

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4717

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 21, 2017

Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. HILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

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 “Century Farms Act
5 of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the United States has a long history of
9 farming and has historically appreciated the inval-

1 able contribution of farming to domestic and global
2 populations;

3 (2) family farms represent 97 percent of all
4 farms in the United States, of which 90 percent are
5 small family farms;

6 (3) over 30 States have established Century or
7 Centennial Farm designations and awards; and

8 (4) agricultural producers perform a vital public
9 service that should be recognized and rewarded.

10 **SEC. 3. CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM.**

11 The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this sec-
12 tion as the “Secretary”) shall establish a program under
13 which the Secretary recognizes any farm that—

14 (1) a State department of agriculture or similar
15 statewide agricultural organization recognizes as a
16 Century Farm; or

17 (2)(A) is defined as a farm or ranch under sec-
18 tion 4284.902 of title 7, Code of Federal Regula-
19 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
20 Act);

21 (B) has been in continuous operation for at
22 least 100 years; and

23 (C) has been owned by the same family for at
24 least 100 consecutive years, as verified through
25 deeds, wills, abstracts, tax statements, or other simi-

- 1 lar legal documents considered appropriate by the
- 2 Secretary.

