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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of the beginning farmer and rancher program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of the beginning farmer and rancher program, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of
6 2017”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CONSERVATION

- Sec. 101. Conservation reserve.
- Sec. 102. Contracts.
- Sec. 103. Establishment and administration of environmental quality incentives program.
- Sec. 104. Conservation innovation grants and payments.
- Sec. 105. Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Sec. 106. Agricultural land easements.

TITLE II—CREDIT

- Sec. 201. Adjustment of maximum limit on amount of direct farm ownership loans for regional farm real estate inflation; authority to make or guarantee farm ownership microloans.
- Sec. 202. Cooperative agreements.
- Sec. 203. Borrower training.
- Sec. 204. Funding of individual development accounts.

TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 301. Rural microentrepreneur assistance program.

TITLE IV—RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION

- Sec. 401. Beginning farmer and rancher development program.
- Sec. 402. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.
- Sec. 403. Farmland tenure.

TITLE V—CROP INSURANCE

- Sec. 501. Consistent beginning farmer and rancher definition under Federal Crop Insurance Act.
- Sec. 502. Risk management partnership programs.
- Sec. 503. Funding for crop insurance research, development, and maintenance costs.
- Sec. 504. Crop insurance education and information for producers.
- Sec. 505. Beginning farmer and rancher disaster assistance.
- Sec. 506. Beginning farmer and rancher crop insurance study.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 601. Small and beginning farmer and rancher coordinators.

1 **TITLE I—CONSERVATION**

2 **SEC. 101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

3 Section 1231 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 4 U.S.C. 3831) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2018” and
 6 inserting “2023”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (5)(B)(ii), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(6) land that is transitioning under the terms
5 of section 1235(f).”; and

6 (3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(3) TRANSITION OPTIONS.—For the purposes
9 of applying the limitations in paragraph (1), the
10 Secretary shall not count acres transitioning under
11 the terms of section 1235(f).”.

12 **SEC. 102. CONTRACTS.**

13 Section 1235 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3835) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii), by striking “a
16 retired or retiring owner or operator” and inserting
17 “an eligible landowner (as defined in section
18 1235(f)(1)(A))”;

19 (2) in subsection (f)—

20 (A) in the heading by striking “OPTION”
21 and inserting “OPTIONS”;

22 (B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2),
23 and inserting the following:

24 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(A) ELIGIBLE LANDOWNER.—In this sub-
2 section, the term ‘eligible landowner’ means a
3 landowner who is—

4 “(i) a current contract holder under
5 the conservation reserve program; and

6 “(ii) in the case of the transition of
7 farmland through a long-term lease or
8 rental agreement as outlined in paragraph
9 (2)(A)(ii), at least 65 years of age.

10 “(B) COVERED FARMER.—In this sub-
11 section, the term ‘covered farmer’ means a be-
12 ginning farmer or rancher, a socially disadvan-
13 taged farmer or rancher, or a veteran farmer or
14 rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the
15 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
16 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))), who is not a fam-
17 ily member (as defined in section 1001 of this
18 Act) of the eligible landowner.

19 “(2) TRANSITION TO COVERED FARMER.—In
20 the case of a contract modification approved in order
21 to facilitate the transfer of land subject to a contract
22 from an eligible landowner to a covered farmer, the
23 Secretary shall—

24 “(A) allow the eligible landowner to termi-
25 nate the contract up to—

1 “(i) 3 years early, without penalty,
2 and beginning on the date of termination,
3 sell to the covered farmer the land subject
4 to the contract for production purposes; or

5 “(ii) 2 years early, without penalty,
6 and beginning on the date of termination,
7 lease (under a long-term lease or a lease
8 with an option to purchase) to the covered
9 farmer the land subject to the contract for
10 production purposes;

11 “(B) beginning on the date that is 2 years
12 before the date of termination of the contract—

13 “(i) allow the covered farmer, in con-
14 junction with the eligible landowner, to
15 make conservation and land improvements,
16 including preparing to plant an agricul-
17 tural crop; and

18 “(ii) allow the covered farmer to begin
19 the certification process under the Organic
20 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
21 6501 et seq.);

