

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1840

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2023

Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, House Administration, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS

- Sec. 101. National goals.
 Sec. 102. Action plan.

TITLE II—RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Research, extension, and education purpose.
 Sec. 202. Regional hubs for risk adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
 Sec. 203. Sustainable agriculture research and education resilience initiative.
 Sec. 204. Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network.
 Sec. 205. Public breed and cultivar research.
 Sec. 206. ARS Climate Scientist Career Development Program.
 Sec. 207. Agricultural Climate Adaptation and Mitigation through AFRI.
 Sec. 208. Specialty crop research initiative.
 Sec. 209. Integrated pest management.
 Sec. 210. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.

TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH

- Sec. 301. Crop insurance.
 Sec. 302. Environmental quality incentives program.
 Sec. 303. Conservation stewardship program.
 Sec. 304. State assistance for soil health.
 Sec. 305. Funding and administration.
 Sec. 306. Conservation compliance.
 Sec. 307. National and regional agroforestry centers.

TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND FARM VIABILITY

- Sec. 401. Local Agriculture Market Program.
 Sec. 402. National organic certification cost-share program.
 Sec. 403. Farmland Protection Policy Act.
 Sec. 404. Agricultural conservation easement program.

TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK

- Sec. 501. Animal raising claims.
 Sec. 502. Processing resilience grant program.
 Sec. 503. Conservation of private grazing land.
 Sec. 504. Conservation reserve program.
 Sec. 505. Alternative manure management program.

TITLE VI—ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Sec. 601. Rural Energy For America Program.
 Sec. 602. Agrivoltaic systems.
 Sec. 603. AgSTAR program.

TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling

- Sec. 701. Definitions.
- Sec. 702. Quality dates and discard dates.
- Sec. 703. Misbranding.
- Sec. 704. Regulations.
- Sec. 705. Delayed applicability.

Subtitle B—Other Provisions

- Sec. 711. Composting as conservation practice.
- Sec. 712. Amendments to Federal Food Donation Act.
- Sec. 713. Grants for composting and anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.
- Sec. 714. School food waste reduction grant program.
- Sec. 715. Support for national media campaigns to decrease incidence of food waste.
- Sec. 716. Food waste research program.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
3 retary of Agriculture.

4 **TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS**

5 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL GOALS.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the goals established
7 under this title is to prevent climate change from exceed-
8 ing 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming above preindustrial lev-
9 els through a national greenhouse gas emission reduction
10 effort.

11 (b) NATIONAL GOALS.—The national goals for the
12 agricultural sector shall be to achieve—

13 (1) not less than a 50-percent reduction in net
14 greenhouse gas emissions, as compared to those lev-
15 els during calendar year 2010, by not later than De-
16 cember 31, 2030; and

1 (2) net zero emissions by not later than Decem-
2 ber 31, 2040.

3 (c) SUBGOALS.—To achieve the national goals de-
4 scribed in subsection (b), there are established the fol-
5 lowing subgoals:

6 (1) RESEARCH.—The total Federal investment
7 in public food and agriculture research and exten-
8 sion should—

9 (A) at a minimum, as compared to that
10 total Federal investment for fiscal year 2023—

11 (i) triple by not later than December
12 31, 2030; and

13 (ii) quadruple by not later than De-
14 cember 31, 2040; and

15 (B) strongly focus on climate change adap-
16 tation and mitigation, soil health and carbon se-
17 questration, nutrient and manure management
18 to curb nitrous oxide and methane emissions,
19 agroforestry, advanced grazing management
20 and crop-livestock integration, perennial pro-
21 duction systems, on-farm and food system en-
22 ergy efficiency and renewable energy produc-
23 tion, farmland preservation and viability, food
24 waste reduction, and any other related areas, as
25 determined by the Secretary.

1 (2) SOIL HEALTH.—The United States
2 should—

3 (A) immediately become a member of the
4 Partners Forum and the Consortium of the 4
5 per 1000 Initiative, hosted by the Consultative
6 Group for International Agricultural Research,
7 with the aim of increasing total soil carbon
8 stocks by 0.4 percent annually to reduce carbon
9 in the atmosphere, restore soil health and pro-
10 ductivity, and thereby improve food security;

11 (B) sufficiently expand adoption of soil
12 health systems and practices (including diverse
13 crop rotations, cover cropping, and conservation
14 tillage), perennial crop and grass-based live-
15 stock production systems, agroforestry,
16 composting, advanced nutrient budgeting and
17 biologically based nutrient management, ad-
18 vanced grazing management (including
19 silvopasture and management-intensive rota-
20 tional grazing), and integrated crop-livestock
21 systems—

22 (i) to reduce nitrous oxide emissions
23 from agricultural soils, as compared to
24 those levels during calendar year 2023—

1 (I) by 25 percent by not later
2 than December 31, 2030; and

3 (II) by 75 percent by not later
4 than December 31, 2040;

5 (ii) to increase soil carbon stocks by
6 0.4 percent annually on at least 50 percent
7 of agricultural land by not later than De-
8 cember 31, 2030; and

9 (iii) to meet or exceed the threshold
10 described in clause (ii) on all agricultural
11 land by not later than December 31, 2040;

12 (C) expand implementation of regionally
13 appropriate cover crops and other continual liv-
14 ing cover so that—

15 (i) at least 50 percent of cropland
16 acres include 1 or more cover crops or
17 other continual living cover in the rotations
18 of the cropland acres by not later than De-
19 cember 31, 2030;

20 (ii) at least 75 percent of cropland
21 acres include 1 or more cover crops or
22 other continual living cover in the rotations
23 of the cropland acres by not later than De-
24 cember 31, 2040;

1 (iii) cropland acres are covered by
2 crops (including forages and hay crops),
3 cover crops, or residue for an average of
4 75 percent of each calendar year by not
5 later than December 31, 2030; and

6 (iv) cropland acres are covered by
7 crops (including forages and hay crops),
8 cover crops, or residue for an average of
9 85 percent of each calendar year by not
10 later than December 31, 2040; and

11 (D) encourage conversion of at least—

12 (i) 15 percent of annual grain crop
13 acres, as in use on the date of enactment
14 of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial graz-
15 ing, perennial grain crops, or other peren-
16 nial production systems by not later than
17 December 31, 2030; and

18 (ii) 30 percent of annual grain crop
19 acres, as in use on the date of enactment
20 of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial graz-
21 ing, perennial grain crops, or other peren-
22 nial production systems by not later than
23 December 31, 2040.

24 (3) FARMLAND PRESERVATION.—

1 (A) 2030 GOAL.—The rate of conversion of
2 agricultural land to development, and the rate
3 of conversion of grassland to cropping, should
4 be reduced by at least 80 percent, as compared
5 to those rates for calendar year 2023 by not
6 later than December 31, 2030.

7 (B) 2040 GOAL.—There should be no con-
8 version of agricultural land to development, or
9 grassland to cropping, by December 31, 2040.

10 (4) PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK.—The live-
11 stock sector should—

12 (A) establish advanced grazing manage-
13 ment, including management-intensive rota-
14 tional grazing, on at least—

15 (i) 50 percent of all grazing land by
16 not later than December 31, 2030; and

17 (ii) 100 percent of all grazing land by
18 not later than December 31, 2040;

19 (B)(i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-
20 lated to feeding of ruminants by at least—

21 (I) $\frac{1}{3}$ by not later than December 31,
22 2030; and

23 (II) $\frac{1}{2}$ by not later than December
24 31, 2040; and

1 (ii) accomplish the reductions described in
2 clause (i) by—

3 (I) reducing nongrazing feeding of
4 ruminants;

5 (II) growing feed grains and forages
6 with soil health and nutrient management
7 practices that minimize net greenhouse gas
8 emissions from cropland; and

9 (III) designing livestock feed mixtures
10 and supplements to mitigate enteric meth-
11 ane emissions;

12 (C) re-integrate livestock and crop produc-
13 tion systems at farm, local, and regional levels
14 to facilitate environmentally sound management
15 and field application of manure and reduce the
16 need for long-term manure storage by increas-
17 ing acreage on individual farms under crop-live-
18 stock integrated management by at least—

19 (i) 100 percent as compared to cal-
20 endar year 2017 levels by not later than
21 December 31, 2030; and

22 (ii) 300 percent as compared to cal-
23 endar year 2017 levels by not later than
24 December 31, 2040; and

1 (D) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-
2 sulting from manure management by—

3 (i) immediately ceasing building any
4 new or expanded waste lagoons for con-
5 fined animal feeding operations; and

6 (ii) converting—

7 (I) by not later than December
8 31, 2030, at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of wet manure
9 handling and storage to non-digester
10 dairy or livestock methane manage-
11 ment methods (as defined in section
12 1240T(a) of the Food Security Act of
13 1985); and

14 (II) by not later than December
15 31, 2040, at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of wet manure
16 handling and storage to non-digester
17 dairy or livestock methane manage-
18 ment methods (as so defined).

19 (5) ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The agri-
20 cultural sector should—

21 (A) implement energy audits and energy
22 efficiency improvements on at least—

23 (i) 50 percent of farms by not later
24 than December 31, 2030; and

1 (ii) 100 percent of farms by not later
2 than December 31, 2040;

3 (B) expand on-farm clean renewable en-
4 ergy production to a level that is at least—

5 (i) double the 2017 level by not later
6 than December 31, 2030; and

7 (ii) triple the 2017 level by not later
8 than December 31, 2040; and

9 (C) install and manage on-farm renewable
10 energy infrastructure in a manner that does
11 not—

12 (i) compromise the climate resilience
13 and greenhouse gas mitigation goals of this
14 Act; or

15 (ii) adversely impact farmland, soil,
16 and water resources, or food production.

17 (6) FOOD LOSS AND WASTE.—Consistent with
18 the Food Waste Challenge launched by the Depart-
19 ment of Agriculture and the Environmental Protec-
20 tion Agency in June 2013, and the national food
21 loss and waste goal announced in September 2015,
22 the food and agricultural sector should commit to—

23 (A) at least a 50-percent reduction in food
24 loss and waste by not later than December 31,
25 2030;

1 (B) at least a 75-percent reduction in food
2 loss and waste by not later than December 31,
3 2040; and

4 (C) in a manner consistent with the Food
5 Recovery Hierarchy established by the Environ-
6 mental Protection Agency, diverting from land-
7 fills through composting and other means at
8 least—

9 (i) 50 percent of unavoidable food
10 waste and food processing byproducts by
11 not later than December 31, 2030; and

12 (ii) 90 percent of unavoidable food
13 waste and food processing byproducts by
14 not later than December 31, 2040.

15 **SEC. 102. ACTION PLAN.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

17 (1) develop a plan (referred to in this section as
18 the “plan”), which may involve actions to be taken
19 by other Federal agencies, to make significant and
20 rapid progress to achieve the national goals de-
21 scribed in section 101; and

22 (2) make the plan available for public comment
23 for a period of not less than 90 days.

24 (b) ACTIONS.—Actions under the plan shall—

1 (1) include issuing regulations, providing incen-
2 tives, carrying out research and development pro-
3 grams, and any other actions the Secretary deter-
4 mines are necessary to achieve the national goals de-
5 scribed in section 101; and

6 (2) be designed—

7 (A) to fully implement the provisions of
8 this Act and the amendments made by this Act;

9 (B) to provide benefits for farmers and
10 ranchers, rural communities, small businesses,
11 and consumers;

12 (C) to improve public health, resilience,
13 and environmental outcomes, especially for
14 rural and low-income households, communities
15 of color, Tribal and indigenous communities,
16 and communities that are disproportionately
17 vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, air
18 and water pollution, and other resource deg-
19 radation; and

20 (D) to prioritize investments that reduce
21 emissions of greenhouse gases and sequester
22 carbon while simultaneously helping to solve
23 other pressing agro-environmental resource con-
24 cerns, increase farming and ranching opportuni-
25 ties, create quality jobs, improve farmworker

1 working conditions and living standards, and
2 make communities more resilient to the effects
3 of climate change.

4 (c) FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 18 months after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) finalize the plan, taking into account any
7 public comments received on the plan;

8 (2) begin implementation of the plan; and

9 (3) submit the plan to Congress.

10 (d) UPDATES.—Beginning 2 years after the date on
11 which the Secretary submits the plan to Congress under
12 subsection (c)(3), and not less frequently than biennially
13 thereafter, the Secretary shall—

14 (1) review and revise the plan to ensure that
15 the plan is sufficient to achieve the national goals
16 described in section 101; and

17 (2) submit the revised plan to Congress.

18 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date on which the Secretary submits the plan to Con-
20 gress under subsection (c)(3), and annually thereafter, the
21 Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly
22 available, an annual report that describes, for the period
23 covered by the report—

24 (1) actions taken pursuant to the plan and the
25 effects of those actions;

1 (2) the conclusion of the most recent review of
2 the plan conducted under subsection (d), if applica-
3 ble; and

4 (3) a summary of any revisions made to the
5 plan under that subsection.

6 **TITLE II—RESEARCH**

7 **SEC. 201. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION PUR-** 8 **POSE.**

9 Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,
10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
11 3101) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as
13 paragraphs (9) and (11), respectively;

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(8) accelerate the ability of agriculture and the
17 food system of the United States to first achieve net-
18 zero carbon emissions and then be carbon negative
19 by removing additional carbon dioxide from the at-
20 mosphere;”;

21 (3) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by
22 striking “and” at the end;

23 (4) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so re-
24 designated) the following:

1 “(10) develop food systems that are healthful,
2 sustainable, equitable, and resilient to extreme
3 weather, other impacts of climate change, and other
4 potential intersecting global and national disrup-
5 tions; and”;

6 (5) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated), in
7 subparagraph (B), by inserting “and delivering to
8 agricultural producers” after “improving”.

9 **SEC. 202. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK ADAPTATION AND**
10 **MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

11 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
12 Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting
13 before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

14 **“SEC. 401. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK ADAPTATION AND**
15 **MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
17 lish a national network of regional hubs for risk adapta-
18 tion and mitigation to climate change to provide to farm-
19 ers, ranchers, forest landowners, and other agricultural
20 and natural resource managers—

21 “(1) science-based, region-specific, cost-effec-
22 tive, and practical information and program support
23 for science-informed decision making in light of the
24 increased costs, opportunities, risks, and

1 vulnerabilities associated with a changing climate;
2 and

3 “(2) access to assistance to implement that de-
4 cision making.

5 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity shall be eligible to be
6 selected as a regional hub under subsection (a) if the enti-
7 ty is any office of the Agricultural Research Service, the
8 Forest Service, or any other agency of the Department
9 of Agriculture that the Secretary determines to be appro-
10 priate.

11 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The network established
13 under subsection (a) shall be designated and admin-
14 istered jointly by the Agricultural Research Service
15 and the Forest Service, in partnership with other
16 Federal agencies, including the following:

17 “(A) Within the Department of Agri-
18 culture, the following agencies:

19 “(i) The Natural Resources Conserva-
20 tion Service.

21 “(ii) The Farm Service Agency.

22 “(iii) The Risk Management Agency.

23 “(iv) The Animal and Plant Health
24 Inspection Service.

1 “(v) The National Institute of Food
2 and Agriculture.

3 “(B) The Department of the Interior.

4 “(C) The Department of Energy.

5 “(D) The Environmental Protection Agen-
6 cy.

7 “(E) The United States Geological Survey.

8 “(F) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
9 pheric Administration.

10 “(G) The National Aeronautics and Space
11 Administration.

12 “(H) Such other Federal agencies as the
13 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

14 “(2) PARTNERS.—The regional hubs estab-
15 lished under subsection (a) shall work in close part-
16 nership with other stakeholders and partners, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(A) colleges and universities (as defined
19 in section 1404 of the Food and Agriculture
20 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

21 “(B) cooperative extension services (as de-
22 fined in that section);

23 “(C) State agricultural experiment stations
24 (as defined in that section);

25 “(D) private entities;

1 “(E) State, local, and regional govern-
2 ments;

3 “(F) Indian Tribes;

4 “(G) agriculture and commodity organiza-
5 tions;

6 “(H) nonprofit and community-based orga-
7 nizations; and

8 “(I) other partners, as determined by the
9 Secretary.

10 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A regional hub established
11 under subsection (a) shall—

12 “(1) offer tools, strategic management options,
13 and technical support to farmers, ranchers, and for-
14 est landowners to help those farmers, ranchers, and
15 forest landowners mitigate and adapt to climate
16 change;

17 “(2) direct farmers, ranchers, and forest land-
18 owners to Federal agencies that can provide pro-
19 gram support to enable those farmers, ranchers, and
20 forest landowners to implement science-informed
21 management practices that address climate change;

22 “(3) determine how climate and weather projec-
23 tions will impact the agricultural and forestry sec-
24 tors;

1 “(4) provide periodic regional assessments of
2 risk and vulnerability in the agricultural and for-
3 estry sectors—

4 “(A) to help farmers, ranchers, and forest
5 landowners better understand the potential di-
6 rect and indirect impacts of climate change;
7 and

8 “(B) to inform the United States Global
9 Change Research Program established under
10 section 103 of the Global Change Research Act
11 of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933);

12 “(5) provide to farmers, ranchers, forest land-
13 owners, and rural communities outreach, education,
14 and extension on science-based risk management
15 through partnerships with the land-grant colleges
16 and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the
17 Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)),
18 cooperative extension services (as defined in that
19 section), and other entities;

20 “(6) work with any cooperative extension serv-
21 ices (as defined in section 1404 of the Food and Ag-
22 riculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), conservation
23 districts, and nongovernmental organizations in-
24 volved in farmer outreach in the region served by the
25 hub to assist producers in developing business plans

1 and conservation plans that take into account
2 emerging climate risk science with respect to crop,
3 production, and conservation system changes that
4 will help producers adapt to a changing climate; and

5 “(7) establish, in partnership with programs
6 and projects carried out under subtitle B of title
7 XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
8 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.), addi-
9 tional partnerships with farmers and nonprofit and
10 community-based organizations to conduct applied
11 on-farm research on climate change.

12 “(e) PRIORITIES.—A regional hub established under
13 subsection (a) shall prioritize synthesis and dissemination
14 of research and data collection activities in the following
15 areas:

16 “(1) Improved measurement and monitoring
17 of—

18 “(A) soil organic carbon sequestration; and

19 “(B) total net greenhouse gas impacts of
20 different farming systems and practices.

21 “(2) Lifecycle analysis for total net greenhouse
22 gas emissions related to—

23 “(A) alternative cropping systems;

24 “(B) alternative livestock production sys-
25 tems;

1 “(C) integrated cropping-livestock systems;

2 “(D) alternative biofuel crop production
3 systems and biofuel end uses;

4 “(E) alternative agroforestry practices and
5 systems; and

6 “(F) alternative forestry management sys-
7 tems.

8 “(3) Research and education on—

9 “(A) optimal soil health management sys-
10 tems and practices;

11 “(B) advanced biological nutrient manage-
12 ment based on optimal soil health practices;

13 “(C) enhanced synergies between crop
14 roots and soil biota;

15 “(D) linkages between soil, plant, animal,
16 and human health;

17 “(E) adaption and mitigation needs of
18 stakeholders;

19 “(F) new crops or new varieties to help
20 producers be profitable while implementing soil
21 health management systems and adapting to a
22 changing climate;

23 “(G) social and economic barriers to stake-
24 holder adoption of new practices that improve

1 adaptation, mitigation, and soil sequestration;
2 and

3 “(H) evaluation and assessment of climate-
4 related decision tools of the Department of Ag-
5 riculture.

6 “(4) Grazing-based livestock management sys-
7 tems to optimize the net greenhouse gas footprint,
8 including—

9 “(A) grazing land carbon sequestration;

10 “(B) reduction of nitrous oxide emissions
11 from manure deposited on grazing land; and

12 “(C) mitigation of enteric methane.

13 “(5) Perennial production systems that seques-
14 ter carbon, enhance soil health, and increase resil-
15 ience, including—

16 “(A) perennial forages;

17 “(B) perennial grains; and

18 “(C) agroforestry.

19 “(f) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—Each regional hub es-
20 tablished under subsection (a)—

21 “(1) shall solicit input from stakeholders on
22 pressing needs, important issues, and outreach strat-
23 egies through a variety of mechanisms, including re-
24 gional stakeholder committees; and

1 “(2) may partner with stakeholders in con-
2 ducting research and developing tools.

3 “(g) RISK MANAGEMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint
5 a team of individuals representing the regional hubs
6 established under subsection (a), partners with those
7 regional hubs, and the Risk Management Agency to
8 develop recommendations to better account for—

9 “(A) climate risk in actuarial tables; and

10 “(B) soil health and other risk-reducing
11 conservation activities under the Federal crop
12 insurance program under the Federal Crop In-
13 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

14 “(2) SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

15 The team appointed under paragraph (1) shall sub-
16 mit to the Secretary, on an iterative basis, but not
17 less frequently than once every 2 years, the rec-
18 ommendations developed by the team under that
19 paragraph.

