

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2518

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

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—

(1) in subsection (b)(3), by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) the adoption of precision agriculture practices, and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology;”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

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

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) producers who use the loans to adopt precision agriculture practices or acquire precision agriculture 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—

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

4 “(B) loans that are used for the purchase
 5 of precision agriculture technology.”; and
 6 (4) in subsection (f)—

7 (A) by striking “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
 8 VISIONS.—The Secretary” and inserting the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

11 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Sec-
 12 retary”; and

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

15 “(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making
 16 or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Sec-
 17 retary shall ensure that there is coordination be-
 18 tween the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
 19 sources Conservation Service.”.

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

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

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

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

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

4 “(E) expanding precision agriculture prac-
 5 tices, including by financing equipment and
 6 farm-wide broadband connectivity, in order to
 7 promote best-practices, reduce costs, and im-
 8 prove the environment.”.

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

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the
 11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
 12 1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “(including the adop-
 13 tion of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition
 14 of precision agriculture technology)” after “planning”.

15 (b) PAYMENTS.—

16 (1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
 17 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 18 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

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

21 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—

22 A producer shall”; and

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

24 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
 25 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
2 ing payments for practices on eligible land
3 under the program may also receive a loan
4 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
5 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
6 ment Act to cover costs for same practices
7 on the same land.

8 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The
9 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
10 pating in the program in writing of the
11 availability of a loan or loan guarantee
12 under section 304 of the Consolidated
13 Farm and Rural Development Act as it re-
14 lates to costs of implementing practices
15 under this program.”.

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

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

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

8 (c) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
 9 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
 10 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
 11 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
 12 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
 13 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

14 **SEC. 5. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

1 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
 2 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
 3 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
 4 SION AGRICULTURE”;

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

11 “(C) precision agriculture.”; and

12 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
 13 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
 14 grazing management, or precision agriculture”.

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

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

19 “(6) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
 20 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
 21 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-
 22 ning, including planning related to the use of cover
 23 crops, precision conservation management, com-

- 1 comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other
- 2 innovative plans.”.