22 “(C) require the covered farmer to develop
23 and implement a comprehensive conservation
24 plan that addresses all resource concerns and

1 meets such sustainability criteria as the Sec-
2 retary may establish;

3 “(D) provide to the covered farmer an op-
4 portunity to enroll in the conservation steward-
5 ship program or the environmental quality in-
6 centives program at any time beginning on the
7 date that is 1 year before the date of termi-
8 nation of the contract, including technical and
9 financial assistance in the development of a
10 comprehensive conservation plan;

11 “(E) provide the covered farmer with the
12 option to reenroll any applicable partial field
13 conservation practice that—

14 “(i) is eligible for enrollment under
15 the continuous signup option pursuant to
16 section 1234(d)(2)(A)(ii); and

17 “(ii) is part of an approved conserva-
18 tion plan; and

19 “(F) continue to make annual payments to
20 the eligible landowner for not more than—

21 “(i) an additional 3 years after the
22 date of termination of the contract in the
23 case of the sale of farmland to the covered
24 farmer; or

1 “(ii) an additional 2 years after the
2 date of termination of the contract in the
3 case of a long-term lease of farmland to
4 the covered farmer.”.

5 **SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF ENVI-**
6 **RONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2015” and
11 inserting “2023”; and

12 (2) in subsection (d)(4)(B)—

13 (A) in clause (i)—

14 (i) by striking “Not more than” and
15 inserting “The Secretary shall provide at
16 least”; and

17 (ii) by striking “may be provided in
18 advance for the purpose of” and inserting
19 “in advance for all costs related to”; and

20 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “90-day” and
21 inserting “180-day”.

22 **SEC. 104. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**
23 **MENTS.**

24 Section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
25 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is amended in—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by inserting “and
2 by beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and
3 ranchers” after “specialty crops”; and

4 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “2018”
5 and inserting “2023”.

6 **SEC. 105. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

7 Section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3841) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
11 by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
14 and” and inserting a semicolon;

15 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
16 (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting
17 after subparagraph (A) the following:

18 “(B) such sums as are necessary to carry
19 out section 1235(f) to facilitate the transfer of
20 land subject to contracts under the conservation
21 reserve program from an eligible landowner to
22 beginning farmers or ranchers and socially dis-
23 advantaged farmers or ranchers; and”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so reded-
25 ignated)—

1 (I) by striking “\$33,000,000”
2 and inserting “\$5,000,000”; and

3 (II) by striking “2014 through
4 2018” and all that follows through
5 the period at the end and inserting
6 “2019 through 2023 for outreach and
7 technical assistance in carrying out
8 section 1235(f).”; and

9 (2) in subsection (h)(1)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
11 (A), by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5
13 percent” and inserting “15 percent”; and

14 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “5
15 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

16 **SEC. 106. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

17 Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of
18 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by adding at
19 the end the following:

20 “(D) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applica-
21 tions under the program, the Secretary shall
22 give priority to an application for the purchase
23 of an agricultural land easement that—

24 “(i) maintains agricultural viability,
25 as determined by the Secretary; or

1 “(ii) includes, as a condition of the
2 easement, a requirement that any subse-
3 quent purchase of the land subject to the
4 easement shall be at agricultural value.”.

5 **TITLE II—CREDIT**

6 **SEC. 201. ADJUSTMENT OF MAXIMUM LIMIT ON AMOUNT** 7 **OF DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS FOR** 8 **REGIONAL FARM REAL ESTATE INFLATION;** 9 **AUTHORITY TO MAKE OR GUARANTEE FARM** 10 **OWNERSHIP MICROLOANS.**

11 Section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
12 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1925) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by striking “\$300,000” and inserting
15 “\$500,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal
16 year 2019, by the regional farm real estate in-
17 flation percentage applicable to the location
18 where the farm involved is located for the fiscal
19 year in which the loan is made, and decreased
20 by the amount of any unpaid indebtedness of
21 the borrower on direct loans under subtitle B)”;
22 and

23 (B) by inserting “cost” before “inflation
24 percentage”;

25 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
2 “INFLATION PERCENTAGE” and inserting
3 “COST INFLATION PERCENTAGE”; and

