

H.R. 1947

“The Federal Agriculture Reform
and Risk Management Act of 2013”

House Committee on Agriculture
Section-by-Section Analysis
Titles I - XII

SECTION-BY-SECTION

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Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary of Agriculture

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

SUBTITLE A—REPEALS AND REFORMS

Sec. 1101. Repeal of Direct Payments

Section 1101 repeals direct payments effective with the 2014 crop year.

Sec. 1102. Repeal of Counter-Cyclical Payments

Section 1102 repeals the counter-cyclical payments effective with the 2014 crop year.

Sec. 1103. Repeal of Average Crop Revenue Election Program

Section 1103 repeals the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program effective with the 2014 crop year.

Sec. 1104. Definitions

Section 1104 contains majority and all common definitions for the Title.

Sec. 1105. Base Acres

Section 1105 continues the Secretary's authority to provide for adjustments to base acres for covered commodities and cotton when a CRP contract is terminated, acres are released from the CRP or when the Secretary designates additional oilseeds in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1106. Payment Yields

Section 1106(a) continues the Secretary's authority to establish payment yields for each farm for any designated oilseed that does not have a payment yield.

Section 1106(b) continues the method of determining the payment yield for designated oilseeds in the same manner as current law.

Section 1106(c) authorizes the Secretary to establish a payment yield if no payment yield is otherwise established for a covered commodity using the program payment yields of similarly situated farms.

Section 1106(d) In time for the 2014 crop year, the owner of the farm can update the payment yields of each covered commodity once.

Sec. 1107. Farm Risk Management Election

Section 1107(a) authorizes the Secretary to make Price Loss Coverage or Revenue Loss Coverage payments to eligible producers.

Section 1107(b) makes producers eligible for a price loss coverage payment for covered commodities for the 2014-2018 crop years when the effective price for a covered commodity is less than the reference price for the covered commodities. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price for a covered commodity for the first 5 months of the marketing year (the midseason price) and the national average marketing loan rate established in subtitle B. The reference prices are set in §1104(16). If a payment is required, the payment will be the difference between the reference price and the effective price multiplied by the payment yield (defined in §1104(12)) and the payment acres (defined in §1104(11)). The Secretary shall make price loss coverage payments on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity.

Section 1107(c) offers an alternative to price loss coverage. A farmer can make a one-time, irrevocable election on a crop by crop, farm by farm basis to receive revenue loss coverage. Farmers will receive revenue loss coverage payments for the 2014-2018 crop years when the actual county revenue for a covered commodity in a crop year is less than the county revenue loss trigger for the covered commodity.

The actual farm revenue is the product of multiplying the actual county yield for each planted acre of the covered commodity and the higher of the first 5 months of the marketing year (the midseason price) or the national average marketing loan rate established in subtitle B. The county revenue loss coverage trigger for a covered commodity is 85 percent of the benchmark county revenue.

The benchmark county revenue is the average historical county yield of a covered commodity in a county for the most recent 5 years, excluding the highest and the lowest, subject to the average national marketing year price. In calculating the benchmark county revenue the Secretary shall use the higher of the historical county yield or 70 percent of the historical county transitional yield. For price the Secretary shall use the higher of the national marketing year average price or the reference price (set in §1104(16)).

The payment rate is the difference between the county revenue loss coverage trigger for the covered commodity and the actual county revenue for the crop year for the covered commodity or 10 percent of the benchmark county revenue for the crop year for the covered commodity.

If payments are required the payment amount is determined by multiplying the payment rate and the payment acres of the covered commodity on the farm. Payments are to be made on October 1 or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity.

Sec. 1108. Producer Agreements

Section 1108 states that before a producer of a covered commodity can receive a payment under section 1107 he or she must comply with sod buster provisions in subtitle B of title XII of the 1985 act, and the swampbuster provisions of subtitle C of the title XII of the 1985 act, keep the land in agriculture or conserving use, and effectively control noxious weeds.

If a producer sells or otherwise transfers his farm to someone else, the new owner or operator must assume all of the compliance obligations or the right to either the price loss coverage payment or the revenue loss coverage payment is terminated.

The producer is still required to submit to the Secretary acreage reports. Accidental errors in the reports will not result in loss of payment.

The Secretary shall provide adequate safeguards to protect the interest of tenants and sharecroppers and for sharing the payments among the producers on a farm on a fair and equitable basis.

Sec. 1109. Period of Effectiveness

Section 1109 sets 2014-2018 as the period of effectiveness for this subtitle.

SUBTITLE B—MARKETING LOANS

Sec. 1201. Availability of Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans for Loan Commodities

Section 1201 authorizes nonrecourse loans for loan commodities for 2013-2017 crop years in the same manner as current law. It also includes a requirement that producers comply with certain conservation requirements.

Sec. 1202. Loan Rates for Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans

Section 1202 continues current law establishing loan rates for commodities, except for an adjustment to upland cotton, as follows for the 2014-2018 crop years:

Wheat, \$2.94 (same as current law)

Corn, \$1.95 (same as current law)

Grain Sorghum, \$1.95 (same as current law)

Barley, \$1.95 (same as current law, though now using the all barley price)

Oats, \$1.39 (same as current law)

Upland Cotton, for the 2013 and each subsequent crop year, the simple average of the adjusted prevailing world price for the 2 immediately preceding marketing years, but in no case less than \$0.47 per pound or more than \$0.52 per pound.

Extra long staple cotton, \$0.7977 (same as current law)

Long grain rice, \$6.50 (same as current law)

Medium/short grain rice, \$6.50 (same as current law)

Soybeans, \$5.00 (same as current law)

Other oilseeds, \$10.09 (same as current law)

Dry Peas, \$5.40 (same as same as current law)

Lentils, \$11.28 (same as current law)

Small Chickpeas, \$7.43 (same as current law)

Large Chickpeas, \$11.28 per hundredweight (same as current law)

Peanuts, \$355 per ton (same as current law)

Graded wool, \$1.15 (same as current law)

Non-graded wool, \$0.40 (same as current law)

Honey, \$0.69 (same as current law)
Mohair, \$4.20 (same as current law)

Sec. 1203. Term of Loans

Section 1203 continues the provisions of the current law on the terms of loans: 9 months; no extensions.

Sec. 1204. Repayment of Loans

Section 1204 requires the repayment of marketing assistance loans in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1205. Loan Deficiency Payments

Section 1205 authorizes loan deficiency payments for 2014-2018 crop years under same conditions as 2002 Farm Bill.

Sec. 1206. Payments In Lieu of Loan Deficiency Payments for Grazed Acreage

Section 1206 continues the authorization for payments in lieu of LDPs for producers who have grazed acreage for the 2014-2018 crop years under in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1207. Special Marketing Loan Provisions for Upland Cotton

Section 1207 continues the authorization for the President to issue special import quota for the 2014-2018 crop year in the same manner as current law using only official USDA data.

Sec. 1208. Special Competitive Provisions for Extra Long Staple Cotton

Section 1208 continues the authorization through July 31, 2019 of the special competitive provisions for extra long staple cotton in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1209. Availability of Recourse Loans for High Moisture Feed Grains and Seed Cotton

Section 1209 continues the authorization for recourse loans for these crops for the 2014-2018 crop years in same manner as current law.

Sec. 1210. Adjustment of Loans

Section 1210 authorizes the Secretary to adjust loan rates.

SUBTITLE C—SUGAR

Sec. 1301. Sugar Program

Section 1301 reauthorizes the sugar program through the 2018 crop year in the same manner as current law.

SUBTITLE D—DAIRY

PART I—DAIRY PRODUCER MARGIN PROTECTION AND DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 1401. Definitions

Section 1401 defines the terms used in the Dairy Producer Margin Protection and Dairy Market Stabilization Programs, including that a “participating dairy producer” is a dairy producer that registers for the dairy producer margin protection program, and, as a result of the registration, also participates in the dairy market stabilization program.

Sec. 1402. Calculation of Average Feed Cost and Actual Dairy Producer Margins

Section 1402 establishes that the average feed cost be calculated each month using the price of corn, the price of soybean meal in central Illinois, and the price of alfalfa hay, as reported by the Secretary.

For use in the margin protection program, directs the Secretary to calculate the actual dairy producer margin for each consecutive 2 month period by subtracting the average feed cost from the all-milk price for that period.

For use in the stabilization program, directs the Secretary to calculate the actual dairy producer margin for each preceding month by subtracting the average feed cost from the all-milk price for that period.

SUBPART A—DAIRY PRODUCER MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM

Sec. 1411. Establishment of Dairy Producer Margin Protection Program

Section 1411 directs the Secretary to establish a dairy producer margin protection program by providing basic margin protection payments when margins are less than a \$4 threshold level, and providing supplemental margin protection up to an \$8 margin if purchased by the producer.

Sec. 1412. Participation of Dairy Producers in Margin Protection Program

Section 1412 establishes that all dairy producers in the United States are eligible to participate in and sign-up for the margin protection program to receive basic margin protection, and, if the producer so chooses, to purchase supplemental margin protection.

Sec. 1413. Production History of Participating Dairy Producers

Section 1413 establishes the production history of producers.

Sec. 1414. Basic Margin Protection

Section 1414 establishes a basic margin protection program under which participating dairy producers receive a basic margin protection payment when the average actual dairy producer margin falls below \$4.00 for a consecutive two-month period.

Sec. 1415. Supplemental Margin Protection

Section 1415 establishes that a dairy producer may purchase supplemental margin protection on a yearly basis to protect a higher level of income than under the basic margin program.

Sec. 1416. Effect of Failure to Pay Administrative Fees and Premiums

Section 1416 mandates that a dairy producer, who elects to participate in the basic or supplemental margin protection programs and fails to pay the required administrative fees or premiums, may not receive basic or supplemental margin protection payments and remains legally obligated to pay such fees or premiums.

SUBPART B—DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Sec. 1431. Establishment of Dairy Market Stabilization Program

Section 1431 establishes a dairy market stabilization program which is triggered when the actual dairy producer margin has been \$6 or less per hundredweight of milk for the immediately preceding 2 months or \$4 or less for the immediately preceding month. If the stabilization program is triggered, the Secretary will order reduced payments for the participating producer that exceeds the applicable percentage of the producer's stabilization base.

Sec. 1432. Threshold for Implementation and Reduction in Dairy Producer Payments

Section 1432 requires the Secretary to announce that the stabilization program is in effect and payment reductions are required.

Sec. 1433. Producer Milk Marketing Information

Section 1433 requires the Secretary to establish a process to collect the necessary information while the stabilization program is in effect.

Sec. 1434. Calculation and Collection of Reduced Dairy Producer Payments

Section 1434 requires handlers to reduce payments to participating dairy producers during any month in which payment reductions are in effect.

Sec. 1435. Remitting Monies to the Secretary and Use of Monies

Section 1435 requires handlers to remit to the Secretary an amount equal to reduced producer payments.

Sec. 1436. Suspension of Reduced Payment Requirement

Section 1436 lists the thresholds at which the Secretary will suspend the stabilization program.

Sec. 1437. Enforcement

Section 1437 makes it unlawful for any person subject to the stabilization program to not provide or to delay the reporting of accurate information and remittance of funds to the Secretary.

Sec. 1438. Audit Requirements

Section 1438 is the audit requirements for the stabilization program.

SUBPART C—COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Sec. 1451. Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

Section 1451 requires the Secretary to use the funds and facilities of the CCC to carry out the program.

SUBPART D—INITIATION AND DURATION

Sec. 1461. Rulemaking

Section 1461 exempts the programs from the Administrative Procedures Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Sec. 1462. Duration

Section 1462 terminates the margin protection program and the stabilization program on December 31, 2018.

PART II—REPEAL OR REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER DAIRY-RELATED PROVISIONS

Sec. 1481. Repeal of Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract Programs

Section 1481 repeals the dairy price support and milk income loss programs.

Sec. 1482. Repeal of Dairy Export Incentive Program

Section 1482 repeals the dairy export incentive program.

Sec. 1483. Extension of Dairy Forward Pricing Program

Section 1483 reauthorizes the dairy forward pricing program through 2021.

Sec. 1484. Extension of Dairy Indemnity Program

Section 1484 reauthorizes the dairy indemnity program through 2018.

Sec. 1485. Extension of Dairy Promotion and Research Program

Section 1485 reauthorizes the dairy promotion and research program through 2018.

Sec. 1486. Repeal of Federal Milk Marketing Order Review Commission

Section 1486 repeals the federal milk marketing order review commission.

PART III—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 1491. Effective Date

Section 1491 states this subtitle is effective October 1, 2013.

SUBTITLE E—SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Sec. 1501. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

In general, section 1501 authorizes the continuation of certain Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs, previously codified in subtitle B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as a standalone provision within the bill.

Section 1501(a) is the definitions section.

