technical assistance and support to individuals eligible for a subgrant or loan relating to the installation and maintenance of household decentralized water and wastewater systems.

Sec. 6216 Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Assistance Program

- Establishes the Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Assistance Program to provide federal grants for the costs of water quality testing and purchase, installation and maintenance of point of use/point of entry water filtration systems to address health-based contaminants and improve drinking water for homeowners, renters, and licensed child-care facilities in rural areas.
- Authorizes appropriation of funding in the amount of \$10 million each year through 2031.



Sec. 6217 Solid Waste Management Grants

- Increases the authorization of appropriations to \$20 million for each fiscal year through 2031.
- Expands program eligibility to include Indian tribes.

Sec. 6218 Rural Business Development Grants

- Grants the Secretary the ability to award multiyear grants of not more than five years to eligible entities.

Sec. 6219 Rural Cooperative Development Grants

- Defines ‘cooperative development’ to mean activities, including outreach, education, training, and technical assistance, to support the startup, expansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and existing cooperatives.

Sec. 6220 Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Products

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6221 Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program

- Establishes the Armed to Farm Initiative, to provide training opportunities and resources to veterans who are seeking to become agricultural producers.
- Provides an annual authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$1.5 million for Armed to Farm and \$3.5 million for ATTRA through 2031.

Sec. 6222 Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones

- Reauthorizes the program through 2031.

Sec. 6223 Intermediary Relending Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6224 Lender Fees in Guaranteed Loan Programs; Rural Water Refinancing Improvements

- Alleviates the administrative burden for USDA and small and rural water systems serving communities with a population of 3,300 or fewer, of proving they cannot obtain credit elsewhere.
- Caps fees on guaranteed loans provided by the Secretary at three percent of the principal, and periodic retention fees of no more than 0.75 percent.



- Directs the Secretary to provide a public disclosure of financial data and other information no less than 30 days in advance of any fee change for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified.

Sec. 6225 Definition of Rural and Rural Area

- Establishes that the terms rural and rural area mean a city, town or unincorporated area that has a population less than 25,000 inhabitant for the purpose of water and waste disposal direct loans.

Sec. 6226 Streamlining Review

- Prohibits the Secretary from approving any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in the case of such activity that commenced before November 28, 1990.
- Asserts that the prohibition shall not apply to a rural development loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C of the Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act for an activity or project for which the applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to obtain a permit, or is already covered by a general permit, from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)."

Sec. 6227 Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6228 National Rural Development Partnership

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6229 Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.



Sec. 6230 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

- Increases Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance program loans issued by microenterprise development organizations to a rural microenterprise from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
- Permits an increase in the federal cost share of a project from 75 percent to up to 100 percent.

Sec. 6231 Health Care Services

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Delta Healthcare Services Grant program through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 6232 Strategic Community Investment Plans

- Expands the existing Strategic Community Investment Plans program by authorizing technical assistance grants to help build capacity in rural communities to pursue long-term infrastructure planning, access federal funding, and evaluate voluntary regional water and wastewater solutions, while protecting local decision-making and community control.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations from \$5 million to \$10 million per year through 2031.

Sec. 6233 Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations and expands eligibility to support career pathway programs or industry or sector partnerships promoting skills development or training initiatives.

Sec. 6234 Rural Development Innovation Center

- Codifies the Rural Development Innovation Center within the rural development mission area. The Innovation Center is hereby tasked to review all processes for rural development mission area programs to identify inefficiencies, redundancies, and barriers to access, including overly burdensome application processes that prohibit participation in rural development programs as well as identify and implement technological solutions and software applications to improve program efficiencies, increase transparency, and enhance the customer experience among other things.
- Provides an authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$5 million for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 6235 Rural Business Investment Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.



Subtitle C—Miscellaneous
Part I – Rural Care Economy

Sec. 6301 Improving the Rural Care Economy Prioritizations

- Directs the USDA Secretary to prioritize rural healthcare investments for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 within the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program to projects supporting substance use disorder prevention services, treatment services, recovery services, or any combination of those services; or provide mental or behavioral health services, healthcare facilities, and childcare programs.
- Gives priority to applicants using funds to address rural childcare through USDA Rural Development loan and grant programs.
- Reserves at least 10 percent of Business and Industry guaranteed loan funding to support childcare and healthcare in rural areas.

Sec. 6302 Rural Hospital Revitalization Loans

- Provides temporary zero-interest loans through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program to support new construction and renovation of existing rural hospital facilities to improve essential health care services offered to rural communities.

Sec. 6303 Rural Health Care Facility Assistance

- Establishes a rural health care facility technical assistance program to improve the long-term financial position and operational efficiency of eligible health care facilities in rural areas.
- Provides authorization of appropriations of \$2 million per year through 2031.

Part II – Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 6311 Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- Expands eligible use of program funds to be used toward operating and administrative expenses.
- Waives match requirement for eligible entities in cases of demonstrated need or if the matching requirement would create a substantial burden and for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Sec. 6312 Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program

- Provides a reauthorization of appropriations through 2031.



Sec. 6313 Rural Energy Savings Program

- Provides rural families and businesses with expanded tools to reduce utility costs by modernizing homes and equipment.
- Expands availability of technical assistance for projects located in persistent poverty counties.
- Extends authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 6314 Interagency Task Force on Outdoor Recreation Coordination

- Creates a task force to identify ways to make federal programs supporting hospitality, tourism and outdoor recreation in rural communities more accessible to local communities seeking to leverage opportunities to create jobs and generate sustained economic growth.

Sec. 6315 New, Mobile, and Expanded Meat and Poultry Processing and Rendering Grants

- Provides grants up to \$500,000 to expand market opportunities for small and very small meat and poultry processors and renderers to help them scale up, modernize, and handle food safety requirements.
- Allows a federal cost share of not more than 90 percent for grants of \$100,000 or less, and no more than 75 percent in the case of grants of \$100,000 or more.
- Provides an authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$25 million for each year through 2031.

Sec. 6316 Annual Efficiency Report

- Requires the Secretary to produce a report for Congress that includes a catalog and description of Department statutory programs and authorities devoted to economic development, including funding levels, an identification of each economic development office, agency, sub-agency, panel, committee, or other organization created by statute or regulation, and suggestions for streamlining or sunseting any unnecessary or duplicative programs or authorities; consolidating overlapping authorities; and establishing new authorities as needed.

Sec. 6317 Technical Corrections

- Eliminates obsolete references to county committees.
- Updates outdated references to the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration.



Title VII—Research, Extension, and Related Matters

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

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

- Reauthorizes the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB), and increases the maximum funding allowed to cover the Board's expenses.
- Reduces the number of members on the NAREEEAB executive committee from seven to three.

Sec. 7102 Specialty Crop Committee

- Adds a nonvoting member to represent minor production states to the citrus disease subcommittee and expands subcommittee duties to include reviewing grant applications.
- Reauthorizes the citrus disease subcommittee of the specialty crop committee.
- Makes a technical correction requiring the Secretary to appoint members of the specialty crop committee.