4 (B) in the text, by inserting “cost” before
5 “inflation percentage” ; and

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

7 “(d) REGIONAL FARM REAL ESTATE INFLATION
8 PERCENTAGE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-
10 tion, the regional farm real estate inflation percent-
11 age applicable to a farm for a fiscal year is the per-
12 centage (if any) by which—

13 “(A) the regional farm real estate inflation
14 index developed under paragraph (2) for the re-
15 gion in which the farm is located, for the 12-
16 month period ending on August 31 of the im-
17 mediately preceding fiscal year; exceeds

18 “(B) the average of the index (as so de-
19 fined) for the 12-month period ending on Au-
20 gust 31, 2018.

21 “(2) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall de-
22 velop a regional farm real estate inflation index for
23 measuring periodic changes in the price of farm real
24 estate in each geographic region of the United

1 States, using data from the National Agricultural
2 Statistics Service.

3 “(e) MICROLOANS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
5 the Secretary may establish a program to make or
6 guarantee microloans.

7 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall not
8 make or guarantee a microloan under this sub-
9 section that would cause the total principal indebted-
10 ness outstanding at any 1 time for microloans made
11 under this subtitle to any 1 borrower to exceed
12 \$50,000.

13 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—To the maximum extent
14 practicable, the Secretary shall limit the administra-
15 tive burdens and streamline the application and ap-
16 proval process for microloans under this sub-
17 section.”.

18 **SEC. 202. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

19 Section 313(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “title” and in-
22 serting “subtitle”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
2 “LENDING PILOT PROJECTS” and inserting
3 “AGREEMENTS”;

4 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) through
5 (C) and inserting the following:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
7 graph (B), during each of the 2018 through
8 2023 fiscal years, the Secretary may enter into
9 cooperative agreements with community devel-
10 opment financial institutions and nonprofit or-
11 ganizations, as the Secretary determines appro-
12 priate, to provide business, financial, marketing,
13 and credit management services and technical
14 assistance to microloan borrowers.

15 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a
16 cooperative agreement under subparagraph (A),
17 an institution described in subparagraph (A)
18 shall, as determined by the Secretary—

19 “(i) have a proven track record of suc-
20 cessfully assisting agricultural borrowers;
21 and

22 “(ii) have the services of a staff with
23 appropriate expertise in business, financial,
24 marketing, credit management services,
25 and technical assistance.”;

- 1 (3) in subparagraph (D)—
2 (A) by striking “(D)” and inserting “(C)”;
3 and
4 (B) by striking “loan” and inserting “co-
5 operative agreement”; and
6 (4) by striking subparagraph (E).

7 **SEC. 203. BORROWER TRAINING.**

8 Section 359 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
9 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006a) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 “(g) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure, to
12 the maximum extent practicable, that financial manage-
13 ment training programs funded under the beginning farm-
14 er and rancher development program under section 7405
15 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
16 are designed so that—

17 “(1) successful completion of such a financial
18 management training program will satisfy the bor-
19 rower training requirements under this section; and

20 “(2) a contract to provide such a financial man-
21 agement training program may be entered into
22 under subsection (b).”.

1 **SEC. 204. FUNDING OF INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AC-**
2 **COUNTS.**

3 Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
7 dition to any amounts provided under section 7405 of the
8 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
9 U.S.C. 3319f) for such purpose, there is authorized to be
10 appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each
11 of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

12 **TITLE III—RURAL**
13 **DEVELOPMENT**

14 **SEC. 301. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PRO-**
15 **GRAM.**

16 Section 379E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s(d)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
21 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
22 shall use \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
23 through 2023 to carry out this section, to remain
24 available until expended.”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2009
26 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”.

