



FB HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

YOUNG, BEGINNING, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, AND VETERAN FARMERS

Increases Access to Credit and Crop Insurance

- Ensures access to credit, especially for those just beginning their operations by reducing experience requirements from three years to two years as well as streamlining and clarifying these requirements for easier implementation.
- Helps secure the ability to transfer farming operations with the reauthorization and bolstering of the Heirs' Property Relending Program by providing resources for legal services and access to capital to assist in resolving heirs' property issues.
- Reauthorizes of loan fund set-asides, a portion of the guaranteed farm ownership loan and direct operating loan funds reserved for beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Expands premium discounts for beginning and veteran farmers to the first 10 years of farming, aligning requirements with other USDA programs.

Supports Research, Extension, and Education Activities

- Provides \$100 million in mandatory funding for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions to help educate the next generation of agriculturists.
- Maintains mandatory funding for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach program at \$50 million per year which supports the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (2501 Program).
- Codifies the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) program to provide farming and ranching opportunities for veterans.
- Reauthorizes the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities and makes education and support for youth and young adults with disabilities interested in farming and farm-related occupations an eligible use of funds.

Improves Program Delivery at USDA

- Requires the USDA Office of Tribal Relations to oversee self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts entered between the Secretary and tribal organizations or Indian tribes.
- Establishes a USDA Office of the Ombudsman to assist producers in navigating the civil rights review process at the Department.
- Increases the Rural Energy for American Program Federal cost-share to 50% for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers, and ranchers.
- Increases the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Federal cost-share to 90% if at least 50% of the land ownership is held by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.
- Makes the Report on Land Access a biennial report and adds a reporting requirement related to existing Federal, State, and private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets.
- Reauthorizes and improves the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050.