Section 1501(b) authorizes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2018. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use such sums as necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used to make livestock indemnity payments to eligible producers for livestock losses in the excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather or attacks by federally reintroduced animals, such as wolves or avian predators. It maintains the 75% of the market value rate for indemnity.

Section 1501(c) authorizes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (ELFP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2018. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use such sums as necessary from the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide compensation to eligible livestock producers for livestock losses due to grazing losses caused by drought or fire. Coverage includes native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover, or land that has crops that are specifically planted for the purpose of grazing livestock. However, an eligible livestock producer may not receive assistance for land used for haying or grazing under the Conservation Reserve Program. The language maintains the payment rate for losses caused by drought for 1 month at equal to the lesser of 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible producer, or the monthly feed cost calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer. Fire losses continue to be limited to fires that have occurred on federally managed land. The section

maintains the payment rate for losses due to fire at equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed costs for the total number of livestock covered by the Federal lease of the eligible livestock producer. The language eliminates the minimum risk management purchase requirement.

Section 1501(d) authorizes the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2018. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use \$20,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide emergency relief for producers to aid in the reduction of loss due to disease and adverse weather. The language clarifies that that loss due to disease includes losses from cattle tick fever. The subsection maintains the provision that the funds shall remain available until expended.

Section 1501(e) authorizes the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2018. The Secretary is authorized to use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide assistance to orchardists and nursery growers for losses of trees due to natural disaster. The language provides a reimbursement rate of 65% of the cost of replanting trees for losses in excess of 15% mortality. The language increases the payment cap under TAP to \$125,000 per crop year. It further maintains the 500 acre limit on total number of acres planted in tress or tree seedlings for which a person or legal entity shall be entitled to receive payments under this subsection.

Section 1501(f) includes the payment limitation for the entire section. The language increases the payment cap for total amount of disaster assistance payments, excluding TAP payments, to \$125,000 received, either directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity. The language eliminated the AGI limitation for payments under this section. It further maintains the application of direct attribution provisions to this section.

SUBTITLE F—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1601. Administration Generally

Section 1601 allows the Secretary to use the funds and facilities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this title. It also provides for an expedited implementation of this title.

The Secretary's authority to adjust expenditures under this title to ensure the United States remains in compliance with our international trade agreements is continued in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1602. Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority

Section 1602 continues the suspension of permanent price authority in the Agriculture Marketing Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Sec. 1603. Payment Limitations

Section 1603 limits the total amount of payments a person or a legal entity can receive under subtitle A to \$125,000.

Sec. 1604. Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

Section 1604 replaces the two income limitation test (farm and nonfarm income) with a single \$950,000 adjusted gross income limitation for commodity and conservation programs.

Sec. 1605. Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Section 1605 continues the geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers program authorization for reimbursement payments through 2018 in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1606. Personal Liability of Producers for Deficiencies

Section 1606 extends the personal liability of producers for deficiencies through 2018 in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1607. Prevention of Deceased Individuals Receiving Payments Under Farm Commodity Programs

Section 1607 continues the requirement that the Secretary prevent deceased individuals from receiving farm commodity program payments by reconciling the Social Security Numbers of all individuals who received payments under this title with the Commissioner of Social Security in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1608. Technical Corrections

Section 1608 includes technical corrections.

Sec. 1609. Assignment of Payments

Section 1609 continues the authority of a producer who receives a payment under this title to assign the payment to someone else after proper notice to the Secretary in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1610. Tracking of Benefits

Section 1610 reauthorizes the Secretary to track the benefits provided to individuals getting payments under titles I and II in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1611. Signature Authority

Section 1611 continues the signature authority of a producer in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1612. Implementation

Section 1612 requires the Secretary to maintain records on base acres and the records for the separate base acres for long grain and medium grain rice through 2018. The Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this title \$100,000,000.

Sec. 1613. Protection of Producer Information

Section 1613 prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture or officials or employees of other federal agencies from releasing certain information given to the government pursuant to Title I or Title II of this act.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

SUBTITLE A—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Sec. 2001. Extension and Enrollment Requirements of Conservation Reserve Program

Section 2001(a) extends the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through fiscal year 2018.

Section 2001(b) amends the definition of eligible land by updating the date for cropping history under highly erodible lands; by removing marginal pasture land converted to wetland or established as wildlife habitat prior to 1999; by adding grasslands as eligible lands; by including filterstrips and riparian buffers devoted to trees, shrubs, and grasses as cropland that would otherwise be ineligible; and by amending the requirement for buffers and filterstrips associated with the remainder of a field enrolled in CRP.

Section 2001(c) amends the requirement for certain lands to be considered planted to an agricultural commodity for the purposes of determining eligibility to land that was devoted to a conserving use during the crop year; and eliminates the inclusion of land enrolled in the water bank program.

Section 2001(d) reduces the acreage cap for fiscal years 2014-2018:

FY2014 – 27,500,000 acres
FY2015 – 26,000,000 acres
FY2016 – 25,000,000 acres
FY2017 – 24,000,000 acres
FY2018 – 24,000,000 acres

It further adds a provision for enrollment of 2,000,000 acres of grasslands and authorizes the Secretary to give priority to expiring CRP contracts to be enrolled under the grasslands cap.

Section 2001(e) eliminates the five-year extension option for hardwood trees as well as the additional one-year extension for contracts which expired during the 2002 calendar year. Owners and operators of land with hardwoods, windbreaks, or wildlife corridors may specify the duration of the contract within the 10-15 year limitation.

Section 2001(f) eliminates the specified conservation priority area watersheds and leaves the ability to designate a priority area—including non-watershed areas—to the discretion of the Secretary. It further eliminates the ability for a State agency to apply for withdrawal from a designation

Sec. 2002. Farmable Wetland Program

Section 2002 extends the Farmable Wetlands Program through fiscal year 2017, decreases the program cap from 1,000,000 to 750,000 acres and makes several changes that are clarifying in nature. The program has been further amended so it is no longer a pilot program.

Sec. 2003. Duties of Owners and Operators

Section 2003(a) amends the limitation on harvesting, grazing and commercial use of forage by moving it from the section establishing the duties of owners and operators to the section enumerating the duties of the Secretary.

Section 2003(b) amends the conservation plan requirements by eliminating the option for the plan to provide for permanent retirement of existing base history.

Section 2003(c) eliminates the umbrella rental rate reduction for certain authorized uses of the land. Similar rental rate language appears in the section enumerating the duties of the Secretary.

Sec. 2004. Duties of the Secretary

Section 2004 requires the Secretary to allow for certain harvesting, grazing and commercial use of forage in exchange for a reduction in the rental rate at not less than 25 percent, except for in the case of drought or other emergency created by natural disaster, where the activity may occur without any reduction in the rental rate. The section provides for the incidental use of buffers adjacent to agricultural lands. The section adds a new subsection (c) that requires the Secretary to permit certain haying and grazing practices on grasslands specifically. It adds provisions for individuals with expiring contracts to initiate conservation and land improvement practices in the final year of the contract with a commensurate reduction in rental value. Re-enrollment of these lands is prohibited for at least five years.

Sec. 2005. Payments

Section 2005(a) is a technical conforming amendment in response to the elimination of section 1235A.

Section 2005(b) adds “other eligible land” to the annual rental payment language. Subsection (b) further adds the determination for payments to owners or operators of grasslands at 75 percent of the grazing value of the land under contract.

Section 2005(c) amends the payment schedule section to eliminate in-kind commodity payments through Commodity Credit Corporation stocks.

Section 2005(d) is a technical conforming amendment in response to the elimination of in-kind commodity payments.

Sec. 2006. Contract Requirements

Section 2006(a) allows for a one-time early termination option for an owner or operator if the contract has been in effect for five years. The section further specifies what environmentally sensitive land is exempted from the early termination.

Section 2006(b) makes adjustments to the transition options language regarding the transfer of land from a retired farmer or rancher to a beginning farmer or rancher.

Section 2006(c) allows for an owner or operator to enroll in to the Conservation Stewardship Program in the last year of the owner or operator conservation reserve contract.

Sec. 2007. Conversion of Land Subject to Contract to Other Conserving Uses

Section 2007 repeals Section 1235A of the Food Security Act of 1985, Conservation of Land Subject to Contract to other Conserving Uses which is no longer applicable for contracts in place prior to November 28, 1990.

SUBTITLE B—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2101. Conservation Stewardship Program

Section 2101 revises the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Definitions: The section includes a definition of “agricultural operation”, strikes the definition of “conservation measurement tool” to conform with other amendments, redefines “priority resource concern”, and it revises the definition of “eligible land”.

Establishment and purposes: The section authorizes the program through 2018. It limits the excluded land by allowing for CRP land to be enrolled in the final year of the contract. The section increases emphasis on new conservation. It also eliminates the requirement that not more than 10 percent of the acres enrolled be non-industrial private forest land. The section allows enrollment of lands that are under agricultural land easements option of the ACE Program.

Stewardship contracting: The section requires participants, at the time of the contract offer, to be meeting the stewardship threshold of at least two priority resource concerns with at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract. It establishes a priority consideration for land with expiring CRP contracts. The section also eliminates the conservation measurement tool. It adds the requirement for the producer, in order to renew a contract for an additional year, to meet the stewardship threshold of at least two additional priority resource concerns or exceed the threshold of at least two existing priority resource concerns by then end of the contract period. It eliminates the on-farm research and demonstration, or pilot testing provisions.

Duties of the Secretary: The section replaces the conservation measurement tool with a science-based stewardship threshold. It includes an acreage enrollment limitation of 8,695,000 acres for each fiscal year and a national average rate of \$18 per acre, which shall include costs of assistance.

SUBTITLE C—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Sec. 2201. Purposes

Section 2201 adds “developing and improving wildlife” to the purposes section.

Sec. 2202. Establishment and Administration

Section 2202 extends EQIP though fiscal year 2018.

Section 2223 amends the term of an EQIP contract to a period not to exceed 10 years, eliminating the minimum requirement. The increased payments to certain producers section is amended to include veteran farmers or ranchers. The section increases the amount allowed for an advanced payment to 50 percent and includes a new requirement that funds provided in advance but not expended during the required 90-day period be returned. It maintains the 60 percent allocation for livestock production and creates a new 5 percent allocation for practices benefiting wildlife habitat. The section adds a new subsection in order to include wildlife habitat restoration, improvement, and development activities under EQIP.

Sec. 2203. Evaluation of Applications

Section 2203 amends the evaluation of application process section for the purpose of a conforming amendment.

Sec. 2204. Duties of Producers

Section 2204 is a technical amendment to the duties of producers section.

Sec. 2205. Limitation on Payments

Section 2205 establishes the payment limitation at \$450,000 and eliminates the waiver authority.

Sec. 2206. Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments

Section 2206 adds a reporting requirement to CIG projects.

SUBTITLE D—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2301. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Section 2301 establishes a new Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program consolidating the Wetland Reserve Program, the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Farmland Protection Program. The purposes of the program include restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetlands; protecting the agricultural use and conservation values on agricultural lands; and protecting grazing uses and related conservation values on agricultural lands. The program has two distinct branches under the umbrella easement program—agricultural land easements and wetland easements.

The program includes definitions for “agricultural land easement”, “wetland easement”, “eligible entity”, and “eligible land”.

Under the Agricultural Land Easements, the Secretary facilitates and provides funds to eligible entities to purchase conservation easements in agricultural land and grasslands. The easements shall be permanent easements, or easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State law. The scope of the Federal share shall not exceed 50 percent of the fair market value of the land using the USPAP, an area-wide market analysis survey, or another industry approved

method. There is an exemption for grasslands of special environmental significance, by which the Secretary may provide up to 75 percent of the fair market value.

The Agricultural Land Easement Program establishes a process under which an eligible entity may be certified by the Secretary, though non-certified entities may still participate. Agreements between the Secretary and an eligible entity shall be at least three, but no more than five years unless the eligible entity is certified, in which case the term shall be a minimum of five years.

Under the Wetlands Easements, the Secretary enrolls wetlands through the use of 30-year easements; permanent easements; easements for the maximum duration allowed under State law; or for Indian tribes only, 30-year contracts. The Secretary shall not acquire easements on land that has been established to trees in CRP, or farmed wetlands or converted wetlands where the conversion was not commenced prior to December 23, 1985. The program establishes a priority based on the value of the wetland easement for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Compensation for permanent easements shall be in an amount necessary to encourage enrollment in the program based on the lowest of the fair market value, the amount corresponding to a geographical cap, or the offer made by the landowner. In the case of a 30-year wetland easement, compensation shall be not less than 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid for a permanent wetland easement.

The Wetlands Easement Program further authorizes the Secretary to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out the establishment of conservation measures and practices to protect wetland functions and values including maintenance. In the case of restoration on permanent wetland easements, the Secretary shall pay at least 70 percent, but not more than 100 percent, of the costs. In the case of a 30-year wetland easement, the Secretary shall pay at least 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent of the costs. The entire ACE Program includes a priority for certain lands currently enrolled in CRP with a contract set to expire within 1 year.