1 **TITLE IV—RESEARCH,**
2 **EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION**

3 **SEC. 401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOP-**
4 **MENT PROGRAM.**

5 Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
6 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

7 (1) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
8 subsection (c) as subsection (b);

9 (2) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “GRANTS”
11 and inserting “PROGRAMS” ;

12 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
15 lish a beginning farmer and rancher development
16 program to provide training, education, outreach,
17 and technical assistance initiatives to increase oppor-
18 tunities for beginning farmers or ranchers.”;

19 (C) by inserting “or cooperative agree-
20 ments” after “grants” each place it appears;

21 (D) by inserting “or cooperative agree-
22 ment” after “grant” each place it appears;

23 (E) by striking “subsection” each place it
24 appears and inserting “section”;

1 (F) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “A
2 grant” and inserting “Except as provided in
3 subsections (e) and (h), a grant”;

4 (G) in paragraph (5)—

5 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
6 (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and
7 (G), respectively; and

8 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
9 (D) the following new subparagraph:

10 “(E) degree of involvement of farmers in
11 project design, implementation, and decision-
12 making;” and

13 (H) by striking paragraphs (4), (8), and
14 (11) and redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), (7),
15 (9), and (10) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7),
16 and (8), respectively;

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (b), as so re-
18 designated, the following new subsection:

19 “(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this sub-
21 section, the Secretary shall make competitive grants
22 to support new and established local and regional
23 training, education, outreach, and technical assist-
24 ance initiatives to increase opportunities for begin-

1 ning farmers or ranchers, including programs and
2 services (as appropriate) relating to—

3 “(A) basic livestock, forest management
4 and crop farming practices;

5 “(B) innovative farm, ranch, and private
6 nonindustrial forest land access, and transfer
7 and succession strategies and programs;

8 “(C) entrepreneurship and business train-
9 ing;

10 “(D) financial and risk management train-
11 ing (including the acquisition and management
12 of agricultural credit);

13 “(E) natural resource management and
14 planning;

15 “(F) diversification and marketing strate-
16 gies;

17 “(G) curriculum development;

18 “(H) mentoring, apprenticeships, and in-
19 ternships;

20 “(I) resources and referral;

21 “(J) farm financial benchmarking;

22 “(K) technical assistance to help beginning
23 farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from re-
24 tiring farmers and ranchers;

1 “(L) agricultural rehabilitation and voca-
2 tional training for veterans;

3 “(M) food safety (including good agricul-
4 tural practices training);

5 “(N) farm safety and awareness; and

6 “(O) other similar subject areas of use to
7 beginning farmers or ranchers.

8 “(2) SET-ASIDE.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 5 per-
10 cent of the funds used to carry out this sub-
11 section for a fiscal year shall be used to support
12 programs and services that specifically focus on
13 addressing the needs of—

14 “(i) limited resource beginning farm-
15 ers or ranchers (as defined by the Sec-
16 retary);

17 “(ii) socially disadvantaged farmers or
18 ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of
19 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
20 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)) who are be-
21 ginning farmers and ranchers; and

22 “(iii) farmworkers desiring to become
23 farmers or ranchers.

24 “(B) VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCH-
25 ERS.—Not less than 5 percent of the funds

1 used to carry out this subsection for a fiscal
2 year shall be used to support programs and
3 services that specifically focus on addressing the
4 needs of veteran farmers and ranchers (as de-
5 fined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agri-
6 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
7 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).

8 “(3) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A re-
9 cipient of a grant under this subsection may not use
10 more than 15 percent of the grant funds for the in-
11 direct costs of carrying out the initiatives described
12 in paragraph (1).”;

13 (4) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by striking “and conduct” and in-
16 serting “, conduct”; and

17 (ii) by striking the period at the end
18 and inserting “, or provide training and
19 technical assistance initiatives for begin-
20 ning farmers or ranchers or for trainers
21 and service providers that work with begin-
22 ning farmers or ranchers.”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) by inserting “, educational pro-
25 grams and workshops, or training and

1 technical assistance initiatives” after “cur-
2 rricula”; and

3 (ii) by striking “modules” and insert-
4 ing “content” ;

5 (C) by amending paragraph (4) to read as
6 follows:

7 “(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—Notwith-
8 standing chapter 63 of title 31, the Secretary may
9 enter into a cooperative agreement to reflect the
10 terms of any cooperation under this subsection.”;

11 (5) in subsection (e)—

12 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraphs:

17 “(2) FUNDS.—The Secretary shall not use
18 more than \$100,000 each year to support the activi-
19 ties under this subsection.

