

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9377

To establish a grant program for preparing and responding to New World
screwworm outbreaks, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2026

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish a grant program for preparing and responding
to New World screwworm outbreaks, 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 “Protecting America’s
5 Herds Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PREPARING AND RESPONDING TO**
2 **NEW WORLD SCREWORM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
4 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall estab-
5 lish a program to award grants, on a competitive basis,
6 to cooperative extension services to prepare and respond
7 to New World screwworm outbreaks.

8 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under this section, a cooperative extension service shall
10 submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
11 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary determines appropriate.

13 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this
14 section may be used to—

15 (1) train personnel of the cooperative extension
16 service on New World screwworm identification,
17 treatment, management, prevention, and reporting;

18 (2) support livestock inspections, including the
19 training of inspectors, for New World screwworm;

20 (3) support producer education regarding New
21 World screwworm through workshops, field dem-
22 onstrations, outreach campaigns, and educational
23 materials; and

24 (4) support the provision of direct technical as-
25 sistance by personnel of the cooperative extension
26 service to livestock producers regarding prevention,

1 monitoring, treatment, biosecurity practices, and re-
2 porting of suspected infestations of New World
3 screwworm.

4 (d) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this section, the Sec-
5 retary shall give priority to cooperative extension services
6 in States or Tribal communities at elevated risk of New
7 World screwworm introduction or spread.

8 (e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
9 Secretary shall coordinate with cooperative extension serv-
10 ices, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
11 State animal health officials, veterinarians, Tribal agricul-
12 tural programs, and land-grant colleges and universities
13 conducting veterinary or agricultural research.

14 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.—The
16 term “cooperative extension service” has the mean-
17 ing given such term in section 1404 of the National
18 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Pol-
19 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

20 (2) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
21 SITIES.—The term “land-grant colleges and univer-
22 sities” has the meaning given such term in section
23 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
24 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
25 3103).

1 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
2 the several States, the District of Columbia, and the
3 territories of the United States.

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
6 essary to carry out this section.

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