Of the funds made available under the program, at least 40 percent are reserved for agricultural land easements for fiscal years 2014 through 2017 and at least 50 percent for agricultural land easements in fiscal year 2018.

SUBTITLE E—REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2401. Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Section 2401 establishes a Regional Conservation Partnership Program by combining program purposes of the Agricultural Water Enhancement (AWEP) Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiatives (CCPI) Program, and the Great Lakes Basin Program. The new Regional Program works through the existing programs—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)—in order to further conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, air, wildlife and related natural resources on a regional or watershed scale while encouraging eligible partners to cooperate with producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements related to agricultural production and implement projects that will affect operations on a local, regional, State, or multi-State basis.

The program includes definitions for “covered programs”, “eligible activities”, “eligible land” and “eligible partner”.

Under the program, the Secretary may enter into short term contracts with eligible partners, who are selected through a competitive process. A partnership agreement may not exceed five years, but may be extended one time for up to 12 months if necessary to meet the objectives of the program. Through the contracts, partners will assist producers with installing and maintaining conservation activities through existing programs. An eligible partner shall provide a significant portion of the overall costs of the scope of the project. The program includes several priorities for applications, including the ability to assist producers in meeting or avoiding regulatory requirements.

The Secretary may also enter into contracts directly with producers who are in an established project area. The Secretary shall make payments directly to the producer in an amount determined by the Secretary to be necessary to achieve the purposes of the program. The language includes a waiver from the adjusted gross income requirement.

The program includes a section for critical conservation areas under which the Secretary can administer the program as well as very limited flood prevention and erosion control projects. When implementing projects under the critical conservation areas, the Secretary may use additional authorities under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

The funding for the program consists of mandatory funds out of the Commodity Credit Corporation of \$100,000,000 for each fiscal year, as well as a 6 percent reservation of funds out of the conservation programs mentioned above. Out of all of the funds, 25 percent is allocated to the State conservationist, 50 percent is allocated to the Secretary on a national competitive basis, and 25 percent is allocated for the critical conservation areas.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 2501. Conservation of Private Grazing Land

Section 2501 extends Conservation of Private Grazing Land through fiscal year 2018.

Sec. 2502. Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Section 2502 extends the Grassroots Water Protection Program. It further makes available \$5,000,000 in mandatory money to remain available until expended.

Sec. 2503. Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

Section 2503 extends the Voluntary Public Access program through fiscal year 2018, reduces its mandatory funding level to \$30,000,000 and requires a report on program effectiveness.

Sec. 2504. Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program

Section 2504 provides funding for ACES through the funds made available to carry out each program under the title, excluding CRP.

Sec. 2505. Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Section 2505 reauthorizes the appropriations of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program at current appropriated levels through fiscal year 2018 and further authorizes \$250,000,000 in mandatory money for the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program for fiscal year 2014, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 2506. Agricultural Management Assistance Program

Section 2506 amends the Agricultural Management Assistance Program, within the Federal Crop Insurance Act, by eliminating the practice of planting trees for windbreaks or for improving water quality and mitigation of risk through resource conservation practices as uses for financial assistance under the program. The section further eliminates the exception of \$15,000,000 in mandatory funding through each fiscal year while maintaining the base \$10,000,000 in funding. The section amends the percentages for the distribution of funds decreasing the funds through Natural Resources Conservation Services to 30 percent, maintaining the funds for organic certification cost share through Agricultural Marketing Service at 10 percent, and increasing the funds through the Risk Management Agency to 60 percent.

SUBTITLE G—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2601. Funding

Section 2601(a) extends and amends the funding section for conservation programs provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation funds.

Funding levels:

CRP TIP—\$25,000,000 set aside in the period of fiscal years 2014-2018.

ACE—

\$425,000,000 in FY14;

\$450,000,000 in FY15;

\$575,000,000 in FY16;

\$500,000,000 in FY17; and

\$200,000,000 in FY18.

EQIP—\$1,750,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2014-2018.

Section 2601(b) makes the funding covered by this section no year funds.

Sec. 2602. Technical Assistance

Section 2602 amends the funding section of the 1985 Act to include an amended technical assistance subsection and also requires a report to Congress on technical assistance.

Sec. 2603. Reservation of Funds to Provide Assistance to Certain Farmers or Ranchers for Conservation Access

Section 2603 extends the 5 percent reservation of funds for both socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers through fiscal year 2018. The language adds a priority within the reservation of funds for producers who are veterans.

Sec. 2604. Annual Report on Program Enrollments and Assistance

Section 2604 makes technical amendments to the annual reporting requirement on program enrollments and assistance.

Sec. 2605 Review of Conservation Practice Standards

Extends the current requirement that the Secretary review conservation practices in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 2606. Administrative Requirements Applicable to All Conservation Programs

Section 2606 adds a new subsection to the administrative requirements for conservation programs that requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to seek to reduce administrative burdens and costs by streamlining and taking advantage of new technologies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The section clarifies that any payment received under the title is in addition to, and does not affect, the total amount of payments an owner or operator is otherwise eligible to receive.

Sec. 2607. Standards for State Technical Committees

Section 2607 makes a technical change to the standards for state technical committees.

Sec. 2608. Rulemaking Authority

Section 2608 requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations, gives the Secretary rulemaking authority in regards to conservation programs, and provides for the operation of the programs under interim rules.

SUBTITLE H—REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROGRAM AUTHORITIES AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2701. Comprehensive Conservation Enhancement Program

Section 2701 repeals the Comprehensive Conservation Enhancement Program.

Sec. 2702. Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program

Section 2702 repeals the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2703. Wetlands Reserve Program

Section 2703 repeals the Wetlands Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2704. Farmland Protection Program and Farm Viability Program

Section 2704 repeals the Farmland Protection Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2705. Grasslands Reserve Program

Section 2705 repeals the Grassland Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2706. Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Section 2706 repeals the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2707. Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Section 2707 repeals the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2708. Great Lakes Basin Program

Section 2708 repeals the Great Lakes Basin Program.

Sec. 2709. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program

Section 2709 repeals the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2710. Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Section 2710 repeals the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract's expiration.

Sec. 2711. Environmental Easement Program

Section 2711 repeals the Environmental Easement Program.

Sec. 2712. Technical Amendments

Section 2712 includes technical amendments.

SUBTITLE A—FOOD FOR PEACE ACT

Sec. 3001. General Authority

Section 3001 amends section 201 of the Food for Peace Act by updating the general authorities with language focused on building resilience to reduce the future need for emergency food aid.

Sec. 3002. Support for Organizations through which Assistance is Provided

Section 3002 amends section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act by reducing the maximum allowable cash assistance available for administrative costs in non-emergency programs from 13% to 11% of the total funds made available for the program.

Sec. 3003. Food Aid Quality

Section 3003 amends section 202(h) of the Food for Peace Act by requiring the Administrator to consult with the Secretary in performing the requirements of this subsection related to food aid quality; by establishing a mechanism for USDA and USAID to evaluate food aid commodities and implement appropriate changes; by instructing the agencies to update program guidance on the use of new commodities; and by limiting the available funding for these purposes to \$1 million.

Sec. 3004. Minimum Levels of Assistance

Section 3004 amends section 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing the minimum levels of commodities available for emergency and non-emergency assistance under Food for Peace.

Sec. 3005. Food Aid Consultative Group

Section 3005 amends Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing the Food Aid Consultative Group (the “Group”) and adding representatives from the processing sector to the Group. The provision further requires the Administrator to consult with the Group on the implementation of food aid quality provisions and requires the Administrator to provide the Group at least 45 days notice before a proposed regulation handbook or guideline, or revision thereof, becomes final.

Sec. 3006. Oversight, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Section 3006 amends section 207 of the Food for Peace Act by requiring that all regulations and revisions to agency guidance necessary for implementation of the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act be issued within 270 days of enactment. The provision removes authority for purchasing new computer systems, removes obsolete reporting requirements, and provides \$10 million per year for monitoring and evaluation. Further, the

provision requires a report on the extent of monitoring and evaluation required by eligible organizations participating in Food for Peace programs.

Sec. 3007. Assistance for Stockpiling and Rapid Transportation, Delivery, and Distribution of Shelf-stable Pre-packaged Foods

Section 3007 amends section 208 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing assistance for stockpiling and rapid transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable prepackaged foods at \$8 million per year.

Sec. 3008. General Provisions

Section 3008 amends section 403 of the Food for Peace Act by requiring USDA and USAID to seek information on the potential benefits of monetization to local economies. The provision further clarifies that implementing partners should sell monetized commodities at fair market value. The Secretary and the Administrator are also instructed to coordinate assessments which guide the use of monetization to ensure consistency across programs. The provision requires USAID to issue a report detailing the use of funds made available for implementing partners, including funds for administrative and indirect costs.

Sec. 3009. Prepositioning of Agricultural Commodities

Section 3009 amends section 407(c) of the Food for Peace Act by increasing funding for prepositioning of agricultural commodities from \$10 million to \$15 million per year. The section also allows the Administrator discretion to establish additional prepositioning sites based on the results of assessments of need, technology, feasibility, and cost.

Sec. 3010. Annual Report Regarding Food Aid Programs and Activities

Section 3010 amends section 407(f) of the Food for Peace Act by requiring the annual report regarding food aid programs and activities to include information on the actual beneficiaries of the programs and by specifying the report include the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Sec. 3011. Deadline for Agreements to Finance Sales or to Provide Other Assistance

Section 3011 amends section 408 of the Food for Peace Act by extending the expiration of Food for Peace authorities through 2018.

Sec. 3012. Authorization of Appropriations

Section 3012 amends section 412 of the Food for Peace Act by reducing the authorization for appropriations from \$2.5 to \$2 billion per year and sets the minimum level of development programming at \$400 million per year.

Sec. 3013. Micronutrient Fortification Programs

Section 3013 amends section 415 of the Food for Peace Act by striking a reference to an obsolete report and reauthorizing the micronutrient fortification program through 2018.

Sec. 3014. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Section 3014 amends section 501 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing the Farmer-to-Farmer program and increasing the minimum level of funding from \$10 million to \$15 million per year.

SUBTITLE B—AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 3101. Funding for Export Credit Guarantee Program

Section 3101 amends section 211 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 by reauthorizing funding for the Export Credit Guarantee Program through 2018.

Sec. 3102. Funding for Market Access Program

Section 3102 amends section 211 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 by reauthorizing funding for the Market Access Program through 2018.

Sec. 3103. Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program

Section 3103 amends section 703 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Foreign Market Development Coordinator Program through 2018.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE LAWS

Sec. 3201. Food for Progress Act of 1985

Section 3201 amends the Food for Progress Act of 1985 by reauthorizing the program through 2018 and repeals a completed project in Malawi.

Sec. 3202. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust

Section 3202 amends the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to reauthorize the Trust through 2018.

Sec. 3203. Promotion of Agricultural Exports to Emerging Markets

Section 3203 amends section 1542 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets through 2018.

Sec. 3204. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Section 3204 amends section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program through 2018.

Sec. 3205. Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops

Section 3205 amends section 3205 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the export assistance program known as Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops through 2018 at \$9 million per year and clarifies that technical barriers to trade can be addressed through the program.

Sec. 3206. Global Crop Diversity Trust

Section 3206 amends section 3202(c) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing the U.S. Agency for International Development to make a contribution of up to \$50 million over 5 years to the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Sec. 3207 Under Secretary of Agriculture for Foreign Agricultural Services

Section 3207 amends Subtitle B of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by adding a new section allowing USDA to establish the position of Under Secretary for Foreign Agricultural Services, which would be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 4001. Preventing Payment of Cash to Recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for the Return of Empty Bottles and Cans Used to Contain Food Purchased with Benefits Provided Under the Program

Section 4001 amends Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the “Act”) by preventing the use of benefits to pay for substantial bottle deposits that can be returned for a cash refund.

Sec. 4002. Retailers

Subsection (a) amends section 3 of the Act by requiring retailers to provide perishable items in at least 3 of the staple food categories.

Subsection (b) amends section 7 of the Act by requiring that retailers will be responsible for purchasing and paying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) point-of-sale equipment and supplies. The subsection terminates the use of manual vouchers except in cases of disasters or other similar situations. The subsection requires parties providing electronic benefit transfer services to maintain unique terminal identification numbers throughout the SNAP routing system.

Subsection (c) amends section 7 of the Act by removing outdated language related to the use of coupons.

Subsection (d) amends section 9 of the Act by allowing the Secretary to consider the location of applicants in areas with significantly limited access to food when approving retailers.