20 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

21 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

1 **SEC. 203. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**
2 **EDUCATION RESILIENCE INITIATIVE.**

3 (a) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND
4 EDUCATION.—Section 1619 of the Food, Agriculture,
5 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
9 the end;

10 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
11 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(7) increase resilience in the context of a
14 changing climate and related economic, social, and
15 environmental shocks.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) by striking “integrated crop man-
19 agement” and inserting “integrated crop
20 and livestock management system or prac-
21 tice”; and

22 (ii) by inserting “resilience,” after
23 “profitability,”; and

24 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
25 ing the following:

1 “(3) The term ‘resilience’ means, with respect
2 to an agricultural management system, the ability of
3 that system to absorb and recover from climate and
4 other disturbances, such that the system is not im-
5 pacted by severe shocks.”.

6 (b) **ELIGIBILITY OF TRIBAL COLLEGES TO ENTER**
7 **INTO RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROJECT AGREE-**
8 **MENTS.**—Section 1621(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
9 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5811(b)) is
10 amended by striking “or Federal or State” and inserting
11 “1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Eq-
12 uity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7
13 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382)), or Federal,
14 State, or Tribal”.

15 (c) **AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE**
16 **INITIATIVE.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1627 of the Food,
18 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
19 U.S.C. 5821) is amended—

20 (A) in the section heading, by striking
21 **“INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS”**
22 and inserting **“AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD**
23 **SYSTEM RESILIENCE INITIATIVE”**;

24 (B) by striking subsection (a) and insert-
25 ing the following:

1 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In close conjunction with
3 programs and projects established under sections
4 1621 and 1623, the Secretary shall establish a re-
5 search, education, extension, and outreach initiative
6 to increase the resilience and climate change mitiga-
7 tion potential of agriculture and the food system in
8 the context of a changing climate and related eco-
9 nomic, social, and environmental shocks, which may
10 include—

11 “(A) farmer and rancher research and
12 demonstration grants; and

13 “(B) the use of an interdisciplinary ap-
14 proach wherever appropriate.

15 “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the initiative
16 established under paragraph (1) shall be—

17 “(A) to equip farmers to prepare, adapt,
18 and transform the farming systems of the farm-
19 ers when confronted by shocks and stresses to
20 the agricultural production and livelihoods of
21 the farmers;

22 “(B) to support local and regional food
23 systems that support resilience and enhance
24 local access to and control over productive re-
25 sources;

1 “(C) to encourage producers to adopt prac-
2 tices and systems that provide living cover year-
3 round throughout the farm, including through
4 the use of cover crops and perennial plants in
5 diversified combinations, and that are designed
6 to support crop, livestock, and crop-livestock in-
7 tegrated systems that—

8 “(i) minimize or abate adverse climate
9 and environmental impacts;

10 “(ii) increase soil carbon sequestration
11 and storage;

12 “(iii) reduce soil erosion and loss of
13 water and nutrients;

14 “(iv) enhance soil quality and the effi-
15 cient use of on-farm and off-farm inputs;

16 “(v) reduce dependency on fossil fuels;
17 and

18 “(vi) maintain or increase profitability
19 and long-term productivity;

20 “(D) to develop knowledge and information
21 and conduct outreach on living cover systems
22 and practices, including greater use of
23 perennials, and integrated crop and livestock
24 management systems and practices to increase

1 resilience and assist agricultural producers in
2 the adoption of those systems and practices;

3 “(E) to facilitate the adoption of year-
4 round living cover and perennial production sys-
5 tems supporting whole-farm integrated crop
6 and livestock management systems and prac-
7 tices through demonstration projects on indi-
8 vidual farms, including small and limited re-
9 source farms, throughout the United States;
10 and

11 “(F) to evaluate and recommend appro-
12 priate policies and programs to improve food
13 and agricultural system resilience.”; and

14 (C) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d)
15 and inserting the following:

16 “(b) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
18 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
19 shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for
20 fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.

21 “(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—There is au-
22 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 through the National Institute of Food and Agri-
24 culture \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013
25 through 2028.”.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter
2 heading of chapter 2 of subtitle B of title XVI of the
3 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
4 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821) is amended to read as follows:
5 **“AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM**
6 **RESILIENCE INITIATIVE”**.

7 (d) TECHNICAL GUIDES AND BOOKS.—Section 1628
8 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
9 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831) is amended—

10 (1) by inserting “and outreach resources and”
11 after “educational” each place it appears;

12 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later
13 than two years after the date of the enactment of
14 this Act, the Secretary” and inserting “The Sec-
15 retary”;

16 (3) in subsection (b), by striking the second
17 sentence;

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
20 (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

21 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
22 following:

23 “(3) adapting to and mitigating the effects of
24 climate change;”;

1 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “Soil Con-
2 servation” and inserting “Natural Resources Con-
3 servation”; and

4 (6) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “2023” and
5 inserting “2028”.

6 (e) NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.—Section 1629
7 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
8 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (g)—

10 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “Soil
11 Conservation Service and the Agricultural Sta-
12 bilization and Conservation Service” and insert-
13 ing “Natural Resources Conservation Service
14 and the Farm Service Agency”;

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and
16 (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), respectively;
17 and

18 (C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the
19 following;

20 “(10) develop and provide information con-
21 cerning climate change adaptation and mitigation
22 developed under this subtitle and other research and
23 education programs of the Department;”;

1 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “Soil Con-
2 servation Service” and inserting “Natural Resources
3 Conservation Service”; and

4 (3) in subsection (i), by inserting “, and
5 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
6 2028” before the period at the end.

7 **SEC. 204. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**
8 **WORK.**

9 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
10 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)
11 is amended by inserting after section 401 (as added by
12 section 202) the following:

13 **“SEC. 402. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**
14 **WORK.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

16 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
17 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-
18 search Service, shall provide for the establishment
19 and maintenance of a network of research sites oper-
20 ated by the Agricultural Research Service for re-
21 search on the sustainability of agricultural systems
22 in the United States, to be known as the ‘Long-
23 Term Agroecosystem Research Network’ (referred to
24 in this section as the ‘Network’).

1 “(2) GOALS.—The Network shall have the fol-
2 lowing goals:

3 “(A) To understand and enhance the sus-
4 tainability of agriculture.

5 “(B) To integrate research projects with
6 common standardized measurements on mul-
7 tiple agroecosystems and land uses, including
8 cropland, rangeland, and pastureland.

9 “(C) To develop new farming systems,
10 practices, and technologies to address agricul-
11 tural challenges and opportunities, including
12 challenges and opportunities posed by climate
13 change.

14 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities of the
15 Network shall include—

16 “(1) research conducted for a minimum of 30
17 years to develop novel scientific insights at regional
18 and national scales and evaluate the applicability of
19 and adaptation to local conditions;

20 “(2) the establishment and maintenance of mul-
21 tiple sites or research centers that capture the diver-
22 sity of agricultural production systems that function
23 as a network; and

24 “(3) the coordination, management, and anal-
25 ysis of large-scale data collection relating to the sus-

1 tainability of agricultural systems and the provision
2 of infrastructure to research sites to allow for ana-
3 lyzing and disseminating that data.

4 “(c) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH.—The Secretary
5 shall, in carrying out subsection (a)—

6 “(1) coordinate long-term agroecological re-
7 search to improve understanding within the Depart-
8 ment of how agroecosystems function at the field,
9 regional, and national scales;

10 “(2) designate research sites for inclusion in
11 the Network that are representative of major agri-
12 cultural regions;

13 “(3) ensure that each research site included in
14 the Network conducts experiments with common
15 standardized goals and methods—

16 “(A) to increase agricultural productivity
17 and profitability;

18 “(B) to enhance agricultural resilience and
19 the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate
20 change;

21 “(C) to boost the provision of ecosystem
22 services from agricultural landscapes; and

23 “(D) to improve opportunities for rural
24 communities;

1 “(4) make data collected at research sites in-
2 cluded in the Network open to researchers and the
3 public whenever practicable, and integrate data
4 across the network and partner sites;

5 “(5) provide infrastructure to research sites in-
6 cluded in the Network for data collection, common
7 measurements, and data streams that complement
8 other national networks, such as the National Eco-
9 logical Observatory Network and the Long-Term Ec-
10 ological Research network;

11 “(6) coordinate with Department of Agriculture
12 Climate Hubs to share research findings and data
13 insights; and

14 “(7) collaborate with Department of Agriculture
15 Climate Hubs to translate research findings into
16 educational, outreach, and technical assistance mate-
17 rials for agricultural producers.

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out activities of
20 the Network under this section \$50,000,000 for each of
21 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

22 **SEC. 205. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Competitive, Special, and Fa-
24 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(A) CONVENTIONAL BREEDING.—The
5 term ‘conventional breeding’ means the develop-
6 ment of a new variety of an organism through
7 controlled mating and selection without the use
8 of transgenic methods.

9 “(B) CULTIVAR.—The term ‘cultivar’
10 means a variety of a species of plant that has
11 been intentionally selected for use in cultivation
12 because of the improved characteristics of that
13 variety of the species.

14 “(C) PUBLIC ANIMAL BREED.—The term
15 ‘public animal breed’ means an animal breed
16 that is the commercially available end product
17 of a publicly funded breeding program that has
18 been sufficiently tested to demonstrate im-
19 proved characteristics and stable performance.

20 “(D) PUBLIC CULTIVAR.—The term ‘public
21 cultivar’ means a cultivar—

22 “(i) that is the commercially available
23 end product of a publicly funded breeding
24 program that has been sufficiently tested

1 to demonstrate improved characteristics
2 and stable performance; and

3 “(ii) with respect to which, if intellec-
4 tual property rights are asserted, the intel-
5 lectual property rights are in the form of
6 plant patents or plant variety protection
7 and not utility patents.

8 “(E) PUBLIC CULTIVAR OR ANIMAL
9 BREED.—The term ‘public cultivar or animal
10 breed’ means—

11 “(i) a public animal breed; and

12 “(ii) a public cultivar.”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(1) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT
15 FUNDING.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount of
17 grants made under the provisions of law described in
18 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that not
19 less than \$75,000,000 for each fiscal year is used
20 for competitive research grants that support the de-
21 velopment of public cultivars and animal breeds.

22 “(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—The provisions
23 of law referred to in paragraph (1) are—

24 “(A) subsections (a) and (b);

1 “(B) section 1672B(e) of the Food, Agri-
2 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
3 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(e));

4 “(C) sections 1619 through 1624 of that
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.);

6 “(D) any relevant competitive grant pro-
7 gram authorized by section 406 of the Agricul-
8 tural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
9 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626), as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary; and

11 “(E) section 412 of that Act (7 U.S.C.
12 7632).

13 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under para-
14 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to high-
15 potential research projects that lead to the release of
16 regionally adapted public cultivars and animal
17 breeds that assist producers in mitigating and
18 adapting to climate change, including—

19 “(A) regionally adapted public cultivars
20 and animal breeds;

21 “(B) public cultivars and animal breeds
22 bred for environmental resilience, including re-
23 silience to changing climates, mitigating green-
24 house gas emissions, and sequestering carbon;

1 “(C) public animal breeds adapted to graz-
2 ing and overwintering as appropriate for the
3 applicable production region;

4 “(D) public cultivars and animal breeds
5 bred to enhance the nutritional and health out-
6 comes of local and Native American, Alaska
7 Native, and Native Hawaiian populations;

8 “(E) public cultivars and animal breeds of
9 indigenous and place-based importance that are
10 endangered; and

11 “(F) public cultivars and animal breeds
12 with beneficial and compatible characteristics
13 and behaviors for dual-use renewable energy-ag-
14 ricultural systems.

15 “(4) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall ensure
16 that—

17 “(A) the terms and renewal process for
18 any competitive grants made under subsection
19 (b) in accordance with paragraph (1) facilitates
20 the development and commercialization of pub-
21 lic cultivars and animal breeds through long-
22 term grants not less than 5 years in length; and

23 “(B) Tribal consultation occurs to ensure
24 public cultivar or animal breed development
25 does not infringe on the abilities of Tribes to

1 maintain culturally sensitive animal breeds and
2 cultivars.

3 “(5) REQUIREMENT FOR DOMESTIC PRODUC-
4 TION.—No person that receives title to a plant pat-
5 ent or plant variety protection relating to any public
6 cultivar or animal breed developed using funds re-
7 ceived under this subsection, and no assignee of any
8 such person, shall grant to any person the exclusive
9 right to use or sell that public cultivar or animal
10 breed unless that person agrees that any cultivars or
11 animals embodying the public cultivar or animal
12 breed or produced through the use of the public
13 cultivar or animal breed will be produced substan-
14 tially in the United States.

15 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of
16 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
17 report that provides information on all public
18 cultivar and animal breeding research funded by the
19 Department of Agriculture, including—

20 “(A) a list of public cultivars and animal
21 breeds developed and released in a commercially
22 available form;

23 “(B) areas of high-priority research;

1 “(C) identified research gaps relating to
2 public cultivar and animal breed development;
3 and

4 “(D) an assessment of the state of com-
5 mercialization for public cultivars and animal
6 breeds.”.

7 (b) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH AC-
8 TIVITIES COORDINATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251 of the Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
11 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

12 (A) in subsection (e), by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 “(7) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH
15 ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary
17 shall appoint a coordinator within the Office of
18 the Chief Scientist that reports to the Under
19 Secretary to coordinate research activities at
20 the Department relating to the breeding of pub-
21 lic cultivars and animal breeds (as defined in
22 paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the Competi-
23 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act
24 (7 U.S.C. 3157(a))).

1 “(B) DUTIES OF COORDINATOR.—The co-
2 ordinator appointed under subparagraph (A)
3 shall—

4 “(i) coordinate plant and animal
5 breeding research activities funded by the
6 Department relating to the development of
7 public cultivars and animal breeds;

8 “(ii)(I) carry out ongoing analysis and
9 track activities for any Federal research
10 funding supporting plant and animal
11 breeding (including any public cultivars
12 and animal breeds developed with Federal
13 funds); and

14 “(II) ensure that the analysis and ac-
15 tivities are made available to the public not
16 later than 60 days after the last day of
17 each fiscal year;

18 “(iii) develop a strategic plan that es-
19 tablishes targets for public cultivar and
20 animal breed research investments across
21 the Department to ensure that a diverse
22 range of crop and animal needs are being
23 met in a timely and transparent manner,
24 with a strong focus on delivery of resource-

1 efficient, stress-tolerant, regionally adapted
2 public cultivar and animal breeds that—

3 “(I) help build agricultural resil-
4 ience to climate change; and

5 “(II) support on-farm carbon se-
6 questration and greenhouse gas miti-
7 gation, nutritional quality, and other
8 farmer-identified priority agronomic
9 and market traits;

10 “(iv) convene a working group to
11 carry out the coordination functions de-
12 scribed in this subparagraph comprised of
13 individuals who are responsible for the
14 management, administration, or analysis of
15 public cultivar and animal breeding pro-
16 grams within the Department from—

17 “(I) the National Institute of
18 Food and Agriculture;

19 “(II) the Agricultural Research
20 Service; and

21 “(III) the Economic Research
22 Service;

23 “(v) in order to maximize delivery of
24 public cultivars and animal breeds, pro-
25 mote collaboration among—

1 “(I) the coordinator;

2 “(II) the working group convened
3 under clause (iv);

4 “(III) the advisory council estab-
5 lished under section 1634 of the
6 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
7 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5843);

8 “(IV) genetic resource conserva-
9 tion centers;

10 “(V) land-grant colleges and uni-
11 versities (as defined in section 1404 of
12 the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
14 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

15 “(VI) Hispanic-serving institu-
16 tions (as defined in section 502(a) of
17 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 1101a(a));

19 “(VII) Native American-serving
20 nontribal institutions (as defined in
21 section 371(c) of the Higher Edu-
22 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
23 1067q(c));

24 “(VIII) Tribal Colleges and Uni-
25 versities (as defined in section 316(b)

1 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
2 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)) and federally
3 recognized Tribes extension programs;
4 “(IX) nongovernmental organiza-
5 tions with interest or expertise in pub-
6 lic breeding; and
7 “(X) public and private plant and
8 animal breeders, including small-scale
9 organic breeders;
10 “(vi) convene regular stakeholder lis-
11 tening sessions to provide input on na-
12 tional and regional priorities for public
13 cultivar and animal breed research activi-
14 ties across the Department; and
15 “(vii) evaluate and make rec-
16 ommendations to the Under Secretary on
17 training and resource needs to meet future
18 breeding challenges.”; and
19 (B) in subsection (f)(1)(D)(i), by striking
20 “(7 U.S.C. 450i(b))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.
21 3157(b))”.

22 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
23 296(b)(6)(B) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
24 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)(6)(B))
25 is amended by striking “Scientist; and” and insert-

1 ing “Scientist (including the public breed and
2 cultivar research activities coordinator under sub-
3 section (e)(7) of that section); and”.

4 (c) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOP-
5 MENT.—Subtitle H of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture,
6 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921 et
7 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 1681. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT.**

9 “(a) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting
10 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Research
11 Service (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) and
12 in conjunction with the Director of the National Genetic
13 Resources Program appointed under section 1633, shall
14 support the development of public breeds and cultivars (as
15 defined in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the Competi-
16 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.
17 3157(a))) by Federal researchers.

18 “(b) PRIORITY.—In supporting research under sub-
19 section (a) using funds made available pursuant to sub-
20 section (d), the Secretary shall give priority to high-poten-
21 tial research projects that lead to the release of regionally
22 adapted public breeds and cultivars that assist producers
23 in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

24 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of each
25 year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that

1 provides information on all public breed and cultivar re-
2 search funded by the Agricultural Research Service and
3 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, includ-
4 ing—

5 “(1) a list of public breeds and cultivars devel-
6 oped and released in a commercially available form;

7 “(2) areas of high-priority research;

8 “(3) identified research gaps relating to public
9 breed and cultivar development, including newly
10 emerging needs stemming from climate change; and

11 “(4) an assessment of the state of commer-
12 cialization for breeds and cultivars that have been
13 developed.

14 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to the
15 Secretary for a fiscal year, not less than \$50,000,000 shall
16 be made available to carry out this section.”.

17 **SEC. 206. ARS CLIMATE SCIENTIST CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accord-
20 ance with section 922 of the Federal Agriculture Improve-
21 ment and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2279e), carry
22 out an internship program within the Agricultural Re-
23 search Service for graduate students pursuing a degree
24 or conducting research relating to climate change and ag-
25 riculture.

1 (b) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
2 it Corporation, the Secretary may use to carry out the pro-
3 gram described in subsection (a) not more than
4 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

5 **SEC. 207. AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITI-**
6 **GATION THROUGH AFRI.**

7 Subsection (b)(2) of the Competitive, Special, and
8 Facilities Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)(2)) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

10 “(G) AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTA-
11 TION AND MITIGATION.—Agricultural climate
12 adaptation and mitigation, including—

13 “(i) strategies for agricultural adapta-
14 tion to climate change and drought, includ-
15 ing strategies for small and medium-sized
16 farms and ranches;

17 “(ii) on-farm mitigation strategies and
18 solutions, including infrastructure, equip-
19 ment, and ecosystems-based strategies;

20 “(iii) economic and social costs and
21 benefits of adopting conservation practices
22 to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

23 “(iv) ecosystem services co-benefits of
24 reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and
25 adapting to climate change;

1 “(v) new technologies, methods, and
2 models to measure and predict greenhouse
3 gas emissions and soil carbon sequestra-
4 tion; and

5 “(vi) the intersection of agricultural
6 production, soil health, climate change, and
7 human health.”.

8 **SEC. 208. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

9 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
14 by inserting “, diverse multi-crop production
15 systems,” after “specific crops”;

16 (B) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking
17 “pesticide application systems” and inserting
18 “ecologically based pest management, pesticide
19 application systems,”;

20 (C) in paragraph (4)(E), by striking “and”
21 at the end;

22 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
23 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (E) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate
2 change, including—

3 “(A) on-farm mitigation strategies and so-
4 lutions, including agricultural ecosystems-based
5 strategies;

6 “(B) conservation practices and tech-
7 nologies designed to improve soil health, includ-
8 ing practices and technologies that sequester
9 carbon in soil; and

10 “(C) breeding research and cultivar devel-
11 opment to help adapt to climate change.”; and

12 (2) in subsection (g)(3)(A), by striking “equal
13 to not less than the amount of the grant” and in-
14 sserting “in an amount that is equal to not less than
15 25 percent of the funds provided through the
16 grant”.

17 **SEC. 209. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.**

18 Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
19 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626) is
20 amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and
22 (f) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

23 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(d) EMPHASIS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that grants made under this section
3 are, where appropriate, consistent with the development
4 of food and agricultural systems that improve climate re-
5 silience.

6 “(e) ECOLOGICALLY BASED PEST MANAGEMENT.—
7 The Secretary shall ensure that grants made under this
8 section to support pest management prioritize ecologically
9 based approaches that—

10 “(1) are effective, affordable, and environ-
11 mentally sound;

12 “(2) maintain agricultural productivity and
13 healthy communities; and

14 “(3) improve climate resilience.”; and

15 (3) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2028”.

