

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 123) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 123

Whereas the Members of the Senate were greatly saddened by the death of Loret Miller Ruppe, the longest-serving Director of the Peace Corps; and

Whereas Loret Miller Ruppe's inspirational vision, dedication, and leadership (1) revitalized the Peace Corps as she began or revived programs in Sir Lanka, Haiti, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and the Cape Verde Islands; (2) energized a new generation of Americans to accept the challenge of serving in the Corps; (3) refocused the Corps on its mission of development to achieve world peace; and (4) did a great service to America and to the millions of the world's citizens touched by her efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That (a) the Senate recognizes and acknowledges the achievements and contributions of the longest-serving Director of the Peace Corps, Loret Miller Ruppe, and the volunteers she inspired, not only for their service in other countries but also in their own communities.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that the President should honor the memory of the Peace Corps' great leader Loret Miller Ruppe and reaffirm the commitment of the United States to international peace and understanding.

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on that subject, I didn't realize that such a resolution was coming forward this evening. But having heard the nature of the resolution, I commend my good friend from Vermont for forwarding this on behalf of the sponsors of the resolution. As it happened, by pure coincidence, today in the Foreign Relations Committee, I supported the nomination of David Hermelin, of Michigan, to be our Ambassador to Norway. I made reference to the fact that Mrs. Ruppe, also from Michigan, had served with tremendous distinction as our Ambassador to Norway, as well as she had served the Peace Corps as its director.

So it is quite a coincidence that this resolution is coming forward today with her name commemorated at the Foreign Relations Committee with great warmth. I wanted to just rise to give my strong support to this resolution. It is highly appropriate.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I appreciate the Senator saying that.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INCORPORATED

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 200, Senate Concurrent Resolution 37.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 37) expressing the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide and should be entitled to all of the benefits and privileges available to nongovernmental international organizations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated is international in character and has engendered international goodwill through its worldwide activities, particularly among the youth of the world.

(b) The Congress reaffirms that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide, through the chartering of local leagues and the provision of assistance to such local leagues, through the creation or location of facilities in other countries, and the provision of other support as appropriate, including financial support, without right of reimbursement or repayment.

(c) The Congress calls upon the parliamentary bodies and government officials of other nations, particularly those that participate in Little League baseball, to recognize and celebrate the international character of Little League baseball.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that committee substitute be agreed to, the resolution be agreed to, as amended, the preamble be agreed to, the title amendment be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 37), as amended, with its preamble reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated is a nonprofit membership organization, chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1964 to promote, develop, supervise, and assist youth worldwide in participation in Little League baseball and to instill in youth the spirit and competitive will to win, values of team play, and healthful association with other youth under proper leadership;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated has chartered more than 18,000 local Little League baseball or softball leagues in 85 countries, across 6 continents, through which more than 198,000 teams and 3,000,000

youth worldwide come together in healthy competition, learning the value of teamwork, individual responsibility, and respect for others;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated provides administrative and other services, including financial assistance from time to time, to such leagues without any obligation to reimburse Little League Baseball Incorporated;

Whereas Little League Baseball Incorporated has established a United States foundation for the advancement and support of Little League baseball in the United States and around the world, and has also created in Poland through its representative, Dr. Creighton Hale, the Poland Little League Baseball Foundation for the construction of Little League baseball facilities and playing fields, in which youth may participate worldwide in international competitions, and is providing all the funds for such construction;

Whereas the efforts of Little League Baseball Incorporated are supported by millions of volunteers worldwide, as parents, league officials, managers, coaches, and auxiliary members and countless volunteer agencies, including sponsors, all of whom give their time and effort without remuneration, in service to others, to advance the goals of Little League Baseball Incorporated and thereby assist the economic transformation of societies worldwide, the improvement in the quality of life of all citizens and the promotion of a civil international community; and

Whereas, as demonstrated by the success of its efforts worldwide, Little League Baseball Incorporated is the largest nongovernmental international youth sports organization in the world and continues to grow: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated is international in character and has engendered international goodwill through its worldwide activities, particularly among the youth of the world.

(b) The Congress reaffirms that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide, through the chartering of local leagues and the provision of assistance to such local leagues, through the creation or location of facilities in other countries, and the provision of other support as appropriate, including financial support, without right of reimbursement or repayment.

(c) The Congress calls upon the parliamentary bodies and government officials of other nations, particularly those that participate in Little League baseball, to recognize and celebrate the international character of Little League baseball.

The title was amended so as to read:

Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that Little League Baseball Incorporated was established to support and develop Little League baseball worldwide and that its international character and activities should be recognized.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1997

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 154, Senate 1150.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1150) to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national multi-State significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1527

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, Senator LUGAR has a managers' amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], for Mr. LUGAR and Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 1527.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today the Senate completes action on the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1997. This legislation was approved by a unanimous roll-call vote of the 18 members of the Senate Agriculture Committee in July. I commend Senator HARKIN and all members of the committee for their bipartisan approach and cooperative efforts in constructing this legislation.

Because research programs were only authorized through 1997 in last year's farm bill, the Senate Agriculture Committee has had the opportunity this year to review agricultural research, extension and education funding. The committee gathered testimony through four hearings in March and received more than 100 responses to some relevant questions that I posed publicly in January.

With the growth in world population, U.S. producers may well need to triple their production in the next few decades to meet growing demand for food and spare the world's rain forests from being uprooted in a desperate effort to expand production.

To increase future food production, our Nation must devote additional resources to agricultural research. This bill provides new funding for agricultural research to address critical emerging issues related to future food production, environmental protection and farm income. Food genome science, food safety, agricultural biotechnology and precision agriculture are key areas that need additional resources to meet the challenges that face U.S. farmers.

