

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5877

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to create the USDA Express Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loan programs, enabling faster access to credit for America’s farmers and ranchers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 3, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to create the USDA Express Guaranteed Farm Ownership and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loan programs, enabling faster access to credit for America’s farmers and ranchers.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “USDA Express Loan  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USDA EXPRESS LOANS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Consolidated  
3 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.)  
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 310J. USDA EXPRESS GUARANTEED FARM OWNER-  
6 SHIP LOAN PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of  
8 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish  
9 a program, which shall be known as the ‘USDA Express  
10 Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan Program’, under  
11 which, within 36 hours after receipt of an application to  
12 guarantee a farm ownership loan that meets the require-  
13 ment of subsection (e) originated by a USDA express lend-  
14 er, the Secretary shall notify the lender as to whether the  
15 application is approved or disapproved.

16 “(b) USDA EXPRESS LENDER DEFINED.—In this  
17 section, the term ‘USDA express lender’ means any regu-  
18 lated lender authorized by the Secretary to participate in  
19 the guaranteed farm ownership loan program under this  
20 subtitle.

21 “(c) DOCUMENTS.—In originating a loan for consid-  
22 eration under this section, a USDA express lender may  
23 use any loan documents that incorporate the loan anal-  
24 yses, procedures, and documentation of the lender, or such  
25 other documents as the Secretary may prescribe.

1       “(d) CREDIT DECISIONS.—Before submitting an ap-  
2 plication pursuant to this section, a USDA express lender  
3 shall determine the creditworthiness, and ascertain the re-  
4 payment ability, of the borrower involved.

5       “(e) LOANS ELIGIBLE FOR GUARANTEE.—The Sec-  
6 retary shall not accept an application under this section  
7 with respect to a loan that exceeds \$1,000,000 per farm  
8 or ranch operation per year.

9       “(f) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—The percentage of the  
10 principal amount of a loan which may be guaranteed pur-  
11 suant to this section shall not exceed—

12               “(1) 75 percent, in the case of a loan not ex-  
13 ceeding \$750,000; or

14               “(2) 50 percent, in the case of a loan of more  
15 than \$750,000 and not more than \$1,000,000.

16       “(g) USE OF LOAN PROCEEDS.—The borrower of a  
17 loan guaranteed pursuant to this section shall use the loan  
18 proceeds only to produce agricultural commodities con-  
19 sistent with the purposes of the guaranteed loan programs  
20 under this title.

21       “(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such  
22 regulations as are necessary to implement this section.”.

23       (b) Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is  
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1       “(f) USDA EXPRESS GUARANTEED FARM OPER-  
2   ATING LOANS.—The Secretary shall establish a USDA  
3   Express Guaranteed Farm Operating Loan Program on  
4   the same basis as the USDA Express Guaranteed Farm  
5   Ownership Loans Program under section 310J.”.

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