17 **SEC. 210. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
18 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 310B(i)(2) of the
20 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1932(i)(2)) is amended—

22 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
23 by inserting “, including a beginning farmer or
24 rancher and a veteran farmer or rancher (as those
25 terms are defined in section 2501(a) of the Food,

1 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
2 U.S.C. 2279(a)) and a socially disadvantaged farm-
3 er or rancher (as defined in section 355(e)),” after
4 “producers”;

5 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
8 paragraph (E);

9 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(D) increase on-farm resilience to extreme
12 weather by enhancing soil health and adopting
13 other conservation practices;”;

14 (5) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated),
15 by striking the period at the end and inserting “;
16 and”; and

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

18 “(F) improve farm viability and strengthen
19 local, regional, and national supply chains.”.

20 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 310B(i)(3) of the
21 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1932(i)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR AND USE OF OTHER
24 FUNDS.—A national nonprofit agricultural as-
25 sistance institution that receives a grant or en-

1 ters into a cooperative agreement under this
2 subsection—

3 “(i) may not, as a result of that grant
4 or cooperative agreement, be treated as in-
5 eligible for a grant under any other Fed-
6 eral program; and

7 “(ii) may utilize, in accordance with
8 applicable law, other public and private
9 funds made available to the institution to
10 expand the resources and outreach of the
11 program established under this sub-
12 section.”.

13 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
14 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
15 Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended by striking paragraph
16 (4) and inserting the following:

17 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this subsection—

20 “(A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

21 “(B) \$8,500,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2024 through 2028.”.

1 **TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH**

2 **SEC. 301. CROP INSURANCE.**

3 (a) VOLUNTARY GOOD FARMING PRACTICES.—Sec-
4 tion 508(a)(3)(A)(iii) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
5 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “including scientifically” and in-
7 serting the following: “including—

8 “(I) scientifically”;

9 (2) in subclause (I) (as so designated), by strik-
10 ing the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(II) conservation practices and
13 enhancements that are approved by—

14 “(aa) the Natural Resources
15 Conservation Service; or

16 “(bb) an agricultural expert,
17 as determined by the Secretary.”.

18 (b) RISK-REDUCTION BASED DISCOUNTS.—Section
19 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1508(d)) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
22 graph (5); and

23 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(4) RISK-REDUCTION BASED DISCOUNT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning
2 with the 2024 reinsurance year, the Corpora-
3 tion may provide a risk-reduction based pre-
4 mium discount for a producer of an agricultural
5 commodity who uses risk-reduction farming
6 practices, as determined by the Corporation in
7 accordance with subparagraph (B).

8 “(B) RISK-REDUCTION FARMING PRAC-
9 TICES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a
10 risk-reduction farming practice may include any
11 of the following:

12 “(i) The use of a cover crop.

13 “(ii) A resource-conserving crop rota-
14 tion.

15 “(iii) Management-intensive rotational
16 grazing.

17 “(iv) A compost or biochar applica-
18 tion.

19 “(v) An agroforestry or other peren-
20 nial production system.

21 “(vi) Other risk-reducing and soil
22 health-promoting farming practices, as de-
23 termined by the Corporation.”.

24 (c) CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD APPLICA-
25 BILITY.—

1 (1) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN STATES.—Sec-
2 tion 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
3 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph
4 (3).

5 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
6 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day
7 of the first reinsurance year that begins after the
8 date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 302. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
11 **GRAM.**

12 (a) PURPOSES.—Section 1240 of the Food Security
13 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “and environmental quality” and inserting
16 “environmental quality, and climate change adapta-
17 tion and mitigation”;

18 (2) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and”
22 at the end; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(D) greenhouse gas emissions reduction
25 and carbon sequestration;”;

1 (3) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “sequestering carbon, increasing drought resilience, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and” before “conserving energy”; and

2
3
4
5 (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “climate change and” before “increasing weather volatility”.

6
7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is amended—

8
9 (1) in paragraph (6)(B)—

10 (A) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the
11 end;

12 (B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause
13 (vii); and

14 (C) by inserting after clause (v) the following:
15

16 “(vi) greenhouse gas emissions reduction planning; and”;

17
18 (2) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding
19 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource
20 concern or problem” and inserting “resource concern”;

21
22 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10)
23 as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively; and

24 (4) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:
25

1 “(9) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource
2 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the
3 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource
4 base that impairs the sustainability or intended uses
5 of the resource.”.

6 (c) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF EN-
7 VIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—

8 (1) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(7)(A) of the
9 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-
10 2(d)(7)(A)) is amended—

11 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; or” and
12 inserting a semicolon;

13 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; or”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(v) increases carbon sequestration or
17 reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”.

18 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section
19 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(f)(1)) is amended—

21 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting
22 “2031”; and

23 (B) by striking “including grazing manage-
24 ment” and inserting “of which not less than $\frac{2}{3}$

1 shall be targeted at practices relating to grazing
2 management”.

3 (3) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES
4 RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section
5 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(i)) is amended—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
9 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

10 (4) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—
11 Section 1240B(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985
12 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(j)) is amended—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
15 “, which may include climate change adap-
16 tation and mitigation,” after “priority re-
17 source concerns”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
19 “, which may include climate change adap-
20 tation and mitigation” before the period at
21 the end; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

24 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
25 “or” at the end;

1 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 or”; and

4 (III) by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(III) funding, through annual
7 payments, for a suite of incentive
8 practices that are appropriate for the
9 region and land use and that best en-
10 hance soil health and carbon seques-
11 tration and reduce greenhouse gas
12 emissions, as determined by the Sec-
13 retary.”;

14 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(B) TERM.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A contract under
18 this subsection shall have a term of not
19 less than 5, and not more than 10, years.

20 “(ii) GRADUATION OPTION.—The Sec-
21 retary may reduce the term for a contract
22 under this subsection if the producer en-
23 ters into a conservation stewardship con-
24 tract under section 1240K with respect to

1 the eligible land that is subject to the con-
2 tract under this subsection.”; and

3 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

4 (I) in clause (i), by striking
5 “and” at the end;

6 (II) in clause (ii), by striking the
7 period at the end and inserting “;
8 and”; and

9 (III) by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(iii) give priority to applications that
12 cover eligible land that, on expiration of a
13 contract under this subsection, may be en-
14 rolled in a conservation stewardship con-
15 tract under section 1240K.”.

16 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PLAN.—
17 Section 1240E(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
18 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)(3)) is amended by inserting “, and
19 a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan” after “if appli-
20 cable”.

21 (e) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—Section 1240G of
22 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is
23 amended by striking “Not including payments” and all
24 that follows through “2023” and inserting “A person or
25 legal entity (including a joint venture and a general part-

1 nership) may not receive, directly or indirectly, cost-share
2 or incentive payments under this subchapter that, in ag-
3 gregate, exceed \$450,000 for all contracts entered into
4 under this subchapter by the person or legal entity during
5 any 5-fiscal-year period”.

6 (f) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS.—

7 (1) AIR QUALITY CONCERNS FROM AGRICUL-
8 TURAL OPERATIONS.—Section 1240H(b) of the
9 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(b))
10 is amended—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) by striking “practices to address”
13 in the first sentence and all that follows
14 through “The funds” in the second sen-
15 tence and inserting the following: “prac-
16 tices—

17 “(i) to address air quality concerns
18 from agricultural operations; and

19 “(ii) to meet Federal, State, and
20 local—

21 “(I) regulatory requirements; and

22 “(II) goals with respect to green-
23 house gas emissions reductions.

1 “(B) BASIS OF AVAILABILITY AND USE.—
2 Funds for payments under subparagraph (A)”;
3 and

4 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
5 (as so designated), by striking “The Sec-
6 retary” and inserting the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking
9 “\$37,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
10 through 2031” and inserting “\$37,500,000 for
11 each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, and
12 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
13 through 2031”.

14 (2) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION
15 TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c) of the Food Security
16 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)) is amended—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

18 (i) in subclause (II), by inserting “on-
19 farm nutrient recycling,” after “plans,”;

20 (ii) in subclause (VI), by striking
21 “and” at the end; and

22 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(VII) perennial production sys-
25 tems, including agroforestry and pe-

1 ennial forages and grain crops; and”;
2 and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
4 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2019
5 through 2031” and inserting “2019 through
6 2023, \$50,000,000 of the funds made available
7 to carry out this subchapter for each of fiscal
8 years 2024 and 2025, and \$100,000,000 of the
9 funds made available to carry out this sub-
10 chapter for each of fiscal years 2026 through
11 2031”.

12 **SEC. 303. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240I of the Food Secu-
14 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “en-
17 hancements,” after “practices,”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting
19 “and climate change” before the period at the
20 end;

21 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “main-
22 tained, actively” after “implemented,”;

23 (3) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding
24 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource

1 concern or problem” and inserting “resource con-
2 cern”;

3 (4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
4 graph (8); and

5 (5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(7) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource
8 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the
9 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource
10 base that impairs the sustainability or intended uses
11 of the resource.”.

12 (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-
13 tion 1240J(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs
15 (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

16 “(1) by maintaining, actively managing, and,
17 where practicable, improving existing conservation
18 activities; and

19 “(2) by undertaking additional conservation ac-
20 tivities.”.

21 (c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

22 (1) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-
23 tion 1240K(a)(2)(B) of the Food Security Act of
24 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(a)(2)(B)) is amended
25 by striking “improving, maintaining, and managing”

1 and inserting “maintaining, actively managing, and,
2 where practicable, improving”.

3 (2) EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-
4 tion 1240K(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(b)) is amended—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking clause
7 (iii) and inserting the following:

8 “(iii) other criteria consistent with an
9 equal weighting of the factors described in
10 clauses (i) and (ii), as determined by the
11 Secretary, including criteria the Secretary
12 determines are necessary to ensure that—

13 “(I) the program effectively tar-
14 gets improvements to soil health, in-
15 creases in carbon sequestration, and
16 reductions in greenhouse gas emis-
17 sions; and

18 “(II) other national, State, and
19 local priority resource concerns are ef-
20 fectively addressed.”; and

21 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

22 (3) CONTRACT RENEWAL.—Section 1240K(e)
23 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
24 3839aa–23(e)) is amended—

25 (A) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking subparagraph (B);

2 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
3 “; or” at the end and inserting “, if appli-
4 cable.”; and

5 (iii) by striking “period—” in the
6 matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all
7 that follows through “to meet” in subpara-
8 graph (A) and inserting “period, to meet”;
9 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
10 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
11 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

12 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph
13 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Sec-
14 retary” and inserting the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

16 (D) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(2) RANKING AND PAYMENTS.—In deter-
18 mining whether to accept an application for contract
19 renewal under this subsection, and when calculating
20 payments for those renewed contracts, the Secretary
21 shall consider the full conservation benefits across
22 the entire applicable agricultural operation, includ-
23 ing—

24 “(A) the number of priority resource con-
25 cerns with respect to which the producer is ex-

1 pected to meet or exceed the stewardship
2 threshold by the end of the contract period; and

3 “(B) the active management and mainte-
4 nance of ongoing conservation activities, includ-
5 ing—

6 “(i) the conservation activities adopt-
7 ed during a prior contract period; and

8 “(ii) the new or improved conservation
9 activities to be adopted if a contract is re-
10 newed.”.

11 (d) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

12 (1) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITI-
13 GATION.—Section 1240L(a)(2) of the Food Security
14 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(a)(2)) is amend-
15 ed by inserting “(which may include climate change
16 adaptation and mitigation)” after “priority resource
17 concerns”.

18 (2) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAY-
19 MENTS.—Section 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act
20 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
23 “on 1 or more types of eligible land cov-
24 ered by the contract” after “activities”;
25 and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “improving, maintaining, and managing”
3 and inserting “maintaining, actively man-
4 aging, and improving”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) by striking subparagraph (B) and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(B) Income forgone by the producer, in-
9 cluding amounts that reflect—

10 “(i) increased economic risk; and

11 “(ii) loss in revenue due to—

12 “(I) production changes;

13 “(II) anticipated reductions in
14 yield;

15 “(III) transitioning to an or-
16 ganic, resource-conserving cropping or
17 grazing, or perennial production sys-
18 tem; or

19 “(IV) acreage converted to con-
20 servation uses.”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
22 “, actively managed, and, where applicable,
23 improved” after “maintained”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(6) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVI-
2 TIES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYS-
3 TEMS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
5 provide payments under this subsection for con-
6 servation activities relating to—

7 “(i) organic production; and

8 “(ii) transitioning to organic produc-
9 tion.

10 “(B) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—Con-
11 servation activities described in subparagraph
12 (A) may include—

13 “(i) generally available and specifically
14 tailored conservation activities; and

15 “(ii) individual conservation activities
16 and bundles of conservation activities.

17 “(7) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an
18 annual payment under the program shall be not less
19 than \$2,000.”.

20 (3) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section
21 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
22 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
24 “, PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,” after
25 “ROTATIONS”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (C)
3 as subparagraph (D); and

4 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
5 (B) the following:

6 “(C) PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM.—

7 The term ‘perennial production system’
8 means—

9 “(i) the use of cropland for agro-
10 forestry, including alley cropping,
11 silvopasture, and related production prac-
12 tices, as determined by the Secretary;

13 “(ii) the use of woodland for agro-
14 forestry, including forest farming, multi-
15 story cropping, and related production
16 practices, as determined by the Secretary;
17 and

18 “(iii) the use of cropland for perennial
19 forages or perennial grain crops.”;

20 (C) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “or” at the end;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;
25 and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(C) a perennial production system.”; and

4 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “or ad-
5 vanced grazing management” and inserting “,
6 advanced grazing management, or a perennial
7 production system”.

8 (4) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVA-
9 TION PLAN.—Section 1240L(e)(1) of the Food Secu-
10 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(e)(1)) is
11 amended—

12 (A) by striking the period at the end and
13 inserting the following: “; and

14 “(B) with respect to an organic production
15 system—

16 “(i) is integrated with an organic sys-
17 tem plan approved under the national or-
18 ganic program established under the Or-
19 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
20 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.); or

21 “(ii) allows a producer to transition to
22 organic production systems and pursue
23 certification under that Act.”; and

24 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph

25 (B) (as added by subparagraph (A)), by strik-

1 ing “plan that meets” and inserting the fol-
2 lowing: “plan that—

3 “(A) meets”.

4 (5) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f)
5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
6 3839aa–24(f)) is amended—

7 (A) by inserting “(including a joint venture
8 and a general partnership)” after “A person or
9 legal entity”; and

10 (B) by striking “fiscal years 2019 through
11 2023” and inserting “any consecutive 5-fiscal-
12 year period”.

13 (6) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRO-
14 DUCERS.—Section 1240L(g) of the Food Security
15 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(g)) is amended
16 by inserting “, and producers transitioning to or-
17 ganic production systems,” after “organic pro-
18 ducers”.

19 (7) SOIL HEALTH.—Section 1240L(k) of the
20 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
21 24(k)) is amended by striking the period at the end
22 and inserting the following: “, including by—

23 “(1) conducting outreach to encourage the use
24 of contracts to improve soil health and sequester
25 carbon in the soil; and

1 “(2) offering payments for soil testing to pro-
2 vide producers and the Secretary with information
3 on the soil health and carbon sequestration impacts
4 of conservation activities.”.

5 (e) ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP INNO-
6 VATION GRANTS.—Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle
7 D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
8 3839aa–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 **“SEC. 1240L–2. ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP IN-**
11 **NOVATION GRANTS.**

12 “(a) DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL PROFES-
13 SIONAL.—In this section, the term ‘agricultural profes-
14 sional’ means a university researcher or educator, includ-
15 ing an extension agent or specialist, Federal agency field
16 staff, an agricultural consultant, State and local agency
17 staff, Tribal agency staff, a Federally-Recognized Tribes
18 Extension Program agent, and nonprofit organization
19 staff assisting farmers and ranchers at the local level.

20 “(b) GRANTS.—Using funds made available to carry
21 out this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide competi-
22 tive grants to carry out on-farm conservation innovation
23 projects on eligible land of program participants for the
24 purpose of stimulating innovative approaches on farms
25 and ranches to leverage Federal investment in conserva-

1 tion stewardship, in conjunction with agricultural produc-
2 tion or forest resource management, through the program.

3 “(c) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall provide
4 grants under this section—

5 “(1) directly to agricultural operations, or
6 groups of agricultural operations, participating in
7 the program; or

8 “(2) through partnerships between agricultural
9 professionals and small groups of agricultural oper-
10 ations participating in the program.

11 “(d) USE.—An entity that receives a grant under this
12 section directly or through a partnership in accordance
13 with subsection (c) shall carry out an on-farm conserva-
14 tion innovation project that—

15 “(1) facilitates on-farm research and dem-
16 onstration or pilot testing of new technologies or in-
17 novative conservation systems and practices that aim
18 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize
19 agriculture;

20 “(2) facilitates on-farm research and dem-
21 onstration or pilot testing of practices and systems
22 with a proven high impact for greenhouse gas emis-
23 sions reduction and decarbonization and low national
24 or regional adoption rates; or

1 “(3) helps to prepare program participants for
2 participation in environmental services markets that
3 have as a primary goal greenhouse gas emissions re-
4 duction or decarbonization of agriculture.

5 “(e) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

6 “(1) AGREEMENTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
8 section, the Secretary shall enter into agree-
9 ments with agricultural operations (directly or
10 through governmental or nongovernmental or-
11 ganizations involved in a partnership with 1 or
12 more agricultural operations) on whose land an
13 on-farm conservation innovation project is being
14 carried out under this section to provide pay-
15 ments to the agricultural operations to assist
16 with adopting and evaluating new or innovative
17 conservation approaches to achieve conservation
18 benefits.

19 “(B) AMOUNT.—Payments provided under
20 subparagraph (A) shall reflect the direct costs
21 of the research and demonstration and com-
22 pensation for foregone income, as appropriate
23 to address the increased economic risk or lower
24 economic return potentially associated with the
25 applicable innovative conservation approach.

1 “(2) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Adjusted gross income
4 requirements under section 1001D(b)(1)
5 shall—

6 “(i) apply to producers receiving pay-
7 ments under this subsection; and

8 “(ii) be enforced by the Secretary.

9 “(B) REPORTING.—A governmental or
10 nongovernmental organization participating in
11 an on-farm conservation innovation project
12 under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-
13 retary an annual report describing the amount
14 of payments that the organization made to each
15 agricultural operation under this subsection.

16 “(3) RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND
17 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary may
18 provide to a partnership described in paragraph
19 (1)(A) not more than \$50,000 for each on-farm con-
20 servation innovation project for research, technical
21 assistance, and administrative expenses.

22 “(4) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement
23 entered into under paragraph (1)(A) shall be for a
24 period determined by the Secretary that is—

25 “(A) not less than 2 years; and

1 “(B) if appropriate, more than 2 years, in-
2 cluding if the longer period is appropriate to
3 support—

4 “(i) adaptive management over mul-
5 tiple crop years; and

6 “(ii) adequate data collection and
7 analysis by an agricultural operation or
8 partnership to report the natural resource
9 and agricultural production benefits of the
10 new or innovative conservation approaches
11 to the Secretary.”.

12 **SEC. 304. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

13 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
14 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 1240S. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

17 “(a) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—
18 Using funds made available under subsection (k), the Sec-
19 retary shall make grants to States or Tribal governments
20 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to be used by
21 State departments of agriculture or appropriate Tribal au-
22 thorities to develop and implement plans to improve soil
23 health on agricultural land.

24 “(b) APPLICATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State department of ag-
2 riculture or Tribal government requesting a grant
3 under this section shall prepare and submit for ap-
4 proval by the Secretary an application at such time,
5 in such a manner, and containing such information
6 as the Secretary shall require, including an assur-
7 ance that grant funds received under this section
8 shall supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal
9 funds in support of soil health, rather than replace
10 State or Tribal funds for those purposes.

11 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Tribal gov-
12 ernment may request funds under this section—

13 “(A) to develop or modify a State or Tribal
14 soil health plan; or

15 “(B) to implement a State or Tribal soil
16 health plan approved by the Secretary under
17 this section, including through—

18 “(i) technical assistance;

19 “(ii) financial assistance;

20 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-
21 onstration;

22 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-
23 ing;

24 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

1 “(vi) such other activities as the Sec-
2 retary determines to be appropriate.

3 “(3) PLAN COMPONENTS.—Prior to approving a
4 State or Tribal soil health plan, the Secretary shall
5 ensure that the plan, at a minimum—

6 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil
7 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-
8 servation Service; and

9 “(B) identifies effective strategies for in-
10 creasing adoption of regionally appropriate soil
11 health practices and systems on privately owned
12 agricultural land under the jurisdiction of the
13 applicable State or Tribal government.