This bill also makes significant reforms to the current agricultural re-

search system. This system has served us well. To use our available resources most effectively, however, it is important to ensure more collaboration and efficiency as well as achieve greater accountability. We cannot overlook the relevance or merit of the research, extension, and education programs.

I urge all Members of the Senate to support this important legislation.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to thank Chairman LUGAR, Senator HARKIN, and their staffs for the tremendous effort they have devoted to the research reauthorization bill over the past several months, and congratulate them for the legislation we have before us today.

We owe much of the credit for this country's agricultural success to our network of land grant institutions, State agriculture experiment stations, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and hundreds of county extension offices. These entities work together in a wide range of ways to produce cutting-edge research and then convert it into improved practices and technology meaningful to producers.

It is important to strengthen this network further. This bill places increased emphasis on collaboration among institutions and disciplines, and encourages pursuit of goals benefiting more than one region or State. It emphasizes priority-setting so resources can be targeted to emerging and critical issues when necessary, and establishes new mechanisms for ensuring accountability.

Specifically, I am pleased that the bill preserves existing programs that share these objectives, such as the Fund for Rural America. As you know, the fund was designed to provide immediate, flexible, and applied research and support to people in rural areas who are adjusting to rapid changes in the agricultural sector since the last farm bill.

The Fund for Rural America promotes value-added processing, which is vital to successful rural economic development. Our rural communities must capture more of the revenue their locally produced commodities ultimately generate. Value-added processing keeps that revenue local, which will be critical to the future of those communities.

I am pleased to say also that this bill treats smaller institutions fairly. It significantly levels the playing field for small schools competing for limited research funds, and it is sensitive to the relative importance of formula funds for institutions in agrarian States with low populations.

Finally, I had hoped we would be able to address the problems with the CRP haying and grazing program, but I recognize that consensus on a specific remedy remains elusive. I do hope we will be more successful on this front in the near future because the current system is creating both severe difficulties for the people managing those lands and growing uneasiness among

all groups interested in CRP's success. I urge the committee to continue working on this issue.

This bill is a positive step forward. Federal investment in agricultural research, extension, and education is one of the most important duties of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and, again, I commend Senator LUGAR and Senator HARKIN for their commitment to this effort.

FOOD GENOME STRATEGY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I would like to discuss with the distinguished chairman of the Agriculture Committee the food genome strategy that is authorized in this bill. Senator LUGAR is to be commended highly for including this visionary provision in the bill. It is my understanding that the food genome strategy, authorized in this bill, will include comprehensive, directed, and coordinated plant genome and animal genome initiatives. Is my understanding correct?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes, these initiatives, while allowing for all entities to compete competitively for funding, will be directed and coordinated programs that are designed to accomplish specific objectives. The request for proposals [RFP] that will be published by the USDA could be very specific in its requests. For example, one part of the RFP may request the development of 100,000 expressed sequence Tags on corn and another part may request a very high resolution physical map of corn.

Mr. BOND. I understand that it is your intention that the plant genome initiative and the animal genome initiative will not be scientific free-for-alls, if you will, that fund any research project that happens to have genome in the proposal. Rather, this program will be designed to have specific objectives and milestones that must be met along the way so that the taxpayers realize a timely and significant return on their dollar invested in this research.

Mr. LUGAR. The purpose of having a food genome strategy is to ensure that there is a comprehensive plan that includes appropriate, specific objectives for each aspect of the program, be it mapping, sequencing, trait identification, or bioinformatics.

Mr. BOND. With your assistance, we have established a \$40 million plant genome initiative within the National Science Foundation [NSF] that will be focused on economically significant crops. To facilitate the development of a comprehensive plant genome initiative, the President's Science Advisor, Dr. Gibbons, established an Inter-Agency Working Group on Plant Genomes. This group will be consulting with the NSF in the design and implementation of the plant genome initiative. It is my understanding that the plant genome initiative, authorized under this bill, will be coordinated with the NSF plant genome initiative.

Mr. LUGAR. Certainly, we intend for the work to be complementary. We expect the USDA to work with the Inter-Agency Working Group to ensure that

the total amount of funds from all agencies is coordinated, directed, and focused. This will ensure that there is no duplication and better coordination.

Mr. BOND. Since the NSF has \$40 million for a plant genome initiative, there have been some questions raised concerning which agency, NSF or USDA, would serve as the lead agency for the national plant genome initiative. In the managers amendment, you clarified this issue by providing that USDA be the lead agency unless the funding it administered for the plant genome initiative was substantially less than that provided by another agency.

Mr. LUGAR. That is correct. I agree that if the USDA does not provide sufficient funding for the plant genome initiative, it should not be the lead agency.

Mr. BOND. It is my understanding that some people have stated that this program will be administered in a manner similar to the national research initiative, the NRI. While the NRI plays a valuable role in the discovery of scientific information related to agriculture, it is not a directed, coordinated program. It is my understanding, however, that the plant genome initiative will be coordinated and focused on the most economically significant crops. Is that correct?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes. The food genome strategy will be coordinated and directed and the outcomes will be focused on economically significant plants, animals, and microbes and will ensure that all the funding under the program will be directed at achieving results that ultimately will yield us the greatest economic returns.

Mr. BOND. The report accompanying S. 1150 makes clear that the committee intends that the Secretary utilize funds from the initiative for future agriculture and food systems, established under title III of the bill, for the plant genome initiative and the animal genome initiative. Under the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, there is no provision for coordinated, directed, and focused programs. Am I correct in assuming that while the funds for the food genome strategy may be derived from the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, it is the intent of the managers that the food genome strategy would, in fact, be a coordinated, directed program?