Sec. 4003. Enhancing Services to Elderly and Disabled Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Recipients

Section 4003 amends section 3 of the Act by adding governmental or nonprofit food purchasing delivery services to the list of eligible retailers if they serve elderly or disabled individuals who are otherwise unable to shop for their own food.

Sec. 4004. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Section 4004 amends section 4(b) of the Act by reauthorizing the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Sec. 4005. Updating Program Eligibility

Section 4005 amends section 5 of the Act by restricting categorical eligibility for SNAP to only those households receiving cash assistance through other low-income assistance programs.

Sec. 4006. Exclusion of Medical Marijuana from Excess Medical Expense Deduction

Section 4006 amends section 5 of the Act by prohibiting medical marijuana from being treated as a medical expense for purposes of income deductions.

Sec. 4007. Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments.

Section 4007 amends section 5 of the Act by requiring a household to receive a Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payment of \$20 or more in order to receive the SNAP Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) deduction when calculating SNAP benefits.

Sec. 4008. Eligibility Disqualifications

Section 4008 amends section 6(e) of the Act by requiring that State SNAP Employment and Training programs are limited to assisting only those college students enrolled in specific career and technical education courses or basic adult education, remedial, and literacy courses.

Sec. 4009. Ending Supplemental Nutrition Program Benefits for Lottery or Gambling Winners

Section 4009 amends section 6 of the Act by making any household in which a member receives substantial lottery or gambling winnings ineligible for SNAP benefits.

Sec. 4010. Improving Security of Food Assistance

Section 4010 amends section 7 of the Act by allowing States to request information from households that repeatedly lose their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card in order to investigate potential fraud and trafficking violations. The section provides protection for those who are not intentionally committing fraud.

Sec. 4011. Demonstration Projects on Acceptance of Benefits of Mobile Transactions

Section 4011 amends section 7 of the Act by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a pilot program to test the feasibility of allowing Retailers to accept SNAP benefits through mobile transactions.

Sec. 4012. Use of Benefits for Purchase of Community-Supported Agriculture Share

Section 4012 amends section 10 of the Act by allowing SNAP benefits to be used for the purchase of community-supported agriculture shares.

Sec. 4013. Restaurant Meals Program

Section 4013 amends section 11 of the Act by requiring greater oversight of States choosing to operate a Restaurant Meals Program that allows only homeless, elderly and disabled SNAP populations to redeem their benefits at approved restaurants. The section requires USDA to approve the State's implementation plan and ensure that a documented need exists to serve the target populations in specific geographic areas.

Sec. 4014. Mandating State Immigration Verification

Section 4014 amends section 11 of the Act by requiring States to use an immigration status verification system to verify applicant's immigration status.

Sec. 4015. Data Exchange Standardization for Improved Interoperability

Section 4015 amends section 11 of the Act by establishing requirements, consistent with other means tested programs, for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of the SNAP.

Sec. 4016. Prohibiting Government-Sponsored Recruitment Activities

Section 4016 amends sections 16 and 18 of the Act by preventing USDA from conducting recruitment activities, advertising the SNAP program through television, radio and billboard advertisements and entering into agreements with foreign governments designed to promote SNAP benefits. The section further prevents states from being reimbursed for similar activities.

Sec. 4017. Repeal of Bonus Programs

Section 4017 repeals section 16(d) of the Act to eliminate the performance bonuses provided to States for effectively administering SNAP.

Sec. 4018. Funding of Employment and Training Programs

Section 4018 amends section 16(h) of the Act by reducing the allocation to State agencies to carry out employment and training programs from \$90 million to \$79 million.

Sec. 4019. Monitoring Employment and Training Programs

Section 4019 amends section 16(h) of the Act by requiring that the Secretary of Agriculture implement monitoring and performance measures for State employment and training programs. The section requires that the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, develop reporting measures for participants in employment and training programs. The section requires that States report annually on such measures. The section further provides that if a State agency's performance is inadequate, the Secretary of Agriculture may require the State agency to modify its employment and training plan.

Sec. 4020. Cooperation with Program Research and Evaluation

Section 4020 amends section 17 of the Act by requiring entities that participate in SNAP programs to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture and its agents in conducting evaluations and studies authorized under the Act.

Sec. 4021. Pilot Projects to Reduce Dependency and Increase Work Effort in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Section 4021 amends section 17 of the Act by requiring USDA to conduct a pilot project to identify best practices for employment and training programs to raise the number of work registrants who obtain unsubsidized employment, increase their earned income, and reduce their dependence on public assistance.

Sec. 4022. Authorization of Appropriations

Section 4022 amends section 18 of the Act by extending the authorization for appropriations to carry out the Act through fiscal year 2018.

Sec. 4023. Limitation on Use of Block Grant to Puerto Rico

Section 4023 amends section 19 of the Act by ensuring that no funds made available to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may be used to provide nutrition assistance in the form of cash.

Sec. 4024. Assistance for Community Food Projects

Section 4024 amends section 25 of the Act by providing an additional \$10 million per fiscal year for Community Food Projects.

Sec. 4025. Emergency Food Assistance

Section 4025 amends section 27 of the Act by providing an additional \$20 million per fiscal year for Emergency Food Assistance. The section also reauthorizes Emergency Food Program Infrastructure Grants through fiscal year 2018

Sec. 4026. Nutrition Education

Section 4026 amends section 28(b) of the Act by including “physical activity” as an allowable activity under the SNAP nutrition education program and setting the appropriation for fiscal year 2014 at \$375,000,000.

Sec. 4027. Retailer Trafficking

Section 4027 amends the Act by providing \$5 million each fiscal year for USDA to use in preventing SNAP fraud and trafficking violations.

Sec. 4028. Technical and Conforming Amendments

Section 4028 makes technical and conforming amendments to the Act.

Sec. 4029. Tolerance Level for Excluding Small Errors

Section 4029 prevents the Secretary from excluding payment errors greater than \$25 from improper payments calculations.

Sec. 4030. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Pilot Program

Section 4030 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study to assess the capabilities of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to operate the SNAP program in the same manner it is operated in the States. The section requires that if, following the study, the Secretary of Agriculture determines that it is feasible for the CNMI to operate the SNAP program in the same manner it is operated by the States, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a pilot program in CNMI for such purposes.

Sec. 4031. Annual State Report on Verification of SNAP Participation

Section 4031 requires States to submit an annual report to the Secretary sufficient to show that the State is verifying that its SNAP recipients are not receiving benefits in more than one state and that no benefits are being paid to deceased individuals.

SUBTITLE B—COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Sec. 4101. Commodity Distribution Program

Section 4101 amends section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 by reauthorizing the Commodity Distribution Program through fiscal year 2018.

Sec. 4102. Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Section 4102 amends section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 by modifying the eligibility of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to serve only elderly populations. Those individuals under the age of 60 currently being served by the program may remain in the program until they no longer meet the current eligibility requirements. The section also reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2018.

Sec. 4103. Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects

Section 4103 amends section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 by reauthorizing Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects through fiscal year 2018.

Sec. 4104. Processing of Commodities

Section 4104 amends the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 by ensuring that the Secretary of Agriculture has legal standing to enter into national processing agreements and allows the Secretary to retain title to commodities processed under those agreements prior to their final delivery to schools.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 4201. Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Section 4201 amends section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by expanding the program purposes to allow additional at-risk populations to be served and by requiring the Secretary to specify terms and conditions to encourage expanding the participation of small scale farmers in Federal nutrition programs.

Sec. 4202. Nutrition Information and Awareness Pilot Program

Section 4202 repeals section 4403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, eliminating the Nutrition Information and Awareness Pilot Program.

Sec. 4203. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Section 4203 amends section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by expanding the forms of fruits and vegetables made available to students through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to include canned, frozen, and dried.

Sec. 4204. Additional Authority for Purchase of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Specialty Food Crops

Section 4204 amends section 10603 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program in which five participating States shall have the option to receive a grant to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions in lieu of participating in the DOD fresh program.

Sec. 4205. Encouraging Locally and Regionally Grown and Raised Food

Section 4205 requires the Secretary to allow small rural schools to purchase locally and regionally grown food in lieu of the school's commodity assistance under school meal programs. The section also allows the Secretary to establish farm-to-school demonstration programs at up to 10 schools.

TITLE V—CREDIT

SUBTITLE A—FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Sec. 5001. Eligibility for Farm Ownership Loans

Section 5001(a) expands eligibility for farm ownership loans by including “other legal entities” to the list of eligible borrowers that includes farmers, ranchers, farming cooperatives and private domestic companies. An entity that is or will become only the operator of a family farm is deemed to meet the owner operator requirements if the owners own more than 50% of the entity. An entity that is an owner-operator that is owned, in whole or in part, by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership requirement if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

Section 5001(b) allows a borrower to meet the experience requirements of farming or ranching for 3 years if he or she has “other acceptable experience for a period of time, as determined by the Secretary”.

Sec. 5002. Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Section 5002 expands the eligibility for the conservation loan and guarantee program by adding “or other such legal entities as the Secretary deems appropriate” to the list of eligible borrowers. It also raises the limitation on the loan guarantee from 75% to 90% and extends the program until 2017.

Sec. 5003. Down Payment Loan Program

Section 5003 increase the possible principal amount of the loan from 45% of \$500,000 to 45% of \$667,000.

Sec. 5004. Elimination of Mineral Rights Appraisal Requirement

Section 5004 eliminates the requirement to do a mineral rights appraisal for real estate loans.

SUBTITLE B—OPERATING LOANS

Sec. 5101. Eligibility for Farm Operating Loans

Section 5101 expands eligibility for operating loans by including “other legal entities” to the list of eligible borrowers that includes farmers, ranchers, farming cooperatives and private domestic companies. An entity that is an operator and is owned in whole or in part by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

Sec. 5102. Elimination of rural residency requirement for operating loans to youth

Section 5102 expands eligibility by striking the words “rural residency” from the eligibility requirements for operating loans to young farmers.

Sec. 5103. Authority to Waive Personal Liability for Youth Loans Due to Circumstances beyond Borrower Control

Section 5103 allows the Secretary, on a case by case basis, to waive the personal liability of a borrower for an operating loan if any default on the loan was due to circumstances beyond the control of the borrower.

Sec. 5104. Microloans

Section 5104 authorizes the Secretary to make operating loans of \$35,000 to eligible borrowers.

SUBTITLE C—EMERGENCY LOANS

Sec. 5201. Eligibility for Emergency Loans

Section 5201 expands the eligibility for emergency loans by adding “or other such legal entities as the Secretary deems appropriate” to the list of approved borrowers. An entity that is an owner-operator and is owned in whole or in part by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

SUBTITLE D—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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

Section 5301 reauthorizes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program through 2018.

Sec. 5302. Eligible Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Section 5302 expands the definition of a beginning farmer or rancher to include “or other such legal entity”. It also changes the acreage ownership limitation from 30% of the median acreage of farms in the county to 30% of the average acreage of farms in the county.

Sec. 5303. Loan Authorization Levels

Section 5303 reauthorizes the Secretary’s ability to make loans under each subtitle through 2018.

Sec. 5304. Priority for Participation Loans

Section 5304 adds a new priority for beginning farmer and rancher direct loans to those applicants who apply under the down payment loan program or for joint financing arrangements.

Sec. 5305. Loan Fund Set-Asides

Section 5305 reauthorizes the loan fund set-asides through 2018.

Sec. 5306. Conforming Amendment to Borrower Training Provision, Relating to Eligibility Changes

Section 5306 is a conforming amendment to a borrower training provision.

SUBTITLE E—STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 5401. State Agricultural Mediation Programs

Section 5401 reauthorizes the state agricultural mediation programs through 2018.

SUBTITLE F—LOANS TO PURCHASERS OF HIGHLY FRACTIONATED LAND

Sec. 5501. Loans to Purchasers of Highly Fractionated Land

Section 5501 authorizes the use of a revolving loan fund for purchasers of highly fractionated land.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBTITLE A—CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

Sec. 6001. Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants

Water, Waste Disposal and Wastewater Facility Grants (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 6002. Rural Business Opportunity Grants

Rural Business Opportunity Grants (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11)(D)) are reauthorized for fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6003. Elimination of Reservation of Community Facilities Grant Program Funds

A reservation of funds (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) for the Community Facilities Grant Program is repealed.

Sec. 6004. Utilization of Loan Guarantees for Community Facilities

Amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(24)) directing the Secretary to utilize loan guarantees in the Community Facilities Program to the maximum extent possible.

Sec. 6005. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

The Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended to continue with a national program that is consistent with the activities and results of the program prior to enactment of this paragraph, and funded from the Secretary through the Rural Utilities Service. \$20,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 6006. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities

Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from \$10,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6007. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program

Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from \$35,000,000 to \$27,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6008. Grants to Household Water Well Systems

Grants to nonprofits to finance the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually-owned household water well systems (7 U.S.C. 1926e(d)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from \$10,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6009. Rural Business and Industry Loan Program

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)(A)) to authorize working capital as a loan purpose. The Business and Industry loan program (7 U.S.C.