14 “(4) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or Tribal govern-
15 ment may—

16 “(A) apply for a grant for the purposes de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2)(A) at any time; and

18 “(B) apply for a grant for the purposes de-
19 scribed in paragraph (2)(B) on approval by the
20 Secretary of a soil health plan for the State or
21 Tribal government.

22 “(c) TRIBAL OPTION.—At the sole discretion of a
23 Tribal government, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization
24 shall have the option of being incorporated into a State

1 application rather than submitting an application for the
2 Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

3 “(d) GRANT AMOUNT.—

4 “(1) MAXIMUM.—The maximum grant any 1
5 State or Tribal government may receive under this
6 section for a fiscal year shall be—

7 “(A) in the case of a grant for the pur-
8 poses described in subsection (b)(2)(A),
9 \$1,000,000; and

10 “(B) in the case of a grant for the pur-
11 poses described in subsection (b)(2)(B),
12 \$5,000,000.

13 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

14 “(A) GRANTS TO STATES.—The amount of
15 a grant to a State under this section shall not
16 exceed—

17 “(i) 75 percent of the cost of devel-
18 oping or modifying a soil health plan; or

19 “(ii) 50 percent of the cost of imple-
20 menting the soil health plan.

21 “(B) GRANTS TO TRIBES.—The amount of
22 a grant to a Tribal government under this sec-
23 tion shall not exceed—

24 “(i) 90 percent of the cost of devel-
25 oping or modifying a soil health plan; or

1 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-
2 menting the soil health plan.

3 “(3) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A grant made
4 under this section shall be made on the condition
5 that the non-Federal share of expenditures under
6 paragraph (2) be provided by non-Federal sources.

7 “(e) GRANT TERM.—A grant under this section shall
8 be for 1 year and may be renewed annually, at the discre-
9 tion of the Secretary.

10 “(f) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to
11 States or Tribal governments with a climate action plan
12 that includes soil health, as determined by the Secretary.

13 “(g) PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND EVALUATION.—

14 “(1) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—Each applica-
15 tion under subsection (b) shall include performance
16 measures to be used to evaluate the results of the
17 assistance received under this section.

18 “(2) REVIEW.—Each applicable State depart-
19 ment of agriculture or Tribal authority shall submit
20 to the Secretary a review and evaluation of the
21 progress of the State department of agriculture or
22 Tribal authority, using the performance measures
23 under paragraph (1), at such intervals as the Sec-
24 retary shall establish.

1 “(h) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Sec-
2 retary, after reasonable notice to a State or Tribal govern-
3 ment, determines that there has been a failure by the
4 State or Tribal government to comply with the terms of
5 a grant made under this section, the Secretary may dis-
6 qualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Tribal govern-
7 ment from receipt of future grants under this section.

8 “(i) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—For each year that a
9 State or Tribal government receives a grant under this
10 section, the State or Tribal government shall—

11 “(1) conduct an audit of the expenditures of
12 grant funds by the State or Tribal government; and

13 “(2) not later than 30 days after the completion
14 of the audit under paragraph (1), submit to the Sec-
15 retary a copy of the audit.

16 “(j) ADMINISTRATION.—

17 “(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not
18 use more than 3 percent of the funds made available
19 to carry out this section for a fiscal year for admin-
20 istrative expenses.

21 “(2) STATES AND TRIBES.—A State or Tribal
22 government receiving a grant under this section may
23 not use more than 7 percent of the funds received
24 under the grant for a fiscal year for administrative
25 expenses.

1 “(k) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
2 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to make grants
3 under this section—

4 “(1) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
5 and 2025;

6 “(2) \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
7 and 2027; and

8 “(3) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and
9 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

10 **SEC. 305. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—

12 (1) ANNUAL FUNDING.—Section 1241(a) of the
13 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is
14 amended—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
17 “, and \$17,000,000 for the period of fiscal
18 years 2024 through 2028,” after “2023”;
19 and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
21 “and \$70,000,000 for the period of fiscal
22 years 2024 through 2028, including not
23 more than \$5,000,000 to provide outreach
24 and technical assistance,” after “technical
25 assistance,”;

- 1 (B) in paragraph (2)—
- 2 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
- 3 “and” at the end;
- 4 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
- 5 “2031.” and inserting “2023; and”; and
- 6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
- 7 lowing:
- 8 “(G) \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 9 2024 through 2031.”; and
- 10 (C) in paragraph (3)—
- 11 (i) in subparagraph (A)—
- 12 (I) in clause (iv), by striking
- 13 “and” at the end;
- 14 (II) in clause (v), by striking
- 15 “each of fiscal years 2023 through
- 16 2031” and inserting “fiscal year
- 17 2023”; and
- 18 (III) by adding at the end the
- 19 following:
- 20 “(vi) \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal
- 21 years 2024 through 2031; and”; and
- 22 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—
- 23 (I) in clause (iv), by striking
- 24 “and” at the end;

1 (II) in clause (v), by striking
2 “each of fiscal years 2023 through
3 2031.” and inserting “fiscal year
4 2023; and”; and

5 (III) by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(vi) \$4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal
8 years 2024 through 2031.”.

9 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1241(c)
10 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
11 3841(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(5) SPECIAL INITIATIVE.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal
15 year 2022, and each year thereafter through
16 fiscal year 2028, the Secretary shall use for a
17 special technical assistance initiative to assist
18 producers in mitigating and adapting to climate
19 change, of the funds of the Commodity Credit
20 Corporation, an amount equal to not less than
21 1 percent of Commodity Credit Corporation
22 funds made available for the applicable fiscal
23 year for each of the programs described in sub-
24 section (a).

1 “(B) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical
3 assistance under the special initiative under this
4 paragraph to producers—

5 “(i) directly;

6 “(ii)(I) through an agreement with a
7 third-party provider (as defined in section
8 1242(a)); or

9 “(II) at the option of the producer,
10 through a payment, as determined by the
11 Secretary, to the producer for a third-party
12 provider approved under section 1242, if
13 available; or

14 “(iii) through a cooperative agreement
15 or contract with—

16 “(I) a cooperative extension;

17 “(II) a nongovernmental organi-
18 zation; or

19 “(III) a State, Tribal, or Federal
20 agency.

21 “(C) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—In pro-
22 viding technical assistance under this para-
23 graph, the Secretary shall give priority to pro-
24 ducers who are persons described in section
25 1244(a)(2).”.

1 (3) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR
2 RANCHERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section
3 1241(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3841(h)) is amended—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking
6 “practicable—” in the matter preceding clause
7 (i) and all that follows through the period at
8 the end of clause (ii) and inserting “practicable,
9 30 percent to assist beginning farmers or
10 ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or
11 ranchers.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “section
13 2501(e)” and all that follows through the pe-
14 riod at the end and inserting “section 2501(a)
15 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
16 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) that
17 qualifies under paragraph (1)(B).”.

18 (b) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
19 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

22 (A) by inserting “an individual,” before “a
23 commercial entity”;

24 (B) by striking “State or local” and insert-
25 ing “State, local, or Tribal”; and

1 (C) by striking “nutrient management
2 planning,” and inserting “soil health planning,
3 greenhouse gas emissions reduction planning,
4 nutrient management planning, integrated pest
5 management planning, agroforestry planning,
6 organic transition planning,”;

7 (2) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

9 (i) by inserting “individuals,” before
10 “commercial entities,”; and

11 (ii) by striking “State or local” and
12 inserting “State, local, or Tribal”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or or-
14 ganic” after “sustainability”; and

15 (3) in subsection (i)—

16 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
17 “PERENNIAL AGRICULTURE SYSTEM,” after
18 “ORGANIC,”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “a pe-
20 rennial agriculture system,” after “production,”
21 each place it appears.

22 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-
23 SERVATION PROGRAMS.—

24 (1) INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN FARMERS AND
25 RANCHERS AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Section

1 1244(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
2 U.S.C. 3844(a)(1)) is amended—

3 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
4 (A), by striking “incentives” and inserting “in-
5 centives, including higher payment rates, ad-
6 vance payments, transition payments, and farm
7 infrastructure assistance,”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9 “and” at the end; and

10 (C) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(B) to establish a new generation of pro-
13 ducers who use the full array of climate-friendly
14 conservation activities that reduce greenhouse
15 gas emissions, increase soil carbon, and improve
16 resilience to weather extremes; and

17 “(C) to enhance other long-term environ-
18 mental goals.”.

19 (2) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE
20 COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—Section
21 1244(j)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
22 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)(B)) is amended—

23 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(iv) accelerates progress in meeting
5 the goals established under title I of the
6 Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

7 (3) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Sec-
8 tion 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(q) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out any con-
13 servation program administered by the Secretary,
14 the Secretary shall encourage advanced grazing
15 management, including management-intensive rota-
16 tional grazing (as those terms are defined in section
17 1240L(d)(1)).

18 “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—In each of fis-
19 cal years 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall use
20 to carry out this subsection not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of any
21 funds available for activities relating to livestock
22 production under conservation programs adminis-
23 tered by the Secretary under this title (other than
24 the conservation reserve program established under
25 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, except for

1 acres enrolled in that program under section
2 1231(d)(2)).”.

3 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MARKETS.—Section
4 1245 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3845)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(f) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CARBON SE-
7 QUESTRATION MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT FED-
8 ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,
11 the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee,
12 to be known as the ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions and
13 Carbon Sequestration Monitoring and Measurement
14 Federal Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this
15 subsection as the ‘advisory committee’).

16 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—In carrying out paragraph
17 (1), the Secretary shall appoint members to the ad-
18 visory committee that—

19 “(A) reflect diversity in gender, age, race,
20 and geography; and

21 “(B) include—

22 “(i) farmers and ranchers, including
23 farmers and ranchers operating small and
24 mid-sized farms;

1 “(ii) organizations representing farm-
2 ers and ranchers, including organizations
3 representing farmers and ranchers oper-
4 ating small and mid-sized farms;

5 “(iii) scientists;

6 “(iv) environmental nonprofit organi-
7 zations;

8 “(v) existing private sector carbon and
9 ecosystem services market development ini-
10 tiatives;

11 “(vi) businesses working to reduce
12 greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture
13 in the supply chains of the businesses;

14 “(vii) relevant Federal agencies;

15 “(viii) Tribal communities; and

16 “(ix) State agriculture agencies.

17 “(3) TERMS.—

18 “(A) TERM LENGTH.—The term of a
19 member of the advisory committee shall be 3
20 years.

21 “(B) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
22 may reappoint a member of the advisory com-
23 mittee for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

24 “(4) MEETINGS.—The advisory committee shall
25 meet—

1 “(A) not fewer than 4 times in the first
2 year after the advisory committee is established;
3 and

4 “(B) not less frequently than twice annu-
5 ally thereafter.

6 “(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1
7 year after the date on which the advisory committee
8 is established, and periodically thereafter, the advi-
9 sory committee shall submit to the Secretary rec-
10 ommendations on—

11 “(A) the feasibility of establishing reliable
12 outcomes-based measurement systems, as de-
13 scribed in subsection (g);

14 “(B) existing technology that provides reli-
15 able measurement data;

16 “(C) with respect to parameters for which
17 existing technology does not provide reliable
18 measurement data, research and technical
19 needs and, as appropriate, goals and plans for
20 that research;

21 “(D) standards for data collection and dis-
22 semination;

23 “(E) farmer data management and pri-
24 vacy;

1 “(F) greenhouse gas emissions and soil
2 health inventories and databases, as described
3 in subsection (h); and

4 “(G) criteria for soil health and green-
5 house gas emissions reductions incentives, as
6 described in subsection (i).

7 “(g) MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—

8 “(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall evaluate
9 existing outcomes-based measurement systems for
10 recordkeeping, modeling, and measurement of farm-
11 level greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon se-
12 questration, including measures of soil disturbance,
13 plant diversity, continual living cover, residue man-
14 agement, advanced grazing management, and crop-
15 livestock integration, to determine which of those
16 systems—

17 “(A) can be implemented quickly;

18 “(B) can improve in accuracy and ease
19 over time;

20 “(C) use the best available science and
21 technology;

22 “(D) estimate uncertainty; and

23 “(E) are cost-effective.

24 “(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 18 months
25 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the

1 Secretary shall issue guidance on the outcomes-
2 based measurement systems evaluated under para-
3 graph (1), based on—

4 “(A) recommendations from the advisory
5 committee established under subsection (f); and

6 “(B) information from—

7 “(i) existing and emerging
8 agroecosystem models;

9 “(ii) remote sensing data and anal-
10 ysis;

11 “(iii) soil health demonstration trials
12 carried out under section 1240H(e)(7);

13 “(iv) existing and emerging public en-
14 vironmental services protocols, measure-
15 ment systems, and benchmarks, including
16 uncertainty predictions and measurements;

17 “(v) field-level measurement, including
18 field-based data collected under section
19 21002(a)(2) of Public Law 117–169 (7
20 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018);

21 “(vi) the Conservation Evaluation and
22 Monitoring Activity for the Carbon Seques-
23 tration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation As-
24 sessment; and

1 “(vii) such other sources as the Sec-
2 retary determines to be appropriate.

3 “(3) REVIEW.—The Secretary, based on rec-
4 ommendations from the advisory committee estab-
5 lished under subsection (f), shall—

6 “(A) establish and maintain an outcomes-
7 based measurement system in accordance with
8 the guidance issued under paragraph (2) when
9 feasible;

10 “(B) conduct a periodic review of that sys-
11 tem;

12 “(C) periodically make any necessary up-
13 dates to that system; and

14 “(D) establish research and development
15 goals and plans, as necessary.

16 “(h) INVENTORY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
18 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and
19 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consulta-
20 tion with the advisory committee established under
21 subsection (f) and the Administrator of the Environ-
22 mental Protection Agency, shall conduct a nation-
23 wide soil health and agricultural greenhouse gas
24 emissions inventory that uses the best available
25 science and data to establish expected average per-

1 formance for soil carbon drawdown and storage and
2 greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary pro-
3 duction type and production region.

4 “(2) DATABASE.—Drawing on the field-based
5 data collected under section 21002(a)(2) of Public
6 Law 117–169 (7 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018),
7 the Secretary shall—

8 “(A) establish an accessible and interoper-
9 able database for the information collected
10 through the inventory conducted under para-
11 graph (1); and

12 “(B) improve and update that database
13 not less frequently than once every 2 years as
14 new data is collected.

15 “(i) CRITERIA.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
17 tion with the advisory committee established under
18 subsection (f), shall establish criteria for payments,
19 credits, or other forms of incentives to inform policy
20 established to promote soil carbon sequestration or
21 greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria established
23 under paragraph (1) shall—

24 “(A) have a documented likelihood to lead
25 to long-term net increases in soil carbon seques-

1 tration and net reductions in greenhouse gas
2 emissions, according to the best available
3 science;

4 “(B) be based in part on environmental
5 impact modeling of the changes of shifting from
6 baseline agricultural practices to new or im-
7 proved agricultural practices; and

8 “(C) be designed to prevent the degrada-
9 tion of other natural resource or environmental
10 conditions.

11 “(j) DEMONSTRATION TRIALS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall peri-
13 odically review the results from soil health dem-
14 onstration trials carried out under section
15 1240H(c)(7), and other similar public and private
16 demonstration trials that the Secretary determines
17 to be appropriate, to inform the activities under sub-
18 sections (g), (h), and (i).

19 “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In submitting re-
20 ports pursuant to section 1240H(c)(7)(C)(ii), the
21 Secretary shall include any recommendations to Con-
22 gress for changes or additions to the conservation
23 programs under this Act that the Secretary deter-
24 mines to be appropriate to accelerate net increases

1 in soil carbon sequestration and other improvements
2 in soil health.”.

3 **SEC. 306. CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1201(a) of the Food Se-
5 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3)—

7 (A) by striking “highly erodible” each
8 place it appears; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and
10 conservation treatment measures” and inserting
11 “crop rotation and cover crop systems, and
12 other relevant soil conservation and soil health
13 management treatment measures”;

14 (2) in paragraph (4)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by striking “or a substantial im-
19 provement in soil conditions on a field or
20 group of fields containing highly erodible
21 cropland” and inserting “and a substantial
22 improvement in soil health conditions (in-
23 cluding soil carbon levels) on a field or
24 group of fields containing cropland”; and

1 (ii) by striking the period at the end
2 and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(C) are designed to achieve, within 5
5 years of actively applying a conservation plan,
6 a level of erosion not to exceed twice the soil
7 loss tolerance level; and

8 “(D) are designed to effectively prevent the
9 formation of new, or treat all existing, ephem-
10 eral gullies.”; and

11 (3) in paragraph (11)(A)(ii), by striking “exces-
12 sive average annual rate of erosion in relation to”
13 and inserting “average annual rate of erosion ex-
14 ceeding twice”.

15 (b) CROPLAND CONSERVATION.—

16 (1) PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.—Section 1211 of
17 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is
18 amended—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

20 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
21 (1), by striking “produces an agricultural
22 commodity” and all that follows through
23 “as determined by the Secretary” and in-
24 serting “carries out an activity described in

1 subsection (b), as determined by the Sec-
2 retary,”; and

3 (ii) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting
4 “cropland or” before “highly erodible
5 land”;

6 (B) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
7 section (c);

8 (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the
9 following:

10 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities referred to
11 in subsection (a) are—

12 “(1) the production of an agricultural com-
13 modity on a field on which cropland is predominant;

14 “(2) the designation of land on which cropland
15 is predominant to be set aside, diverted, devoted to
16 conservation uses, or otherwise not cultivated under
17 a program administered by the Secretary to reduce
18 production of an agricultural commodity; and

19 “(3) the production of an agricultural com-
20 modity without having in place a conservation
21 plan.”; and

22 (D) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated),
23 by striking the heading and inserting “AU-
24 THORITY OF SECRETARY.—”.

1 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 1212 of the Food
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812) is amend-
3 ed—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(3)—

5 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
6 “highly erodible land” and inserting “crop-
7 land”; and

8 (ii) in the first and second sentences,
9 by striking “only be required to apply a
10 conservation plan established under this
11 subtitle. The person shall not be required
12 to meet a higher conservation standard
13 than the standard applied to other highly
14 erodible” and inserting “be required to
15 apply a conservation plan established
16 under this subtitle consistent with the
17 standard applied to other”;

18 (B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “high-
19 ly erodible land” each place it appears and in-
20 serting “cropland”; and

21 (C) in subsection (f)(4)(A)—

22 (i) in clause (i), by striking “highly
23 erodible”; and

24 (ii) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting
25 “and soil health” after “erosion control”.

1 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle B of
2 title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3811 et seq.) is amended in the subtitle
4 heading by striking “**Highly Erodible Land**”
5 and inserting “**Cropland**”.

6 **SEC. 307. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-**
7 **TERS.**

8 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
9 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law
10 101–624) is amended—

11 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
12 ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**
13 **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

14 (2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
15 (d) as subsections (e), (d), and (f), respectively;

16 (3) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this sec-
19 tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system
20 that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop
21 and animal farming systems to build more profitable and
22 weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-
23 dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,
24 and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-
25 tices, including—

1 “(1) riparian forest buffers and managed
2 waterbreaks;

3 “(2) alley cropping;

4 “(3) silvopasture;

5 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

6 and

7 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, field
8 borders, and living snow fences.

9 “(b) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY
10 CENTERS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
12 culture (referred to in this section as the ‘Sec-
13 retary’)—

14 “(A) shall establish at the Forestry
15 Sciences Laboratory of the Forest Service, in
16 Lincoln, Nebraska, a National Agroforestry Re-
17 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-
18 ter; and

19 “(B) acting through the Chief of the For-
20 est Service and in cooperation with the Natural
21 Resources Conservation Service, shall establish
22 not fewer than 3 additional regional agro-
23 forestry centers at other locations, as deter-
24 mined by the Secretary.

1 “(2) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS.—
2 The Secretary shall appoint a National Director and
3 Regional Directors to manage and coordinate the
4 program established under subsection (c).”;

5 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
7 (1)—

8 (i) by striking “Center” and inserting
9 “Centers established under subparagraphs
10 (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1) (referred
11 to in this section as the ‘Centers’)”; and

12 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
13 after “nonprofit foundations”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
16 that” and inserting “that build soil health
17 and”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
19 forestry systems on semiarid land and
20 other fragile agroecosystems in which res-
21 toration of permanent woody perennial
22 plant communities will enhance carbon se-
23 questration and reduce greenhouse gas
24 emissions” before the semicolon;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
2 products for commercial sale from semiarid
3 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
4 commercial sale”;

5 (D) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

7 and

8 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
9 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

10 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
11 nical assistance and” before “technology”;

12 (F) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
15 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
16 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-
17 nial production and conservation systems and tech-
18 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,
19 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,
20 environmental quality, and biological diversity;”;

21 (G) in paragraph (7), by striking “on
22 semiarid lands”;

23 (H) in paragraph (8), by striking “on
24 semiarid lands worldwide” and inserting
25 “worldwide, including on semiarid land”; and

- 1 (I) in paragraph (9)—
- 2 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;
- 3 and
- 4 (ii) by inserting “and climate change”
- 5 after “pollution”;
- 6 (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—
- 7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
- 8 by striking “Center” and inserting “Centers”;
- 9 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
- 10 the end;
- 11 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
- 12 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and
- 13 (D) by adding at the end the following:
- 14 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-
- 15 nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,
- 16 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for
- 17 agroforestry.”;
- 18 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so re-
- 19 designated) the following:
- 20 “(e) GRANTS.—The Secretary may establish regional
- 21 grant programs at each of the Centers to support agro-
- 22 forestry projects, including demonstration farms.”; and
- 23 (7) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by in-
- 24 serting “and \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 25 2024 through 2028” after “through 2023”.