Mr. LUGAR. The food genome strategy will be a coordinated, directed program without regard to the origin of the funding.

Mr. BOND. In addition, under title III, the Secretary is required, in making individual grants, to give higher priority to a proposal that is multi-state, multi-institutional, or multidisciplinary. While the overall Food Genome Strategy will be multi-State, multi-institutional, and multidisciplinary, there will be many aspects of the program that will not facilitate multi-State, multi-institutional, and multidisciplinary grants, especially in the first couple of years. For example,

the development of expressed sequence tags and high-resolution physical maps may, of necessity, be done by one entity. Expressed sequence tags and physical maps are the critical foundation of the food genome strategy. If the Secretary is required to give higher priority to multi-State, multi-institutional, and multidisciplinary proposals, this very basic information may not be developed. It is my understanding, however, that the managers do not intend for this to happen. Rather, since the entire Food Genome Strategy will be multi-State, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary, all aspects of this program could receive a higher priority.

Mr. LUGAR. That is absolutely correct. We recognize that the food genome strategy will be different from other projects funded under title III. The food genome strategy will be a multi-State, multi-institutional, and multi-disciplinary program and, therefore, all individual proposals and projects could meet the tests for gaining a higher priority.

Mr. BOND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I commend you and other members of the Agriculture Committee for including this vitally important provision in the bill. I also appreciate the able assistance of our staff throughout this process.

This legislation, will provide us the tools we need to meet the challenges of the 21st century and I congratulate you on your continuing leadership.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, the Senate will pass S. 1150, the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act. I am pleased, Mr. President, that several amendments I had planned to offer on the floor when the Senate took up this bill have been accepted by the chairman, Mr. LUGAR, and the ranking member, Mr. HARKIN, of the Agriculture Committee and have been included in the managers' amendment to the bill.

Two of my amendments included in the bill address a new research program regarding precision agriculture. Precision agriculture is a system of farming that uses very site-specific information on soil nutrient needs and presence of plant pests, often gathered using advanced technologies such as global positioning systems, high performance image processing, and software systems to determine the specific fertilizer, pesticide and other input needs of a farmer's cropland. This technology may have the benefit of lowering farm production costs and increase profitability by helping the producer reduce agricultural inputs by applying them only where needed. In addition, reducing agricultural inputs may minimize the impact of crop production on wildlife and the environment. While precision agriculture, generally defined, encompasses a broad range of techniques from high-technology satellite imaging systems to manual soil sampling, it is most frequently discussed in terms of the use of capital intensive advanced technologies.

Section 232 of the S. 1150 creates a new research program authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants for the development and promotion of precision agriculture, including projects to educate producers on the benefits of this new technology. One of my amendments, which has been included in the managers amendment, ensures that educational efforts provide farmers with information about the costs of this technology as well. Any responsible federally funded farmer education efforts on precision agriculture must inform farmers of costs of this new technology.

Cost considerations are particularly important given that precision agriculture technologies tend to be technologically sophisticated and capital intensive, requiring investments in computer systems, new software, and potentially new mechanical input applicators. Farmers who wish to avoid acquiring the equipment needed for precision agriculture may have to contract for these services with input suppliers. In either case, substantial financial investments may be required of farmers adopting precision agriculture technologies. Farmers need information that will allow them to balance the potential long-term benefits of precision agriculture technologies with the short-term and long-term financial costs. My amendment clarifies that any USDA funding provided for producer education efforts must provide information on both costs and benefits of precision agriculture.

While precision agriculture may result in production efficiencies and improved profitability for some farms, many in agriculture are concerned that, because of the capital intensive nature of this precision agriculture systems, this new technology will not be applicable or accessible to small or highly diversified farms. It is unclear whether precision agriculture services, even if provided by input suppliers, will be available at affordable rates to small farms. Furthermore, some observers are concerned that private firms may find that marketing efforts directed at small farms are not lucrative enough and thus may avoid efforts to apply the technology to small operations.

In addition to concerns about the applicability and accessibility of precision agriculture to small farms, many are concerned that precision agriculture may not be the most appropriate production system for small farms given the costs of acquiring new technology or contracting for additional services. There may be other production systems, such as integrated whole farm crop, livestock, and resource management systems, that allow small farmers to reduce input costs, improve profitability, and minimize environmental impacts of agricultural production that are more appropriate for smaller operations.

To address this concern, I have proposed an amendment which adds new language to section 232 allowing USDA to fund studies evaluating whether precision agriculture technologies are applicable or accessible to small- and medium-sized farms. The amendment also allows USDA to conduct research on methods to improve the applicability of precision agriculture to these operations. It is critical that USDA's research investment in this new technology not exclude the needs of small farmers. If it does, this new research program could ultimately affect the structure of agriculture, potentially providing disproportionate advantages to large scale farming operations, furthering the trend to fewer and larger farms. My amendment will allow USDA to conduct research on low cost precision agriculture systems that do not require significant financial investments by farmers and that may be more appropriate to small or highly diversified farming operations.

The final two amendments I have offered and which have been included in the managers' amendment authorize and provide funding for research, education and extension projects to improve the competitiveness, viability and sustainability of small- and medium-size dairy and livestock operations.

Many Senators have expressed concern about the trend toward increased concentration in the dairy and livestock sectors. According to a 1996 report by the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration, concentration in cattle feeding has grown dramatically, with 152 feeders accounting for more than 40 percent of all head sold. Meatpacker concentration has also grown, with four packing firms accounting for 80 percent of fed cattle in the U.S. Extensive vertical integration in the cattle industry has also reduced price discovery and market information available to small producers. The combination of reduced price information and increased concentration in the feeding and packing industry has put small cattle producers under extreme financial pressure, necessitating more research, education and extension efforts to ensure the viability of small- and medium-sized cattle operations.