Sec. 7103 Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment

- Allows the Secretary to consider geographic areas with a shortage of veterinarian practices identified by appropriate State agencies when determining situations under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP).
- Requires the Secretary to develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations.
- Directs the Secretary to establish streamlined application procedures and clarifies that veterinarians participating in a comparable State or local loan repayment program are also eligible for VMLRP.

Sec. 7104 Veterinary Services Grant Program

- Updates eligibility requirements for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP) to include entities that can expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas.
- Directs the Secretary to establish a streamlined application process for VSGP.
- Allows entities to use VSGP funds to expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas.



Sec. 7105 Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$40 million to \$60 million for grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education.
- Adds workforce training, education, and research as a grant activity.

Sec. 7106 Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$10 million to \$15 million for agriculture and food policy research centers.

Sec. 7107 Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

- Increases authorizations of appropriations from \$10 million to \$15 million for both Alaska Native-serving institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.

Sec. 7108 Nutrition Education Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the nutrition education program.

Sec. 7109 Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

- Allows unexpended funds to be carried over into the following fiscal year.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for continuing animal health and disease research programs.

Sec. 7110 Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Increases appropriations for extension at 1890 land-grant colleges to not less than 40 percent of the amount provided for the Smith-Lever Act.

Sec. 7111 Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges Including Tuskegee University

- Increases appropriations for agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges to not less than 40 percent of the amount provided for the Hatch Act of 1887.
- Makes technical corrections to include graduate tuition and fees and clarify the role of the agricultural research director.

Sec. 7112 Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions

- Reauthorizes appropriations for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions.



Sec. 7113 Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University

- Reauthorizes appropriations for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant institutions.

Sec. 7114 Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions

- Reauthorizes appropriations for grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area land-grant institutions.

Sec. 7115 New Beginning for Tribal Students

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the New Beginning for Tribal Students program.

Sec. 7116 Hispanic-Serving Institutions

- Reauthorizes appropriations for education grants to Hispanic-serving institutions.

Sec. 7117 Binational Agricultural Research and Development

- Amends the Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund to advance research projects that are of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel and authorizes appropriations of \$8 million to carry out these activities.
- Directs the BARD Fund to establish an accelerator program to support mid-stage research and authorizes appropriations of \$12 million to carry out these activities.

Sec. 7118 International Agriculture Partnerships and Grants Program

- Merges the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs with the Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Program.
- Changes the name to the International Agricultural Partnerships and Grants Program and reauthorizes appropriations for the combined program.

Sec. 7119 Research Equipment Grants

- Reauthorizes appropriations for research equipment grants.

Sec. 7120 University Research

- Reauthorizes appropriations for agricultural research programs, including State agricultural experiment stations.



Sec. 7121 Cooperative Extension Service

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Sec. 7122 Supplemental and Alternative Crops

- Reauthorizes appropriations for supplemental and alternative crops.

Sec. 7123 New Era Rural Technology Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the New Era Rural Technology Program.

Sec. 7124 Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions

- Reauthorizes appropriations for capacity building grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture institutions.

Sec. 7125 Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority

- Expands the goals of the program to include soil and water conservation, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority.

Sec. 7126 Capacity Building Grants for Community College and Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs

- Creates a competitive grants program for community college agriculture and natural resources programs to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach for activities related to agriculture and similar disciplines.

Sec. 7127 Aquaculture Assistance Programs

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$5 million to \$15 million for aquaculture assistance programs.
- Makes technical corrections to remove indirect cost limitations.

Sec. 7128 Rangeland Research Programs

- Reauthorizes appropriations for rangeland research programs.

Sec. 7129 Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the special authorization for biosecurity planning and response.



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

- Reauthorizes appropriations for distance education grants and resident instruction grants for insular areas.

Sec. 7131 Limitation on Certain Research in Countries of Concern

- Prohibits research, education, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals from being conducted in, or performed in collaboration with, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, or any other foreign country of concern.
- Allows the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics to waive the prohibition on a case-by-case basis and requires congressional notification no later than 30 days before granting a waiver.

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

Sec. 7201 Best Utilization of Biological Applications

- Reauthorizes appropriations for best utilization of biological applications.

Sec. 7202 Integrated Management Systems

- Reauthorizes appropriations for integrated management systems.

Sec. 7203 Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer

- Reauthorizes appropriations for sustainable agriculture technology development and transfer program.

Sec. 7204 National Training Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the national training program.

Sec. 7205 National Genetics Resources Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the National Genetics Resources Program.

Sec. 7206 National Agricultural Weather Information System

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the national agricultural weather information system.

Sec. 7207 Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the agricultural genome to phenome initiative.



Sec. 7208 High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives

- Creates new high-priority research and extension priorities for coffee plants, macadamia trees, PFAS, peanut aflatoxin, biochar, spotted wing drosophila, spotted lanternfly control, wheat resiliency, invasive species, aquaculture, artificial intelligence, white oak, sunflower breeding, equine health, grazing for wildfire mitigation, and emerging tick-borne livestock diseases.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for high-priority research and extension initiatives.

Sec. 7209 Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the organic agriculture research and extension initiative.

Sec. 7210 Farm Business Management

- Reauthorizes appropriations for farm business management.

Sec. 7211 Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative

- Expands USDA research to include the management of waste streams and clarifies that research efforts should support rural, suburban, and urban areas.
- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$14 million to \$18 million for a census of urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production.

Sec. 7212 Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions

- Renames the section from “Centers of Excellence” to “Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions.”
- Increases the minimum number of 1890 centers of excellence to no less than six.
- Adds additional focus areas include climate resilience, forestry
- conservation, food safety and bioprocessing, value-added agriculture, and the integration of social sciences into agricultural research.
- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$10 million to \$20 million.

Sec. 7213 Assistive Technology for Farmers with Disabilities

- Reauthorizes appropriations for assistive technology for farmers with disabilities.

Sec. 7214 National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the national rural information center clearinghouse.



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

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

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program.

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

- Reauthorizes appropriations for integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants.

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

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$15 million to \$20 million for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica*.

Sec. 7304 Grants for Youth Organizations

- Reauthorizes appropriations for grants for youth organizations.

Sec. 7305 Specialty Crop Research Initiative

- Adds a waiver for the matching funds requirement for certain specialty crop research initiative grants.
- Creates a specialty crop mechanization and automation research and development program and allocates \$30 million per year for the new program.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for the specialty crop research initiative.

Sec. 7306 Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$2.5 million to \$5 million for the food and animal residue avoidance database program.

Sec. 7307 Forestry Products Advanced Utilization Research

- Reauthorizes appropriations for forestry products advanced utilization research.

Sec. 7308 Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services

- Codifies the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) program.



Sec. 7309 National Biochar Research Network

- Directs the Secretary to establish a national biochar research network.

