

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8960

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a subsidy program to make payments to eligible producers for certain revenue losses associated with direct-to-market sales of beef, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. BURCHETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a subsidy program to make payments to eligible producers for certain revenue losses associated with direct-to-market sales of beef, 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 “Local Beef Marketing
5 Incentive Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL BEEF MARKETING SUB-**
2 **SIDY PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
5 culture, acting through the Administrator of the Farm
6 Service Agency, (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
7 retary”) shall establish a program under which the Sec-
8 retary shall, with respect to each year determined to be
9 a subsidy year under subsection (b), make payments to
10 eligible producers for revenue losses associated with direct-
11 to-market sales of beef.

12 (b) DETERMINATION OF SUBSIDY YEAR.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of
14 each calendar year, the Secretary shall determine
15 the percent decrease, if any, in direct-to-market
16 sales of beef for the preceding calendar year com-
17 pared to the average direct-to-market sales of beef
18 for the 5-year period preceding such calendar year,
19 excluding the year with the highest and the year
20 with the lowest direct-to-market sales of beef.

21 (2) QUALIFICATION FOR SUBSIDY YEAR.—If the
22 percent determined under paragraph (1) with re-
23 spect to a calendar year is greater than or equal to
24 25 percent for a calendar year, such calendar year
25 shall be a subsidy year.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a pay-
2 ment under this section for a subsidy year, an eligible pro-
3 ducer shall, not later than 1 year after the last date of
4 such subsidy year, submit to the Secretary an application,
5 including—

6 (1) documentation demonstrating that such
7 producer used a local processor during the subsidy
8 year, including receipts or invoices;

9 (2) documentation of any direct-to-market sale
10 completed by such producer during the subsidy year,
11 including sale records, invoices, or such other docu-
12 mentation as the Secretary determines appropriate;
13 and

14 (3) a certification by the producer that such
15 producer meets each requirement required pursuant
16 to subsection (g)(3).

17 (d) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
19 not later than 90 days after receiving an application
20 from an eligible producer with respect to a subsidy
21 year under subsection (c), the Secretary shall, with
22 respect to each head of cattle that such producer
23 slaughters using a local processor and sells through
24 direct-to-market sales in the subsidy year, make a

1 payment to such producer in an amount that is
 2 equal to—

3 (A) 20 percent of the amount equal to—

4 (i) the average of the beef cattle price
 5 for the 5 years preceding the subsidy year,
 6 excluding the year with the highest and the
 7 year with the lowest average beef cattle
 8 price; minus

9 (ii) the beef cattle price for the sub-
 10 sidy year; multiplied by

11 (B) the average of the live weight (in hun-
 12 dredweight) for all such cattle.

13 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

14 (A) MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT WITH
 15 RESPECT TO HEAD OF CATTLE.—The payment
 16 amount to a producer with respect to a head of
 17 cattle shall not exceed \$500.

18 (B) MAXIMUM TOTAL PAYMENT
 19 AMOUNT.—The total amount of payments re-
 20 ceived under paragraph (1) by a producer for a
 21 subsidy year shall not exceed \$100,000.

22 (e) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the
 23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issues
 24 such rules as may be necessary to carry out this section,

1 including establishing procedures for verifying eligibility of
2 a producer and preventing fraud.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary to
5 carry out this section for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) BEEF CATTLE PRICE.—The term “beef cat-
8 tle price” means the annual average price received
9 by producers for all beef cattle (in dollars per hun-
10 dredweight), as determined by the Secretary using
11 data reported by the National Agricultural Statistics
12 Service of the Department of Agriculture.

13 (2) DIRECT-TO-MARKET SALE.—The term “di-
14 rect-to-market sale” means the sale of beef prod-
15 ucts—

16 (A) directly to consumers, restaurants, or
17 retail stores;

18 (B) through farmers’ markets, on-farm
19 sales, community-supported agriculture pro-
20 grams, or similar channels; and

21 (C) without using an intermediary, includ-
22 ing a large-scale packer or distributor.

23 (3) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term “eligible
24 producer” means a farmer or rancher that—

1 (A) raises and finishes steers or heifers for
2 slaughter;

3 (B) uses a local processor for such slaugh-
4 ter; and

5 (C) engages in direct-to-market sales for at
6 least 50 percent of their beef production in the
7 subsidy year.

8 (4) HEAD OF CATTLE.—The term “head of cat-
9 tle” means an individual steer or heifer.

10 (5) LOCAL PROCESSOR.—The term “local proc-
11 essor” means a slaughter facility that is—

12 (A) inspected by the Food Safety and In-
13 spection Service of the Department of Agri-
14 culture, or an equivalent State inspection pro-
15 gram; and

16 (B) located—

17 (i) in the same State as the eligible
18 producer using the services of such facility;

19 or

20 (ii) within 200-miles of such producer.

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