1 **TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESER-**
2 **VATION AND FARM VIABILITY**

3 **SEC. 401. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

4 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
5 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(12)(A)—

7 (A) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as
8 clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

9 (B) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(iv) is produced and marketed in a
12 manner that significantly improves soil
13 health and carbon sequestration or signifi-
14 cantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions;

15 “(v) when added to the crop or graz-
16 ing rotation on a farm, will significantly
17 improve soil health and carbon sequestra-
18 tion or significantly reduce greenhouse gas
19 emissions;”;

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
25 the semicolon at the end and inserting “,

1 including value-added agricultural products
2 from crops or animals that, when added
3 into crop or grazing rotations on a farm,
4 will significantly improve soil health and
5 carbon sequestration or significantly re-
6 duce greenhouse gas emissions; and”;

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(D) markets for agricultural commodities
10 and products produced in a manner that signifi-
11 cantly improve soil health and carbon seques-
12 tration or significantly reduce greenhouse gas
13 emissions;”;

14 (B) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) by striking “and local” and insert-
16 ing “, local”; and

17 (ii) by inserting “, and production and
18 marketing approaches to significantly im-
19 prove soil health and carbon sequestration
20 or significantly reduce greenhouse gas
21 emissions” before the semicolon at the end;

22 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (D) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
25 paragraph (7); and

1 (E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
2 following:

3 “(6) enhances the economic viability of pro-
4 ducers and related agricultural enterprises; and”;

5 (3) in subsection (d)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) by striking “subsection (i)” and in-
8 serting “subsection (j)”; and

9 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2028”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (C)—

13 (I) in clause (i), by striking
14 “and” at the end;

15 (II) in clause (ii), by adding
16 “and” at the end; and

17 (III) by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(iii) agricultural commodities and
20 products that are produced and marketed
21 in a manner that—

22 “(I) significantly improves soil
23 health and carbon sequestration or
24 significantly reduces greenhouse gas
25 emissions; or

1 “(II) when added to a crop or
2 grazing rotation on a farm will signifi-
3 cantly improve soil health and carbon
4 sequestration or significantly reduce
5 greenhouse gas emissions;”; and
6 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
7 “producers of local food products and
8 value-added agricultural products in new
9 and existing markets” and inserting the
10 following: “producers of—
11 “(i) local food products;
12 “(ii) value-added agricultural products
13 in new and existing markets; and
14 “(iii) agricultural commodities and
15 products that are produced in a manner
16 that—
17 “(I) enhances soil health and car-
18 bon sequestration or significantly re-
19 duces greenhouse gas emissions; or
20 “(II) when added to a crop or
21 grazing rotation on a farm, will sig-
22 nificantly improve soil health and car-
23 bon sequestration or significantly re-
24 duce greenhouse gas emissions;”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting “and
2 the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-
3 tion Service” before the period at the end;

4 (4) in subsection (e)(2)(A)—

5 (A) by striking “subsection (i)” and insert-
6 ing “subsection (j)”; and

7 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
8 “2028”;

9 (5) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),
10 and (i) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j), respec-
11 tively;

12 (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(f) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLIMATE RESIL-
15 IENCY CENTERS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
17 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Mar-
18 keting Service and in coordination with the Adminis-
19 trator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and
20 the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
21 Service, shall provide grants to eligible entities de-
22 scribed in paragraph (2) to serve as farm viability
23 and local climate resiliency centers (referred to in
24 this section as ‘centers’) to support—

25 “(A) efforts to enhance farm viability; and

1 “(B) the development, coordination, and
2 expansion of markets for commodities and farm
3 products that significantly improve soil health
4 and carbon sequestration or significantly reduce
5 greenhouse gas emissions.

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible
7 to receive a grant under this subsection if the entity
8 is—

9 “(A) an agricultural cooperative or other
10 agricultural business entity or a producer net-
11 work or association;

12 “(B) a local, State, or Tribal government;

13 “(C) a nonprofit corporation;

14 “(D) a public benefit corporation;

15 “(E) an economic development corporation;

16 “(F) an institution of higher education; or

17 “(G) such other entity as the Secretary
18 may designate.

19 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-
20 ing a grant under this subsection shall use grant
21 funds to provide to entities described in subsection
22 (d)(5)(B)—

23 “(A) assistance for the development of
24 business plans and feasibility studies;

1 “(B) assistance in developing marketing
2 strategies for—

3 “(i) local products; and

4 “(ii) value-added agricultural products
5 in new and existing markets;

6 “(C) assistance in enterprise development
7 for the processing, aggregation, distribution,
8 and storage of—

9 “(i) local and regional food products
10 that are marketed locally or regionally; and

11 “(ii) value-added agricultural prod-
12 ucts;

13 “(D) assistance relating to finances and
14 recordkeeping;

15 “(E) assistance relating to enterprise and
16 business management;

17 “(F) assistance relating to ownership suc-
18 cession planning;

19 “(G) outreach and assistance in the adop-
20 tion of farming practices that enhance soil
21 health and carbon sequestration or significantly
22 reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

23 “(H) outreach regarding assistance avail-
24 able under subsection (d);

1 “(I) outreach regarding assistance avail-
2 able through other programs administered by
3 any other Federal agency that supports the
4 adoption of farming practices that enhance soil
5 health and carbon sequestration or significantly
6 reduce greenhouse gas emissions; or

7 “(J) at the request of the entity described
8 in subsection (d)(5)(B), assistance in applying
9 for a grant under subsection (d), including act-
10 ing on behalf of the entity in applying for the
11 grant.

12 “(4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the max-
13 imum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure
14 geographic diversity in selecting eligible entities to
15 receive a grant under this subsection.

16 “(5) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An entity receiv-
17 ing a grant under this subsection shall provide fund-
18 ing in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent
19 of the total amount of the Federal portion of the
20 grant.

21 “(6) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
23 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible
24 entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
25 tion at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary con-
2 siders necessary to evaluate and select applica-
3 tions.

4 “(B) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Sec-
5 retary—

6 “(i) shall conduct a competitive proc-
7 ess to select applications submitted under
8 subparagraph (A);

9 “(ii) may assess and rank applications
10 with similar proposals as a group; and

11 “(iii) shall, prior to accepting applica-
12 tions under that subparagraph, make pub-
13 lic the criteria to be used in evaluating the
14 applications.

15 “(7) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give pri-
16 ority to applications submitted under paragraph
17 (6)(A) that include—

18 “(A) plans to use funds for 3 or more of
19 purposes described in paragraph (3); or

20 “(B) activities relating to improving the
21 use and expanded adoption of farming practices
22 that enhance soil health and carbon sequestra-
23 tion or significantly reduce greenhouse gas
24 emissions while simultaneously improving farm
25 viability.

1 “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—An entity
2 receiving a grant under this subsection may use not
3 more than 4 percent of the funds received through
4 the grant for administrative expenses.”;

5 (7) in subsection (i)(1) (as so redesignated), in
6 the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking
7 “subsection (i)(3)(E)” and inserting “subsection
8 (j)(3)(E)”; and

9 (8) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fiscal
11 year 2019” and inserting “each of fiscal years
12 2019 through 2023 and \$150,000,000 for fiscal
13 year 2024”;

14 (B) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
16 “35” and inserting “36”; and

17 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
18 inserting the following:

19 “(B) FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD
20 PROMOTION GRANTS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds
22 made available to carry out this section for
23 a fiscal year, 36 percent shall be used for
24 grants under subsection (d)(6).

1 “(ii) ALLOCATION AMONG SUBPRO-
2 GRAMS.—Of the funds made available for
3 grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal
4 year—

5 “(I) 40 percent shall be made
6 available for farmers’ market pro-
7 motion grants; and

8 “(II) 60 percent shall be made
9 available for local food promotion
10 grants.”;

11 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
12 and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-
13 tively;

14 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
15 the following:

16 “(D) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLI-
17 MATE RESILIENCY.—Of the funds made avail-
18 able to carry out this section for a fiscal year,
19 10 percent shall be used to provide grants
20 under subsection (f).”; and

21 (E) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesi-
22 gnated), in the matter preceding clause (i), by
23 striking “or (C)” and inserting “(C), or (D)”.

1 **SEC. 402. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 10606(b)(2) of the
4 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
5 U.S.C. 6523(b)(2)) is amended by striking “\$750” and
6 inserting “\$1,500”.

7 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 10606(d)(1) of
8 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
9 U.S.C. 6523(d)(1)) is amended by striking “shall make
10 available” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and
11 all that follows through the period at the end of subpara-
12 graph (C) and inserting “shall use such sums as are nec-
13 essary to carry out this section.”.

14 **SEC. 403. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT.**

15 (a) FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS.—Sec-
16 tion 1540 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7
17 U.S.C. 4201) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (4)
20 through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), re-
21 spectively; and

22 (B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
23 following:

24 “(4) the Nation’s farmland is a vital source of
25 environmental services, such as carbon sequestra-
26 tion;”;

1 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “Tribal,”
2 after “State,”; and

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),
5 (3), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (7), (8), and
6 (6), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so
7 as to appear in numerical order;

8 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
9 so redesignated) the following:

10 “(1) the term ‘conversion’ means—

11 “(A) the physical conversion of farmland
12 to a nonagricultural use;

13 “(B) the effective conversion of farmland
14 as a consequence of physical conversion of adja-
15 cent farmland, which threatens the continued
16 viability of the land for agricultural use; or

17 “(C) a change in management of federally
18 owned land historically used for agriculture to
19 a nonagricultural use;”;

20 (C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesign-
21 ated)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 “that is used for” and inserting “that is
24 suitable for”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
2 “and is suitable” after “local importance”;

3 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so
4 redesignated) the following:

5 “(3) the term ‘farmland of national signifi-
6 cance’ means farmland that is the most suitable for
7 intensive crop and food production, as determined by
8 the Secretary, taking into consideration, among
9 other factors, the physical and chemical characteris-
10 tics of the farmland;”;

11 (E) in paragraph (4), in the second sen-
12 tence, by striking “and” at the end;

13 (F) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
14 following:

15 “(5) the term ‘permanently protected farmland’
16 means farmland encumbered by a conservation ease-
17 ment—

18 “(A) held by the Federal Government, a
19 State, Tribal, or local unit of government, or a
20 land conservation organization; and

21 “(B) that is perpetual or the maximum
22 number of years allowed by State law;”;

23 (G) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated),
24 by striking the period at the end and inserting
25 a semicolon;

1 (H) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated),
2 by adding “and” at the end; and

3 (I) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
4 by striking the semicolon at the end and insert-
5 ing a period.

6 (b) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.—Section 1541
7 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4202)
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 1541. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United
11 States that Federal programs—

12 “(1) shall minimize the conversion of farmland
13 to nonagricultural uses; and

14 “(2) subject to subsection (d), shall not convert
15 to nonagricultural uses farmland—

16 “(A) that is permanently protected farm-
17 land;

18 “(B) that has been defined and delineated
19 by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) as
20 farmland of national significance; or

21 “(C) that has been defined and delineated
22 by a State as significant to the State or a pri-
23 ority for inclusion in a State farmland protec-
24 tion program and for which the State has sub-

1 mitted a definition and delineation under sub-
2 section (b)(2).

3 “(b) DEFINITION AND DELINEATION OF LAND.—

4 “(1) NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 define and delineate farmland of national sig-
7 nificance.

8 “(B) EXPERTS.—The Secretary shall con-
9 vene a group of experts, including agronomists
10 and soil scientists, to assist the Secretary in
11 carrying out subparagraph (A).

12 “(2) STATE SIGNIFICANCE.—Any State wishing
13 to have farmland recognized under subsection
14 (a)(2)(C) shall provide to the Secretary a definition
15 and delineation of the farmland.

16 “(c) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—

17 “(1) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—The Secretary
18 shall develop a process, including criteria—

19 “(A) to determine the potential conversion
20 of farmland as a consequence of any action or
21 activity conducted through a Federal program;

22 “(B)(i) to minimize the conversion of
23 farmland to nonagricultural uses; or

1 “(ii) in the case of farmland identified
2 under subsection (a)(2), to avoid conversion of
3 the farmland to nonagricultural uses;

4 “(C) to provide to the Secretary notice re-
5 garding actions described in subparagraphs (A)
6 and (B); and

7 “(D) that the Secretary shall use to make
8 determinations under subsection (d).

9 “(2) USE REQUIRED.—Each department, agen-
10 cy, independent commission, and other unit of the
11 Federal Government shall use the process and cri-
12 teria developed under paragraph (1) in carrying out
13 a Federal program.

14 “(d) EXEMPTION.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2) shall not
16 apply if the Secretary determines, based on the proc-
17 ess and criteria developed under subsection (c)(1),
18 that converting farmland to nonagricultural uses
19 cannot be avoided.

20 “(2) MINIMIZATION OF CONVERSION.—In a
21 case in which the Secretary makes a determination
22 under paragraph (1), the Federal program shall
23 minimize the conversion of farmland described in
24 subsection (a)(2) to the maximum extent practicable.

1 “(e) INFORMATION.—The Secretary may make avail-
 2 able to States, units of local government, individuals, orga-
 3 nizations, and other units of the Federal Government in-
 4 formation—

5 “(1) useful in restoring, maintaining, and im-
 6 proving the quantity and quality of farmland; and

7 “(2) concerning the location of permanently
 8 protected farmland.

9 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide as-
 10 sistance to departments, agencies, independent commis-
 11 sions, and other units of the Federal Government, on re-
 12 quest, in using the process and criteria developed under
 13 subsection (e)(1).”.

14 **SEC. 404. AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRO-**
 15 **GRAM.**

16 Section 1265B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 17 U.S.C. 3865b) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (4)(C)(iv), by striking
 20 “only”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(6) CONDITION OF ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of re-
 24 ceiving cost-share assistance under this section,
 25 the owner of eligible land shall agree to have in

1 place a conservation plan that addresses appli-
2 cable resource concerns for the land subject to
3 the easement, including soil health and green-
4 house gas emissions reduction, not later than 3
5 years after the date on which the easement is
6 granted.

7 “(B) BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.—Sub-
8 paragraph (A) may be satisfied by having in
9 place a conservation plan developed or recog-
10 nized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”; and

11 (2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
14 provide technical assistance, if requested, to assist in—

15 “(1) compliance with the terms and conditions
16 of an easement; and

17 “(2) development and implementation of a con-
18 servation plan required under subsection (b)(6), in-
19 cluding, as applicable—

20 “(A) a conservation plan for highly erod-
21 ible land required under subsection
22 (b)(4)(C)(iv); and

23 “(B) a comprehensive conservation plan
24 developed pursuant to subsection (e)(1).

25 “(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

2 “(A) ENROLLMENT IN CSP.—At the sole
3 option of the owner of the eligible land subject
4 to an easement, the Secretary shall provide for
5 the automatic enrollment of the eligible land
6 subject to the easement in the conservation
7 stewardship program established by subchapter
8 B of chapter 4 of subtitle D, including financial
9 assistance for the development of a comprehen-
10 sive conservation plan under section 1240L(e),
11 if the person or entity farming the eligible land
12 is otherwise eligible for the conservation stew-
13 ards-ship program, as determined by the Sec-
14 retary.

15 “(B) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—
16 In the case of eligible land enrolled in the con-
17 servation stewardship program pursuant to sub-
18 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall have the sole
19 responsibility of determining compliance with
20 the terms of the conservation stewardship pro-
21 gram contract.

22 “(C) FUNDING.—Funding received by an
23 eligible entity pursuant to this paragraph shall
24 not be considered in the calculation of costs
25 under subsection (b).

1 “(2) TIMING.—The owner of the eligible land
 2 subject to an easement may exercise the option
 3 under paragraph (1)(A) during the 3-year period be-
 4 ginning on the date on which the easement is grant-
 5 ed.”.

6 **TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED**
 7 **LIVESTOCK**

8 **SEC. 501. ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

9 The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
 10 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 **“Subtitle H—Animal Raising**
 13 **Claims**

14 **“SEC. 298A. DEFINITIONS.**

15 “In this subtitle:

16 “(1) ANIMAL RAISING CLAIM.—The term ‘ani-
 17 mal raising claim’ means a statement on the labeling
 18 of a meat food product or poultry product used in
 19 interstate commerce that references—

20 “(A) the manner in which the source ani-
 21 mal for the meat food product or poultry prod-
 22 uct was raised, including—

23 “(i) production practices that were
 24 used, such as living or raising conditions;
 25 and

1 “(ii) the location or source where the
2 source animal was born, raised, and proc-
3 essed; or

4 “(B) the breed of the source animal.

5 “(2) MEAT FOOD PRODUCT.—The term ‘meat
6 food product’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
7 tion 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
8 U.S.C. 601).

9 “(3) POULTRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘poultry
10 product’ has the meaning given the term in section
11 4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
12 453).

13 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
14 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
15 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in
16 coordination with the Administrator of the Food
17 Safety and Inspection Service.

18 **“SEC. 298B. REQUIRED VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR ANI-**

19 **MAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

20 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to fa-
21 cilitate marketing, truth in labeling, and new economic op-
22 portunities for producers and businesses using animal
23 raising claims.

24 “(b) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of enactment of this subtitle, after
3 providing notice and an opportunity to comment,
4 and in a manner consistent with United States obli-
5 gations under international agreements, the Sec-
6 retary shall establish—

7 “(A) mandatory standards with respect to
8 animal raising claims, including the standards
9 described in paragraph (2);

10 “(B) procedures—

11 “(i) to verify an animal raising claim
12 prior to the use in commerce of any meat
13 food product or poultry product bearing
14 that claim; and

15 “(ii) that are incorporated seamlessly
16 with the labeling requirements under the
17 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
18 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products In-
19 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.); and

20 “(C) on-farm and supply chain auditing
21 and verification procedures to ensure the truth-
22 fulness of animal raising claims.

23 “(2) STANDARDS.—In developing and approv-
24 ing animal raising claim standards under paragraph

1 (1)(A), the Secretary shall include standards relat-
2 ing to—

3 “(A) diet claims, including claims that the
4 source animal was grass fed, vegetarian fed, or
5 fed no animal byproducts;

6 “(B) living and raising condition claims,
7 including claims that the source animal was
8 cage free, free range, or pasture raised;

9 “(C) antibiotic and hormone claims, in-
10 cluding claims that the source animal was
11 raised without antibiotics, had no hormones
12 added, or was raised without growth
13 promotants;

14 “(D) source claims that the source animal
15 can be traced back to its farm of origin from
16 birth to slaughter;

17 “(E) age claims;

18 “(F) animal welfare claims;

19 “(G) environmental stewardship claims, in-
20 cluding greenhouse gas reduction and carbon
21 sequestration claims;

22 “(H) breed claims; and

23 “(I) any other claim that the Secretary de-
24 termines appropriate.

1 “(3) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.—The
2 Secretary shall ensure consistency between the ani-
3 mal raising claim standards established under this
4 subsection and the Organic Foods Production Act of
5 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regu-
6 lations implementing that Act.

7 “(c) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—A producer of
8 a meat food product or a poultry product may use an ani-
9 mal raising claim that is verified by a third party if—

10 “(1) the claim is consistent with standards es-
11 tablished by the Secretary under subsection (b); and

12 “(2) the procedures used by the third party to
13 verify the claim, and for any subsequent auditing,
14 are equivalent to the verification and auditing proce-
15 dures established under subsection (b)(1)(C), as de-
16 termined by the Secretary.

17 “(d) APPROVAL PROCESS.—To the maximum extent
18 practicable, the Secretary shall require that a producer
19 seeking to make an animal raising claim shall submit to
20 the Secretary, prior to using the label on the meat food
21 product or poultry product that is the subject of the ani-
22 mal raising claim, the following documentation to support
23 the animal raising claim:

1 “(1) A detailed written description explaining
2 the controls used for ensuring that the animal rais-
3 ing claim is valid, as applicable—

4 “(A) from birth to harvest; or

5 “(B) for the period of raising referenced in
6 the animal raising claim.

7 “(2) A signed and dated document describing
8 the manner in which the source animals were raised.

9 “(3) A written description of the product trac-
10 ing and segregation mechanism used with respect to
11 the applicable meat food product or poultry product
12 from the time of slaughter of the source animal or
13 further processing through the packaging and dis-
14 tribution of the meat food product or poultry prod-
15 uct.

16 “(4) A written description of the identification,
17 control, and segregation of nonconforming animals
18 or products.