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

Part I—Agricultural Security

Sec. 7401 Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the agricultural biosecurity communication center.

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

- Reauthorizes appropriations for agricultural biosecurity planning and response grants, and for agricultural disease response capacity grants.

Sec. 7403 Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures

- Reauthorizes appropriations for research and development of agricultural countermeasures.

Sec. 7404 Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the agricultural biosecurity grant program.

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

Part II—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 7411 Grazinglands Research Laboratory

- Prevents the Grazinglands Research Laboratory from being declared excess or surplus Federal property.

Sec. 7412 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

- Increases authorization of appropriations from \$10 million to \$15 million.
- Establishes referrals to providers to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance abuse treatments.

Sec. 7413 Natural Products Research Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the natural products research program.



Sec. 7414 Sun Grant Program

- Expands the scope of the program to include bioproducts.
- Increases the amount of administrative expenses allowed under the program to 30 percent.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for the sun grant program.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

Sec. 7501 Agricultural and Food Law Research

- Allows program income generated by land-grant colleges and universities to be available until expended for the purpose of carrying out program objectives.
- Increases authorization of appropriation from \$5 million to \$10 million.

Sec. 7502 Critical Agricultural Materials Act

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Critical Agricultural Materials Act.

Sec. 7503 Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

- Reauthorizes appropriations and removes the \$100,000 cap per institution for payments to 1994 institutions.
- Removes the requirement that research grants awarded to 1994 institutions be performed under a cooperative agreement with ARS or another land-grant, non-land-grant or cooperating forestry school.

Sec. 7504 Report on the Extension Service Needs of Tribal Lands and Populations

- Requires GAO to conduct a comprehensive study within 18 months examining whether USDA extension services meet the needs of Tribal lands and Tribal populations, including an analysis of funding distribution, types of extension services, and Tribal population in each State. The report must be submitted to Congress within 60 days of completion.

Sec. 7505 Restoration of 4-H Name and Emblem Authority

- Restores the Federal protections for the 4-H Name and Emblem that were inadvertently repealed in the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019.

Sec. 7506 Amendments to the Hatch Act

- Allows Hatch Act funds to be used for graduate student tuition and fees.



- Makes technical corrections to clarify the role of the “State Agricultural Experiment Station Director.”

Sec. 7507 Amendment to the Smith-Lever Act

- Allows 1994 institutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of such 1994 institutions.

Sec. 7508 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

- Updates priority areas to include regionally adapted cultivar and breed development, shellfish, biochar, precision agriculture, controlled environment agriculture, artificial intelligence, reducing food loss and waste, tools for farm business, marketing, and financial management, and workforce training and development.
- Broadens grant eligibility to allow community and junior colleges to carry out workforce training, education, and research priorities.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for the agriculture and food research initiative.

Sec. 7509 Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the extension design and demonstration initiative.

Sec. 75010 Biomass Research and Development

- Reauthorizes appropriations for biomass research and development.

Sec. 7511 Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.

Sec. 75112 National Aquaculture Act of 1980

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980.

Sec. 7513 Federal Agriculture Research Facilities

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the planning, construction, acquisition, alteration, and repair of agricultural research facilities.

Sec. 7514 Enhanced Use Lease Authority Program

- Reauthorizes the enhanced use lease authority program.



Sec. 7515 Agricultural Security and Durability Initiative

- Directs the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of War to support research, development, testing, evaluation, demonstration, deployment, commercialization and technology that will strengthen the durability of American agriculture.

Title VIII—Forestry

Subtitle A—Forest Data Modernization

Sec. 8101 Forest Inventory and Analysis Strategic Plan

- Updates the Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis program to improve national forest data collection and requires, as a data collection method, a timber products output survey and woodland owner survey.
- Requires the Secretary to annually report inventory and analysis of timber within our national forests.
- Updates the program’s strategic plan to expand data collection and integrate remote sensing technologies.
- Ensures all data collected by the Secretary is presented in a manner that is accessible to the public.

Sec. 8102 Forest Inventory and Analysis Program Blue Ribbon Panel

- Establishes an expert panel to review the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program to evaluate its effectiveness and provide recommendations.

Subtitle B—Forest Health and Management

Sec. 8201 Definitions

- Reauthorizes previous language used for Forest Health Management.

Part I—Forest Service Management

Sec. 8211 Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Lands

- Reauthorizes Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8212 Insect Infestations and Related Diseases

- Reauthorizes Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act through fiscal year 2031.



Sec. 8213 Insect and Disease Treatment Areas

- Reauthorizes Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8214 Collaborative Restoration Project

- Increases the size of projects authorized in Section 603 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8215 Wildfire Resilience Project Size

- Increases the size of projects authorized in Section 605 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8216 Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat

- Clarifies that activities are meant to cover habitat for greater sage-grouse or mule deer, and not necessarily both concurrently.
- Increases acreage for projects under Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to 7,500 acres.

Sec. 8217 Fuel Breaks in Forest and Other Wildland Vegetation

- Increases the size of projects authorized in Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to 10,000 acres.

Sec. 8218 Categorical Exclusion for High-Priority Hazard Trees

- Establishes a categorical exclusion for projects up to 6,000 acres that remove hazardous trees.

Sec. 8219 Categorical Exclusion for Electric Utility Lines Rights-of-Way

- Establishes categorical exclusions for vegetation management, inspection, operation, and maintenance plans within electric utility rights-of-way in a National Forest.

Sec. 8220 Consultation Under Certain Land and Resource Management Plans and Land Use Plans

- Clarifies that certain public lands are not required to conduct additional consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act solely because a new species is listed, critical habitat is designated, or new information is presented.



Sec. 8221 Forest Service Participation in Acres Program

- Reauthorizes the Forest Service Participation in Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services program.

Sec. 8222 Timber Sales on National Forest System Land

- Increases the threshold for the value of timber sales requiring advertising from \$10,000 to \$55,000.

Part II—State and Private Partnerships

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

- Increases funding for state Forest Action Plans and provides flexibility so state forestry agencies can access additional discretionary funds to use towards implementation.

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

- Reauthorizes the State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8233 Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation

- Reauthorizes Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation projects through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8234 Extension of Stewardship Contracting Maximum Term Limits

- Extends the maximum term for stewardship agreements established under Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to 20 years.
- Establishes protections for long-term contracts from cancellations.

Sec. 8235 Water Source Protection Program

- Expands the Water Source Protection Program to include projects on adjacent non-federal lands and expands which entities qualify as end water users to include acequias and public entities that manage stormwater or wastewater.
- Prioritizes projects that provide risk management benefits associated with drought, wildfire, flooding, and watershed and fire resilience.
- Requires the Secretary to cooperate with non-federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning and project design.
- Increases the authorization of appropriation to \$30 million annually and sets a 10 percent cap on the funds the Secretary may use for non-Federal partner technical assistance and capacity-building.



Sec. 8236 Watershed Condition Framework Improvements

- Reauthorizes the Watershed Condition Framework and ensures that management activities do not result in long-term degradation of watershed health in National Forests.
- Authorizes appropriations at \$30 million annually.

