

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1495

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish  
a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. THOMPSON of  
California, and Mr. GUEST) introduced the following bill; which was re-  
ferred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008  
to establish a precision agriculture loan 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Precision Agriculture  
5 Loan Program Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRECISION AGRICULTURE LOAN PROGRAM.**

7 Subtitle F of title I of the Food, Conservation, and  
8 Energy Act of 2008 is amended by inserting after section  
9 1614 (7 U.S.C. 8789) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1614A. PRECISION AGRICULTURE LOAN PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

10 “(2) PRECISION AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT.—  
11 The term ‘precision agriculture equipment’ means  
12 any equipment or technology that directly contrib-  
13 utes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, in-  
14 puts used in crop or livestock production, includ-  
15 ing—

16 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or  
17 geospatial mapping;

18 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

19 “(C) yield monitors;

20 “(D) soil mapping;

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

23 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics  
24 technologies;

25 “(G) data management software and ad-  
26 vanced analytics;

1                   “(H) network connectivity products and  
2                   solutions;

3                   “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or  
4                   auto-steer systems;

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

7                   “(K) any other technology, as determined  
8                   by the Secretary, that leads to a reduction in,  
9                   or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock  
10                  production inputs, which may include seed,  
11                  feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time.

12           “(b) PROGRAM.—As soon as practicable after the  
13           date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall es-  
14           tablish a precision agriculture loan program to encourage  
15           the adoption of precision agriculture by providing funds  
16           to producers engaged in livestock or crop production for  
17           the purchase of precision agriculture equipment.

18           “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The precision agriculture  
19           loan program under this section shall be administered by  
20           the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Administrator  
21           for Farm Programs of the Farm Service Agency.

22           “(d) ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—A precision agriculture  
23           loan under this section shall be made available to any pro-  
24           ducer described in subsection (b) that, as determined by  
25           the Secretary—

1 “(1) has a satisfactory credit history;

2 “(2) will use the loan funds to purchase preci-  
3 sion agriculture equipment; and

4 “(3) demonstrates an ability to repay the loan.

5 “(e) TERM OF LOANS.—A precision agriculture loan  
6 under this section shall have a maximum term of 12 years.

7 “(f) LOAN AMOUNT.—The maximum aggregate loan  
8 amount of a precision agriculture loan under this section  
9 shall be \$500,000.

10 “(g) LOAN SECURITY.—Approval of a precision agri-  
11 culture loan under this section shall require the borrower  
12 to provide loan security to the Secretary, in the form of—

13 “(1) a lien on the precision agriculture equip-  
14 ment being purchased; or

15 “(2) such other security as is acceptable to the  
16 Secretary.

17 “(h) REPORTING.—

18 “(1) DEFINITION OF RECIPIENT PRODUCER.—

19 In this subsection, the term ‘recipient producer’  
20 means an eligible producer described in subsection  
21 (d) that received a precision agriculture loan under  
22 this section during the fiscal year covered by the ap-  
23 plicable report prepared under paragraph (2).

1           “(2) PREPARATION OF REPORT.—For each fis-  
2           cal year, the Secretary shall prepare a report that  
3           includes—

4                   “(A) aggregate data based on a review of  
5                   each outstanding loan made by the Secretary  
6                   under this section; and

7                   “(B) a description of—

8                           “(i) for the United States and for  
9                           each State and county (or equivalent juris-  
10                          diction) in the United States—

11                                   “(I) the age of each recipient  
12                                   producer;

13                                   “(II) the duration during which  
14                                   each recipient producer has engaged  
15                                   in agricultural production;

16                                   “(III) the size of the farm or  
17                                   ranch of each recipient producer;

18                                   “(IV) the total amount provided  
19                                   as loans under this section for each  
20                                   category of equipment or technology  
21                                   described in subparagraphs (A)  
22                                   through (K) of subsection (a)(2) dur-  
23                                   ing the fiscal year covered by the re-  
24                                   port; and

1           “(V) the estimated input reduced  
2           or environmental benefits received per  
3           category of equipment or technology  
4           described in those subparagraphs with  
5           respect to which a loan was provided  
6           under this section during the fiscal  
7           year covered by the report or any  
8           prior fiscal year, including the esti-  
9           mated input reduced or environmental  
10          benefits received per category—

11                   “(aa) during the fiscal year  
12                   covered by the report with re-  
13                   spect to—

14                           “(AA) loans provided  
15                           under this section during  
16                           that fiscal year; and

17                           “(BB) loans provided  
18                           under this section during  
19                           that fiscal year or any prior  
20                           fiscal year; and

21                           “(bb) in the aggregate with  
22                           respect to all loans provided  
23                           under this section during or prior  
24                           to the fiscal year covered by the  
25                           report;

1 “(VI) the race, ethnicity, and  
2 gender of each recipient producer;

3 “(VII) the 1 or more agricultural  
4 commodities or types of enterprise for  
5 which each loan provided under this  
6 section during the fiscal year was pro-  
7 vided;

8 “(VIII) the amount of each loan  
9 provided under this section during the  
10 fiscal year; and

11 “(IX) the default rate of the  
12 loans made under this section dur-  
13 ing—

14 “(aa) the fiscal year covered  
15 by the report;

16 “(bb) each preceding fiscal  
17 year; and

18 “(cc) in the aggregate with  
19 respect to all loans provided  
20 under this section during or prior  
21 to the fiscal year covered by the  
22 report; and

23 “(ii) for each State and county (or  
24 equivalent jurisdiction) in the United  
25 States, the number of outstanding loans

1           made under this section, according to the  
2           loan size cohort.

3           “(3) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The Secretary  
4       shall—

5           “(A) not later than 1 year after the date  
6       of enactment of this Act, and annually there-  
7       after, submit the report described in paragraph  
8       (2) to—

9           “(i) the Committee on Agriculture,  
10       Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

11          “(ii) the Committee on Appropriations  
12       of the Senate;

13          “(iii) the Committee on Agriculture of  
14       the House of Representatives; and

15          “(iv) the Committee on Appropria-  
16       tions of the House of Representatives; and

17          “(B) not later than 90 days after the date  
18       on which the report is submitted under sub-  
19       paragraph (A), make the report publicly avail-  
20       able.

21       “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22       are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such  
23       sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

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