19 “(5) In the case of a meat food product or
20 poultry product certified by a third party, a current
21 copy of the third-party certificate.

22 “(e) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on
23 the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of
24 this subtitle—

1 “(1) a person may sell or label a domestic meat
2 food product or poultry product with an animal rais-
3 ing claim only if the animal raising claim and the
4 meat food product or poultry product is in compli-
5 ance with the standards established under subsection
6 (b); and

7 “(2) an imported meat food product or poultry
8 product may be sold or labeled with an animal rais-
9 ing claim if, as determined by the Secretary, the ani-
10 mal raising claim and the meat food product or
11 poultry product is in compliance with a verification
12 program that provides safeguards and guidelines
13 that are at least equivalent to the standards estab-
14 lished under subsection (b).

15 “(f) VIOLATIONS.—

16 “(1) MISUSE OF LABEL.—Any person who,
17 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found
18 by the Secretary to have knowingly sold or labeled
19 any meat food product or poultry product with an
20 animal raising claim in violation of this subtitle, in-
21 cluding the standards and procedures established
22 under subsection (b), shall be assessed a civil pen-
23 alty of not more than \$10,000.

24 “(2) FALSE STATEMENT.—Any person who,
25 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found

1 by the Secretary to have made to the Secretary, a
2 Federal or State official, or a third-party certifier a
3 false, fraudulent, or fictitious statement, or to have
4 concealed to, hidden from, falsified to, or deceived
5 the Secretary, official, or certifier regarding a mate-
6 rial fact, with respect to an animal raising claim
7 subject to the requirements of this subtitle, shall be
8 subject to a penalty described in section 1001 of title
9 18, United States Code.

10 “(g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-
11 tion alters the authority of the Secretary under the Fed-
12 eral Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the
13 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

14 **“SEC. 298C. APPLICABILITY.**

15 “This subtitle shall only apply to meat food products
16 and poultry products that are subject to labeling require-
17 ments under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
18 601 et seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21
19 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

20 **“SEC. 298D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this sub-
23 title.”.

1 **SEC. 502. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
3 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 210B. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OWNED AND CON-
8 TROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIS-
9 ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘business en-
10 terprise owned and controlled by socially and eco-
11 nomically disadvantaged individuals’ has the mean-
12 ing given the term in section 3002 of the State
13 Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 (12
14 U.S.C. 5701).

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’ means—

17 “(A) a smaller establishment or very small
18 establishment (as those terms are defined in the
19 final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard
20 Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
21 Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 33806 (July 25,
22 1996)));

23 “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-
24 lishment subject to—

1 “(i) a State meat inspection program
2 pursuant to section 301 of the Federal
3 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

4 “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-
5 tion program pursuant to section 5 of the
6 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21
7 U.S.C. 454);

8 “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-
9 ations that is exempt from inspection under—

10 “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat
11 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

12 “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-
13 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

14 “(D) a person seeking—

15 “(i) to establish and operate an estab-
16 lishment described in subparagraph (A) or
17 (B); or

18 “(ii) to engage in custom operations
19 described in subparagraph (C).

20 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
22 ministrators of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

23 “(b) GRANTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
25 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-

1 retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-
2 ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-
3 sification of the meat processing system, including
4 activities that—

5 “(A) support the health and safety of meat
6 and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-
7 tomers;

8 “(B) support increased processing capac-
9 ity; and

10 “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the
11 small meat and poultry processing sector.

12 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
13 amount of a grant awarded under this section shall
14 not exceed \$500,000.

15 “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
16 under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

17 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
19 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
21 and containing such information as the Secretary
22 may require.

23 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
24 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-

1 cation process for eligible entities applying for a
2 grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

3 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-
4 sure that any application for a grant under this sec-
5 tion is—

6 “(A) simple and practicable;

7 “(B) accessible online; and

8 “(C) available through local staff of the
9 Department of Agriculture.

10 “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before
11 the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-
12 plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
13 publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect
14 to the grants available under this section.

15 “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an
16 eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the
17 Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised
18 application.

19 “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-
20 mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall
21 give priority to proposals that will—

22 “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to
23 animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-
24 dius of the location of the farmer or rancher;

1 “(B) support an eligible entity described in
2 subsection (a)(2)(A); or

3 “(C) support an eligible entity that is a
4 business enterprise owned and controlled by so-
5 cially and economically disadvantaged individ-
6 uals.

7 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives
8 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
9 carry out activities in support of the purposes described
10 in subsection (b)(1), including through—

11 “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard
12 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-
13 gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

14 “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-
15 ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-
16 ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply
17 with applicable requirements under the Federal
18 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the
19 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et
20 seq.);

21 “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or
22 transportation services;

23 “(4) the purchase of temperature screening
24 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-

1 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,
2 and other sanitizing supplies;

3 “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-
4 sonal protective equipment;

5 “(6) the construction or purchase of humane
6 handling infrastructure, including holding space for
7 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and
8 knock box structures;

9 “(7)(A) the purchase of software and computer
10 equipment for record keeping, production data, Haz-
11 ard Analysis and Critical Control Points record re-
12 view, and facilitation of marketing and sales of prod-
13 ucts in a manner consistent with the social
14 distancing guidelines of the Centers for Disease Con-
15 trol and Prevention; and

16 “(B) the provision of guidelines and training re-
17 lating to that software and computer equipment;

18 “(8) the provision of staff time and training for
19 implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-
20 cedures;

21 “(9) the development of a feasibility study or
22 business plan for, or the carrying out of any other
23 activity associated with, establishing or expanding a
24 small meat or poultry processing facility;

1 “(10) the purchase of equipment that enables
2 the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or
3 byproducts, such as organs, hides, and other rel-
4 evant products; and

5 “(11) other activities associated with expanding
6 or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-
7 section (a)(2)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

8 “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on
9 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under
10 subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-
11 retary begins to accept applications under subsection
12 (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and
13 eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

14 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
16 the Federal share of the activities carried out using
17 a grant awarded under this section shall not ex-
18 ceed—

19 “(A) 90 percent in the case of a grant in
20 the amount of \$100,000 or less; or

21 “(B) 75 percent in the case of a grant in
22 an amount greater than \$100,000.

23 “(2) FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024.—An eligible
24 entity awarded a grant under this section during fis-
25 cal year 2023 or 2024 shall not be required to pro-

1 vide non-Federal matching funds with respect to the
2 grant.

3 “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-
4 tions under, and administration of, this section shall be
5 made without regard to—

6 “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-
7 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

8 “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
9 (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction
10 Act’).

11 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agri-
13 culture to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of
14 fiscal years 2023 through 2028.”.

15 **SEC. 503. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

16 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 1240M(a) of the Food Secu-
17 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(a)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (6), by inserting “conserving
19 water and” before “improving”;

20 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(9) conserving and improving soil health and
2 improving grazing system resilience in the face of
3 climate change through advanced grazing manage-
4 ment practices; and

5 “(10) providing support for producers
6 transitioning from confinement and feedlot systems
7 or continuous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-
8 tems, including support for pasture development and
9 management.”.

10 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240M(b)(2) of the Food
11 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(b)(2)) is amend-
12 ed by striking “hay land” and inserting “perennial hay
13 land, including silvopasture”.

14 (c) PRIVATE GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION ASSIST-
15 ANCE.—Section 1240M(c) of the Food Security Act of
16 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(c)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A), by inserting “and partnerships described in
20 paragraph (2)(B)” after “local conservation dis-
21 tricts”;

22 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
23 serting the following:

24 “(B) planning and implementing regionally
25 appropriate, advanced grazing land manage-

1 ment technologies to improve soil health and
2 maximize carbon sequestration;”;

3 (C) in subparagraph (C)(iv), by inserting
4 “through integrated strategies that include ro-
5 tational and multispecies grazing, integrated
6 pest management, and other ecological prac-
7 tices” after “brush encroachment problems”;

8 (D) in subparagraph (H), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (E) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
11 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (F) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(J) assisting producers in transitioning
14 from confinement or feedlot systems or contin-
15 uous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-
16 tems, including assistance in pasture develop-
17 ment and management.”; and

18 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

21 “(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDU-
22 CATION.—Personnel of the Department trained
23 in pasture and range management shall be
24 made available under the program to deliver
25 and coordinate technical assistance and edu-

1 cation to owners and managers of private graz-
2 ing land, including owners and managers inter-
3 ested in developing new or improved pasture or
4 grazing-based systems on the land of the own-
5 ers and managers, at the request of the owners
6 and managers.

7 “(B) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the
8 program under this section, the Secretary shall
9 provide research, demonstration, education (in-
10 cluding conferences, workshops, field days, and
11 trainings), workforce training, planning, and
12 outreach activities through partnerships with—

13 “(i) land-grant colleges and univer-
14 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the
15 National Agricultural Research, Extension,
16 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
17 3103));

18 “(ii) nongovernmental organizations;
19 and

20 “(iii) Tribal organizations.

21 “(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out
23 the program under this section, the Sec-
24 retary shall provide funds on a competitive
25 basis for cooperative agreements to re-

1 gional, State, or local partnerships to use
2 to conduct grazing land research, dem-
3 onstration, education, workforce training,
4 planning, and outreach projects.

5 “(ii) DURATION.—Grants made by
6 partnerships under this subparagraph shall
7 be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

8 “(iii) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT
9 COSTS.—A partnership that receives fund-
10 ing under this subparagraph may not use
11 more than 15 percent of the total cost of
12 the project for the indirect costs of car-
13 rying out the project.

14 “(iv) PRIORITY.—A partnership that
15 receives funding under this subparagraph
16 shall give priority to projects that—

17 “(I) focus on sustainable grazing
18 management systems and techniques
19 that assist producers with multiple
20 ecosystem services, including climate
21 change adaptation and mitigation;
22 and

23 “(II) involve beginning farmers
24 and ranchers, socially disadvantaged
25 farmers and ranchers, Tribal pro-

1 ducers, or new graziers (including
2 State or federally registered appren-
3 ticeships).”.

4 (d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—
5 Section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking subsection (d) and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—
9 In carrying out the program under this section, the Sec-
10 retary shall provide funds to establish training programs
11 to foster a new generation of technical assistance providers
12 to support advanced grazing management.”.

13 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1240M of the Food Security
14 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking
15 subsection (e) and inserting the following:

16 “(e) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
18 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
19 shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for
20 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

21 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years
24 2024 through 2028.

1 “(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Of the
2 funds made available under paragraphs (1) and (2),
3 the Secretary shall use not less than 80 percent to
4 carry out subsection (c)(2)(C).

5 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—Of
6 the funds made available under paragraphs (1) and
7 (2), the Secretary shall use not more than 10 per-
8 cent to carry out subsection (d).”.

9 **SEC. 504. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.**

10 (a) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231 of the
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
14 inserting “2028”;

15 (2) in subsection (d)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
17 graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(A) fiscal year 2024, not more than
20 28,000,000 acres;

21 “(B) fiscal year 2025, not more than
22 29,000,000 acres;

23 “(C) fiscal year 2026, not more than
24 30,000,000 acres;

1 “(D) fiscal year 2027, not more than
2 31,000,000 acres; and

3 “(E) fiscal year 2028, not more than
4 32,000,000 acres.”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

6 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by striking the
9 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
10 and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(iii) the Secretary shall enroll and
14 maintain in the conservation reserve not
15 fewer than 7,000,000 acres of land de-
16 scribed in subsection (b)(3) by September
17 30, 2028, of which not fewer than
18 5,000,000 acres shall be reserved for the
19 pilot program established under section
20 1231C(e).”.

21 (b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 1231C of the Food
22 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is amended by
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(c) GRASSLAND 30.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(A) ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall
2 establish a pilot program to enroll land in the
3 conservation reserve program through a 30-year
4 conservation reserve contract (referred to in
5 this subsection as a ‘Grassland 30 contract’) in
6 accordance with this subsection.

7 “(B) INCLUSION OF ACREAGE LIMITA-
8 TION.—For purposes of applying the limitations
9 in section 1231(d)(1), the Secretary shall in-
10 clude acres of land enrolled under this sub-
11 section.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Eligible land for enroll-
13 ment through a Grassland 30 contract—

14 “(A) is land that is eligible to be enrolled
15 in the conservation reserve program under the
16 grasslands initiative described in section
17 1231(d)(2); and

18 “(B) shall not be limited to land that is
19 subject to a covered contract (as defined in
20 paragraph (3)(A)).

21 “(3) CONSERVATION CONTRACT ELECTION.—

22 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED CON-
23 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
24 contract’ means a contract entered into under
25 this subchapter that—

1 “(i) expires on or after the date of en-
2 actment of this subsection; and

3 “(ii) covers land enrolled in the con-
4 servation reserve program under the grass-
5 lands initiative described in section
6 1231(d)(2).

7 “(B) EXPIRING CONTRACTS.—On the expi-
8 ration of a covered contract, an owner or oper-
9 ator party to the covered contract shall elect—

10 “(i) not to reenroll the land under the
11 contract;

12 “(ii) to offer to reenroll the land
13 under the contract if the land remains eli-
14 gible under the terms in effect as of the
15 date of expiration; or

16 “(iii) not to reenroll the land under
17 the contract and to enroll that land
18 through a Grassland 30 contract under
19 this subsection.

20 “(C) UNEXPIRED CONTRACTS.—Prior to
21 the expiration of a covered contract, an owner
22 or operator party to the covered contract may
23 elect to terminate the contract and to enroll
24 that land through a Grassland 30 contract
25 under this subsection.

1 “(4) TERM.—The term of a Grassland 30 con-
2 tract shall be 30 years.

3 “(5) AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible to enroll
4 land in the conservation reserve program through a
5 Grassland 30 contract, the owner of the land shall
6 enter into an agreement with the Secretary—

7 “(A) to implement a conservation reserve
8 plan developed for the land;

9 “(B) to comply with the terms and condi-
10 tions of the contract and any related agree-
11 ments; and

12 “(C) to temporarily suspend the base his-
13 tory for the land covered by the contract.

14 “(6) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF GRASSLAND
15 30 CONTRACTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Grassland 30 con-
17 tract—

18 “(i) shall include terms and conditions
19 that promote sustainable grazing systems,
20 protect and enhance soil carbon levels, and
21 are compatible with wildlife habitat con-
22 servation, as determined by the Secretary;
23 and

24 “(ii) may include any additional provi-
25 sion that the Secretary determines is ap-

1 appropriate to carry out this subsection or
2 facilitate the practical administration of
3 this subsection.

4 “(B) VIOLATION.—On the violation of a
5 term or condition of a Grassland 30 contract,
6 the Secretary may require the owner to refund
7 all or part of any payments received by the
8 owner under the conservation reserve program,
9 with interest on the payments, as determined
10 appropriate by the Secretary.

11 “(C) COMPATIBLE USES.—Land subject to
12 a Grassland 30 contract may be used for com-
13 patible economic uses, including hunting and
14 fishing, if the use—

15 “(i) is specifically permitted by the
16 conservation reserve plan developed for the
17 land; and

18 “(ii) is consistent with the long-term
19 protection and enhancement of the con-
20 servation resources for which the contract
21 was established.

22 “(7) COMPENSATION.—

23 “(A) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall provide payment under this sub-
25 section to an owner of land enrolled through a

1 Grassland 30 contract using 30 annual pay-
2 ments in an amount equal to the amount that
3 would be used if the land were to be enrolled
4 in the conservation reserve program under sec-
5 tion 1231(d)(2).

6 “(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Compensation
7 for a Grassland 30 contract shall be provided
8 by the Secretary in the form of a cash payment
9 in an amount determined under subparagraph
10 (A).

11 “(C) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide
12 any annual payment obligation under subpara-
13 graph (A) as early as practicable in each fiscal
14 year.

15 “(D) PAYMENTS TO OTHERS.—The Sec-
16 retary shall make a payment, in accordance
17 with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in
18 a manner as the Secretary determines is fair
19 and reasonable under the circumstances, if an
20 owner who is entitled to a payment under this
21 section—

22 “(i) dies;

23 “(ii) becomes incompetent;

1 “(iii) is succeeded by another person
2 or entity who renders or completes the re-
3 quired performance; or

4 “(iv) is otherwise unable to receive the
5 payment.

6 “(8) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 assist owners in complying with the terms and
9 conditions of a Grassland 30 contract.

10 “(B) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The
11 Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts
12 with private entities or agreements with a
13 State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian
14 Tribe to carry out necessary maintenance of a
15 Grassland 30 contract if the Secretary deter-
16 mines that the contract or agreement will ad-
17 vance the purposes of the conservation reserve
18 program.

19 “(9) ADMINISTRATION.—

20 “(A) CONSERVATION RESERVE PLAN.—

21 The Secretary shall develop a conservation re-
22 serve plan for any land subject to a Grassland
23 30 contract, which shall include practices and
24 activities necessary to maintain, protect, and
25 enhance the conservation value of the enrolled

1 land, including the protection and enhancement
2 of soil carbon levels.

3 “(B) DELEGATION OF CONTRACT ADMINIS-
4 TRATION.—

5 “(i) FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, OR
6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Sec-
7 retary may delegate any of the manage-
8 ment, monitoring, and enforcement respon-
9 sibilities of the Secretary under this sub-
10 section to other Federal, State, Tribal, or
11 local government agencies that have the
12 appropriate authority, expertise, and re-
13 sources necessary to carry out those dele-
14 gated responsibilities.

15 “(ii) CONSERVATION ORGANIZA-
16 TIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any
17 management responsibilities of the Sec-
18 retary under this subsection to conserva-
19 tion organizations if the Secretary deter-
20 mines the conservation organization has
21 similar expertise and resources.”.

22 **SEC. 505. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

23 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
24 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) (as amended

1 by section 304) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 1240T. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT
7 PROGRAM.—The term ‘alternative manure manage-
8 ment program’ means the program established under
9 subsection (b).

10 “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURE.—The
11 term ‘covered management measure’ means a dairy
12 or livestock operation method that is used by an eli-
13 gible producer to reduce baseline methane emissions
14 and, where applicable, improve carbon sequestration
15 on the operation of that eligible producer, including
16 the measures described in subparagraphs (A)
17 through (D) of subsection (f)(2).

18 “(3) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term ‘eligible
19 producer’ means a dairy or livestock producer who
20 agrees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by adopt-
21 ing at least 1 covered management measure as an
22 alternative or complement to anaerobic systems that
23 capture methane emissions.

1 “(4) PASTURE-BASED MANAGEMENT.—The
2 term ‘pasture-based management’ means a dairy or
3 livestock production system—

4 “(A) that eliminates or reduces the quan-
5 tity of manure stored in anaerobic conditions;
6 and

7 “(B) in which the animals spend all or a
8 substantial portion of their time grazing on
9 fields in which some or all of the manure is de-
10 posited and left in the field and decomposes
11 aerobically.

12 “(5) SOLID SEPARATION SYSTEM.—The term
13 ‘solid separation system’ means a system designed to
14 separate liquid components of manure from mineral
15 and organic solid components of that manure.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
17 lish an alternative manure management program to award
18 contracts to eligible producers to support carbon seques-
19 tration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions by imple-
20 menting covered management measures.

21 “(c) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—To be eli-
22 gible to participate in the alternative manure management
23 program, an eligible producer shall submit to the Sec-
24 retary a contract offer that details any management meas-
25 ure to be used on the operation of the eligible producer.

1 “(d) CLUSTER CONTRACT OFFERS.—The Secretary
2 shall establish procedures under which—

3 “(1) groups of eligible producers may submit a
4 joint contract offer for a shared composting facility;
5 and

6 “(2) the Secretary shall allocate payments to
7 each eligible producer associated with a joint con-
8 tract described in paragraph (1).

9 “(e) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

10 “(1) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The Secretary
11 shall develop criteria for evaluating applications that
12 will maximize—

13 “(A) carbon sequestration;

14 “(B) greenhouse gas emissions reductions;

15 and

16 “(C) the overall environmental and public
17 health benefits.

18 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding contracts under
19 this section, the Secretary, using criteria developed
20 under paragraph (1), shall give priority to contract
21 offers that address air quality, water quality, or
22 other public health concerns associated with dairy
23 and livestock operations located near low-income or
24 underserved communities.

1 “(3) GROUPING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-
2 retary may group and evaluate contract offers rel-
3 ative to other contract offers for similar farming op-
4 erations.

5 “(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—In awarding
6 contracts under this section, the Secretary shall en-
7 sure geographical diversity.

8 “(f) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—

9 “(1) TERM.—A contract awarded under this
10 section shall have a term that does not exceed 3
11 years.

12 “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—
13 Each eligible producer requesting funding for a
14 project under the alternative manure management
15 program shall implement at least 1 of the following
16 management measures:

17 “(A) With respect to pasture-based man-
18 agement—

19 “(i) adopting pasture-based manage-
20 ment;

21 “(ii) converting a non-pasture dairy or
22 livestock operation to pasture-based man-
23 agement;

1 “(iii) increasing the amount of time
2 livestock spend at pasture at an existing
3 pasture operation; or

4 “(iv) improving pasture-based man-
5 agement, including transitioning to man-
6 agement-intensive rotational grazing (as
7 defined in section 1240L(d)(1)).

