

Union Calendar No. 258

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2518

[Report No. 117-344]

To leverage incentives for the adoption of costly precision agriculture technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2021

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mrs. FISCHBACH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

JUNE 3, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BACON, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. BALDERSON

JUNE 3, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Agriculture; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To leverage incentives for the adoption of costly precision agriculture technology, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Producing Responsible
 5 Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the
 6 Environment Act” or the “PRECISE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-**
 8 **GRAM.**

9 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
 10 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)(3), by redesignating sub-
 12 paragraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and
 13 (H), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph
 14 (E) the following:

15 “(F) the adoption of precision agriculture
 16 practices, and the acquisition of precision agri-
 17 culture technology;”;

18 (2) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”;

20 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
 21 riod and inserting “; and”; and

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

23 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
 24 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
 25 culture technology, including adoption or acquisition

for the purpose of participating in the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985.”;

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) 90 percent of the principal amount of the loan in the case of—

“(A) a producer that is a qualified socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher or a beginning farmer or rancher; or

“(B) loans that are used for the purchase of precision agriculture technology.”; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

“(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding after and below the end the following:

“(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that there is coordination be-

1 tween the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
 2 sources Conservation Service.”.

3 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

4 Section 310B(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
 5 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)) is amend-
 6 ed—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
 8 graph (C);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
 10 paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(E) expanding precision agriculture prac-
 13 tices, including by financing equipment and
 14 farm-wide broadband connectivity, in order to
 15 promote best-practices, reduce costs, and im-
 16 prove the environment.”.

17 **SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the
 19 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-
 20 1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “(including the adop-
 21 tion of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition
 22 of precision agriculture technology)” after “planning”.

23 (b) PAYMENTS.—

1 (1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
2 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3839aa-2(d)(6)) is amended—

4 (A) by striking “A producer shall” and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
7 A producer shall”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
10 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
12 ing payments for practices on eligible land
13 under the program may also receive a loan
14 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
15 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
16 ment Act to cover costs for same practices
17 on the same land.

18 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The
19 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
20 pating in the program in writing of the
21 availability of a loan or loan guarantee
22 under section 304 of the Consolidated
23 Farm and Rural Development Act as it re-
24 lates to costs of implementing practices
25 under this program.”.

1 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY
2 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Se-
3 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is
4 amended, in the subsection heading, by inserting
5 “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRIORITY”.

6 (3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
7 RICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Secu-
8 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following:

10 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
11 RICULTURE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the
12 Secretary may increase the amount that would oth-
13 erwise be provided for a practice under this sub-
14 section to not more than 90 percent of the costs as-
15 sociated with adopting precision agriculture practices
16 and acquiring precision agriculture technology.”.

17 (c) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
18 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
19 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
20 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
21 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
22 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

1 **SEC. 5. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

2 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-
3 tion 1240L(c)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer
6 under this subsection shall not be provided for con-
7 servation activities for which there is no cost in-
8 curred or income forgone by the producer.”.

9 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-
10 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING
11 MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security
12 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

13 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
14 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
15 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
16 SION AGRICULTURE”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
19 or” and inserting a semicolon;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

23 “(C) precision agriculture.”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
25 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
26 grazing management, or precision agriculture”.

1 **SEC. 6. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

2 Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(6) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
6 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
7 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-
8 ning, including planning related to the use of cover
9 crops, precision conservation management, com-
10 prehensive nutrient management planning, and other
11 innovative plans.”.

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