1932(g)) is amended to allow, where the action would not create or contribute to an unreasonable risk of default or loss to the Federal Government, in the discretion of the Secretary, accounts receivables as security for a loan under this subsection. Requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations to implement these amendments within 6 months.

Sec. 6010. Rural Cooperative Development Grants

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)(12)) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from \$50,000,000 to \$40,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6011. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products

Locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(v)(I)) is reauthorized through 2018. The Secretary shall reserve not more than 7 percent of funds made available to carry out this loan program for this authority.

Sec. 6012. Intermediary Relending Program

Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922-1936a) is amended to authorize the Intermediary Relending Program. \$10,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 6013. Rural College Coordinated Strategy

Section 331 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981) is amended to authorize the Secretary to develop a coordinated strategy across the Rural Development mission areas to serve the specific, local needs of rural communities when making investments in rural community and technical colleges through other current authorities. However, this authorization is not intended to provide a priority for funding. The purpose of the subsection is to more effectively serve rural communities through investments in community and technical colleges.

Sec. 6014. Rural Water and Waste Disposal Infrastructure

Water and waste disposal direct and guaranteed loans (7 U.S.C. 1983) are amended to encourage financing by private or cooperative lenders, to the maximum extent practicable, for rural water and waste disposal facilities by using loan guarantees where the population exceeds 5,500, using direct loans where the impact on rate payers will be material when compared to financing with a loan guarantee, establishing and applying a materiality standard regarding the difference in impact on rate payers, requiring projects that require interim financing in excess of \$500,000 initially seek financing from private or cooperative lenders, and determining if an existing direct loan borrower can refinance with a private or cooperative lender prior to providing a new direct loan.

Sec. 6015. Simplified Applications

Amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) authorizing the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to develop a simplified application process, including single page applications where possible, for specific grants and relending programs authorized in this title. Within 2 years, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of simplified applications.

Sec. 6016. Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters

Grants for NOAA weather radio transmitters (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) are authorized to be appropriated at \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6017. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (7 U.S.C. 2008s(d)(2)) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from \$40,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6018. Delta Regional Authority

The Delta Regional Authority is reauthorized (7 U.S.C. 2009aa-13) and amended (7 U.S.C. 2009aa-12(a)) to decrease the current authorization level from \$30,000,000 to \$12,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6019. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority

The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-13) is reauthorized and amended (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-12(a)) to decrease the current authorization level from \$30,000,000 to \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 6020. Rural Business Investment Program

The Rural Business Investment Program (7 U.S.C. 2009cc-18) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from \$50,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

SUBTITLE B—RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936

Sec. 6101. Relending for Certain Purposes

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended to authorize loans for borrower relending to ultimate consumers for the purpose of energy efficiency. Loans and grants through the Rural Utilities Service are also authorized under the Cushion of Credit Payments Program for relending to ultimate consumers for the purpose of energy efficiency.

Sec. 6102. Fees for Certain Loan Guarantees

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended to require that the Secretary, at the request of an electrification baseload generation loan guarantee borrower, charge an upfront fee that is equal to the costs of the loan guarantee to cover the costs of the loan guarantee. A borrower may not use funds from a loan or other debt obligation made or guaranteed by the Federal Government to pay the fee.

Sec. 6103. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes

Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for electrification or telephone purposes (7 U.S.C. 940c-1(f)) is reauthorized through 2018.

Sec. 6104. Expansion of 911 Access

Expansion of 911 access (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is reauthorized through 2018.

Sec. 6105. Access to Broadband Telecommunications Services in Rural Areas

The Broadband Program (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is reauthorized through 2018 and amended to provide a priority for applications that are not predominantly for business service but where at least 25 percent of customers in the proposed service territory are commercial interests. Publication of notice of applications shall include the amount and type of support requested and a list of the census block groups or tracts to be served. The Secretary is authorized to establish a process where an incumbent service provider that as of the date of the publication of notice of an application is providing broadband service to a remote rural area, may submit information to the Secretary information regarding the broadband services offered in the application's proposed service territory so that the Secretary may assess whether the application is an eligible project. The Secretary is also authorized to take into consideration the upgrade or replacement cost for construction or acquisition of facilities and equipment in considering the technology needs of customers in a proposed service territory.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 6201. Distance Learning and Telemedicine

Distance Learning and Telemedicine (7 U.S.C. 950aaa-5) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from \$100,000,000 to \$65,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6202. Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Program Grants

Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Program Grants (7 U.S.C. 1632a(b)(7)) is reauthorized and amended to increase the current mandatory funding level from \$15,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

Sec. 6203. Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program

The Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration program (7 U.S.C. 1632b(i)) is amended to decrease the current authorization from \$6,000,000 to \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 6204. Program Metrics

The Secretary is authorized to collect data regarding economic activities created through grants and loans and to measure the short and long term viability of award recipients and any entities to whom those recipients provide assistance using award funds under certain authorities. The data shall be collected both during the award period and after the award period for a minimum of 2 years. Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that contains data collected including specific information on actions taken by the Secretary to utilize the data, the number of jobs, including self employment and the value of salaries and wages, how the grant or loan affected the local economy and any other benefit, as the Secretary deems appropriate.

Sec. 6205. Study of Rural Transportation Issues

An update on the study on rural transportation issues is authorized to be submitted not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act to Congress. In addition the study shall address the sufficiency of infrastructure along waterways in regard to the movement of agricultural goods and the benefits to the same through upgrades and repairs to locks and dams.

Sec. 6206. Certain Federal Actions not to be Considered Major

An action of the Secretary that does not involve the provision of Federal dollars or a loan guarantee from the Department of Agriculture, including approval by USDA of a borrower's decision to commence a privately funded activity, a lien accommodation or subordination, a debt settlement or restructuring, or the restructuring of a business entity by a borrower, in the case of a loan, loan guarantee, or grant program in the rural development mission area of the Department of Agriculture, shall not be considered a major Federal action.

Sec. 6207. Essential Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training

Amends Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) to authorize grants to eligible entities which will serve rural areas to provide technical assistance and training with respect to essential community facility programs authorized under subsection (a). The Secretary shall give priority to organizations with experience in providing technical assistance and training. A funding reservation of not more than 3 nor more than 5 percent of funds appropriated to carry out the essential community facilities grant, loan and loan guarantee programs authorized under subsection (a) shall be reserved for grants authorized by this paragraph.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977

Sec. 7101. Option to be Included as Non-Land Grant College of Agriculture

The National Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended to allow a Hispanic-serving Agricultural College and University and any institution eligible to receive funds under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962 to opt out of their respective designation. A declaration of intent shall be in effect until September 30, 2018.

Sec. 7102. National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (7 U.S.C. 3123) is extended through September 30, 2018 and amended to provide authority for the board to consult with industry groups and make recommendations to the Secretary.

Sec. 7103. Specialty Crop Committee

Amends Specialty Crop Committee (7 U.S.C. 3123a) to authorize in its annual report recommendations regarding research, extension and teaching programs designed to improve competitiveness in the specialty crop industry.

Sec. 7104. Veterinary Services Grant Program

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended to provide the Secretary authority to establish a competitive grant program for the purpose of developing, implementing, and sustaining veterinary services. Grants shall only be made to qualified entities that substantially relieve veterinary shortage situations, support or facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, or support or facilitate the practices of veterinarians who are or have completed services in emergency situations. The Secretary shall give preference to qualified entities that coordinate with other qualified entities, consider together the availability of funds and the grant purpose when selecting grant recipients, and consider these grants to be competitive research, extension or education grants. A qualified entity may use funds to relieve veterinary shortage situations and support vet services for any of 5 purposes. However, qualified entities operating a veterinary clinic may only use a grant to establish or expand veterinary practices and those entities are subject to an agreement with the Secretary that includes a term of service for the recipient where the Secretary shall consider together the amount and specific purpose of the grant. The agreement shall provide remedies for any breach by the recipient and a waiver of repayment based on extreme hardship as determined by the Secretary. Funds recovered shall be credited to the account carrying out this program and remain available until expended. Funds may not be used for the purpose of constructing a new building or facility, or to acquire, expand, remodel or alter an

existing building or facility. The Secretary shall promulgate regulations for this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section. There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

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

Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education (7 U.S.C. 3152(m)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from \$60,000,000 to \$40,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7106. Policy Research Centers

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) is amended to authorize the Secretary to act through the office of the Chief Economist, and make competitive grants or cooperative agreements to policy research centers with a history of providing unbiased, nonpartisan economic analysis to Congress. Eligible recipients are amended to include other public research institutions and organizations. The Secretary shall give a preference to certain policy research centers that provide analysis to Congress. There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7107. Repeal of Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research Program

Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research (7 U.S.C. 3174) is repealed.

Sec. 7108. Repeal of Pilot Research Program to Combine Medical and Agricultural Research

Pilot Research Program to Combine Medical and Agricultural Research (7 U.S.C. 3174a) is repealed.

Sec. 7109. Nutrition Education Program

Nutrition Education Program (7 U.S.C. 3175(f)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7110. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs

Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended by decreasing the authorization of appropriations from \$25,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7111. Repeal of Appropriations for Research on National or Regional Problems

Appropriations for Research on National or Regional Problems (7 U.S.C. 3196) is repealed.

Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant colleges, including Tuskegee University

Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7113. Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions

Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2(d)) is reauthorized and amended (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2(a)) to authorize grants to support tropical and subtropical research, including pest and disease research.

Sec. 7114. Repeal of National Research and Training Virtual Centers

National Research and Training Virtual Centers (7 U.S.C. 3222c) is repealed.

Sec. 7115. Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7116. Competitive Grants Program for Hispanic Agricultural Workers and Youth

The Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (7 U.S.C. 3243) competitive grants program is amended to authorize the Secretary to award competitive grants to provide for training in the food and agricultural sciences of Hispanic agricultural workers and Hispanic youth working in the food and agricultural sciences.

Sec. 7117. Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs

Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs (7 U.S.C. 3292b(c)) is authorized at \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7118. Repeal of Research Equipment Grants

Research Equipment Grants (7 U.S.C. 3310a) is repealed.

Sec. 7119. University Research

University Research (7 U.S.C. 3311) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7120. Extension Service

Extension Service (7 U.S.C. 3312) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7121. Auditing, Reporting, Bookkeeping, and Administrative Requirements

Section 1469 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315) is amended to authorize the Secretary to retain not more than 4 percent of amounts made available for agricultural research, extension and teaching assistance programs towards administration, with the exception of peer panel expense or limitations on administrative expenses that are less than 4 percent.

The Secretary is authorized, to the maximum extent practicable and for the purposes of supporting ongoing research and information dissemination activities, to enter into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other legal instruments with former Department of Agriculture agricultural research facilities. The Secretary is also authorized, for the purposes of receiving support for agricultural research, to enter into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements or other legal instruments with agricultural research organizations.

Sec. 7122. Supplemental and Alternative Crops

Supplemental and Alternative Crops (7 U.S.C. 3319d) research project is reauthorized and appropriations authorized at \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018. The Secretary is authorized to make competitive grants to further the purposes of the program.

Sec. 7123. Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions

Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7124. Aquaculture Assistance Programs

Aquaculture Assistance Programs (7 U.S.C. 3322(b)) are amended to authorize competitive grants and decrease the authorization of appropriations from \$7,500,000 to \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7125. Rangeland Research Programs

Rangeland Research Programs (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from \$10,000,000 to \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7126. Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response

Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)) is authorized at \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7127. Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education

Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education (7 U.S.C. 3362) is amended to authorize competitive grants at \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018. Also, Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas (7 U.S.C. 3363) is authorized at \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7128. Matching Funds Requirement

The National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended to apply a match fund requirement to the recipient of competitive grants under certain covered laws. The recipient shall provide, from sources other than funds provided through the grant, funds or in-kind contributions or a combination of both to match at least 100 percent of the amount of the grant. The match requirement shall not apply to grants awarded to a research agency of the USDA, an entity eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program as defined in the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 or to the partner of such eligible entity.

SUBTITLE B—FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

Sec. 7201. Best Utilization of Biological Applications

Best Utilization of Biological Applications (7 U.S.C. 5814) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7202. Integrated Management Systems

Integrated Pest Management Systems (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7203. Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program

Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)) is authorized at \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7204. National Training Program

National Training Program (7 U.S.C. 5832(9)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7205. National Genetics Resources Program

National Genetics Resources Program (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)) is authorized at \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7206. Repeal of National Agricultural Weather Information System

National Agricultural Weather Information System (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) is repealed.

Sec. 7207. Repeal of Rural Electronic Commerce Extension Program

Rural Electronic Commerce Extension Program (7 U.S.C. 5923) is repealed.

Sec. 7208. Repeal of Agricultural Genome Initiative

Agricultural Genome Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5924) is repealed.