8 “(B) Adopting alternative manure treat-
9 ment and storage practices, including—

10 “(i) the installation of a compost-bed-
11 ded pack barn that composts manure;

12 “(ii) the installation of slatted floor
13 pit storage manure collection that is
14 cleaned out at least once a month; or

15 “(iii) other similar practices, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 “(C)(i) Adopting a solid separation system,
18 installing a new solid separation system that
19 has a significantly higher separation efficiency
20 than any existing solid separation system, or
21 developing or retrofitting a manure manage-
22 ment system that primarily avoids wet handling
23 infrastructure; and

24 “(ii) in conjunction with 1 or more of the
25 following management measures:

1 “(I) Open solar drying or composting
2 of manure onsite.

3 “(II) Solar drying in an enclosed envi-
4 ronment.

5 “(III) Forced evaporation with nat-
6 ural-gas fueled dryers.

7 “(IV) Storage of manure in
8 unconfined piles or stacks.

9 “(V) Composting in an enclosed ves-
10 sel, with forced aeration and continuous
11 mixing.

12 “(VI) Composting in piles with forced
13 aeration without mixing.

14 “(VII) Composting in intensive wind-
15 rows with regular turning for mixing and
16 aeration.

17 “(VIII) Composting in passive wind-
18 rows with infrequent turning for mixing
19 and aeration.

20 “(IX) Vermiculture or vermifiltration.

21 “(X) Other similar activities, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary.

23 “(D) Adopting scrape technologies, in con-
24 junction with 1 of the management measures

1 described in subclauses (I) through (X) of sub-
2 paragraph (C)(ii).

3 “(3) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS UNDER
4 CONTRACT.—To receive payments under the alter-
5 native manure management program, an eligible
6 producer shall—

7 “(A) implement 1 or more management
8 measures;

9 “(B) supply information as required by the
10 Secretary to determine compliance with the re-
11 quirements of the alternative manure manage-
12 ment program; and

13 “(C) comply with such additional provi-
14 sions as the Secretary determines are necessary
15 to carry out the alternative manure manage-
16 ment program.

17 “(g) PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During each of fiscal years
19 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall provide pay-
20 ments to eligible producers that enter into contracts
21 with the Secretary under the alternative manure
22 management program.

23 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
24 provided to an eligible producer under this section

1 may be used to implement 1 or more covered man-
2 agement measures.

3 “(3) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may
4 provide a payment to an eligible producer under the
5 alternative manure management program for an
6 amount that is up to 100 percent of the costs associ-
7 ated with planning, design, materials, equipment, in-
8 stallation, labor, management, maintenance, and
9 training relating to implementing a covered manage-
10 ment measure.

11 “(4) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A person or
12 legal entity (including a joint venture and a general
13 partnership) may not receive, directly or indirectly,
14 payments under the program that exceed \$825,000
15 during any 5-year period.

16 “(5) ADVANCED PAYMENTS.—The Secretary
17 shall provide not less than 50 percent of the amount
18 of total payments to an eligible producer in advance
19 for all costs relating to—

20 “(A) purchasing or contracting materials
21 and equipment; or

22 “(B) any technical assistance provided by
23 the Secretary.

24 “(h) MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF CON-
25 TRACTS.—

1 “(1) VOLUNTARY MODIFICATION OR TERMI-
2 NATION.—The Secretary may modify or terminate a
3 contract entered into with an eligible producer under
4 the alternative manure management program if—

5 “(A) the producer agrees to the modifica-
6 tion or termination; and

7 “(B) the Secretary determines that the
8 modification or termination is in the public in-
9 terest.

10 “(2) INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION.—The Sec-
11 retary may terminate a contract under the alter-
12 native manure management program if the Sec-
13 retary determines that the eligible producer violated
14 the contract.

15 “(i) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary
16 shall—

17 “(1) determine and publish factors for esti-
18 mating the carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas
19 emissions reductions for each covered management
20 measure described in subclauses (I) through (X) of
21 subsection (f)(2)(C)(ii);

22 “(2) assist an eligible producer in achieving the
23 carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions re-
24 duction, and other environmental and public health

1 goals of the alternative manure management pro-
2 gram plan by—

3 “(A) providing payments for developing
4 and implementing 1 or more covered manage-
5 ment measures, as appropriate; and

6 “(B) providing that eligible producer with
7 information, technical assistance, and training
8 to aid in implementation of the covered man-
9 agement measures; and

10 “(3) review the adequacy of existing conserva-
11 tion practice standards for supporting the covered
12 management measures and, if necessary—

13 “(A) revise existing conservation practice
14 standards; and

15 “(B) develop new conservation practice
16 standards.

17 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing tech-
18 nical assistance under the alternative manure manage-
19 ment program, the Secretary shall apply sections 1241(c)
20 and 1242, except that the Secretary shall—

21 “(1) apportion not more than 15 percent of the
22 total funding available for the alternative manure
23 management program for the provision of technical
24 assistance; and

1 “(2) enter into cooperative agreements with
2 third-party providers with relevant expertise in the
3 covered management measures to ensure adequate
4 technical services are available to alternative manure
5 management program applicants.

6 “(k) FUNDING.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the
8 funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity
9 Credit Corporation to carry out the alternative ma-
10 nure management program (including the provision
11 of technical assistance described in subsection (j))
12 using \$1,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years
13 2024 through 2028.

14 “(2) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
15 retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use
16 a majority of the funds made available by paragraph
17 (1) for contract offers from small and mid-sized
18 dairy and livestock operations, including—

19 “(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

20 “(B) limited resource farmers and ranch-
21 ers; and

22 “(C) socially disadvantaged farmers and
23 ranchers.”.

1 **TITLE VI—ON-FARM**
2 **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

3 **SEC. 601. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

4 Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
5 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
8 by striking “and renewable energy develop-
9 ment” and inserting “, renewable energy devel-
10 opment, and the reduction of greenhouse gas
11 emissions”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding “that re-
13 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the pe-
14 riod at the end;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
20 (E) as subparagraph (G); and

21 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
22 (D) the following:

23 “(E) a nonprofit corporation;

24 “(F) an agricultural cooperative or pro-
25 ducer group; and”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)(D), by inserting be-
2 fore the semicolon at the end the following: “,
3 including greenhouse gas emissions reductions”;
4 and

5 (C) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
7 graph (A), by inserting “, agricultural
8 processors,” after “agricultural pro-
9 ducers”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by strik-
13 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
14 and”; and

15 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(C) assisting in the development of feasi-
18 bility studies and plans for implementing rec-
19 ommendations provided under subparagraph
20 (B).”;

21 (3) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,
23 agricultural processors,” after “agricultural
24 producers”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
2 (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and
3 (H), respectively; and

4 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
5 (E) the following:

6 “(F) carbon accounting assessments devel-
7 oped under subsection (d) with respect to the
8 renewable energy system to be installed or the
9 energy efficiency upgrade to be undertaken;”;

10 (C) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
12 “The amount” and all that follows through
13 “25 percent” and inserting “Except as
14 provided in subparagraph (F), the amount
15 of a grant under this subsection shall not
16 exceed 50 percent”;

17 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
18 (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and
19 (E), respectively;

20 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
21 (B) the following:

22 “(C) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF LOAN
23 GUARANTEE.—The portion of a loan that the
24 Secretary may guarantee under this section
25 shall be—

1 “(i) in the case of a loan in the
2 amount of not less than \$1,000,000, 80
3 percent of the principal amount of the
4 loan; and

5 “(ii) in the case of a loan in an
6 amount less than \$1,000,000, 90 percent
7 of the principal amount of the loan.”;

8 (iv) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-
9 ignated), by striking “subsection (f)” and
10 inserting “subsection (h)”;

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

12 “(F) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—The
13 amount of a grant provided under this sub-
14 section to an agricultural producer who is a be-
15 ginning farmer or rancher, a socially disadvan-
16 taged farmer or rancher, or a veteran farmer or
17 rancher (as those terms are defined in section
18 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation
19 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)))
20 shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the
21 activity funded by the grant.”;

22 (D) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 “(F) PRE-APPROVED TECHNOLOGIES.—In
25 order to streamline the adoption of renewable

1 energy systems and energy efficiency improve-
2 ments, the Secretary shall develop a stream-
3 lined application process for projects utilizing
4 pre-approved products and technologies in-
5 cluded on the list described in paragraph (5).”;
6 and

7 (E) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(5) PRE-APPROVED LIST.—The Secretary
9 shall, beginning in fiscal year 2024—

10 “(A) develop a list of pre-approved tech-
11 nologies and products for purposes of para-
12 graph (4)(F); and

13 “(B) update that list every 2 fiscal years.

14 “(6) PRIORITY.—In making grants or loan
15 guarantees under this subsection, the Secretary shall
16 give priority to proposed projects that utilize tech-
17 nologies—

18 “(A) with a substantially low carbon foot-
19 print; or

20 “(B) that would result in significant net
21 decreases of greenhouse gas emissions, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary using the carbon ac-
23 counting assessments developed under sub-
24 section (d).”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and
2 (f) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(d) CARBON ACCOUNTING.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
7 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-
8 ience Act of 2023, the Secretary, in collaboration
9 with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory,
10 shall develop carbon accounting assessments for re-
11 newable energy systems and energy efficiency up-
12 grades (including technologies on the list described
13 in subsection (c)(5)(A) and technologies described in
14 subsection (h)(5)(A)) supported by assistance pro-
15 vided under this section.

16 “(2) METHODOLOGIES.—In developing the car-
17 bon accounting assessments under paragraph (1),
18 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
19 ticable, create accurate methodologies for assigning
20 greenhouse gas emission values, including land use
21 change.

22 “(3) PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—The Secretary
23 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use the
24 carbon accounting assessments developed under
25 paragraph (1) as guides in carrying out this section.

1 “(e) REGIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
3 out regional demonstration projects that incentivize
4 agricultural producers to reduce their carbon foot-
5 print or overall carbon equivalent emissions to the
6 maximum extent practicable through the use of en-
7 ergy efficiency improvements and renewable energy
8 systems.

9 “(2) PUBLICIZATION.—The Secretary shall
10 publicize the results of the regional demonstration
11 projects carried out under paragraph (1).”;

12 (6) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

13 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
14 “AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE” after “OUT-
15 REACH”;

16 (B) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
17 inserting “Using funds made available under
18 subsection (h)(4), the Secretary shall”;

19 (C) by inserting “and technical assistance”
20 after “outreach”; and

21 (D) by inserting “or provided, as applica-
22 ble,” after “conducted”;

23 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by
24 striking “subsection (f)” each place it appears and
25 inserting “subsection (h)”; and

1 (8) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
3 graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(A) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2014 through 2023;

7 “(B) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

8 “(C) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

9 “(D) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

10 and

11 “(E) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2027
12 and each fiscal year thereafter.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “be-
14 come available” and inserting “be used”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
17 funds made available to carry out this section for a
18 fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not more than 8
19 percent for administrative expenses.

20 “(5) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
21 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
22 year, the Secretary may reserve—

23 “(A) not more than 15 percent to provide
24 grants under subsection (c) to support the

1 adoption of underutilized but proven commer-
2 cial technologies; and

3 “(B) not more than 5 percent to carry out
4 subsection (e).”.

5 **SEC. 602. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

6 (a) DEFINITION OF AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—In this
7 section, the term “agrivoltaic system” means a system
8 under which solar energy production and agricultural pro-
9 duction, including crop or animal production or apiculture,
10 occurs in an integrated manner on the same piece of land.

11 (b) STUDY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
13 a study on agrivoltaic systems that shall include—

14 (A) an assessment of the compatibility of
15 different species of livestock with different
16 agrivoltaic system designs, including—

17 (i) the optimal height of and distance
18 between solar panels for—

19 (I) livestock grazing; and

20 (II) shade for livestock;

21 (ii) manure management consider-
22 ations;

23 (iii) fencing requirements; and

24 (iv) other animal handling consider-
25 ations;

1 (B) an assessment of animal breeding re-
2 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
3 patible characteristics and behaviors of different
4 species of grazing animals in agrivoltaic sys-
5 tems;

6 (C) an assessment of the compatibility of
7 different crop types with different agrivoltaic
8 system designs, including—

9 (i) the optimal height of and distance
10 between solar panels for—

11 (I) plant shading; and

12 (II) farm equipment use;

13 (ii) the impact on crop yield; and

14 (iii) market opportunities to sell crops
15 at a premium price;

16 (D) an assessment of plant breeding re-
17 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
18 patible characteristics of different crops, includ-
19 ing specialty and perennial crops, in agrivoltaic
20 systems;

21 (E) a risk-benefit analysis of agrivoltaic
22 systems in different regions of the United
23 States, including a comparison between the
24 total greenhouse gas impact of agrivoltaic sys-

1 tems and solar energy systems that displace ag-
2 ricultural production;

3 (F) an assessment of the types of agricul-
4 tural land best suited and worst suited for
5 agrivoltaic systems;

6 (G) an assessment of how to best develop
7 agrivoltaic systems on a national and local scale
8 consistent with—

9 (i) maintaining or increasing agricul-
10 tural production;

11 (ii) increasing agricultural resilience;

12 (iii) retaining prime farmland;

13 (iv) increasing economic opportunities
14 in farming and rural communities;

15 (v) reducing nonfarmer ownership of
16 farmland; and

17 (vi) enhancing biodiversity;

18 (H) an assessment of the unique risk man-
19 agement and crop insurance needs of agrivoltaic
20 systems;

21 (I) an assessment of how Federal procure-
22 ment of agricultural products could help build
23 a market for agricultural products from farms
24 with agrivoltaic systems; and

1 (J) an assessment of how Federal agricul-
2 tural conservation programs, renewable energy
3 programs, and investment tax credits can better
4 support agrivoltaic systems.

5 (2) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Based on the study under
6 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year
7 plan for using the research, extension, outreach, con-
8 servation, and renewable energy activities of the De-
9 partment of Agriculture to better support agrivoltaic
10 systems that do not displace agricultural production.

11 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
13 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
15 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
16 report containing the results of the study conducted
17 under paragraph (1).

18 (c) AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM RESEARCH AND DEM-
19 ONSTRATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
21 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-
22 search Service and in coordination with the relevant
23 research programs of the Department of Energy,
24 shall establish and maintain a network of research
25 and demonstration sites operated by the Agricultural

1 Research Service to investigate and demonstrate
2 agrivoltaic systems in multiple regions of the United
3 States, including arid, semi-arid, and wet agricul-
4 tural zones, that—

5 (A) increase agricultural productivity and
6 profitability;

7 (B) enhance agricultural resilience and the
8 capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate
9 change;

10 (C) protect biodiversity; and

11 (D) increase economic opportunities in
12 farming and rural communities.

13 (2) COORDINATION.—In establishing and main-
14 taining the network described in paragraph (1), the
15 Secretary shall collaborate with USDA Climate
16 Hubs to share research findings and translate re-
17 search findings into educational, outreach, and tech-
18 nical assistance materials for agricultural producers.

19 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subsection \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and
22 each fiscal year thereafter.

23 **SEC. 603. AGSTAR PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain the
25 program known as the “AgSTAR program” within the

1 Department of Agriculture, under which the Secretary
2 shall—

3 (1) support the use of anaerobic digestion in
4 the agricultural sector to reduce methane emissions
5 from livestock waste;

6 (2) conduct outreach, education, and training
7 on anaerobic digestion of livestock waste;

8 (3) provide technical and regulatory assistance
9 on anaerobic digestion of livestock waste to stake-
10 holders, including farmers and ranchers, on issues
11 including—

12 (A) permitting;

13 (B) codigestion of multiple organic wastes
14 in one digester; and

15 (C) interconnection to physically link a di-
16 gester to the electrical power grid;

17 (4) promote centralized, multifarm digesters
18 that use livestock waste from more than 1 farm or
19 ranch;

20 (5) collect and report data on anaerobic diges-
21 tion of livestock waste; and

22 (6) maintain a database of on-farm anaerobic
23 digester projects in the United States.

24 (b) TRANSITION FROM EPA.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
2 Environmental Protection Agency shall take such
3 steps as are necessary to provide for an orderly tran-
4 sition for the activities carried out under the
5 AgSTAR program by the Environmental Protection
6 Agency to be carried out by the Secretary, in accord-
7 ance with subsection (c).

8 (2) DEADLINE.—The Administrator of the En-
9 vironmental Protection Agency shall finish carrying
10 out paragraph (1) by not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, such that the Sec-
12 retary has sole jurisdiction of the AgSTAR program
13 by that date.

14 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
15 the AgSTAR program through the Chief of the Natural
16 Resources Conservation Service—

17 (1) in coordination with the Administrator of
18 the Environmental Protection Agency and other
19 Federal agencies as necessary; and

20 (2) in partnership with the climate hubs, coop-
21 erative extension services, and agencies of the De-
22 partment of Agriculture.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

1 out the AgSTAR program not more than \$5,000,000 for
2 each fiscal year.

3 **TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND**
4 **WASTE**
5 **Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling**

6 **SEC. 701. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this subtitle:

8 (1) **ADMINISTERING SECRETARIES.**—The term
9 “administering Secretaries” means—

10 (A) the Secretary, with respect to any
11 product that is—

12 (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
13 retary; and

14 (ii)(I) a poultry product (as defined in
15 section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspec-
16 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 453));

17 (II) a meat food product (as defined
18 in section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection
19 Act (21 U.S.C. 601)); or

20 (III) an egg product (as defined in
21 section 4 of the Egg Products Inspection
22 Act (21 U.S.C. 1033)); and

23 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
24 Services, with respect to any product that is—

1 (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
2 retary of Health and Human Services; and

3 (ii) a food (as defined in section 201
4 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
5 Act (21 U.S.C. 321)).

6 (2) DISCARD DATE.—The term “discard date”
7 means a date voluntarily printed on food packaging
8 that signifies the end of the estimated period of shelf
9 life under any stated storage conditions, after which
10 the food labeler advises the product not be con-
11 sumed.

12 (3) FOOD LABELER.—The term “food labeler”
13 means the producer, manufacturer, distributor, or
14 retailer that places a date label on food packaging
15 of a product.

16 (4) QUALITY DATE.—The term “quality date”
17 means a date voluntarily printed on food packaging
18 that is intended to communicate to consumers the
19 date after which—

20 (A) the quality of the product may begin
21 to deteriorate; but

22 (B) the product remains apparently whole-
23 some food (as defined in subsection (b) of the
24 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation
25 Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b))).

1 **SEC. 702. QUALITY DATES AND DISCARD DATES.**

2 (a) QUALITY DATES.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a food labeler includes a
4 quality date on food packaging, the label shall use
5 the uniform quality date label phrase under para-
6 graph (2).

7 (2) UNIFORM PHRASE.—The uniform quality
8 date label phrase under this paragraph shall be
9 “BEST If Used By” or, if permissible under sub-
10 section (c)(3), the standard abbreviation of “BB”,
11 unless and until the administering Secretaries, act-
12 ing jointly, specify through rulemaking another uni-
13 form phrase to be used for purposes of complying
14 with paragraph (1).

15 (3) OPTION OF THE LABELER.—The decisions
16 on whether to include a quality date on food pack-
17 aging and which foods should be so labeled shall be
18 at the discretion of the food labeler.

19 (b) DISCARD DATES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a food labeler includes a
21 discard date on food packaging, the label shall use
22 the uniform discard date label phrase under para-
23 graph (2).

24 (2) UNIFORM PHRASE.—The uniform discard
25 date label phrase under this paragraph shall be
26 “USE By” or, if permissible under subsection

1 (c)(3), the standard abbreviation of “UB”, unless
2 and until the administering Secretaries, acting joint-
3 ly, specify through rulemaking another uniform
4 phrase to be used for purposes of complying with
5 paragraph (1).

6 (3) OPTION OF THE LABELER.—The decisions
7 on whether to include a discard date on food pack-
8 aging and which foods should be so labeled shall be
9 at the discretion of the food labeler.

10 (c) QUALITY DATE AND DISCARD DATE LABEL-
11 ING.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The quality date or discard
13 date, as applicable, and immediately adjacent uni-
14 form quality date label phrase or discard date label
15 phrase—

16 (A) shall be—

17 (i) in single easy-to-read type style;

18 and

19 (ii) located in a conspicuous place on
20 the package of the food; and

21 (B) may be on the label or, at the discre-
22 tion of the food labeler, elsewhere on the pack-
23 age.

1 (2) DATE FORMAT.—Each quality date and dis-
2 card date shall be stated in terms of day and month
3 and, as appropriate, year.

4 (3) ABBREVIATIONS.—A food labeler may use a
5 standard abbreviation of “BB” and “UB” for the
6 quality date and discard date, respectively, only if
7 the food packaging is too small to include the uni-
8 form phrase described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2),
9 as applicable.