Of greatest concern to producers in my home State of Wisconsin is the trend toward fewer and larger dairy farms in the United States. In 1980, there were 45,000 dairy farms in Wisconsin. In 1997, there are only 24,000 dairy farms. Of those 24,000 dairy farms, 90 percent are operations with fewer than 100 cows. The trend toward fewer but larger dairy operations is mirrored in most States throughout the Nation. The economic losses associated with the reduction in small farm numbers go well beyond the impact on the individual farm families exiting the industry. Rather, the reduction in farm numbers has affected the rural communities in my home State that have been built around a large number

of small family-owned dairy farms. The grocery storeowners, input suppliers, schoolteachers, truckers, cheese manufacturers, and many other small rural businesses have been hurt as Wisconsin has seen its dairy farm numbers decline.

There is substantial concern that past and present Federal investments in agricultural research have focused almost solely on the needs of larger scale agricultural producers, neglecting the specific research needs of small producers. Some have suggested that this research bias has exacerbated the trend toward increased concentration and vertical integration, particularly in the livestock sector.

To address this concern, I have proposed an amendment to S. 1150, included in the managers' amendment, which authorizes a coordinated program of research, extension, and education to improve the viability of small- and medium-size dairy and livestock operations.

Among the research projects the Secretary is authorized to conduct are: Research, development, and on-farm education low-cost production facilities, management systems and genetics appropriate for these small and medium operations, research and extension on management intensive grazing systems which reduce feed costs and improve farm profitability, research and extension on integrated crop and livestock systems that strengthen the competitive position of small- and medium-size operations, economic analyses and feasibility studies to identify new marketing opportunities for small- and medium-size producers, technology assessment that compares the technological resources of large specialized producers with the technological needs of small- and medium-size dairy and livestock operations, and research to identify the specific research and education needs of these small operations.

The amendment allows the Secretary to carry out this new program using existing USDA funds, facilities and technical expertise. Dairy and livestock producers should not be forced to become larger in order to remain competitive. Bigger is not necessarily better. And in fact, Mr. President, expansion is often counterproductive for small operations requiring them to take on an even greater debt load. Farmers need more help in determining other methods of maintaining long-term profitability. For example, small dairy farmers may find adoption of management-intensive grazing systems combined with a diversified cropping operation a profitable alternative to expansion. But there has been far too little federally funded research devoted to alternative livestock production systems. Small producers need more Federal research and extension activity devoted to the development of these alternatives. I believe this amendment is a good first step in establishing the Federal research commitment to help develop and promote

production and marketing systems that specifically address the needs of small producers.

Using research dollars to help maintain the economic viability of small- and medium-size dairy and livestock operations has benefits beyond those afforded to such farmers and the communities in which they reside. Keeping a large number of small operations in production can provide environmental benefits as well. As livestock operations expand their herd size without a corresponding increase in cropping acreage, manure storage and management practices become more costly and more burdensome for the operator and raise additional regulatory concerns associated with runoff and water quality among State and Federal regulators. Research that helps dairy and livestock operators remain competitive and profitable without dramatic expansion will help minimize these concerns.

Finally, Mr. President, I proposed an amendment to require the Secretary to fund research on the competitiveness and viability of small- and medium-size farms under the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems—a new research program authorized by S. 1150 funded at total \$780 million for fiscal years 1998 through 2002. With the inclusion of my amendment in the managers' amendment, the Secretary is directed to make grants for research projects addressing the viability of small- and medium-size farming operations with funding made available under the Initiative in fiscal years 1999–2002. This amendment ensures that the research needs of small dairy, livestock, and cropping operations will be addressed under the substantial new funding provided for agricultural research in this bill.

Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation of the chairman, Mr. Lugar, and the ranking member, Mr. HARKIN, of the Agriculture Committee and their staff in addressing the important research needs of small- and medium-size farms by including my amendments in this important bill. I look forward to working with them to maintain these amendments during conference committee consideration of this bill.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be considered read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1527) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1150), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1150

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—PRIORITIES, SCOPE, AND REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

- Sec. 101. Standards for Federal funding of agricultural research, extension, and education.
Sec. 102. Priority setting process.
Sec. 103. Relevance and merit of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.
Sec. 104. Research formula funds for 1862 Institutions.
Sec. 105. Extension formula funds for 1862 Institutions.
Sec. 106. Research facilities.

TITLE II—OTHER REFORMS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

Subtitle A—Amendments to National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

- Sec. 201. Advisory Board.
Sec. 202. Grants and fellowships for food and agricultural sciences education.
Sec. 203. Policy research centers.
Sec. 204. International agricultural research, extension, and teaching.
Sec. 205. General administrative costs.
Sec. 206. Expansion of authority to enter into cost-reimbursable agreements.

Subtitle B—Amendments to Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

- Sec. 211. National Agricultural Weather Information System.
Sec. 212. National Food Genome Strategy.
Sec. 213. Imported fire ant control, management, and eradication.
Sec. 214. Agricultural telecommunications program.
Sec. 215. Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities.

Subtitle C—Amendments to Other Laws

- Sec. 221. 1994 Institutions.
Sec. 222. Cooperative agricultural extension work by 1862, 1890, and 1994 Institutions.
Sec. 223. Eligibility of certain colleges and universities for extension funding.
Sec. 224. Integration of research and extension.
Sec. 225. Competitive, special, and facilities research grants.
Sec. 226. Fund for Rural America.
Sec. 227. Honey research, promotion, and consumer information.
Sec. 228. Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.
Sec. 229. Kiwifruit research, promotion, and consumer information program.
Sec. 230. National aquaculture policy, planning, and development.