20 “(3) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review the
21 activities and performance of the clearinghouse
22 under this section every 5 years.

23 “(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—Notwith-
24 standing chapter 63 of title 31, the Secretary may

1 enter into a cooperative agreement to reflect the
2 terms of any cooperation under this subsection.”;

3 (6) in subsection (g)—

4 (A) by inserting “(including retiring farm-
5 ers and non-farming landowners)” before “from
6 participating in programs”; and

7 (B) by striking “educating” and inserting
8 “increasing opportunities for”;

9 (7) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
10 section (i), and inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
11 lowing new subsection:

12 “(h) INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may transfer
14 up to \$10,000,000 (plus allocable costs) per year of
15 funds made available under this section for indi-
16 vidual development accounts as authorized under
17 section 333B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
18 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b).

19 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COST.—The Secretary
20 may not use more than 4 percent of the funds trans-
21 ferred under this subsection for administrative costs
22 incurred in implementing the individual development
23 accounts authorized under section 333B of the Con-
24 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
25 U.S.C. 1983b).”; and

- 1 (8) in subsection (i), as so redesignated—
- 2 (A) in paragraph (1)—
- 3 (i) in the heading, by striking “FOR
- 4 FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2018”;
- 5 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
- 6 “and” at the end;
- 7 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
- 8 “, to remain available until expended.” and
- 9 inserting a semicolon; and
- 10 (iv) by adding at the end the following
- 11 new subparagraphs:
- 12 “(D) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 13 2019 through 2020;
- 14 “(E) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 15 2021 through 2022; and
- 16 “(F) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
- 17 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
- 18 available until expended.”; and
- 19 (B) in paragraph (2)—
- 20 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
- 21 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH
- 22 2018”; and
- 23 (ii) by striking “2018” and inserting
- 24 “2023”.

1 **SEC. 402. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

2 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
3 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)(F)—

6 (A) in clause (vi), by striking “and”;

7 (B) in clause (vii), by striking the period
8 and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(viii) barriers and bridges to entry
11 and farm viability for young, beginning, so-
12 cially disadvantaged, veteran, and immi-
13 grant farmers and ranchers, including
14 farm succession, transition, transfer, entry,
15 and profitability issues.”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (11)(A)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
18 striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and

19 (B) in clause (i), by striking “pursuant to”
20 and inserting “as defined in”.

21 **SEC. 403. FARMLAND TENURE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and re-
23 port data and analysis on farmland ownership, tenure,
24 transition, and entry of beginning farmers.

25 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a),
26 the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

1 (1) collect and distribute comprehensive annual
2 reporting of trends in farmland ownership, tenure,
3 transition, barriers to entry, profitability and viabil-
4 ity of beginning farmers;

5 (2) develop surveys and report statistical and
6 economic analysis on farmland ownership, tenure,
7 transition, barriers to entry, profitability and viabil-
8 ity of beginning farmers, including a regular follow-
9 on survey to each Census of Agriculture; and

10 (3) authorize the National Agricultural Statis-
11 tics Service to create and administer a follow-on sur-
12 vey to the Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Ag-
13 ricultural Land survey to—

14 (A) investigate the extent to which non-
15 farming landowners are purchasing and holding
16 onto farmland for the sole purpose of real es-
17 tate investment; and

18 (B) the impact of these farmland owner-
19 ship trends on the successful entry and viability
20 of beginning farmers.

21 (c) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of
23 fiscal years 2019 through 2023, to remain available until
24 expended.

1 **TITLE V—CROP INSURANCE**

2 **SEC. 501. CONSISTENT BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER**
3 **DEFINITION UNDER FEDERAL CROP INSUR-**
4 **ANCE ACT.**

5 Section 502(b)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(3)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “landlord”; and

8 (2) by striking “5 crop years” and inserting
9 “10 crop years”.