Sec. 8237 Authorization for Lease of Forest Service Sites

- Reauthorizes the authority in Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 and Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8238 Modification of Good Neighbor Authority

- Adds Special Districts and Indian Tribes as eligible entities for Good Neighbor Authority.
- Expands how entities may use funds received from the sale of timber under good neighbor agreements to include the construction of new roads necessary to implement authorized restoration activities or that replace existing roads that are adversely impacting the health of the forest.

Sec. 8239 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

- Requires that proposals describe efforts to prevent and control invasions of exotic pathogens and address standardized monitoring questions and indicators.
- Adds criteria to the program's selection process related to innovative implementation mechanisms, the reduction of wildfire, the increase of ecological restoration activities and the improvement of watershed health and drinking water sources.
- Reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2031 and expands the limitation on any one proposal to \$8 million.

Sec. 8240 Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program

- Expands the program purposes to include wildfire recovery and enhancements to soil and water resources.
- Requires more detailed reporting on project outcomes every two years to Congress.

Part III—Timber Innovation

Sec. 8251 Wood Innovations Grant Program

- Reduces the matching requirement for eligible entities to 50 percent.



- Updates priorities for grants to include the use or retrofitting of existing sawmill facilities, the enhancement of carbon reduction strategies and resilience and economic benefits associated with wood products.

Sec. 8252 Community Wood Facilities Grant Program

- Changes the name of the program authorized in Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program.
- Increases the federal cost-share from 35 percent to 50 percent for projects and the maximum grant per facility to \$5 million.
- Increases the maximum size for energy systems eligible to 40 megawatts.
- Increases the authorization of appropriation to \$50 million and extends the program's authorization through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8253 Report on Use of Mass Timber in Construction of Department of Agriculture Facilities and Other Federal Structures

- Requires a report on the Department's mass timber construction, describing whether to use mass timber in construction of a department facility, and identifying new opportunities for the use of mass timber in the Department's facilities and other federal structures.

Sec. 8254 Forest and Wood Products Data Tracker

- Requires the Secretary to establish a public platform providing data on the impacts of forest management and wood products on carbon emissions.

Subtitle C—Forest Conservation

Sec. 8301 Semiarid Agroforestry Research Center

- Reauthorizes the Semiarid Agroforestry Research Center through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8302 Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program

- Strengthens public participation for the Legacy Road Use and Trail Remediation Program.
- Requires additional reporting for each project considered under the Program and the public comments received for each project.



Subtitle D—Land Designations

Sec. 8401 Chester County Reversionary and Mineral Interests Release

- Releases federal reversionary interest and conveys the mineral rights of .62 acres of land in the Chickasaw State Forest in Chester County, Tennessee.

Sec. 8402 Rough Mountain Wilderness and Rich Hole Wilderness Designations

- Adds 1,000 acres to the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area and designates roughly 4,600 acres as a potential addition in the Goerge Washington National Forest.

Sec. 8403 Conveyance of Specified Forest Service Property to Perry County, Arkansas

- Transfers 0.81 acres of Forest Service land to Perry County, Arkansas.

Sec. 8404 Okhissa Lake Rural Economic Development Land Conveyance

- Transfers 311 acres of National Forest System land to the Scenic Rivers Development Alliance in Franklin County, Mississippi.

Sec. 8405 Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange

- Authorizes a land exchange between the Forest Service and Big Winnie Land and Timber where the company will transfer 36.7 acres of non-Federal land to the Forest Service in exchange for 17.5 acres of Federal land.

Sec. 8406 Release of Reversionary Interest, Black River State Forest, Wisconsin

- Authorizes a land exchange between the Wisconsin state forest land and Deli, Inc where the company will transfer 37.27 acres of non-Federal land to the Forest Service in exchange for 31.3 acres of Federal land.

Sec. 8407 Shawnee National Forest Conservation

- Establishes 12,700 acres of special management areas and 750 acres of wilderness in the Shawnee National Forest.

Sec. 8408 Shenandoah Mountain

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



Sec. 8409 Flatside Wilderness Additions

- Adds 2,212 acres to the Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and redesignates the wilderness as the Flatside Wilderness.

Sec. 8410 Talladega National Forest Boundary Modification

- Expands the boundary of Talladega National Forest and authorizes the Forest Service to acquire land and interests from willing sellers.

Sec. 8411 Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study

- Requires a study of the Benton MacKaye Trail to determine whether it meets the standards of other National Scenic Trails.

Sec. 8412 Relocation of Memorial Honoring the 9 Air Force Crew Members Who Lost Their Lives in an Airplane Crash During a Training Mission on August 31, 1982

- Allows the Forest Service to approve the relocation of the memorial.

Sec. 8413 Appraisals

- Changes the language to “of the highest fair appraised value” for land valued under the formula established under the 1948 Thye-Blatnik Act in St. Louis, Lake and Cook Counties, Minnesota.

Subtitle E—White Oak Resilience

Sec. 8501 White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition

- Establishes the White Oak Initiative Coalition as a mix of private and federal partners to coordinate white oak restoration efforts to improve research, communication and outreach to landowners.

Sec. 8502 Forest Service Pilot Program

- Establishes five pilot projects for white oak restoration through the United State Forest Service to restore white oak trees through restoration and natural regeneration practices.

Sec. 8503 White Oak Regeneration and Upland Oak Habitat

- Establishes a program which will coordinate white oak restoration priorities among Federal, State and local governments as well as other conservation partners, among other purposes.



- To the extent funds are available, the program shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program to achieve its purposes.

Sec. 8504 Tree Nursery Shortages

- Requires the Secretary to develop and implement a strategy to address the shortage of tree seedlings.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 8601 National Forest Foundation Act

- Extends the authority and increases its authorization of appropriations to \$5 million annually.
- Creates a White Oak Restoration fund that may be utilize funds to establish white oak and improve the management of existing white oak forests and nursery stock.

Sec. 8602 Rural Revitalization Technologies

- Reauthorizes the authority found in Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 8603 Resource Advisory Committee

- Allows the Secretary to act through the regional foresters to conduct analysis or reviews for appointments to Resource Advisory Committees.

Sec. 8604 Tribal Forest Protection Management

- Modernizes the 2004 Tribal Protection Act by expanding tribal authority to carry out forest management projects on federal lands that are culturally, historically, geographically, or ecologically important to Tribes.
- Clarifies eligibility under the Tribal Forest Protection Act to include Alaska Native Corporation lands.
- Promotes Tribal-led forest health and wildfire resilience efforts, including cultural burning, hazardous fuels reduction, forest thinning, and other restoration projects.

Sec. 8605 Civilian Conservation Centers

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to offer specialized training in forestry and rangeland management and wildland firefighting at Civilian Conservation Centers.
- Directs the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, to carry out a pilot program to provide career and technical education curricula and course offerings to



advance the missions of the Department of Agriculture at Civilian Conservation Centers operated by the Department of Agriculture.