Subtitle D—New Programs

- Sec. 231. Biobased products.
Sec. 232. Precision agriculture.
Sec. 233. Formosan termite eradication program.
Sec. 234. Nutrient composition data.
Sec. 235. Consolidated administrative and laboratory facility.
Sec. 236. National Swine Research Center.
Sec. 237. Coordinated program of research, extension, and education to improve viability of small and medium size dairy and livestock operations.
Sec. 238. Support for research regarding diseases of wheat and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum*.

Sec. 239. Food animal residue avoidance database program.

Sec. 240. Financial assistance for certain rural areas.

Subtitle E—Studies and Miscellaneous

- Sec. 241. Evaluation and assessment of agricultural research, extension, and education programs.
Sec. 242. Study of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.
Sec. 243. Sense of Congress on State match for 1890 Institutions.

TITLE III—INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Sec. 301. Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OR REPEAL OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES; TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 401. Extensions of authorities.
Sec. 402. Repeal of authorities.
Sec. 403. Short titles for Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887.
Sec. 404. Technical corrections to research provisions of Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

TITLE V—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM SAVINGS

- Sec. 501. Nutrition programs.
Sec. 502. Information technology funding.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 1862 INSTITUTION.—The term “1862 Institution” means a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

(2) 1890 INSTITUTION.—The term “1890 Institution” means a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University.

(3) 1994 INSTITUTION.—The term “1994 Institution” means a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)).

(4) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term “Advisory Board” means the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123).

(5) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

(6) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—The term “Hatch Act of 1887” means the Hatch Act of 1887 (as designated by section 403(b)).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—The term “Smith-Lever Act” means the Smith-Lever Act (as designated by section 403(a)).

(9) STAKEHOLDER.—The term “stakeholder” means a person who conducts or uses agricultural research, extension, or education.

TITLE I—PRIORITIES, SCOPE, AND REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

SEC. 101. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that agricultural research, extension, or education activities described in subsection (b) address a concern that—

(1) is a priority, as determined under section 102(a); and

(2) has national or multistate significance.

(b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) applies to—

(1) research activities conducted by the Agricultural Research Service; and

(2) research, extension, or education activities administered, on a competitive basis, by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

SEC. 102. PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101), the Secretary shall establish priorities for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by the Department.

(b) INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing priorities for agricultural research, extension, and education activities conducted or funded by the Department, the Secretary shall solicit and consider input and recommendations from stakeholders.

(2) 1862, 1890, AND 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning October 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural research, extension, or education formula funds from the Secretary, each 1862 Institution, 1890 Institution, and 1994 Institution shall establish and implement a process for obtaining stakeholder input concerning the use of the funds.

(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations that prescribe—

(i) the requirements for an Institution to comply with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) the consequences for an Institution of not complying with subparagraph (A), which may include the withholding and redistribution of funds to which the Institution may be entitled until the Institution complies with subparagraph (A).

(c) MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.—Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**” after “**PURPOSES**”; and

(2) by inserting “(a) **PURPOSES.**—” before “The purposes”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that federally supported and conducted agricultural research, education, and extension activities are accomplished in a manner that—

“(1) integrates agricultural research, education, and extension functions to better link research to technology transfer and information dissemination activities;

“(2) encourages regional and multistate programs to address relevant issues of common concern and to better leverage scarce resources;

“(3) achieves agricultural research, education, and extension objectives through multi-institutional and multifunctional approaches and by conducting research at facilities and institutions best equipped to achieve those objectives; and

“(4) requires accountability to be measured against shared national goals of the research, education, and economics mission area agencies of the Department and their partners that receive Federal research, extension, and higher education funds, consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62) and amendments made by that Act.”.

(d) NOTIFICATION OF ADVISORY BOARD AND CONGRESS.—Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **NOTIFICATION OF ADVISORY BOARD AND CONGRESS.**—

“(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall provide a written response to the Advisory Board regarding the implementation of any written recommendations made by the Advisory Board to the Secretary under subsection (c).

“(2) CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a copy of the response of the Secretary to an Advisory Board recommendation concerning the priority mission areas of the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems established under section 301(c)(2)(B) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997.”.

SEC. 103. RELEVANCE AND MERIT OF FEDERALLY FUNDED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

(a) REVIEW OF CSREES RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall establish procedures that ensure—

(1) scientific peer review of each agricultural research grant administered, on a competitive basis, by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; and

(2) merit review of each agricultural extension or education grant administered, on a competitive basis, by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

(b) ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW.—The Advisory Board shall review, on an annual basis, the relevance to the Secretary's priorities established under section 102(a), and adequacy, of the funding of all agricultural research, extension, or education activities of the Department.

(c) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) REVIEW RESULTS.—As soon as practicable after the initial review is conducted under subsection (b) for a fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall consider the results of the annual review when formulating each request for proposals, and evaluating proposals, involving an agricultural research, extension, or education activity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Department.

(2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In formulating a request for proposals described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit and consider input from stakeholders on the prior year's request for proposals.

(d) SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF ARS RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures that ensure scientific peer review of research activities of the Agricultural Research Service.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures shall require that—

(A) at least once every 5 years, a review panel verify that a research activity referred to in paragraph (1) and research conducted by each scientist employed by the Agricultural Research Service—

(i) has scientific merit and relevance to the priorities established under section 102(a); and

(ii) has national or multistate significance, as required under section 101(a)(2);

(B) a review panel comprised of individuals with scientific expertise, a majority of whom are not employees of the Agricultural Research Service; and

(C) the results of the panel reviews are transmitted to—

(i) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

(iii) the Advisory Board.