Sec. 7209. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives

High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives (7 U.S.C. 5925) is reauthorized and amended to repeal certain authorities. Reauthorizes pollinator protection and amends an annual report to address honey bee health disorders and best management practices.

Sec. 7210. Repeal of Nutrient Management Research and Extension Initiative

Nutrient Management Research and Extension Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5925a) is repealed.

Sec. 7211. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is reauthorized and amended to authorize a priority for grant proposals that, after the peer review process, are found to be scientifically meritorious under the criteria for priority under the farm business management grant authority. Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$20,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7212. Repeal of Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative

Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5925e) is repealed.

Sec. 7213. Farm Business Management

Farm Business Management (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)) is authorized at \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7214. Centers of Excellence

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f) is amended to authorize the Secretary to prioritize centers of excellence for specific agricultural commodities to receive funding for competitive research or extension programs. A center of excellence is composed of 1 or more of the eligible entities under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative that provide financial or in-kind support. Certain criteria will be considered for recognition as a center of excellence and where practicable, the criteria for consideration shall include efforts to improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and universities.

Sec. 7215. Repeal of Red Meat Safety Research Center

Red Meat Safety Research Center (7 U.S.C. 5929) is repealed.

Sec. 7216. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities

Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities (7 U.S.C. 5933(c)(1)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from \$6,000,000 to \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7217. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse

National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is reauthorized.

SUBTITLE C—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

Sec. 7301. Relevance and Merit of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Funded by the Department

The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)(2)) is amended to require procedures for review to address relevance for grants administered on a competitive basis by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and provides for ongoing consultation between the Secretary and advisory board regarding merit review procedures.

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

Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 7626(e)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7303. Repeal of Coordinated Program of Research, Extension, and Education to Improve Viability of Small and Medium Size Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Operations

Coordinated Program of Research, Extension, and Education to Improve Viability of Small and Medium Size Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Operations (7 U.S.C. 7627) is repealed.

Sec. 7304. Fusarium Graminearum Grants.

Fusarium Graminearum Grants is authorized at \$7,500,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7305. Repeal of Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program

Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program (7 U.S.C. 7629) is repealed.

Sec. 7306. Grants for Youth Organizations

Grants for Youth Organizations (7 U.S.C. 7630(d)) is authorized at \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7307. Specialty Crop Research Initiative

The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is reauthorized and amended to include efforts to improve handling and processing. It is also amended to authorize competitive grants based on an initial scientific peer review conducted by a panel of subject matter experts and a final funding determination based on a review and ranking for merit, relevance and impact by an appropriate panel of specialty crop industry representatives. Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$50,000,000 is authorized for fiscal year 2014 and 2015; \$55,000,000 for each fiscal years 2016 and 2017; \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 7308. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program is reauthorized through 2018.

Sec. 7309. Repeal of National Swine Research Center

National Swine Research Center (P.L. 105-185; 112 Stat. 605) is repealed.

Sec. 7310. Office of Pest Management Policy

Office of Pest Management Policy (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)) is authorized at \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7311. Repeal of Studies of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education

Studies of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education (7 U.S.C. 7671 et seq.) is repealed.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER LAWS

Sec. 7401. Critical Agricultural Materials Act

Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is authorized at \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7402. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994

Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; P.L. 103-382) is amended to update the list of 1994 institutions. Section 533 extends the authorization of appropriations towards the 1994 Institutions Endowment Fund. Section 535 reauthorizes Institutional Capacity Building Grants. Section 536 expands the list of partners eligible to enter into cooperative agreements with 1994 institutions for the purposes of research grants and reauthorizes appropriations for each of the fiscal years through 2018.

Sec. 7403. Research Facilities Act

Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7404. Repeal of Carbon Cycle Research

Carbon Cycle Research (7 U.S.C. 6711) is repealed.

Sec. 7405. Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act

Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450(i)) is reauthorized. Plant based foods that are a major source of nutrients of concern, pests and diseases in wildlife reservoirs presenting potential concern to public health or domestic livestock and pests and diseases in minor species, animal drugs for minor species and minor uses in major species, and conservation practices and technologies addressing nutrient loss and improving water quality are authorized as sub-priority areas for competitive grants. Requires the Secretary to establish procedures under which State or Federal commodity promotion entities may directly submit proposals for requests for applications to address issues related to established priorities. Also authorizes the Secretary to provide grants to eligible entities for research proposals submitted by State or Federal commodity promotion entities. Eligible entities are amended to include foundations. Inter-Regional Research Project Number 4 is amended to include pesticides for use on specialty crops and provides direction to the Secretary regarding this additional authority within the research project and research on pesticide registrations, reregistrations, and associated tolerances. The emphasis on sustainable agriculture is repealed.

Sec. 7406. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978

Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1675) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7407. National Aquaculture Act of 1980

National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2809) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7408. Repeal of Use of Remote Sensing Data

Use of Remote Sensing Data (7 U.S.C. 5935) is repealed.

Sec. 7409. Repeal of Reports under Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

Reports under Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925b note, P.L. 107-171) (P.L. 107-171; 116 Stat. 462) (7 U.S.C. 5925a note; P.L. 107-171) is repealed.

Sec. 7410. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Sec. 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended to authorize competitive grants for certain purposes and provide a priority for school based agriculture education organizations. Not less than 5 percent of funds shall be used to support programs and services addressing the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers who are also military veterans. These grant recipients are encouraged to coordinate with recipients under the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities. Of the funds of the Commodity

Credit Corporation, \$20,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 7411. Inclusion of Northern Mariana Islands as a State under McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act

Public Law 87-788, commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-7) is amended to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SUBTITLE E—FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

Sec. 7501. Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center

Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center (7 U.S.C. 8912(c)) is authorized at \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7502. Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response

Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation and Response (7 U.S.C. 8913) is each authorized at \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7503. Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures

Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures (7 U.S.C. 8921(b)) is amended, decreasing the authorization from \$50,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7504. Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program

Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 8922(e)) is authorized at \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 7511. Enhanced Use Lease Authority Pilot Program

Enhanced Use Lease Authority Pilot Program (7 U.S.C. 3125a) is reauthorized through 2018.

Sec. 7512. Grazinglands Research Laboratory

Grazinglands Research Laboratory (P.L. 110-246;122 Stat 2019) is reauthorized through 2018.

Sec. 7513. Budget Submission and Funding

Section 7506 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7641c) is amended to require information be submitted with the annual budget submission of the President,

including for each funding request for covered programs, certain baseline information, the location and staff years of each covered program carried out by ERS or ARS, and specific information for each request for awards under certain authorities. Covered programs may not be carried out during the fiscal year if required information is not submitted with the budget. A report is authorized containing a description of the agricultural research, extension and education activities carried out by the Federal Government during the fiscal year immediately preceding.

Sec. 7514. Repeal of Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (7 U.S.C. 3202) is repealed.

Sec. 7515. Repeal of Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (7 U.S.C. 5936) is repealed.

Sec. 7516. Repeal of Seed Distribution

Seed Distribution (7 U.S.C. 415-1) is repealed.

Sec. 7517. Natural Products Research Program

Natural Products Research Program (7 U.S.C. 5937(e)) is authorized at \$7,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 7518. Sun Grant Program

Sec. 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended to authorize the Secretary to coordinate among appropriate Federal agencies. Grants are authorized to be used towards integrated, multistate research, extension and education programs on technology development and implementation. Funding allocations for specific programs are repealed. Requirements for the plan for research activities to be funded to address bioproducts and priorities of appropriate Federal agencies are amended. The Sun Grant Program is reauthorized.

Sec. 7519. Repeal of Study and Report on Food Deserts

Study and Report on Food Deserts (P.L. 110-246, 112 Stat. 2039) is repealed.

Sec. 7520. Repeal of Agricultural and Rural Transportation Research and Education

Agricultural and Rural Transportation Research and Education (7 U.S.C. 5938) is repealed.

Sec. 7601. Agreements with Nonprofit Organizations for National Arboretum

The Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 196) is amended to allow the Secretary to negotiate agreements with nonprofit organizations that support the purpose of the National Arboretum and use the proceeds of the organizations towards operation and maintenance of the facilities. In addition, a nonprofit organization that entered into such agreement may recognize donors if such recognition is approved by the Secretary. The Secretary shall broadly exercise discretion authorized under Federal law when considering whether to approve recognition.

Sec. 7602. Cotton Disease Research Report

Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a Cotton Disease Research Report.

Sec. 7603 Acceptance of Facility for Agricultural Research Service

Authorizes the Secretary to allow a non-Federal entity to construct a facility for use and on land owned by the Agricultural Research Service under certain circumstances. This authority terminates September 30, 2018.

Sec. 7604. Miscellaneous Technical Corrections

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (PL 110-246; 122 Stat. 2013) is amended to make technical corrections.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

SUBTITLE A—REPEAL OF CERTAIN FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Sec. 8001. Forest Land Enhancement Program

Section 8001 amends section 4 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by repealing the Forest Land Enhancement Program.

Sec. 8002. Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

Section 8002 amends section 6 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by repealing the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program.

Sec. 8003. Expired Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program

Section 8003 amends section 18 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1987 by repealing the Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program.

Sec. 8004. Hispanic-Serving Institution Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program

Section 8004 amends section 8402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Hispanic-serving Institution Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program.

Section 8005. Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

Section 8005 amends section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by repealing the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program.

Section 8006. Separate Forest Service Decisionmaking and Appeals Process

Section 8006 repeals section 322 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 which establishes a notice and comment period for Forest Service projects or activities that implement land and resource management plans developed under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. The section further excludes such projects and activities from the pre-decisional objection process under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 if those projects or activities are also categorically excluded from an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

SUBTITLE B—REAUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978
PROGRAMS

Sec. 8101. State-Wide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources

Section 8101 amends section 2A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to provide for coordination between the State Forester and as feasible and under certain circumstances, appropriate military installations.

Sec. 8102. Forest Legacy Program

Section 8101 amends section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by reauthorizing the Forest Legacy Program through FY 2017 at \$55,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Section 8103. Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Section 8102 amends section 7A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by reauthorizing the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program at \$1,500,000 for each fiscal year 2014 though 2018.

SUBTITLE C—REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER FORESTRY-RELATED LAWS

Sec. 8201. Rural Revitalization Technologies

Section 8201 amends section 2371 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the Rural Revitalization Technologies at the current level of \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 8202. Office of International Forestry

Section 8201 amends section 2405 of the Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the Office of International Forestry within the Forest Service at \$6,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 8203. Change in Funding Source for Healthy Forest Reserve Program

Section 8203 amends section 508 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by making the Healthy Forest Reserve Program subject to appropriated funds at an authorization level of \$9,750,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018. The section further allows the Secretary to use funds appropriated for a given fiscal year to carry out the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, if necessary to cover the cost of technical assistance, management, and enforcement responsibilities for land enrolled in the program as permanent easements or 30-year easements.

Sec. 8204. Stewardship End Result Contracting Project Authority

Section 8204 amends section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act by reauthorizing Forest Service's stewardship end contracting authority through FY 2018 and providing that, at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, a contract under this section may be considered a contract for the sale of property.

SUBTITLE D—NATIONAL FOREST CRITICAL AREA RESPONSE

Sec. 8301. Definitions

Section 8301 defines the terms “critical area” and “National Forest System” for the purposes of the title.

Sec. 8302. Designation of Critical Areas

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to designate critical areas within the National Forest System for the purposes of addressing deteriorating forest health conditions in existence at the time of this Act due to insect infestation, drought, disease, or storm damage as well as future risk of insect infestations or disease outbreaks.

Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to use the most recent annual forest health aerial surveys of mortality and defoliation for the purpose of determining deteriorating forest health conditions at the time of this Act and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map for the purpose determining of future risk when considering National Forest System land for designation as a critical area.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to designate the first critical areas no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Subsection (d) establishes that a critical area designation under this subtitle shall last for 10 years.

Sec. 8303. Application of Expedited Procedures and Activities of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to Critical Areas

Subsection (a), subject to specified modifications within the section, allows for the application of authorities of title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to all Forest Service projects and activities carried out in a designated critical area.

Subsection (b) exempts projects conducted in accordance with this section from section 322 of Public Law 102-381 which prohibits the use of appropriations to complete and issue the five-year program under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to make the following modifications when applying title I authorities to Forest Service projects and activities in a critical area: (1) the authority should apply to the entire critical area; and (2) all projects and activities of the Forest Service shall be considered to be authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects for the purpose of applying this title.

Subsection (d) excludes projects that comprise less than 10,000 acres from the requirements for an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The exclusion does not apply to: land in the National Wilderness Preservation System; any Federal land on which, by an Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, removal of vegetation is restricted; a congressionally designated wilderness study area; or an area in which the activity would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.

Subsection (e) requires that all projects and activities carried out in a critical area pursuant to the subtitle shall be consistent with land and resource management plans.