- This pilot shall identify the workforce needs of Federal Land agencies, forest, conservation, and recreation industries, and rural communities.
- Creates a goal of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to each hire 300 graduates of Civilian Conservation Centers to contribute to wildland firefighting and other workforce needs.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to create a pilot program to employ graduates of Civilian Conservation Centers and expand housing stock owned by the Federal Government for housing wildland firefighters.

Sec. 8606 Permits and Agreements with Electrical Utilities

- Provides authority for the Secretary to permit the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale, if consistent with the applicable land management plan.
- Requires that any proceeds from the sale of the material removed from the permit or easement be provided to the Secretary.

Sec. 8607 Exemption for Previously Analyzed Areas of the National Forest System Land

- Exempts the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act for an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System land if the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure or the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System land.
- Directs that the Secretary shall not be required to reinstitute consultation under such laws for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes available.

Sec. 8608 Alignment of Farm Service Agency and Forest Service Drought Response

- Requires the Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Forest Service to enter into a memorandum of understanding to better align drought response activities.



Sec. 8609 Rural Fire Prevention and Control

- Modernizes the Volunteer Fire Assistance program to change the qualifying community population threshold from 10,000 to 15,000, or less, and allows for Secretarial discretion on waiving match requirements.

Sec. 8910 Technical Corrections

- Provides a technical correction to the Forest Legacy Program.

Title IX—Energy

Sec. 9001 Definition of Advanced Biofuel

- Adds sustainable aviation fuel to the definition of an advanced biofuel.

Sec. 9002 Biobased Markets Program

- Strengthens the BioPreferred program by increasing the number and volume of biobased federal procurement contracts.
- Requires an annual report to Congress on biobased product outcomes under the BioPreferred program.
- Provides the Secretary with the authority to conduct a public marketing and education program to promote the use of biobased products.
- Codifies the use of the ASTM-D-6866 standard of the ASTM International standards to determine the contents of biobased products that carry the voluntary BioPreferred label.

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

- Clarifies that sustainable aviation fuel is an eligible technology under the Biorefinery Assistance program.
- Establishes grants for the development, construction or retrofitting of biorefineries for converting renewable biomass to biofuels, renewable chemicals, sustainable aviation fuel and biobased products with a cap of \$10 million for such grants.

Sec. 9004 Bioproduct Labeling Terminology

- Requires the Secretary to define the terms bio-attributed plastic, bio-attributed product, biobased plastic or plant-based products as part of an effort to establish a national uniform labeling standard to improve public education of the bioeconomy and provide



consumers an added layer of transparency when purchasing products that are marketed using these terms.

Sec. 9005 Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 9006 Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 9007 Rural Energy for America Program

- Authorizes grants to organizations that provide technical assistance for agricultural producers and rural small businesses applying to the Rural Energy for America Program.
- Establishes a rebate pilot project for purchases of certain energy efficient equipment incurred outside the application period.
- Increases eligible project size to \$50 million, an increase from \$25 million.
- Directs the Secretary to provide a simplified application process for projects less than \$50,000.

Sec. 9008 Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 9009 Biomass Crop Assistance Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 9010 Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program

- Extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

Sec. 9011 Sustainable Aviation Fuels Strategy

- Directs the Secretary to establish a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels.

Sec. 9012 Leveraging Efficiency Awareness for Pumping Systems

- Directs the Secretary to develop a publicly available tool on the Department's website to demonstrate the benefits of converting to energy-efficient pumping systems.

Sec. 9013 Technical Corrections

- Makes technical corrections to references to the Secretary of Agriculture.



Title X—Horticulture

Subtitle A – Horticulture Marketing and Information

Sec. 10101 Marketing Orders

- Adds mandarin oranges and dates to the list of imported commodities to which commodity marketing orders are applicable.

Sec. 10102 Specialty Crops Market News Allocation

- Reauthorizes appropriations for Specialty Crops Market News Allocation.

Sec. 10103 Local Agriculture Market Program

- Reauthorizes the Local Agriculture Market Program.
- Defines the term “food hubs” and adds them as eligible entities for the Farmers’ Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) and Regional Food System Partnerships. Establishes a simplified application process for applications to FMLFPP that request less than \$100,000 for specific activities.
- Clarifies that the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program can be used for regional food coordination projects and regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation projects.
- Directs the Secretary to engage with stakeholders while developing the application and reporting process to receive input on how the process can be streamlined without affecting program integrity.
- Requires that no less than 10 percent of funds made available for FMLFPP shall be used for simplified applications.

Sec. 10104 Acer Access and Development Program

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Acer Access and Development Program.
- Directs the Secretary to consult with maple syrup industry stakeholders when setting priorities for the program.
- Prohibits the Secretary from imposing a cost-sharing or matching requirement on grants awarded.

Sec. 10105 National Organic Program

- Increases authorizations of appropriations for the National Organic Program.
- Authorizes the Secretary to provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to organic farmers.



Sec. 10106 National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

- Adds an authorization of appropriations to supplement the mandatory funding for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.
- Requires GAO to assess the impact the program has had on the rising cost of organic certification and submit a report summarizing the findings.

Sec. 10107 Food Safety Education Initiatives

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Food Safety Education Initiative.

Sec. 10108 National Plant Diagnostic Network

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the National Plant Diagnostic Network.

Sec. 10109 Specialty Crop Block Grants

- Reauthorizes the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP).
- Directs State departments of agriculture that receive grants to consult with specialty crop producers and producer groups in establishing priorities.
- Prohibits the Secretary from imposing a cost-sharing or matching requirement on any award or sub-award given under the SCBGP.
- Allows unobligated funds to be reallocated to the funding pool for any subsequent fiscal year.

Sec. 10110 Organic Inputs Verification

- Directs USDA to report on residue testing of imported organic feedstuffs, carry out residue testing for covered organic feedstuffs annually, and take corrective action if prohibited substances are detected at an unpermitted level.

Sec. 10111 Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
- Adds controlled-environment agriculture to the list of emerging agricultural production practices.
- Directs the Office to provide technical assistance, promote conservation techniques, and assist producers in navigating policies and regulations that impact business operations.
- Extends the reporting requirements and authorization for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee.
- Allows for subgrants to support the growth of the farm or farm business.



- Authorizes the use of cooperative agreements to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production.
- Removes the pilot status and extends reporting requirements for the Urban and Suburban County Committees and Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects.
- Adds development of food waste-to-energy operations as an eligible activity for the Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects.

Sec. 10112 National Organic Program Oversight Protocols and Inspection Requirements

- Directs USDA to complete a study on risk-based oversight protocols, examine the feasibility of reforms, and provide a report to Congress and the public.
- Requires the Secretary to consult with the organics industry in conducting the study.
- Authorizes the Secretary to issue regulations on risk-based oversight based on the study and consultation with Congress.
- Gives the Secretary the authority to modernize the USDA inspection requirements for U.S.-based organic operations based on the information obtained through the study.