(e) MERIT REVIEW.—

(1) 1862 AND 1890 INSTITUTIONS.—Effective beginning October 1, 1998, to obtain agricul-

tural research or extension funds from the Secretary for an activity, each 1862 Institution and 1890 Institution shall—

(A) establish a process for merit review of the activity; and

(B) review the activity in accordance with the process.

(2) 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—Effective beginning October 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural extension funds from the Secretary for an activity, each 1994 Institution shall—

(A) establish a process for merit review of the activity; and

(B) review the activity in accordance with the process.

(f) REPEAL OF PROVISIONS FOR WITHHOLDING FUNDS.—

(1) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 6 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 346) is repealed.

(2) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Section 7 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361g) is amended by striking the last paragraph.

(3) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—Section 1468 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3314) is repealed.

SEC. 104. RESEARCH FORMULA FUNDS FOR 1862 INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) Not less than 25 percent shall be allotted to the States for cooperative research employing multidisciplinary approaches in which a State agricultural experiment station, working with another State agricultural experiment station, the Agricultural Research Service, a college, or a university, cooperates to solve problems that concern more than 1 State. The funds available under this paragraph, together with the funds available under subsection (b) for a similar purpose, shall be designated as the ‘Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Experiment Stations’.

“(4) Research carried out under paragraph (3) shall be subject to scientific peer review. A project review under this paragraph shall be considered to satisfy the merit review requirements of section 103(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “regional research fund, State agricultural experiment stations,” and inserting “Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Experiment Stations”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended in the first sentence by striking “regional research fund” and inserting “Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Experiment Stations”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION FORMULA FUNDS FOR 1862 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) MULTISTATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than the applicable percentage specified under paragraph (2) of the amounts that are made available to carry out subsections (b) and (c) during a fiscal year shall be allotted to States for cooperative extension activities in which 2 or more States cooperate to solve problems that concern more than 1 State (referred to in this subsection as ‘multistate activities’).

“(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

“(A) CURRENT EXPENDITURES ON MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall determine the percentage of Federal formula funds described in paragraph (1) that each State expended for fiscal year 1997 for multistate activities.

“(B) PLANNED EXPENDITURES ON MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.—For fiscal year 2000 and each subsequent fiscal year, a State shall expend for multistate activities a percentage of the Federal formula funds described in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year that is at least equal to the lesser of—

“(i) 25 percent; or

“(ii) twice the percentage for the State determined under subparagraph (A).

“(C) REDUCTION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may reduce the minimum percentage required to be allotted for multistate activities under subparagraph (B) in a case of hardship, infeasibility, or other similar circumstance beyond the control of the State, as determined by the Secretary.

“(D) PLAN OF WORK.—The State shall include in the plan of work of the State a description of the manner in which the State will meet the requirements of this paragraph.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not apply to funds provided—

“(A) by a State or local government pursuant to a matching requirement;

“(B) to a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); or

“(C) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or Guam.

“(i) MERIT REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning October 1, 1998, extension activity carried out under subsection (h) shall be subject to merit review.

“(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—An extension activity that is merit reviewed under paragraph (1) shall be considered to have been reviewed under section 103(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997.”.

SEC. 106. RESEARCH FACILITIES.

(a) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—Section 3(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390a(c)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “regional needs” and inserting “national or multistate needs”.

(b) NATIONAL OR MULTISTATE NEEDS SERVED BY ARS FACILITIES.—Section 3 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) NATIONAL OR MULTISTATE NEEDS SERVED BY ARS FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that each research activity conducted by a facility of the Agricultural Research Service serves a national or multistate need.”.

(c) 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 4(d) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390b(d)) is amended by striking “regional” and inserting “multistate”.

(d) COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH CAPACITY.—Section 4 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH CAPACITY.—After submission of the 10-year strategic plan required under subsection (d), the Secretary shall continue to review periodically each operating agricultural research facility constructed in whole or in part with Federal funds, and each planned agricultural research facility proposed to be constructed in whole or in part with Federal funds, pursuant to criteria established by the Secretary, to ensure that a comprehensive research capacity is maintained.”.

(e) PRIORITY RESEARCH.—The Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) is amended in subsection (b)(2) by striking “regional” and inserting “multistate”.

TITLE II—OTHER REFORMS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

Subtitle A—Amendments to National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

SEC. 201. ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 1408(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) **EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS.**—In appointing members to serve on the Advisory Board, the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, equal representation of public and private sector members.”.

SEC. 202. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **PRIORITIES.**—In awarding grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to—

“(1) applications for teaching enhancement projects that demonstrate enhanced coordination among all types of institutions eligible for funding under this section; and

“(2) applications for teaching enhancement projects that focus on innovative, multidisciplinary education programs, material, and curricula.”; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(e) **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—From amounts made available for grants authorized under this section, the Secretary may maintain a national food and agricultural education information system that contains information on enrollment, degrees awarded, faculty, and employment placement in the food and agricultural sciences and such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

SEC. 203. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 1419A(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(a)) is amended by inserting “and trade agreements” after “public policies”.

SEC. 204. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING.