10 **SEC. 502. RISK MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS.**

11 Section 522(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
12 U.S.C. 1522(d)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting after
14 “risk management tools” the second place it appears
15 the following: “for underserved producers, including
16 beginning farmers and ranchers and socially dis-
17 advantaged farmers and ranchers and”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “risk
19 management and marketing options” the following:
20 “for underserved producers, including beginning
21 farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged
22 farmers and ranchers and”;

23 (3) in paragraph (3)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (F), by inserting after
25 “financial management” the following: “(includ-

1 ing to meet insurance product record keeping
2 requirements)”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (H) by inserting after
4 “to develop” the following: “value-added, diver-
5 sification, and”; and

6 (4) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(4) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pro-
9 grams established under paragraphs (2) and (3), the
10 Secretary shall place special emphasis on risk man-
11 agement techniques, tools, and programs that are
12 specifically intended for underserved producers, in-
13 cluding beginning farmers and ranchers and socially
14 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”.

15 **SEC. 503. FUNDING FOR CROP INSURANCE RESEARCH, DE-**
16 **VELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**

17 Section 522(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
18 U.S.C. 1522(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

19 **SEC. 504. CROP INSURANCE EDUCATION AND INFORMA-**
20 **TION FOR PRODUCERS.**

21 Section 524(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
22 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting after
24 “benchmarking” the following: “, crop enterprise,
25 and market diversification”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (4)—

2 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
3 paragraph (D)(i);

4 (B) by striking the period at the end of
5 subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new
7 subparagraph:

8 “(F) farmers and ranchers that are consid-
9 ering whole-farm based revenue products.”.

10 **SEC. 505. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DISASTER**
11 **ASSISTANCE.**

12 Section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
13 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end
15 the following new subparagraph:

16 “(D) INCLUSION OF BEGINNING FARMERS
17 AND RANCHERS.—The term ‘eligible crop’ in-
18 cludes each commercial crop or other agricul-
19 tural commodity (except livestock) produced by
20 a beginning farmer or rancher, even though the
21 commercial crop or other agricultural com-
22 modity fails to satisfy clause (i) or (ii) of sub-
23 paragraph (A), if the beginning farmer or
24 rancher is ineligible for a whole farm diversified
25 risk management insurance plan under the

1 Federal Crop Insurance Act due to lack of pro-
2 duction or revenue history.”;

3 (2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS
6 AND RANCHERS.—If the eligible producer is a begin-
7 ning farmer or rancher (as defined in section
8 502(b)(3)), and was previously involved in a farming
9 operation, including involvement in the decision
10 making or physical involvement in the production of
11 the crop or livestock on the farm, for any acreage
12 obtained by the beginning farmer or rancher, a yield
13 or revenue shall be used that is the higher of—

14 “(A) the actual production of the previous
15 producer of the crop on the acreage determined
16 under subparagraph (2); or

17 “(B) the yield or revenue of the producer,
18 as determined under paragraph (3).”;

19 (3) in subsection (k)(1)—

20 (A) by striking “for an eligible crop”; and

21 (B) by striking “for the eligible crop”;

22 (4) in subsection (l)—

23 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) and (5);

24 and

1 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
2 following new paragraph (3):

3 “(3) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may dele-
4 gate the authority for determining the average mar-
5 ket price (including the direct market price and the
6 organic price) for a crop to a State Farm Service
7 Agency administrator when sufficient data is avail-
8 able to develop an average market price based on
9 State level data for the crop.”; and

10 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 sections:

12 “(m) ADDITIONAL BEGINNING FARMER PROVI-
13 SIONS.—

14 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provisions of this section, the following additional
16 coverage shall be made available to any beginning
17 farmer or rancher for up to the longer of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(A) Four years.

20 “(B) The requisite number of years of rev-
21 enue history required for the farmer or rancher
22 to qualify for revenue coverage offered under
23 the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

24 “(2) COVERAGE.—Additional coverage shall be
25 available to beginning farmers and ranchers under

1 this subsection up to 75 percent, as elected by the
2 farmer or rancher and specified in 5-percent incre-
3 ments.

4 “(n) REVENUE COVERAGE.—

5 “(1) AVAILABILITY.—Eligible producers may
6 elect revenue coverage under this subsection only
7 when the total acres in which they have a risk do
8 not exceed five acres in a county. If revenue cov-
9 erage is elected, that election shall apply to all eligi-
10 ble crops and commodities on a farm.