Sec. 10113 Study on Barriers to Participation in Department of Agriculture Programs Faced by Certified Organic Farms and Farms Interested in Transitioning to Organic Production

- Requires USDA to complete a study and report on barriers to participation in Department programs faced by certified organic farms and farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production, and submit annual updates for each of the first three years following the submission of the original report.

Subtitle B - Regulatory Reform

Sec. 10201 Biostimulants

- Excludes plant biostimulants from regulation under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) by amending the definition of plant regulator.
- Defines plant biostimulant, nutritional chemical, vitamin hormone product, and plant-incorporated protectant.

Sec. 10202 Soil Health Study

- Instructs the Secretary to conduct a study on plant biostimulants and provide a report to the House and Senate Agriculture committees within four years.



Sec. 10203 FIFRA Interagency Working Group

- Requires the Secretary to include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all interagency working group meetings.
- Extends the reporting requirements for the FIFRA Interagency Working Group (IWG), decreases the frequency of such reports, and directs the reports to be published on the EPA's website.
- Amends the consultation requirements to ensure the IWG meets with stakeholders at least once per year.
- Requires the Administrator to consult with the IWG before implementing any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act to the processes for registration and registration review of a pesticide.

Sec. 10204 Interstate Movement Outside of the Continental United States

- Provides a technical fix for USDA to be able to pay overtime rates to employees performing services relating to interstate movement from areas outside of the continental United States.

Sec. 10205 Construction Projects to Support Emergency Plant Health Response Efforts

- Clarifies that USDA has the authority to use funds made available through the Plant Protection Act for construction projects in special circumstances.

Sec. 10206 Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Program Reserve Fee

- Provides a technical fix for USDA to retain any unobligated balance from the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account in a reserve fund.

Sec. 10207 Registration Review

- Extends the deadline under Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii)(I) of FIFRA for initial pesticide registration review to 2031.

Sec. 10208 Office of Pest Management Policy

- Increases the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Pest Management Policy.

Sec. 10209 Coordination

- Requires the Administrator of the EPA to develop risk mitigation measures required by FIFRA with the Secretary of Agriculture, and to conduct an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures.



- Requires the Administrator to coordinate sharing of data and information regarding pesticide registration and registration reviews, including agronomic use data and information related to the availability and economic viability of alternatives.
- Requires the Administrator to coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce regarding implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide.
- Allows for these coordination requirements to be waived if agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registrant of such pesticide.

Sec. 10210 Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey

- Requires the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy to obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of the Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey and make the survey publicly available.

Sec. 10211 Office of Biotechnology Policy

- Instructs the Secretary to establish an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies within the Department related to biotechnology, while considering the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.
- Provides an authorization of appropriations for the Office.

Title XI—Crop Insurance

Sec. 11001 Management of Corporation

- Reconstitutes the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors, adding the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee chairperson as a nonvoting ex officio member and requiring the appointed members to include a combined livestock-and-crop producer and an underserved producer who is a beginning farmer or rancher, in addition to the existing specialty crop producer.
- Establishes the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee to assist the Corporation in researching, establishing, and improving policies and plans of insurance for specialty crops, and requires the FCIC to consult the Committee in its annual review of new and specialty crop policies.
- Revises the FCIC Board's vacancy and quorum rules to require at least six members in office.



- Establishes the position of “Specialty Crops Coordinator,” a management-level position to address the needs of specialty crop producers and provide information and advice to improve and expand specialty crop options.

Sec. 11002 Identification of Holders of Substantial Interests

- Eases substantial-beneficial-interest disclosure by allowing policyholders to provide ownership information any time during the crop year if they miss the deadline, unless an approved insurance provider finds a disproportionate benefit or an attempt to avoid a legal obligation, and raises the disclosure threshold from five to 10 percent.

Sec. 11003 Restoration of Final Agency Determinations

- Reaffirms the Corporation's exclusive authority to interpret crop insurance regulations, policies, and procedures through Final Agency Determinations, and makes those determinations binding on all program participants and applicable in any litigation, arbitration, or judicial review.

Sec. 11004 Coverage of Revenue Losses

- Expands the qualifying causes of loss for crop insurance coverage to include a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, provided the decline was not directly caused by the producer, in addition to the existing natural-disaster causes.

Sec. 11005 Yield Determinations

- Requires the Corporation to exclude from a producer's actual production history any crop year in which the producer's per-planted-acre yield was adversely affected by the operation of a specified water resources project and exempts that exclusion from the adjustment that otherwise applies to excluded yields.

Sec. 11006 Crop Insurance Support for Beginning and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

- Defines veteran farmers or ranchers as farmers or ranchers who have operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or less.
- Extends to veteran farmers and ranchers the enhanced premium assistance currently available to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Sec. 11007 Marketability

- Gives approved insurance providers who submit a letter of support for a policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted to the FCIC Board access to the data and product-development information, subject to its confidentiality rules, requires them to



provide marketability analysis before it is approved, guarantees submitters an in-person presentation to the Board, and prevents the Board from requiring an assisting provider to be named as a submitter.

- Prohibits a product approved after the July 1 Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date from being implemented that reinsurance year unless the Board provides all necessary handbooks, training materials, and resources to providers at least 90 days before the sales closing date.

Sec. 11008 Reimbursement Rates for Administrative and Operating Costs

- Freezes the administrative and operating (A&O) expense reimbursement rates paid to approved insurance providers and agents at the rates in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year, applying those frozen rates to each policy for 2027 and all subsequent reinsurance years.

Sec. 11009 Quality Loss Adjustment

- Directs the Secretary to conduct a review of quality loss adjustment procedures of the FCIC and submit a report of the review's findings, changes to procedures, stakeholder engagement, and plans for establishing specific adjustment procedures for unique regions to Congress every eight years.

Sec. 11010 Limitation on Farm Program Participation

- Moves the prohibition on combining Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) coverage for upland cotton with seed cotton agriculture risk coverage (ARC) or price loss coverage (PLC) from the crop insurance title (Title XI) to the commodities title (Title I) beginning with the 2026 crop year, sunsetting the existing prohibition on electing STAX coverage on farms enrolled in seed cotton ARC or PLC and replacing it with a prohibition on seed cotton ARC or PLC payments for STAX-covered cotton.

Sec. 11011 Pilot Program to Review Effectiveness of Coverage Penalty

- Directs the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the FCIC to establish a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period in the North Plains or Panhandle Groundwater Conservation Districts of Texas, and to submit a report to Congress with their findings and any changes to existing policies that the FCIC intends to make as a result of the information discovered.



Sec. 11012 Program Compliance and Integrity

- Establishes a structured, multi-step appeals process for the Corporation's compliance findings against approved insurance providers (AIPs), with sequential 90-day stages for the provider's appeal, the Corporation's final finding, a final administrative determination, and an appeal to the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.
- Provides that if the Corporation fails to meet these requirements, the AIP is relieved of the debt owed, except for matters referred to the Office of Inspector General or the Department of Justice.

