

smaller the plot we are considering. There have been great strides in measuring things on the basis of smaller and smaller units on the ground than we have ever realistically envisioned in the past. Measuring yields as we harvest. Being able to collect soil samples on a very small pilot basis and apply prescribed corrective measures "on the go." All of these things are possible. They are being done on an experimental basis in many locations. Some producers have adopted the new technology and are using it.

Precision farming is, in its simplest sense, a management system for crop production that uses site-specific data to maximize yields and more efficiently use inputs. The technology is quickly gaining acceptance and use by producers, farm suppliers, crop consultants, and custom applicators.

Precision farming links the data-management abilities of computers with sophisticated farm equipment that can vary applications rates and monitor yields throughout a field.

Mr. President, the capabilities of precision agriculture technologies are rapidly increasing. The economic and environmental benefits of these technologies have not been fully realized. Increasing the use of these technologies and development of complementary new technologies will benefit American agriculture, the U.S. economy, and both domestic and global environmental concerns. In Kentucky, this type of research can help producers increase their yield while protecting environmental concerns such as water quality.●

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1976. A bill to authorize the President to enter into a trade agreement concerning Northern Ireland and certain border counties of the Republic of Ireland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND FREE TRADE,
DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY ACT

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I introduce the Northern Ireland Free Trade, Development and Security Act.

The resurgence of sectarian unrest that we have witnessed in the last weeks in Northern Ireland has seriously jeopardized the chances of a lasting peace in that province. The current uncertainty brought about by the recent confrontation between the Catholic and Protestant communities does not augur well for the prospect of a prosperous and progressive Northern Ireland adhering to the principles of democracy, restraint and mutual respect.

Throughout the six counties the ancient drums of a harsh and unbending history have been once again been replaced by the fierce and acrimonious sounds of cross community hatred. Shattering glass and car bombs have once more become part and parcel of daily life in parts of Northern Ireland.

Mr. President, voices throughout Ireland continually echo the need for re-

straint and reconciliation. These are the voices of Northern Ireland's future. Voices which for so long have fallen on deaf ears. These voices Mr. President must be heard. It is in everyone's self-interest to go forward. It is in no one's self-interest to slow down the peace process. Sadly this process may have come to a grinding halt, sadly too, the good and honest people of Northern Ireland will once again be the victims of a tyranny of violence and intransigence. The legislation that I introduce today is a marker that says that the men and women of Ulster are not alone in this period of instability and hour of need. We must verify hope, not concede to despair.

Mr. President, the Northern Ireland and Border Counties Free Trade, Development and Security Act, that I introduce today, is modeled on the Gaza/West Bank Free Trade Act pending in this body. Both bills are based on the premise that a country or region that has a vibrant, growing and exporting economy requires underlying economic and social cohesion and cooperation. The legislation that I am introducing promises an open, liberalizing trade arrangement between Northern Ireland, the border counties of the Irish Republic and the United States. It will act as a primary inducement and incentive for indigenous Irish business to trade and flourish. This program will mean real jobs for the people of Northern Ireland, jobs that will prove to be crucial if the improvement of social and economic life in the North of Ireland is to be realized. In doing so, it will not only assist in revitalizing Northern Ireland's economy but it will help to rid Ulster of the religious and racial hatred which has plagued its people for more than 300 years.

Mr. President, the paradox of Northern Ireland is that she has given so much to other cultures and lands but has been incapable of fully reaping the rewards of her own peoples skills and strengths at home. The unfortunate reality is that as in the Republic of Ireland, a large majority of the North's highly educated and skilled younger generation has been forced to emigrate due to high unemployment levels which are as high as 70 percent in some areas. These disadvantaged areas are the ones which this legislation has been especially designed to target. Joint cooperation and joint economic development between the United States, Northern Ireland, and the European Union will integrate the most distressed parts of Northern Ireland and the border counties into a dynamic economy that—while firmly rooted in the European Union—continues to expand and cement new trading relationships beneficial to all trading partners.

Mr. President the coming days in Northern Ireland will mean that serious risks will have to be taken. The way forward is not entirely clear. Great strains have been placed between our good friends Great Britain and the

Republic of Ireland. A close and harmonious relationship between these two nations is a necessary prerequisite to future progress in Northern Ireland. I would ask both of these close friends to join this effort to help forge a new and innovative way forward for their own citizens. Indeed current events call for new approaches, new modalities, and reinvigorated efforts.

To the men and women of Northern Ireland and the border counties, I say that your best days are in front of you. Stand steadfastly. Both communities can work together to create a future that will outshine Northern Ireland's dark but proud past and will significantly increase the prospects for the youth of Northern Ireland who hold the key to the success of this project. Take from your past the virtues of your forefathers—industry, faith, and imagination but leave behind the quarrels of other centuries. Just like the unity of Catholic and Protestant at the Somme, I ask that those heroic deeds be emanated. This time ahead will take courage, strength, and determination on all sides. I remind you once more you are not alone. As this country stood by you at the Somme this country stands by you now.