Sec. 8304. Good Neighbor Authority

Subsection (a) defines the terms “eligible State” and “State forester” for the purposes of the section.

Subsection (b) gives the Secretary authority to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with a State forester authorizing the State forester to provide the forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services on National Forest System land in the eligible State.

Restoration and protection services include activities to treat insect infected trees, activities to reduce hazardous fuels, and any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health. Such cooperative agreement or contract may authorize the State forester to serve as the agent for the Secretary in providing those authorized services. A State forester may enter into subcontracts to provide those authorized services if it is in accordance with applicable contract procedures for the eligible State. Any decision required to be made under NEPA may not be delegated to a State forester or any other officer or employee of the eligible State under this section.

Services performed under such cooperative agreement or contract shall be exempt from subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Subsection (d) of that Act requires the Secretary to advertise all timber sales unless extraordinary conditions exist or the appraised value of the sale is less than \$10,000. Subsection (g) of that Act requires that designation and marking, and supervision of harvesting of trees be conducted by persons

employed by the Secretary and have no personal interest in the purchase or harvest of such products nor be in the direct or indirect employ of the purchaser.

The restoration and protection services under this section shall be carried out on a project-by-project basis under existing Forest Service authorities.

SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 8401. Revision of Strategic Plan for Forest Inventory and Analysis

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, revise the strategic plan for forest inventory and analysis to address the new requirements imposed by this section.

Subsection (b) enumerates a list of new requirements for the purpose of revising the strategic plan for forest inventory and analysis.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to submit the revised strategic plan to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

Sec. 8402. Forest Service Participation in ACES Program

Section 8402 allows the Forest Service to use certain Forest Service funds for the purpose of using the Agricultural Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program to provide technical services for conservation-related programs and authorities carried out on Forest Service System lands.

Sec. 8403. Green Science and Technology Transfer Research under Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978

Section 8403 authorizes a priority for forestry and rangeland research and education on science and technology transfer through the Forest Products Laboratory to demonstrate the benefits of wood as a green building material. It also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit an annual report to Congress on this research, the number of buildings the Forest Service has built with wood and the investments made by the Forest Service in green building wood promotion.

Sec. 8404. Extension of Stewardship Contracts Authority Regarding Use of Designation by Prescription to all Thinning Sales under National Forest Management Act of 1976

Section 8404 amends current authority to allow for designation by prescription and designation by description for thinning projects and timber sales. Designation may be supervised by use of post-harvest cruise, sample weight scaling or other methods determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Sec. 8405. Reimbursement of Fire Funds Expended by a State for Management and Suppression of Certain Wildfires

Section 8405 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to accept reimbursement amounts from a State and pay those amounts to another State seeking the reimbursement for amounts expended for resources and services provided for the management and suppression of a wildfire. However, the states seeking and providing reimbursement must each have a mutual assistance agreement with the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior for providing and receiving wildfire management and suppression resources and services. In addition, any past acceptance of funds or reimbursements made by the Secretary that otherwise would have been authorized by this language shall be considered to have been made under this section.

Sec. 8406. Ability of National Forest System Lands to Meet Needs of Local Wood Producing Facilities for Raw Materials

Section 8406 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study within one year assessing the raw needs of all wood producing facilities within 100 miles of each of the National Forest System units. The study would include the volume of timber which would be available if the unit of the National Forest System annually sold its Allowable Sale Quantity in the current Forest Plan as well as the actual volume sold and harvested during the previous decade. In addition, a comparison of the volume sold and harvested from the previous decade to the calculated amount under previous decades will be included. Finally, an assessment of the ability of each unit to meet the needs of the facilities will be included.

Sec. 8407. Report on the National Forest System Roads

Section 8407 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report on the condition of forest roads to Congress within 90 days.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

Sec. 9001. Definition of Renewable Energy System

Section 9001 amends section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by modifying the definition of “biobased product” and adding a definition of “forest product” to ensure that mature forest products are treated in the same manner as other biobased products. The section also adds a definition for “renewable energy system” which limits the eligible projects in the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 9002. Biobased Markets Program

Section 9002 amends section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Biobased Markets Program with discretionary funding authorized at \$2 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9003. Biorefinery Assistance

Section 9003 amends section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating grant funding in the Biorefinery Assistance Program to ensure that program funding

is spent more efficiently through loan guarantees with discretionary funding at \$75 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9004. Repowering Assistance Program

Section 9004 amends section 9004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Repowering Assistance Program with discretionary funding at \$10 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9005. Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Section 9005 amends section 9005 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels with discretionary funding at \$50 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9006. Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

Section 9006 amends section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program with discretionary funding at \$2 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9007. Rural Energy for America Program

Section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating the authority for feasibility studies, creating a three-tiered application process, and reauthorizing the Rural Energy for America Program with discretionary funding at \$45 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9008. Biomass Research and Development

Section 9008 amends section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing Biomass Research and Development with discretionary funding at \$20 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9009. Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

Section 9009 amends section 9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers through 2018.

Sec. 9010. Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Section 9010 amends section 9011 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (“CHST”) payments and reauthorizing the program with discretionary funding at \$75,000,000 per fiscal year through 2018. This section also adds “existing project areas that have received funding” to the factors the Secretary shall consider when selecting project areas.

Sec. 9011. Community Wood Energy Program

Section 9011 amends section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Community Wood Energy Program with discretionary funding at \$2 million per fiscal year through 2018.

Sec. 9012. Repeal of Biofuels Infrastructure Study

Section 9012 amends section 9002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Biofuels Infrastructure Study.

Sec. 9013. Repeal of Renewable Fertilizer Study

Section 9013 amends section 9003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Renewable Fertilizer Study.

TITLE X – HORTICULTURE

Sec. 10001. Specialty Crops Market News Allocation

Section 10001 amends section 10107 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing appropriations for specialty crop news market services at \$9,000,000 for each fiscal year, through FY 2018.

Sec. 10002. Repeal of Grant Program to Improve Movement of Specialty Crops

Sec. 10002 amends section 10403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 repealing the grant program to improve movement of specialty crops.

Sec. 10003. Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

Sec. 10003 amends section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 and the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. The section includes “local food” in the title and establishment section. It further clarifies the purposes section of the program to highlight “locally and regionally produced agricultural products”.

The section includes a matching fund requirement at 25 percent for entities carrying out local and regional food business enterprises. It limits the use of grant money by prohibiting its use for purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of buildings or structure.

The section makes available \$30,000,000 in mandatory funding each year and maintains the authorization for \$10,000,000 for the program for each fiscal year 2014 through FY 2018. Of the funds made available, 50 percent is reserved for activities related to direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities, such as farmers’ market and roadside stands; and 50 percent is reserved for activities of local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, and store locally or regionally produced food products. Not more than 3 percent of the total amount of funds made available to the program can be used for administrative expenses.

Sec. 10004. Organic Agriculture

Subsection (a) amends section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by extending the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives through FY 2018 at \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Subsection (b) amends section 2122 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the National Organic Program to include a section requiring the Secretary to modernize database and technology systems for the program.

Subsection (c) amends section 2123 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the program at the current level of \$11,000,000 for each fiscal year through FY 2018.

Subsection (d) amends section 10606 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by repealing the National Organic Certification Cost-share Program.

Subsection (e) amends section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) to exempt organic products from the payment of an assessment under a commodity promotion law until the date on which the Secretary issues an organic commodity promotion order. In addition, the Department of Agriculture is granted the authority to consider an application for a promotion order by the organic sector, including an election right for a covered person to decide under which applicable promotion order to be assessed, and the definition of an agricultural commodity in the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7412(1)) is amended to include organic products.

Sec. 10005. Investigations and Enforcement of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521) is amended to authorize the Secretary to take investigative actions necessary to carry out this title to verify the accuracy of information and determine whether a person covered by this title has committed a violation of this title. The Secretary is authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, take evidence and require the production of records required to be maintained under this title, relevant to the investigation. It is an unlawful act for any person covered by this title to refuse to provide information required by the Secretary under this title or to violate a suspension or revocation of either the organic certification of a producer or handler or the accreditation of a certifying agent.

The Secretary may suspend, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing, an organic certification if the Secretary has proved that the producer or handler recklessly committed a violation of their organic plan or has recklessly committed or is recklessly committing a violation of this title. The Secretary may suspend, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing, an accreditation if the Secretary has proved that the certifying agent has recklessly committed or is recklessly committing a violation of this title. The Secretary may suspend, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing, an organic certification or accreditation if the producer, handler, or certifying agent has waived such expedited administrative hearing.

A suspension must be issued by the Secretary not later than five days after the expedited administrative hearing concludes or the Secretary receives notice of a waiver of the hearing. The period of a suspension shall not be more than 90 days beginning on the date the Secretary issues the suspension.

Prior to suspension, the Secretary may not issue a suspension if the producer, handler, or certifying agent cures or corrects the deficiency giving rise to the violation or within a reasonable time-frame, as determined by the Secretary, enters into a settlement with the Secretary regarding the deficiency giving rise to the violation. During suspension, the Secretary shall terminate the suspension if the producer, handler, or certifying agent cures the violation.

The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing and an expedited administrative appeal, revoke a certification if the Secretary has proved that the producer or handler knowingly committed an egregious violation of their organic plan or has knowingly committed or is knowingly committing an egregious violation of this title. The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing and an expedited administrative appeal, revoke an accreditation if the Secretary has proved that the certifying agent knowingly committed, or is knowingly committing, an egregious violation of this title. The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative hearing and an expedited administrative appeal, revoke an organic certification or accreditation if the producer, handler, or certifying agent has waived such expedited administrative hearing and appeal.

If the Secretary finds, during an investigation or during the period of suspension, that a producer, handler, or certifying agent has knowingly committed an egregious violation of this title, the Secretary shall initiate revocation proceedings not later than 30 days after the date on which notice is received by the producer, handler, or certifying agent of such finding. The Secretary shall provide the producer, handler, or certifying agent notice not later than five days after the date of such finding.

A suspension or revocation of a certification or accreditation may be appealed to a U.S. district court not later than 30 business days after notice of the suspension or revocation. A suspension or revocation is final and conclusive on the date on which judicial review is complete or, where not appealed, the date on which such 30-day period ends.

A suspension or revocation shall be reviewed in accordance with the standards of review specified in the Administrative Procedure Act. The Secretary may apply to the appropriate U.S. district court for enforcement of a final revocation, and the court shall enforce the revocation. Civil penalties under the title are authorized if there is a violation of the revocation. A violation of this title means a violation specified in section 2120.

Sec. 10006. Food Safety Education Initiatives

Section 10006 amends section 10105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by extending the authorization of appropriations for Food Safety Education Initiatives at \$1,000,000 through FY 2018.

Sec. 10007. Specialty Crop Block Grants

Section 10007 amends section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 by changing the grant allocation formula. The Secretary is also authorized to accept a grant application including equipment or capital-related research costs so long as the information submitted has an assurance that state funds will supplement the Federal grant dollars towards this purpose by not less than 50 percent during the fiscal year that the cost was incurred and be replaced completely with state funds by the next fiscal year. It makes available \$72,500,000 in mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants for each fiscal year, 2014 through 2017 and \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2018. The section requires the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this Act, to issue guidance for the purpose of making grants to multistate projects and designates mandatory funds for such purposes. The Secretary may not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available for a fiscal year for administrative expenses. A State receiving a Specialty Crop Block Grant may not use more than 8 percent of the funds received under the grant for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

Sec. 10008. Report on Honey

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, to submit a report to the Commissioner of the FDA, describing how an appropriate Federal standard for identifying honey would be in the interest of consumers and the honey industry. The Secretary shall submit such a report not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to consider the March, 2006, Standard of Identity citizens' petition filed with the FDA, including any current industry amendments or clarifications, when preparing such a report.

Sec. 10009. Bulk Shipments of Apples to Canada

Subsection (a) exempts apples shipped to Canada in bulk bins from the provisions of the Export Apple Act.

Subsection (b) amends the definitions section of the Export Apple Act to include a definition of the term "bulk bin".

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to issue regulations to carry out the amendments, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 10010. Inclusion of Olive Oil in Import Controls under the Agricultural Adjustment Act

Section 10010 amends section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to include olive oil in the list of commodities regulated by import controls.

Sec. 10011. Consolidation of Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs

Amends the Plant Protection Act to authorize the National Clean Plant Network, as previously authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7761). Of the funds of

the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$62,500,000 is made available for fiscal years 2014 through 2017 and \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 towards Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs as amended here. However, not less than \$5,000,000 of the funds each fiscal year will be made available to carry out the national clean plant network.

The use of any Commodity Credit Corporation funds under this section to provide technical assistance shall not be considered an allotment or fund transfer from the Corporation for the purposes of the limit on expenditure for technical assistance imposed by the Corporation's Charter Act.

Sec. 10012. Modification, Cancellation, or Suspension on Basis of a Biological Opinion.