11 “(2) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall make
12 available noninsured assistance under this subsection
13 at a payment amount equivalent to the amount
14 that—

15 “(A) the expected revenue for the farm, as
16 determined by the Secretary, multiplied by the
17 coverage level elected by the producer, which
18 is—

19 “(i) for catastrophic level coverage,
20 27.5 percent; or

21 “(ii) for additional levels of coverage,
22 the amount elected by the producer, from
23 50 to 65 percent, or from 50 to 75 percent
24 for a beginning farmer or rancher (as de-
25 fined in section 502(b)(3)); exceeds

1 “(B) the actual revenue for the farm, as
2 determined by the Secretary.

3 “(3) SERVICE FEE.—To be eligible to receive a
4 payment under this subsection, the producer must
5 pay the service fee required by subsection (k).

6 “(4) PREMIUM.—To be eligible to receive a pay-
7 ment under the additional levels of coverage in para-
8 graph (2)(B)(ii), the producer must pay a premium
9 equal to—

10 “(A) the lesser of—

11 “(i) the sum of the premiums for each
12 eligible farm, with the premium for each
13 eligible farm obtained by multiplying—

14 “(I) the expected revenue for the
15 farm, as determined by the Secretary;

16 “(II) the coverage level elected by
17 the producer; and

18 “(III) a 5.25-percent premium
19 fee; or

20 “(ii) the product obtained by multi-
21 plying—

22 “(I) a 5.25-percent premium fee;
23 and

24 “(II) the applicable payment
25 limit.

1 “(5) RECORDS.—If revenue coverage is elected,
2 a producer is not required to provide an acreage re-
3 port under subsection (b)(3), but the producer must
4 provide a Farm Operation Report and tax records
5 for prior years, as determined by the Secretary.”.

6 **SEC. 506. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER CROP INSUR-**
7 **ANCE STUDY.**

8 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit
10 to Congress a report identifying—

11 (1) the barriers that exist to prevent or hinder
12 the ability of beginning farmers and ranchers in ac-
13 cessing whole farm revenue insurance and other crop
14 insurance products available under the Federal Crop
15 Insurance Act; and

16 (2) the regulatory or operational changes that
17 are necessary to provide beginning farmers and
18 ranchers with full, unhindered access to these crop
19 insurance products.

20 **TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS**

21 **SEC. 601. SMALL AND BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER**
22 **COORDINATORS.**

23 Section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
24 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934) is amended by
25 adding at the end the following new subsection:

1 “(i) STATE SMALL AND BEGINNING FARMER AND
2 RANCHER COORDINATOR.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Agency shall designate
4 a State small and beginning farmer and rancher co-
5 ordinator from among the State office employees of
6 the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources
7 Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency,
8 the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the
9 Rural Utilities Service.

10 “(2) TRAINING.—The Agency shall coordinate
11 the development of a training plan so that each
12 State coordinator shall receive sufficient training to
13 have a general working knowledge of the programs
14 and services available from each agency of the De-
15 partment to assist small and beginning farmers and
16 ranchers.

17 “(3) DUTIES.—The coordinator shall—

18 “(A) coordinate technical assistance at the
19 State level to help small farms and beginning
20 farmers and ranchers gain access to programs
21 of the Department;

22 “(B) develop and submit a State plan for
23 approval by the Small Farms and Beginning
24 Farmers and Ranchers Group to provide coordi-
25 nation to ensure adequate services to small and

1 beginning farmers and ranchers at all county
2 and area offices throughout the State;

3 “(C) oversee implementation of the ap-
4 proved State plan;

5 “(D) work with outreach coordinators in
6 the State offices of the Farm Service Agency,
7 the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
8 the Risk Management Agency, the Rural Busi-
9 ness-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utili-
10 ties Service to ensure appropriate information
11 about technical assistance is available at out-
12 reach events and activities; and

13 “(E) facilitate partnerships and joint out-
14 reach efforts with State organizations serving
15 small and beginning farmers through contracts
16 and cooperative agreements.”.