

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1459

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2023

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To leverage incentives for the adoption of 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 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (3), by redesignating
3 subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs
4 (G) and (H), respectively, and inserting after
5 subparagraph (E) the following:

6 “(F) the adoption of precision agriculture
7 practices, and the acquisition of precision agri-
8 culture technology;”; and

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

10 “(4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AG-
11 RICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘precision ag-
12 riculture’ and ‘precision agriculture technology’ have
13 the meanings given those terms in section 1201 of
14 the Food Security Act of 1985.”;

15 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

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

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

20 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
21 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
22 culture technology, including adoption or acquisition
23 for the purpose of participating in the environmental
24 quality incentives program under subchapter A of

1 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-
2 curity Act of 1985.”;

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

5 “(2) 90 percent of the principal amount of the
6 loan in the case of—

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

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

12 (4) in subsection (f)—

13 (A) by striking “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
14 VISIONS.—The Secretary” and inserting the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

17 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Sec-
18 retary”; and

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

21 “(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making
22 or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Sec-
23 retary shall ensure that there is coordination be-
24 tween the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
25 sources Conservation Service.”.

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

2 Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION
7 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-
8 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture
9 technology’ have the meanings given those
10 terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act
11 of 1985.”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
14 paragraph (C);

15 (B) by striking the period at the end of
16 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

18 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
19 agriculture practices, including by financing the
20 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,
21 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
22 and improve the environment.”.

23 **SEC. 4. FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985 DEFINITIONS.**

24 Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
25 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
2 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
7 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
8 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
9 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
10 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
11 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
12 maintain environmental quality.

13 “(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
14 NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-
15 nology’ means any technology (including equipment
16 that is necessary for the deployment of such tech-
17 nology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or
18 improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or live-
19 stock production, including—

20 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or
21 geospatial mapping technology;

22 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

23 “(C) yield monitors;

24 “(D) soil mapping technology;

1 “(E) sensors for gathering data on crop,
2 soil, or livestock conditions;

3 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics
4 technologies;

5 “(G) data management software and ad-
6 vanced analytics;

7 “(H) network connectivity products and
8 solutions;

9 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
10 auto-steer systems;

11 “(J) variable rate technology for applying
12 inputs, such as section control; and

13 “(K) any other technology, as determined
14 by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a
15 reduction in, or improved efficiency of, crop or
16 livestock production inputs, which may include
17 seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and
18 time.”.

19 **SEC. 5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.**

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

25 (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 the same prac-
17 tices 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 paragraph 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. 6. 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) EXCLUSION.—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. 7. 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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