Except in the case of a voluntary request from a registrant under section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a), a registration may be modified, canceled or suspended on the basis of the implementation of a Biological Opinion issued by the NMFS or the USFWS prior to the completion of the National Academy of Sciences study commissioned by the Administrator of the EPA or Jan. 1, 2015, whichever is earlier, only if the action is taken pursuant to section 6 of the Act and the Biological Opinion complies with the recommendations contained in the study. The study shall include at minimum: (1) a formal, independent, and external peer review, consistent with OMB policies of each Biological Opinion, (2) an assessment of economic impacts of measures or alternatives recommended in each Biological Opinion, (3) an examination of specific scientific and procedural questions and issues pertaining to economic feasibility contained in a June 23, 2011 letter sent to the Administrator and other Federal officials from Members of Congress.

Sec. 10013. Use and Discharges of Authorized Pesticides

Section 10013(a) is the short title.

Section 10013(b) amends section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act prohibiting the Administrator or a State from requiring a permit under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for pesticide applications authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, except in certain instances.

Section 10013(c) amends section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibiting the Administrator or a State from requiring a permit under section 402 for the application into navigable waters of a pesticide applications authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Subsection (s)(2) provides exceptions for certain instances.

Sec. 10014. Seed not Pesticide or Device for Purposes of Importation

Section 10014 amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o) to eliminate the requirement to notify the Administrator for seeds, including treated seeds, of the arrival of pesticides and devices under subsection (c).

Sec. 10015. Stay of Regulations Related to Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order

Section 10015 requires the Secretary of Agriculture, within 60 days of the enactment of this Act, to lift the administrative stay imposed by the rule establishing an industry-funded promotion, research and information program for fresh cut Christmas trees.

Sec. 10016. Study on Proposed Order Pertaining to Sulfuryl Fluoride

Section 10016 authorizes a report to Congress regarding the potential economic and public health effects that would result from finalization of the proposed order pertaining to sulfuryl fluoride.

Sec. 10017. Study on Local and Regional Food Production and Program Evaluation

Section 10017 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to collect data on the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products, facilitate interagency collaboration and data sharing on programs related to local and regional food systems and monitor the effectiveness of programs designed to expand or facilitate local food systems. The Secretary will implement these directives by collecting and distributing reporting of prices, conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to the production, handling, distribution, retail sales and trend studies, evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs, expand the Agricultural Resource Management Survey and seek private-public partnerships to facilitate the collection of data. The Secretary is required to submit a report to Congress describing the progress made in implementing the above.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

Sec. 11001. Information Sharing

Section 11001 if the producer authorizes it, this section requires the FSA to provide to an agent or an approved insurance provider (AIP) information that may assist the agent or AIP in insuring the producer.

Sec. 11002. Publication of Information on Violations of Prohibition on Premium Adjustments

Section 11002 requires the RMA to publish on its website violations of the prohibition to give rebates or discounts in premium in sufficient detail to serve as guidance to AIP, agents and producers.

Sec. 11003. Supplemental Coverage Option

Section 11003 establishes the new Supplemental Coverage Option to give a producer the option of purchasing additional coverage on an individual or area yield and loss basis or a margin basis. Coverage cannot exceed the difference between 90 percent of the actual loss and the coverage level selected by the producer of the underlying policy or plan of insurance.

Sec. 11004. Premium Amounts for Catastrophic Risk Protection

Section 11004 requires a re-rating of the catastrophic risk protection premium.

Sec. 11005. Repeal of Performance-Based Discount

Section 11005 repeals unused authority for performance-based discounts.

Sec. 11006. Permanent Enterprise Unit Subsidy

Section 11006 makes permanent the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (the Corporation) authority to pay a portion of the premiums for policies that insure on an enterprise unit basis.

Sec. 11007. Enterprise Units for Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Crops

Section 11007 requires enterprise units to be made available by practice (irrigated or non-irrigated).

Sec. 11008. Data Collection

Section 11008 allows the use of data collected by the Risk Management Agency, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, or both, to determine yields. Where sufficient county data is not available, this section authorizes the Secretary to use data from other sources.

Sec. 11009. Adjustment in Actual Production History to Establish Insurable Yields

Section 11009 increases the percentage of the applicable transitional yield used to replace excluded recorded or appraised yields from 60 percent to 70 percent.

Sec. 11010. Submission and Review of Policies

Section 11010 requires the Corporation to review policies developed under the research and development contracting authority at 522(c), or pilot program developed under 523, and submit to the Board for review policies that will likely result in viable and marketable policies, provide crop insurance in a significantly improved form, and adequately protect the interests of producers. This section also requires and encourages approval of certain policies.

Sec. 11011. Equitable Relief for Specialty Crop Producers

Section 11011 provides equitable relief on specialty crop policies that were disproportionately adversely impacted by the SRA but clarifies that Congress does not provide statutory assent to SRA provisions.

Sec. 11012. Budget Limitations on Renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement

Section 11012 requires the Board to ensure budget neutrality to the maximum extent practicable, and return any savings realized in Standard Reinsurance Agreement renegotiations to specific crop insurance purposes.

Sec. 11013. Crop Production on Native Sod

Section 11013 reduces the premium subsidy during a specified period of time of planting on native sod acreage in the Prairie Pothole National Priority Area.

Sec. 11014. Coverage Levels by Practice

Section 11014 allows producers to elect different coverage for both dry land and irrigated land.

Sec. 11015. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Provisions

Section 11015 provides beginning farmers and ranchers with additional premium assistance, enhanced T-yields, and the ability to use previous producer's APH or an assigned yield.

Sec. 11016. Stacked Income Protection Plan for Producers of Upland Cotton

Section 11016 requires a stacked income protection plan to be made available to upland cotton producers beginning with the 2014 crop year.

Sec. 11017. Peanut Revenue Crop Insurance

Section 11017 creates a revenue crop insurance program for peanut producers, beginning in crop year 2014, using the effective price for peanuts equal to the Rotterdam price index, adjusted to reflect the farmer stock price of peanuts in the U.S.

Sec. 11018. Authority to Correct Errors

Section 11018 allows an insurance provider or agent to correct information to make it consistent with information a producer reported to FSA, provided the corrections do not allow the producer to obtain a disproportionate benefit or avoid any ineligibility requirements or legal obligations.

Sec. 11019. Implementation

Section 11019 requires the Secretary to maintain and upgrade information management systems and to implement an acreage report streamlining initiative.

Sec. 11020. Research and Development Priorities

Section 11020 make specialty crops, sweet sorghum, biomass sorghum, rice, peanuts and sugarcane, alfalfa, and specialty crops a research and development priority.

Sec.11021. Additional Research and Development Contracting Requirements

Section 11021 lists additional research and development contracting priorities.

Sec. 11022. Program Compliance priorities

Section 11022 allows the Secretary to enter into partnerships to improve analysis tools and technology regarding compliance or indentifying and using innovative compliance strategies.

Sec. 11023. Pilot programs

Section 11023 gives the Corporation sole discretion over which pilot programs to conduct.

Sec. 11024 Technical Amendments

Section 11024 makes technical amendments.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS

SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK

Sec. 12101. National Sheep Industry Improvement Center

Section 12101 amends section 375 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by reauthorizing the appropriations for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center though fiscal year 2018, at the current level of \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Sec. 12102 Repeal of Certain Regulations Under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921

Section 12102 prevents the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) from doing any further work on the GIPSA rulemaking that resulted from the 2008 Farm Bill.

Sec. 12103. Trichinae Certification Program

Section 12103 directs the Secretary to amend regulations under section 11010 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to incorporate into the trichinae certification program a surveillance program or other method consistent with internationally accepted standards.

The Trichinae Certification Program is reauthorized at the current level of \$1,500,000, as well as such additional sums as may be necessary to carry out Section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act, both through fiscal year 2018 and to remain available until expended.

Sec. 12104. National Aquatic Animal Health Plan

Section 12104 amends section 11013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.

Sec. 12105. Country of Origin Labeling

Section 12105 requires the Secretary to conduct an economic analysis through the Office of the Chief Economist, within 180 days of the date of enactment, of the proposed rule, “Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Goat Meat, Wild and Farm-raised Fish and Shellfish, Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Peanuts, Pecans, Ginseng and Macadamia Nuts,” published on March 12, 2013. The analysis shall include specific information with respect to the labeling of beef, pork, and chicken of the impact on consumers, producers, and packers in the United States.

Sec. 12106. National Animal Health Laboratory Network

Section 12106 authorizes the Secretary to enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements or other legal instruments with eligible laboratories. The network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories would expand the capability to detect and respond to emerging or existing threats to animal health, and to support the protection of public health, the environment, and the U.S. agricultural economy. The Secretary, to the extent practicable and necessary shall give priority to existing Federal, State, and university facilities. The section also adds a new authorization of appropriations of \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 12107 Repeal of Duplicative Catfish Inspection Program.

Section 12107 repeals the USDA program establishing an inspection and grading program for catfish.

Sec. 12108. National Poultry Improvement Program.

Section 12108 restricts the Department of Agriculture from making any governance changes to the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

SUBTITLE B—SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS AND
LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCERS

Sec. 12201. Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Section 12201(a) amends section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include veteran farmers and ranchers. The section makes available \$10,000,000 in mandatory funding for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018. The authorization of appropriations is reauthorized for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Section 12201(b) includes a definition of the term “veteran farmer or rancher”.

Sec. 12202. Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Section 12202 amends paragraph (3) of section 226B(f) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to include an authorization of appropriations of \$2,000,000 for each fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 12203. Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center

Section 12203 establishes a Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at an 1890 Land Grant College or University.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 12301. Grants to Improve Supply, Stability, Safety, and Training of Agricultural Labor Force

Section 12301 amends section 14204(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to include an authorization of appropriations of \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 12302. Program Benefit Eligibility Status for Participants in High Plains Water Study

Section 12304 amends the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to prevent individuals participating in a 1-time study of recharge potential for the Ogallala Aquifer in the High Plains of Texas from losing eligibility for program benefits under the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 or its amendments solely as the result of participation in such study.

Sec. 12303. Office of Tribal Relations

Section 12303 amends the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Secretary to establish an Office of Tribal Relations, within the Office of the Secretary, to advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian Tribes.

Sec. 12304. Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison

The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6918) is amended to require the Secretary to establish the position of Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison. The liaison shall provide information to returning veterans and connect returning veterans with beginning farmer training and agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs, provide information to veterans concerning availability of and eligibility for agricultural programs, serve as a resource in applying for agricultural programs and serve as an advocate on behalf of veterans within the Department.

Sec. 12305. Prohibition on Keeping GSA Leased Cars Overnight

Section 12305 prohibits FSA employees that are issued government cars from taking the cars home overnight unless they are on official travel involving per diem.

Sec. 12306. Noninsured Crop Assistance Program

Section 12306 amends the noninsured crop assistance program (NAP) to allow for the purchase of additional NAP coverage for crops that do not otherwise have coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance Act as well as sweet sorghum and biomass sorghum.

Sec. 12307. Ensuring High Standards for Agency Use of Scientific Information

Requires federal agencies, by January 1, 2014, to have in effect guidelines to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the scientific information upon which the agencies rely. Prohibits any policy decision issued by an agency after January 1, 2014, from taking effect unless such agency has in effect guidelines for use of scientific information that have been approved by the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Sec. 12308 Evaluation Required for Purposes of Prohibition on Closure or Relocation of County Offices for the Farm Service Agency

Section 12308 requires a workload assessment before any Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office closures take place.

Sec. 12309 Acer Access and Development Program

Section 12309 authorizes the Secretary to make grants to states, tribal governments and research institutions to research, promote and expand access to lands for maple sugaring.

Sec. 12310 Regulatory Review by the Secretary of Agriculture

Section 12309 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to review publications that provide notice of Environmental Protection Agency guidance, policy, memorandums, regulations or statements, for significant impacts on agricultural entities and then take certain, specified action.

Sec. 12311 Report on Bovine Tuberculosis in Texas

Section 12311 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a study of Bovine Tuberculosis in Texas.

Sec. 12312 Agricultural Commodity Definition

Section 12312 adds the products of natural stone to the list of commodities under the Commodity Promotion Act.

Sec. 12313 Prohibition on Attending an Animal Fighting Venture or Causing a Minor to Attend an Animal Fighting Venture.

Section 12313 closes a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act relating to spectators at animal fighting ventures.

Sec. 12315 Increased Protection for Agricultural Interests in the Missouri River Basin

Sec. 12315 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to take action to promote immediate increased flood protection for agriculture interests in the Missouri River basin.

Sec. 12316 Increased Protection for Agricultural Interests in the Black Dirt Region

Section 12316 directs the Secretary to take actions to promote immediate increased flood protection for the farmers, producers and agricultural interests around the Wallkill River and in the Black Dirt Region.