

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5253

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to prioritize emerging tick-borne livestock diseases research, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2026

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. MARSHALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to prioritize emerging tick-borne livestock diseases research, 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 “Tick-Borne Livestock
5 Disease Research Prioritization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) ticks that parasitize livestock, including
9 invasive species such as the Asian longhorned tick

(*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), have been detected in an increasing number of States and counties in the United States and are recognized by the Department of Agriculture and veterinary experts as a growing threat to livestock health and productivity;

(2) tick-borne diseases of livestock, including bovine anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and bovine theileriosis caused by the emerging *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda genotype, can cause severe anemia, reduced weight gain, reproductive losses, and death in cattle, leading to substantial economic losses for beef and dairy producers;

(3) for several of those diseases, particularly those associated with the invasive Asian longhorned tick, there are no approved effective vaccines or treatments in the United States, and diagnostic and surveillance capacity is still developing, leading to the risk of underdetection and delayed response to outbreaks;

(4) veterinarians, State departments of agriculture, and livestock producers play critical roles in recognizing, testing for, and responding to tick-borne livestock diseases and rely on current, research-based guidance and extension support to protect

1 herd health and support a safe, stable food supply;
 2 and

3 (5) strengthening research and extension activi-
 4 ties focused on tick-borne livestock diseases within
 5 existing high-priority authorities of the Department
 6 of Agriculture is expected to improve early detection
 7 and control, help reduce economic losses from those
 8 diseases, and support the long-term resilience of
 9 United States livestock production.

10 **SEC. 3. EMERGING TICK-BORNE LIVESTOCK DISEASES RE-**
 11 **SEARCH PRIORITIZATION.**

12 Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amend-
 14 ed by adding at the end the following:

15 “(21) EMERGING TICK-BORNE LIVESTOCK DIS-
 16 EASES.—Research and extension grants may be
 17 made under this section for the purposes of improv-
 18 ing the prevention, diagnosis, and management of
 19 emerging tick-borne diseases in livestock, including
 20 anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and bovine theileriosis
 21 caused by *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda transmitted by
 22 the invasive Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis*
 23 *longicornis*), through—

24 “(A) research to develop and evaluate vac-
 25 cines, therapeutics, enhanced surveillance meth-

1 ods, and integrated tick management strategies;
2 and

3 “(B) extension and education activities to
4 support veterinarians, State departments of ag-
5 riculture, and livestock producers in the rec-
6 ognition, testing, and prevention of those dis-
7 eases.”.

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