Northern Ireland's peace process must move forward and the aspirations and goodwill of the vast majority of its citizens must be accompanied by hard work and endeavour. The proposed establishment of a free trade area in these designated areas must be passed into legislation if the predicted 3,000 to 10,000 jobs are to be created. A more prosperous economy with more evenly spread and meaningful job opportunities can only serve to bridge the social and economic disparities that exist in this region. In conclusion this opportunity cannot be overlooked, after 25 years since the outbreak of the "troubles," the people of Northern Ireland have suffered enough violence and depravity. Now it is time to embark on a rebuilding process that will give no chance to the terrorist but every chance to peace and reconciliation.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for programs of research regarding Parkinson's disease, and for other purposes.

S. 1477

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1477, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the name of the Senator from Alabama

[Mr. HEFLIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to reduce risk to public safety and the environment associated with pipeline transportation of natural gas and hazardous liquids, and for other purposes.

S. 1729

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1729, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to stalking.

S. 1897

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1897, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend certain programs relating to the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 1899

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1899, a bill entitled the "Mollie Beattie Alaska Wilderness Area Act".

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. FEINGOLD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

AMENDMENT NO. 4910

At the request of Mr. BREAUX the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4910 proposed to S. 1956, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK OPPORTUNITY, AND MEDICAID RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1996

D'AMATO (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 4927

Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. GRAMM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. NICKLES) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1956) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997; as follows:

Section 402(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 2103(a)(1), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the

State opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a State shall, consistent with the exception provided in section 407(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program who, after receiving such assistance for two months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under section 407(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week and tasks to be determined by the State."

SIMON (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 4928

Mr. EXON (for Mr. SIMON, for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. JEFFORDS) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1956, supra; as follows:

Beginning on page 233, strike line 15, and all that follows through line 13 on page 235, and insert the following:

"(4) LIMITATION ON EDUCATION ACTIVITIES COUNTED AS WORK.—For purposes of determining monthly participation rates under paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (2)(B)(i) of subsection (b), not more than 30 percent of adults in all families and in 2-parent families determined to be engaged in work in the State for a month may meet the work activity requirement through participation in vocational educational training.

"(5) SINGLE PARENT WITH CHILD UNDER AGE 6 DEEMED TO BE MEETING WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IF PARENT IS ENGAGED IN WORK FOR 20 HOURS PER WEEK.—For purposes of determining monthly participation rates under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), a recipient in a 1-parent family who is the parent of a child who has not attained 6 years of age is deemed to be engaged in work for a month if the recipient is engaged in work for an average of at least 20 hours per week during the month.

"(6) TEEN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD WHO MAINTAINS SATISFACTORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DEEMED TO BE MEETING WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of determining monthly participation rates under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), a recipient who is a single head of household and has not attained 20 years of age is deemed to be engaged in work for a month in a fiscal year if the recipient—

"(A) maintains satisfactory attendance at secondary school or the equivalent during the month; or

"(B) participates in education directly related to employment for at least the minimum average number of hours per week specified in the table set forth in paragraph (1).

"(d) WORK ACTIVITIES DEFINED.—As used in this section, the term 'work activities' means—

"(1) unsubsidized employment;

"(2) subsidized private sector employment;

"(3) subsidized public sector employment;

"(4) work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;

"(5) on-the-job training;

"(6) job search and job readiness assistance;

"(7) community service programs;

"(8) educational training (not to exceed 24 months with respect to any individual);

FEINSTEIN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 4929

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. GRAHAM) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1956, supra; as follows:

Beginning on page 569, line 15, strike all through the end of line 10, page 589, and insert the following:

(D) This provision shall apply beginning on the date of the alien's entry into the United States.

(3) SPECIFIED FEDERAL PROGRAM DEFINED.—For purposes of this chapter, the term "specified Federal program" means any of the following:

(A) SSI.—The supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act, including supplementary payments pursuant to an agreement for Federal administration under section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act and payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66.

(B) FOOD STAMPS.—The food stamp program as defined in section 3(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

(b) LIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR DESIGNATED FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in section 2403 and paragraph (2), a State is authorized to determine the eligibility of an alien who is a qualified alien (as defined in section 2431) for any designated Federal program (as defined in paragraph (3)).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Qualified aliens under this paragraph shall be eligible for any designated Federal program.

(A) TIME-LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLEES.—

(i) An alien who is admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act until 5 years after the date of an alien's entry into the United States.

(ii) An alien who is granted asylum under section 208 of such Act until 5 years after the date of such grant of asylum.

(iii) An alien whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) of such Act until 5 years after such withholding.

(B) CERTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS.—An alien who—

(i) is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(ii) (I) has worked 40 qualifying quarters of coverage as defined under title II of the Social Security Act or can be credited with such qualifying quarters as provided under section 2435, and (II) did not receive any Federal means-tested public benefit (as defined in section 2403(c)) during any such quarter.

(C) VETERAN AND ACTIVE DUTY EXCEPTION.—An alien who is lawfully residing in any State and is—

(i) a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) with a discharge characterized as an honorable discharge and not on account of alienage,

(ii) on active duty (other than active duty for training) in the Armed Forces of the United States, or

(iii) the spouse or unmarried dependent child of an individual described in clause (i) or (ii).

(3) This provision shall apply beginning on the date of the alien's entry into the United States.

(4) DESIGNATED FEDERAL PROGRAM DEFINED.—For purposes of this chapter, the term "designated Federal program" means any of the following:

(A) TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.—The program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.

(B) SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT.—The program of block grants to States for social services under title XX of the Social Security Act.

(C) MEDICAID.—The program of medical assistance under title XV and XLX of the Social Security Act.