Sec. 11013 Whole Farm Improvements

- Requires the FCIC to annually review any limitations on insurable revenue to ensure those limitations are adequate to cover financial risks associated with the production of high-value crops and products, and to submit a summary of its findings to Congress.

Sec. 11014 Research and Development

- Requires the FCIC to conduct (or contract) research and development on new or improved crop insurance policies and report findings to Congress, including organic-producer participation barriers, wine grapes (wildfire smoke exposure), mushrooms, an index-based frost, freeze, cold-weather policy for a range of specialty crops, blueberries, and double and rotational cropping of cold-vernalization oilseed crops.
- Directs the FCIC to study the feasibility of modifying the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) for counties over 1,400 square miles at sub-county levels, a standalone hurricane and tropical-storm policy, and separate enterprise units for fallow versus continuous acreage, with reports within one year.
- Requires the FCIC, if section 508(h) requirements are met, to make available pecan revenue-policy changes that exclude certain years from revenue history (and other actuarially sound changes mitigating low-revenue years), and a harvest-incentive policy for revenue coverage within two years.

Sec. 11015 Risk Management Study for Lamb

- Directs the Secretary to conduct a study on modifications to existing livestock protection and risk management programs that may enhance protection for domestic lamb producers and submit a report to Congress within a year.

Sec. 11016 Report on Standard Reinsurance Agreement

- Requires the FCIC to report to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees on budget-neutral Standard Reinsurance Agreement modifications needed to expand



policy availability for the risk management needs of producers, States, regions, and commodities.

- Requires the report to analyze additional reinsurance funds (for high-loss-ratio States and area-plan risk-sharing), providers directing administrative and operating reimbursements toward risk management tools and agent workforce assistance, and agent compensation consistency, in consultation with producers, agents, providers, and the Committees.

Title XII—Miscellaneous

Subtitle A—Livestock

Sec. 12101 Animal Importation Inspections

- Grants the Secretary the authority to allow qualified veterinarians employed by or contracted with USDA to carry out animal import inspection activities to provide flexibility in areas with a lack of available APHIS inspectors.

Sec. 12102 Animal Disease Prevention and Management

- Clarifies that improving animal disease traceability is an allowable activity under the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP).
- Increases the authorization of appropriations for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) from \$30 million to \$45 million per fiscal year through fiscal year 2031. Extends the authorization of appropriations for NADPRP and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (Vaccine Bank).
- Increases and aligns the cap on administrative costs for both NADPRP and NAHLN at 15 percent of total funding.

Sec. 12103 Engagement with Export Markets

- Emphasizes the authority of the Secretary to preemptively negotiate regionalization or other trade agreements in advance of an outbreak of known animal disease threats to reduce their impact on animal or animal product trade.

Sec. 12104 Report on Support for Livestock and Poultry Producers During a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak

- Requires the Secretary to submit a report on the readiness of USDA to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak.



Sec. 12105 Additional Training Facilities

- Authorizes USDA to establish additional dog training facilities for the purpose of safeguarding domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases and to partner with state departments of agriculture to establish an off-site training program as needed.
- Authorizes \$15 million per fiscal year through fiscal year 2031 to be used for the National Dog Detector Training Center.

Sec. 12106 Allowed Interest of Livestock Auction Owners in Meatpacking Businesses

- Allows livestock auction owners to hold an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of a meatpacking business, provided that the meatpacking business has less than a specified cumulative daily or yearly slaughter capacity.

Sec. 12107 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Guidance and Resources for Small and Very Small Poultry and Meat Establishments

- Directs the Secretary to provide additional resources to small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments, including a list of scientific studies for use in developing their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan, best production practice guidelines, and scale-appropriate model HACCP plans.

Sec. 12108 National Poultry Improvement Plan

- Directs the Secretary to continue to maintain and administer the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a long-standing federal, state, and industry voluntary testing and certification program to facilitate safe and efficient trade of poultry. Authorizes appropriations for the Plan.

Sec. 12109 U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan

- Directs the Secretary to establish a permanent voluntary certification program for swine diseases, to be known as the “U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan,” (US SHIP) to improve biosecurity, traceability, disease surveillance, and foreign animal disease preparedness of the swine industry. Authorizes appropriations for the Secretary to maintain US SHIP as a permanent program after first initiating the pilot program in 2021.



Sec. 12110 Interstate Internet Sales of Certain State-Inspected Meat and Poultry

- Allows retail establishments to engage in the online sale of state-inspected meat and poultry products across state lines, provided that the sale is direct to household consumers and in normal retail quantities.

Sec. 12111 Outreach on Cooperative Interstate Shipment

- Requires the Secretary to conduct outreach in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to states with a state meat inspection program but no Cooperative Interstate Shipment establishments to encourage participation in the program. Directs the Secretary to report on the results of that outreach.

Sec. 12112 Livestock and Meat Marketing Study

- Directs the Secretary via the Office of the Chief Economist to enter into a contract with an independent, nonpartisan research institute, a land-grant university, or a non-land-grant college of agriculture with livestock economics expertise to carry out a study on production trends and marketing practices, and their possible effects in the livestock and meat sectors.

Subtitle B – National Security

Sec. 12201 Definitions; Organizational Updates

- Makes structural and formatting updates to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA).

Sec. 12202 Reporting Requirements

- Lowers the threshold for when a leasing agreement is subject to reporting requirements under AFIDA by specifying that foreign persons that enter into a leasing agreement the period of which is longer than five years with respect to agricultural land must file.
- Ensures that any foreign person with an interest in agricultural land that subsequently ceases to be agricultural land notifies the Secretary not later than 90 days after such land ceases to be agricultural land.

Sec. 12203 Civil Penalties

- Specifies that failure to update any report filed under AFIDA that is no longer accurate is also subject to a civil penalty.
- Establishes a minimum penalty of five percent of the fair market value of the interest in agricultural land held by a foreign person that knowingly submits an incomplete, misleading, or false report. Maintains the maximum penalty of 25 percent.



- Provides that civil penalties shall be recoverable in a civil action brought by the Attorney General of the United States.
- Provides that civil penalties collected shall be available to the Secretary for the purpose of enforcing AFIDA.
- Authorizes the Secretary to place a lien on the agricultural land held by a foreign person subject to a penalty until such penalty is paid.
- Requires the Secretary to submit, in an annual report to Congress, and make publicly available the name of each person who paid a penalty, the amount of the penalty, and the reason for the penalty.

Sec. 12204 Investigative Actions

- Requires the Secretary to conduct annual compliance audits of no less than 10 percent of the reports submitted to ensure completeness and accuracy.
- Instructs the Secretary to provide annual training for state and county-level personnel on identifying agricultural land that would be subject to AFIDA reporting requirements.
- Instructs the Secretary to carry out a nationwide outreach program to increase public awareness and provide education regarding AFIDA reporting requirements.