(a) **TEACHING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “**RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**” and inserting “**RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING**”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “related research and extension” and inserting “related research, extension, and teaching”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking “research and extension on” and inserting “research, extension, and teaching initiatives addressing”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “education” and inserting “teaching”;

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “scientists and experts” and inserting “science and education experts”;

(iv) in paragraph (5), by inserting “teaching,” after “development,”;

(v) in paragraph (6), by striking “education” and inserting “teaching”;

(vi) in paragraph (7), by striking “research and extension” and inserting “research, extension, and teaching”; and

(vii) in paragraph (8), by striking “research capabilities” and inserting “research, extension, and teaching capabilities”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “counterpart agencies” and inserting “counterpart research, extension, and teaching agencies”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The subtitle heading of subtitle I of title XIV of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291 et seq.) is amended by striking “Research and Extension” and inserting “Research, Extension, and Teaching”.

(b) **GRANTS FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.**—Section 1458(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) make competitive grants for collaborative projects that—

“(A) involve Federal scientists or scientists from land-grant colleges and universities or other colleges and universities with scientists at international agricultural research centers in other nations, including the international agricultural research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research;

“(B) focus on developing and using new technologies and programs for—

“(i) increasing the production of food and fiber, while safeguarding the environment worldwide and enhancing the global competitiveness of United States agriculture; or

“(ii) training scientists;

“(C) are mutually beneficial to the United States and other countries; and

“(D) encourage private sector involvement and the leveraging of private sector funds.”.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall provide biennial reports to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on efforts of the Federal Government to—

“(1) coordinate international agricultural research within the Federal Government; and

“(2) more effectively link the activities of domestic and international agricultural researchers, particularly researchers of the Agricultural Research Service.”.

SEC. 205. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting before section 1463 (7 U.S.C. 3311) the following:

“SEC. 1461. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in law, indirect costs charged against a grant described in subsection (b) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total Federal funds provided under the grant award, as determined by the Secretary.

“(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to—

“(1) a competitive research grant made under subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)); and

“(2) except as otherwise provided in law, a competitive research, extension, or education grant made under—

“(A) section 793 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204f); or

“(B) section 301 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997.”.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Section 1469 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through “Except as” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1469. AUDITING, REPORTING, BOOK-KEEPING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as”;

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) the Secretary may retain up to 4 percent of amounts appropriated for agricultural research, extension, and teaching assistance programs for the administration of those programs authorized under this or any other Act; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS.**—The Secretary may retain, for the administration of community food projects under section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2034), 4 percent of amounts available for the projects, notwithstanding the availability of any appropriation for administrative expenses of the projects.”.

SEC. 206. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COST-REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.

Section 1473A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319a) is amended in the first sentence by inserting “or other colleges and universities” after “institutions”.

Subtitle B—Amendments to Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

SEC. 211. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking subtitle D (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) and inserting the following:

“Subtitle D—National Agricultural Weather Information System

“SEC. 1637. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.

“(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This subtitle may be cited as the ‘National Agricultural Weather Information System Act of 1997’.

“(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this subtitle are—

“(1) to facilitate the management and coordination of a national agricultural weather and climate station network for Federal and State agencies, colleges and universities, and the private sector;

“(2) to ensure that timely and accurate information is obtained and disseminated; and

“(3) to aid research and education that requires a comprehensive agricultural weather and climate database.

“SEC. 1638. AGRICULTURAL WEATHER SYSTEM.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may establish the National Agricultural Weather Information System (referred to in this subtitle as the ‘System’). The System shall be comprised of the operational and research activities of the Federal, State, and regional agricultural weather information systems.

“(b) **AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary may—

“(1) enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and interagency agreements without regard to competitive requirements, except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, with other Federal and State agencies to—

“(A) support operational weather and climate data observations, analysis, and derived products;

“(B) preserve historical data records for research studies useful in agriculture;

“(C) jointly develop improved computer models and computing capacity for storage, retrieval, dissemination and analysis of agricultural weather and climate information;

“(D) enhance the quality and availability of weather and climate information needed by the private sector for value-added products and agriculturalists for decisionmaking; and

“(E) sponsor joint programs to train private sector meteorologists and agriculturalists about the optimum use of agricultural weather and climate data;

“(2) obtain standardized weather observation data collected in near real time through regional and State agricultural weather information systems;

“(3) coordinate the activities of the Chief Meteorologist of the Department of Agriculture and weather and climate research activities of the Department of Agriculture with other Federal agencies and the private sector;

“(4) make grants to plan and administer State and regional agricultural weather information systems, including research in atmospheric sciences and climatology;

“(5) encourage private sector participation in the System through cooperation with the private sector, including cooperation in the generation of weather and climate data useful for site-specific agricultural weather forecasting; and

“(6) make competitive grants to carry out research in all aspects of atmospheric sciences and climatology regarding the collection, retention, and dissemination of agricultural weather and climate observations and information with priority given to proposals that emphasize—

“(A) techniques and processes that relate to—

“(i) weather- or climate-induced agricultural losses; and

“(ii) improvement of information on weather and climate extremes (such as drought, floods, freeze, and storms) well in advance of their occurrence;

“(B) the improvement of site-specific weather data collection and forecasting;

“(C) the impact of weather on economic and environmental costs in agricultural production; or

“(D) the preservation and management of the ecosystem.

“SEC. 1639. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION WORK.—Not more than ¾ of the funds made available for a fiscal year to carry out this subtitle shall be used for work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may retain for administration of the System up to 4 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this subtitle, notwithstanding the availability of any appropriation for administrative expenses to carry out this subtitle.

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES.—Funds made available to carry out this subtitle shall not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

“(2) EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.—Of funds made available under a grant award under this subtitle, a grantee may use for equipment purchases not more than the lesser of—

“(A) \$15,000; or

“(B) ⅓ of the amount of the grant award.

“SEC. 1640. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.”

SEC. 212. NATIONAL FOOD GENOME STRATEGY.

Section 1671 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1671. NATIONAL FOOD GENOME STRATEGY.