10 (4) FREEZE BY.—A food labeler may add “or
11 Freeze By” following a quality date or discard date
12 uniform phrase.

13 (d) EDUCATION.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the administering Secre-
15 taries, acting jointly, shall provide consumer education
16 and outreach on the meaning of quality date and discard
17 date food labels.

18 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION; PREEMPTION.—

19 (1) INFANT FORMULA.—This title and the
20 amendments made by this title shall not—

21 (A) apply to infant formula (as defined in
22 section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and
23 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)); and

24 (B) affect the requirements relating to in-
25 fant formula established under section 412 of

1 the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
2 U.S.C. 350a) or other applicable provisions of
3 law.

4 (2) SALE OR DONATION OF FOOD BASED ON
5 DISCARD DATE.—Nothing in this title or an amend-
6 ment made by this title prohibits any State or polit-
7 ical subdivision of a State from establishing or con-
8 tinuing in effect any requirement that prohibits the
9 sale or donation of foods based on passage of the
10 discard date.

11 (3) TIME TEMPERATURE INDICATOR LABELS.—
12 Nothing in this title or an amendment made by this
13 title prohibits or restricts the use of time-tempera-
14 ture indicator labels or similar technology that is in
15 addition to or in lieu of any uniform quality date
16 label phrase under subsection (a)(2) or uniform dis-
17 card date label phrase under subsection (b)(2).

18 (4) PREEMPTION.—No State or political sub-
19 division of a State may establish or continue in ef-
20 fect any requirement that—

21 (A) relates to the inclusion in food labeling
22 of a quality date or a discard date that is dif-
23 ferent from or in addition to, or that is other-
24 wise not identical with, the requirements of this
25 Act and the amendments made by this Act; or

1 (B) prohibits the sale or donation of foods
2 based on passage of the quality date.

3 (5) ENFORCEMENT.—The administering Secre-
4 taries, acting jointly and in coordination with the
5 Federal Trade Commission, shall ensure that the
6 uniform quality date label phrase and uniform dis-
7 card date label phrase are standardized across all
8 food products.

9 (6) SAVINGS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4),
10 nothing in this title, any amendment made by this
11 title, or any standard or requirement imposed pursu-
12 ant to this title preempts, displaces, or supplants
13 any State or Federal common law rights or any
14 State or Federal statute creating a remedy for civil
15 relief, including a remedy for civil damage, or a pen-
16 alty for criminal conduct.

17 **SEC. 703. MISBRANDING.**

18 (a) FDA VIOLATIONS.—Section 403 of the Federal
19 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amend-
20 ed by adding at the end the following:

21 “(z) If it is food and its labeling is in violation of
22 section 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

23 (b) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 4(h) of the Poul-
24 try Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453(h)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; or”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(13) if its labeling is in violation of section
7 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

8 (c) MEAT PRODUCTS.—Section 1(n) of the Federal
9 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the
11 end;

12 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(13) if its labeling is in violation of section
16 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023.”.

17 (d) EGG PRODUCTS.—Section 7(b) of the Egg Prod-
18 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1036(b)) is amended in
19 the first sentence by inserting “or if its labeling is in viola-
20 tion of section 702 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of
21 2023” before the period at the end.

22 **SEC. 704. REGULATIONS.**

23 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the administering Secretaries, acting jointly,

1 shall promulgate final regulations for carrying out this
2 title and the amendments made by this title.

3 **SEC. 705. DELAYED APPLICABILITY.**

4 This title and the amendments made by this title
5 shall apply only with respect to food products that are la-
6 beled on or after the date that is 2 years after the date
7 of promulgation of final regulations under section 704.

8 **Subtitle B—Other Provisions**

9 **SEC. 711. COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE.**

10 (a) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-
11 MENTS.—Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of
12 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
14 graph (3); and

15 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE
18 AND ACTIVITY.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
20 by regulation, provide that composting is a con-
21 servation practice and a conservation activity
22 for the purposes of this title.

23 “(B) DEFINITION OF COMPOSTING.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,
25 the term ‘composting’ means—

1 “(I) an activity (including an ac-
2 tivity that does not require the use of
3 a composting facility) to produce com-
4 post from organic waste that is—

5 “(aa) generated on a farm;

6 or

7 “(bb) brought to a farm
8 from a nearby community and
9 used to produce compost on that
10 farm; and

11 “(II) the use and active manage-
12 ment of compost on a farm, in accord-
13 ance with any applicable Federal,
14 State, or local law, to improve water
15 retention and soil health.

16 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY
17 COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in con-
18 sultation with the Administrator of the En-
19 vironmental Protection Agency, shall issue
20 regulations for determining whether a com-
21 munity is nearby for purposes of clause
22 (i)(I)(bb), which shall ensure that bringing
23 organic waste from the community to the
24 farm to produce compost results in a net
25 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”.

1 (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-
2 tion 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “and
4 composting (as defined in section 1241(j)(2)(B))” after
5 “agriculture drainage management systems”.

6 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-
7 GRAM.—Section 1240A(6)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act
8 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(A)(ii)) is amended by in-
9 serting “, including composting (as defined in section
10 1241(j)(2)(B))” before the semicolon at the end.

11 (d) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
12 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
13 3842(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(5) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSTING PRACTICE
15 STANDARD.—In addition to conducting a review
16 under this subsection of any composting facilities
17 practice standard established before the date of en-
18 actment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall de-
19 velop and implement a composting practice standard
20 under the process developed under paragraph (3).”.

21 **SEC. 712. AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL FOOD DONATION**

22 **ACT.**

23 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Federal Food Dona-
24 tion Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C. 1792

1 note) is amended by striking “encourage” and inserting
2 “require”.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Federal Food
4 Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C.
5 1792 note) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
7 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘executive
11 agency’ has the meaning given the term in section
12 133 of title 41, United States Code.”.

13 (c) REPORT ON FOOD WASTE BY CERTAIN FEDERAL
14 CONTRACTORS.—Section 4 of the Federal Food Donation
15 Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1792) is amended—

16 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-
21 ience Act of 2023, the Federal Acquisition Regula-
22 tion issued in accordance with section 1121 of title
23 41, United States Code, shall be revised to provide
24 that, except as provided in paragraph (2), all con-
25 tracts greater than \$10,000 for the provision, serv-

1 ice, or sale of food in the United States, or for the
2 lease or rental of Federal property to a private enti-
3 ty for events at which food is provided in the United
4 States, shall include a clause that—

5 “(A) requires the donation of excess, ap-
6 parently wholesome food to nonprofit organiza-
7 tions that provide assistance to food-insecure
8 people in the United States;

9 “(B) states the terms and conditions de-
10 scribed in subsection (b); and

11 “(C) requires the submission of a report,
12 annually if applicable—

13 “(i) in a form and manner specified
14 by the executive agency awarding the con-
15 tract; and

16 “(ii) that describes, for each month of
17 performance of the contract during the pe-
18 riod covered by the report, the weight of
19 apparently wholesome food that was dis-
20 posed of pursuant to the contract by—

21 “(I) donation, organized by the
22 name of the organization receiving the
23 food;

24 “(II) composting or other recy-
25 cling; or

1 “(III) discarding, organized by
2 the reason that the food was dis-
3 carded.

4 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
5 apply to a contract with an executive agency that
6 has issued a regulation in effect on the date of en-
7 actment of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023
8 that prohibits a donation described in paragraph
9 (1)(A).”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) APPLICATION TO CONGRESS.—

12 “(1) CONTRACTS.—This Act shall apply to the
13 House of Representatives and the Senate, and to
14 contracts entered into by the House of Representa-
15 tives and the Senate, in the same manner and to the
16 same extent as this Act applies to an executive agen-
17 cy and to contracts entered into by an executive
18 agency pursuant to this Act.

19 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—For purposes of car-
20 rying out paragraph (1)—

21 “(A) the Chief Administrative Officer of
22 the House of Representatives shall be consid-
23 ered to be the head of the House of Representa-
24 tives; and

1 “(B) the Secretary of the Senate shall be
2 considered to be the head of the Senate.

3 “(d) REPORTS.—

4 “(1) REPORT TO OMB.—Not later than 30 days
5 after the date on which an executive agency receives
6 a report described in subsection (a)(1)(C), the execu-
7 tive agency shall submit a copy of the report to the
8 Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

9 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of
10 the Office of Management and Budget shall submit
11 to Congress an annual report aggregating the infor-
12 mation in the reports received under paragraph (1)
13 during the year covered by the report to Congress.”.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The
15 Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–
16 247; 122 Stat. 2314) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following:

18 **“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
20 retary of Agriculture to carry out this Act \$10,000,000
21 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

1 **SEC. 713. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**
2 **GESTION FOOD WASTE-TO-ENERGY**
3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle G of the Solid Waste Dis-
5 posal Act (42 U.S.C. 6971 et seq.) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 7011. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**
8 **GESTION FOOD WASTE-TO-ENERGY**
9 **PROJECTS.**

10 “(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the
11 term ‘State’ means—

12 “(1) each of the several States;

13 “(2) the District of Columbia;

14 “(3) each territory or possession of the United
15 States; and

16 “(4) each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

17 “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall establish a
18 grant program to award grants to States eligible to receive
19 the grants under subsection (c)(1) to construct large-scale
20 composting or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy
21 projects.

22 “(c) ELIGIBLE STATES.—

23 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
24 grant under this section, a State shall—

1 “(A) have in effect a plan to limit the
2 quantity of food waste that may be disposed of
3 in landfills in the State; and

4 “(B) provide to the Administrator—

5 “(i) a written commitment that the
6 State has read and agrees to comply with
7 the Food Recovery Hierarchy of the Envi-
8 ronmental Protection Agency, particularly
9 as applied to apparently wholesome food
10 (as defined in section 22(b) of the Child
11 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
12 1791(b))) that may be provided to or re-
13 ceived by the State; and

14 “(ii) a written end-product recycling
15 plan that provides for the beneficial use of
16 the material resulting from any anaerobic
17 digestion food waste-to-energy operation
18 with respect to which the grant is made, in
19 a manner that meets all applicable Fed-
20 eral, State, and local laws that protect
21 human health and the environment.

22 “(2) LIMITATION.—A grant under subsection
23 (b) may not be used for an anaerobic digester that
24 uses solely manure as undigested biomass.

1 gram established under section 4 of the Child Nutri-
2 tion Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

3 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall
4 carry out a program to make grants, on a competi-
5 tive basis, to eligible local educational agencies to
6 carry out food waste measurement, prevention, and
7 reduction projects.

8 “(3) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In awarding grants
9 under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the
10 maximum extent practicable, ensure—

11 “(A) that a grant is awarded to an eligible
12 local educational agency in each region served
13 by the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition
14 Service; and

15 “(B) equitable treatment of rural, urban,
16 and tribal communities.

17 “(4) GRANTS.—

18 “(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-
19 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible
20 local educational agency shall submit an appli-
21 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such
22 manner, and containing such information as the
23 Secretary may require.

24 “(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under
25 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority

1 to an eligible local educational agency that dem-
2 onstrates in the application submitted under
3 subparagraph (A) that the grant will be used—

4 “(i) to carry out experiential edu-
5 cation activities that encourage children
6 enrolled in the eligible local educational
7 agency to participate in food waste meas-
8 urement and education;

9 “(ii) to prioritize the best use of food
10 in accordance with the Food Recovery Hi-
11 erarchy published by the Administrator of
12 the Environmental Protection Agency;

13 “(iii) with respect to food waste pre-
14 vention and reduction, to collaborate with
15 other eligible local educational agencies,
16 Indian Tribes, nongovernmental and com-
17 munity-based organizations, and other
18 community partners;

19 “(iv) to establish a food waste meas-
20 urement, prevention, and reduction project
21 with long-term sustainability; and

22 “(v) to evaluate the activities de-
23 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) and
24 make evaluation plans.

1 “(C) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible local
2 educational agency that receives a grant under
3 this subsection shall use the grant to carry out
4 1 or more of the following activities:

5 “(i) Planning a food waste measure-
6 ment, prevention, and reduction project.

7 “(ii) Implementing a food waste meas-
8 urement, prevention, and reduction project.

9 “(iii) Providing training to support a
10 food waste measurement, prevention, and
11 reduction project.

12 “(iv) Purchasing equipment to sup-
13 port a food waste measurement, preven-
14 tion, and reduction project.

15 “(v) Offering food waste education to
16 students enrolled in the eligible local edu-
17 cational agency.

18 “(D) COST-SHARING.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a
20 grant provided under this subsection shall
21 not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of
22 the project for which the grant is provided.

23 “(ii) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligi-
24 ble local educational agency that receives a
25 grant under this subsection shall use non-

1 Federal funds in the form of cash or in-
2 kind contributions, including facilities,
3 equipment, or services provided by State
4 and local governments, nonprofit organiza-
5 tions, and private sources, to pay for the
6 remaining cost of the project for which the
7 grant is provided.

8 “(5) EVALUATION.—

9 “(A) COOPERATION.—As a condition of re-
10 ceiving a grant under this subsection, each eli-
11 gible local educational agency shall agree to co-
12 operate in an evaluation by the Secretary of the
13 project carried out by the eligible local edu-
14 cational agency as part of the evaluation con-
15 ducted by the Secretary under subparagraph
16 (B).

17 “(B) PERIODIC EVALUATION.—Not later
18 than 2 years after the date of enactment of the
19 Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023, and every 2
20 years thereafter, the Secretary shall evaluate
21 the grants made under this subsection, includ-
22 ing—

23 “(i) the amount of Federal funds used
24 to award those grants; and

1 “(ii) an evaluation of the outcomes of
2 the projects carried out using those grants.

3 “(C) REPORT.—The Secretary shall sub-
4 mit to Congress as a report each evaluation car-
5 ried out under subparagraph (B).”.

6 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 21(b) of the
7 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
8 1769b–1(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(4) food waste measurement, prevention, and
15 reduction.”.

16 **SEC. 715. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO**
17 **DECREASE INCIDENCE OF FOOD WASTE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support na-
19 tional media campaigns to decrease the incidence of food
20 waste.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
23 essary to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 716. FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Food Loss and Waste
3 Reduction Liaison of the Department of Agriculture (in
4 this section referred to as the “Liaison”) shall establish
5 a partnership with 5 regional partner institutions, selected
6 under subsection (c), to carry out a Food Waste Research
7 Program (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

8 (b) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUIRE-
9 MENTS.—

10 (1) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the
11 Liaison, in partnership with the 5 regional partner
12 institutions selected under subsection (c), shall—

13 (A) plan, conduct, and arrange for public
14 research, data, education, and recommendations
15 within the areas of study specified in paragraph
16 (2), as such areas relate to food waste reduction
17 and food recovery issues nationwide, regionally,
18 and locally;

19 (B) carry out the activities of the Program
20 within a variety of regions in the United States,
21 which are identified and categorized by the Li-
22 aison based on the specific food recovery and
23 food waste reduction issues of such regions;

24 (C) identify areas to increase efficiency in
25 the allocation of resources and the coordination,
26 cooperation, and consolidation of efforts as they

1 relate to local, statewide, Tribal, regional, and
2 Federal food recovery and food waste reduction
3 efforts;

4 (D) create a Program website, as described
5 in paragraph (4), to disseminate information to
6 the public; and

7 (E) collaborate with other colleges, univer-
8 sities, and nonprofit organizations in the re-
9 gions selected by the Liaison that have dem-
10 onstrated capability for research, information
11 dissemination, and professional training in
12 order to develop regional networks that are
13 knowledgeable in food waste reduction issues.

14 (2) AREAS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the du-
15 ties listed in paragraph (1), the Liaison and the re-
16 gional partner institutions shall consider the fol-
17 lowing areas of study:

18 (A) Reducing the volume of surplus food
19 produced.

20 (B) Utilizing excess food to feed individ-
21 uals in need, including through the use of dona-
22 tions of surplus food.

23 (C) Diverting food unusable for purposes
24 described in subparagraph (B) to feed animals.

1 (D) Utilizing food waste to create renew-
2 able energy sources.

3 (E) Composting food waste to create nutri-
4 ent rich soil.

5 (F) Diminishing the deposits of food waste
6 in landfills and reducing the incineration of
7 food waste.

8 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Liaison may make
10 funds available under this section to improve
11 the capacities and facilities of the regional part-
12 ner institutions to a level that meets the re-
13 quirements of the role of a regional partner in-
14 stitution.

15 (B) PLAN.—A regional partner institution
16 may not receive any funding for any facility up-
17 grade under subparagraph (A), unless—

18 (i) the regional partner institution
19 submits to the Liaison a plan detailing the
20 type of facility construction or improve-
21 ments to take place (including any land ac-
22 quisition, engineering, design, and staffing
23 and equipment needs, in addition to other
24 information as required by the Liaison);
25 and

1 (ii) the Liaison approves such plan.

2 (C) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE FOR FA-
3 CILITY IMPROVEMENT.—A regional partner in-
4 stitution shall be required to provide at least a
5 20-percent non-Federal cost share for facility
6 improvement or construction projects pursued
7 by a regional partner institution under subpara-
8 graph (A).

9 (D) MATCHING FUNDS FOR OPERATING
10 EXPENSES.—A regional partner institution shall
11 be required to provide at least a 30-percent
12 non-Federal cost share for all Program oper-
13 ating expenses related to such regional partner
14 institution.

15 (E) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—A con-
16 struction activity carried out pursuant to this
17 subsection shall meet Federal prevailing wage
18 requirements as determined by the Secretary of
19 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of
20 chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40,
21 United States Code (commonly referred to as
22 the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

23 (4) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM
24 WEBSITE.—The Liaison shall establish a website
25 that shall contain at least the following information:

1 (A) Key findings and best practices.

2 (B) A list of collaborations and partner-
3 ships carried out pursuant to this subsection.

4 (C) Annual reports and other pertinent in-
5 formation on the duties of the Program.

6 (D) The location and contact information
7 for regional partner institutions.

8 (E) Federal, State, local, and regionally
9 specific public research, data, education, and
10 policy recommendations that shall be updated
11 in a timely manner with new information.

12 (F) Tools for tracking reduction efforts
13 and measuring food waste production.

14 (c) SELECTION OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-
15 TIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Liai-
18 son shall select 5 regional partner institutions to
19 partner with to carry out the requirements of the
20 Program under subsection (b).

21 (2) CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL PARTNER INSTI-
22 TUTIONS.—In making a selection under paragraph
23 (1), the Liaison shall select an institution of higher
24 education that—

1 (A) has a focus or expertise in at least one
2 of the areas of study described in subsection
3 (b)(2);

4 (B) has the ability to plan, conduct, and
5 arrange for public research, data, education,
6 and recommendations related to food waste re-
7 duction and the areas of study described in sub-
8 section (b)(2);

9 (C) can assist the Liaison in fulfilling the
10 duties listed in subsection (b)(1);

11 (D) can contribute the required non-Fed-
12 eral funding to maintain a regional partner in-
13 stitution center; and

14 (E) satisfies any other criteria determined
15 by the Liaison.

16 (3) ELIGIBLE SUB-AWARDEES.—A State, Trib-
17 al, or local government, local educational agency, ag-
18 ricultural or commodity organization, farmer, or
19 other organization focused on food waste prevention
20 may serve as an eligible sub-awardee of a regional
21 partner institution if the entity meets the require-
22 ments of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-
23 graph (2).

1 (4) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Members of re-
2 gional partner institutions shall not be considered
3 Federal employees for any purpose.

4 (d) COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL, REGIONAL,
5 STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGA-
6 NIZATIONS.—The Liaison, in conjunction with the 5 re-
7 gional partner institutions selected under subsection (c),
8 shall collaborate and share best practices on regional,
9 State, Tribal, and locally specific food waste and food
10 waste reduction issues with—

11 (1) State and county governments;

12 (2) Tribal governments;

13 (3) units of local government;

14 (4) local educational entities;

15 (5) colleges and universities;

16 (6) agricultural and commodity organizations;

17 (7) farmers; and

18 (8) organizations focused on food waste preven-
19 tion.

20 (e) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINA-
21 TION.—

22 (1) REPORT OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-
23 TIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the
24 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
25 regional partnership institutions shall submit to the

1 Liaison a report containing the activities, partner-
2 ships, collaborations, Federal policy recommenda-
3 tions, previous and continuing budgets, findings, and
4 any other applicable information carried out under
5 the Program.

6 (2) LIAISON REPORT.—Not later than 15
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
8 and annually thereafter, the Liaison shall submit to
9 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
11 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and publish on
12 the Program website an annual report containing a
13 compilation of the activities, partnerships, collabora-
14 tions, Federal policy recommendations, previous and
15 continuing budgets, findings, and any other applica-
16 ble information relating to the Program.

17 (3) REVIEW OF REPORT.—The Liaison shall re-
18 view the annual report from the regional partner in-
19 stitutions to ensure that funds are being used effi-
20 ciently according to the duties of the Program and
21 that the Program is producing utilizable public re-
22 search, data, education, and recommendations re-
23 lated to food waste and food waste reduction issues.

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