Sec. 12205 Public Inspection

- Requires the Secretary to establish a process for electronic submission and retention of AFIDA reports, and publish in an internet database all relevant information related to AFIDA reporting requirements, as determined by the Secretary.
- Provides that the reports filed under AFIDA shall not be publicly disclosed for at least 30 days following the date of receipt.

Sec. 12206 Secretarial Reports

- Requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress describing the status and trends related to foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land, the activities carried out by the Secretary pursuant to AFIDA, an analysis of any misrepresentation of foreign ownership due to inaccurate reporting, and efforts by the Secretary to monitor erroneous reporting.
- Requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, to submit an annual report analyzing foreign influence in the U.S. agricultural sector, the risks and benefits of foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land, and any agriculture-related espionage and theft techniques used by foreign governments.



- Requires a one-time report describing the progress of the Secretary in implementing the amendments made to AFIDA under this Act, the feasibility of establishing a mechanism for quantifying the threats posed by foreign persons to the U.S. food supply chain, and the feasibility of establishing a process to review transactions for referral to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

Sec. 12207 Office of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture

- Bolsters the responsibilities of USDA’s Office of Homeland Security, including advising the Secretary on foreign threats to the food and agricultural sector, serving as the liaison between the Secretary and the intelligence community, monitoring compliance with AFIDA, and referring any transactions that raise potential national security concerns to CFIUS.
- Authorizes the Secretary to detail USDA employees to, and accept employees detailed from, the intelligence community, as well as detail employees from across USDA to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security.

Subtitle C—Fertilizer

Sec. 12301 Crop Input Economist

- Directs USDA to employ a full-time Crop Input Economist within the Office of the Chief Economist to coordinate efforts across federal agencies for the collection of data and research of crop inputs and disseminate information to the public for crop input market.

Sec. 12302 Fertilizer Research

- Requires USDA to publish a report on the U.S. fertilizer industry.

Sec. 12303 Fertilizer Mandatory Reporting

- Requires USDA to collect and publish data on fertilizer prices from manufacturers.

Subtitle D—United States Grain Standards Reauthorization

Sec. 12401 Prioritizing Improvements to Grain Grading Technology

- Requires the Secretary to prioritize the adoption of improved grain grading technology.

Sec. 12402 Additional Flexibilities

- Allows the Secretary flexibility in delegating whether the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) or more closely located official agencies are best suited to provide inspection services for domestic grain loaded or unloaded from an export port location.



- Adds “official agency” to those allowed to weigh grain at export port locations.

Sec. 12403 Investment Authority

- Clarifies FGIS’ authority to invest user fees in an interest-bearing trust account by adding “trust” in each place that refers to the FGIS user fee fund. The investment of these funds will mirror other AMS user-fee grading programs, provide greater stability to the user fee accounts, and lessen the need to raise fees.

Sec. 12404 Administrative and Supervisory Costs

- Extends the 30 percent cost cap for administrative and supervisory costs through fiscal year 2033.

Sec. 12405 General Authorities

- Allows the Secretary to cooperate with delegated state agencies and other official agencies when conducting grain grading research.

Sec. 12406 Reporting Requirements

- Makes conforming changes and requires the Secretary to publish a technology analysis of the grain grading system.

Sec. 12407 Improving Advisory Committee Nominations Efficiency and Continuity

- Extends the authority for the establishment and maintenance of the advisory committee through September 30, 2033, and requires the Secretary to solicit nominations for member appointments to the advisory committee and announce new members within 180 days after the end of the solicitation process.
- Allows current members of the advisory committee to continue to serve until new members are appointed.

Sec. 12408 Reauthorization of Other Expiring Provisions

- Extends the Secretary’s authority to collect user fees to September 30, 2033, and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2033.

Subtitle E—Year-Round E15 and RFS Reform

Sec. 12501 Year-Round E15 and RFS Reform

- Permanently authorizes nationwide year-round sales of E15, expanding consumer fuel choice, strengthening domestic biofuels, and providing long-term regulatory certainty.



Subtitle F— Other Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 12601 Protecting Animals with Shelter

- Extends the Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program through 2031.

Sec. 12602 Importation of Live Dogs

- Requires every imported dog to have a clean certificate of veterinary inspection from a licensed veterinarian before being granted entry to the U.S. Some exceptions apply, including for military dogs and personal pets of U.S. origin returning to the U.S.
- Directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Departments of Health and Human Services, Commerce, Homeland Security, and Transportation, to implement a process for electronic submission, sharing, and retention of required documentation for imported dogs, including for the purpose of making this information available to state veterinarians, as well as to implement any other necessary enforcement protocols.

Sec. 12603 Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives

- Increases the authorization of appropriations for the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives from \$20 million to \$36 million per fiscal year.

Sec. 12604 Country of Origin Labeling for Cooked King Crab and Tanner Crab and Cooked and Canned Salmon

- Adds cooked salmon, cooked whole and sectioned king and tanner crab, and canned salmon to the definition of wild fish under the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) program, providing for these products to be subject to mandatory country-of-origin labeling.

Sec. 12605 Establishment of Office of Seafood

- Establishes the Office of Seafood at USDA to improve coordination between the Department and other governmental and nongovernmental entities relating to the domestic harvesting, processing, and consumption of wild and farmed seafood.

Sec. 12606 Study and Report on Expanding Seafood Processing Capacity

- Requires the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to conduct a study regarding methods to facilitate more domestic processing of U.S.-caught seafood in coastal communities.



Sec. 12607 Innovative Feed Enhancement

- Creates a new FDA regulatory category for "zootechnical animal food substances," which are defined as feed additives that act to reduce foodborne pathogens, reduce byproducts such as enteric methane, or affect the gut microbiome. Streamlines the approval process for these feed additives by routing them through the existing Food Additive Petition process rather than the New Animal Drug Application process.

Sec. 12608 Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program Review and Report

- Directs the Secretary to contract with a land-grant or a non-land-grant college of agriculture to evaluate the effectiveness of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program in preventing and reducing the spread of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, and the benefits and burdens of compliance for cattle producers.

Sec. 12609 Qualified Renewable Biomass

- Requires the Secretary to consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.

Sec. 12610 Promoting Precision Agriculture

- Directs the USDA, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to support the development of voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture to encourage the adoption of precision agriculture technology.

Sec. 12611 Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach

- Reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

Sec. 12612 Improvements to United States Drought Monitor

- Extends the authorization of appropriations to enhance the U.S. Drought Monitor through fiscal year 2031.

Sec. 12613 Whole Milk Under the School Breakfast Program

- Section 12413 is a technical correction to section 9 of the Richard. B. Russell National School Lunch Act to ensure that the recently enacted Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act applies to school breakfasts.



Sec. 12614 Commission on Rural Maternal Health

- Establishes a Commission on Rural Maternal Health to study issues impacting rural maternal health.

