

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1479

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to improve the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. THUNE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to improve the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs, 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. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AS-**  
4 **SISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1501 of the Agricultural  
6 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

9 (A), by striking “2012” and inserting “2019”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”  
2 at the end;

3 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
4 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

6 “(C) disease in livestock that has been ex-  
7 acerbated by adverse weather described in sub-  
8 paragraph (B)—

9 “(i) subject to the condition that a li-  
10 censed veterinarian shall verify that the  
11 adverse weather created conditions contrib-  
12 uting to the livestock death; and

13 “(ii) without regard to any manage-  
14 ment practice, vaccination protocol, or lack  
15 of vaccination by the producer relating to  
16 the disease.”;

17 (2) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
19 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2012”  
20 and inserting “2019”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (3)(D)(ii)(I)—

22 (i) by striking “at least 8 consecutive”  
23 and inserting the following: “not less  
24 than—

1                   “(aa) 4 consecutive weeks  
 2                   during the normal grazing period  
 3                   for the county, as determined by  
 4                   the Secretary, shall be eligible to  
 5                   receive assistance under this  
 6                   paragraph in an amount equal to  
 7                   1 monthly payment using the  
 8                   monthly payment rate deter-  
 9                   mined under subparagraph (B);  
 10                   or

11                   “(bb) 8 consecutive”; and  
 12                   (ii) in item (bb) (as so designated), by  
 13                   striking “1 monthly payment” and insert-  
 14                   ing “2 monthly payments”; and  
 15                   (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “2012”  
 16                   and inserting “2019”.

17                   (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 18                   this section take effect on October 1, 2018.

19                   **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS FOR GRAZ-**  
 20                   **ING LEASES AND PERMITS.**

21                   Section 402(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
 22                   agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752(a)) is amended by  
 23                   striking “lands within National Forests” and inserting  
 24                   “National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of

- 1 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning
- 2 Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)) land”.

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