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

“(1) to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sectors in order to maximize the return on the investment in plant, animal, and microbial genomics;

“(2) to focus on the species that will yield early, scientifically important results that will enhance the usefulness of many plant, animal, and microbial species;

“(3) to build on genomic research, such as the Human Genome Initiative and the Arabidopsis Genome Project, to understand gene structure and function that is expected to have considerable payoffs in crop species ranging from corn to soybean to cotton and animal species ranging from cattle to swine to poultry;

“(4) to develop improved bioinformatics to enhance both sequence or structure determination and analysis of the biological function of genes and gene products;

“(5) to develop, within the National Food Genome Strategy required under subsection (b) for agriculturally important plants, animals, and microbes, a Plant Genome Initiative under which—

“(A) the Plant Genome Initiative will be an interagency activity conducted with—

“(i) as the lead Federal agency—

“(I) the Department of Agriculture; or

“(II) if funding provided for the Plant Genome Initiative through the Department of Agriculture is substantially less than funding provided for the Initiative through another Federal agency, the other Federal agency, as determined by the President; and

“(ii) the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy as participants; and

“(B) the National Institutes of Health will continue to invest in the underlying critical technologies through its Human Genome Initiative and other genetics research;

“(6) to establish, within the National Food Genome Strategy, an Animal Genome Initiative—

“(A) to address the obstacles limiting the development and implementation of gene-based approaches for animal improvement, such as high-resolution genomic maps; and

“(B) to take advantage of complementary work of the Human Genome Initiative, the Agricultural Research Service, and State agricultural experiment stations;

“(7) to encourage Federal Government participants to maximize the utility of public and private partnerships for food genome research;

“(8) to allow resources developed under this section, including data, software, germplasm, and other biological materials, to be openly accessible to all persons, subject to any confidentiality requirements imposed by law; and

“(9) to encourage international partnerships with each partner country responsible for financing its own strategy for food genome research.

“(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) shall develop and carry out a National Food Genome Strategy to—

“(1) study and map agriculturally significant genes to achieve sustainable and secure agricultural production;

“(2) ensure that current gaps in existing agricultural genetics knowledge are filled;

“(3) identify and develop a functional understanding of genes responsible for economically important traits in plants, animals, and microbes of importance to agriculture;

“(4) ensure future genetic improvement of agriculturally important species;

“(5) support preservation of diverse germplasm;

“(6) ensure preservation of biodiversity to maintain access to genes that may be of importance in the future; and

“(7) otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.

“(c) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into or make contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with individuals and organizations in accordance with section 1472 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318).

“(2) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—A grant under this subsection shall be made on a competitive basis.

“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(2) CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—The Secretary may use funds made available under this section to consult with the National Academy of Sciences regarding the administration of the National Food Genome Strategy.

“(3) INDIRECT COSTS.—Indirect costs under this section shall be allowable at the rate indirect costs are allowable for contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements entered into or made by the National Science Foundation for genomic research.”

SEC. 213. IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND ERADICATION.

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (g) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND ERADICATION.—

“(1) NATIONAL ADVISORY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD ON IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND ERADICATION.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture may establish a National Advisory and Implementation Board on Imported Fire Ant Control, Management, and Eradication (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Board’).

“(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of 12 members who are experts in entomology, ant ecology, wildlife biology, electrical engineering, economics, or agribusiness and who are appointed by the Secretary from academia, research institutes, and the private sector.

“(C) COMPENSATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Board shall not receive any compensation by reason of service on the Board.

“(ii) EXPENSES.—A member of the Board shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by the member in the performance of a duty of the member.

“(D) TERMINATION.—The Board shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the national plan is submitted to the Board under paragraph (4)(B).

“(2) INITIAL GRANTS.—

“(A) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall publish a request for proposals for grants for research or demonstration projects related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants.

“(ii) INPUT FROM BOARD.—In developing a request for proposals under clause (i), the Secretary shall solicit and consider input from the Board.

“(B) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of publication of the request for proposals, the Secretary shall evaluate and select meritorious research or demonstration projects related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants.

“(C) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a total of \$6,000,000 for each fiscal year in grants to colleges, universities, research institutes, Federal laboratories, or private entities selected under subparagraph (B), for a term of not to exceed 5 years, for the purpose of conducting research or demonstration projects related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants. Each project shall be completed not later than the end of the term of the grant.

“(3) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—

“(A) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—If the Secretary awards grants under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary shall—

“(i) evaluate all of the research or demonstration projects conducted under paragraph (2)(C) for their use as the basis of a national plan for the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants by the Federal Government, State and local governments, and owners and operators of land; and

“(ii) on the basis of the evaluation, select the projects the Secretary considers most promising for additional research or demonstration related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants and notify the Board of the selection.

“(B) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant of up to \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year to each of the colleges, universities, research institutes, Federal laboratories, or private entities selected under subparagraph (A)(ii) for the purpose of conducting research or demonstration projects for the preparation of a national plan for the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants. Each project shall be completed not later than 2 years after the grant is made.

“(4) NATIONAL PLAN.—

“(A) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—If the Secretary awards grants under paragraph (3)(B), the Secretary shall—

“(i) evaluate all of the research or demonstration projects conducted under paragraph (3)(B) for their use as the basis of a national plan for the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants by the Federal Government, State and local governments, and owners and operators of land; and

“(ii) on the basis of the evaluation, select 1 project funded under paragraph (3)(B), or a combination of grant projects, as the basis for the plan and notify the Board of the selection.

“(B) GRANT.—The Secretary may award a grant of up to \$5,000,000 to the sponsor or sponsors of the grant project selected under subparagraph (A)(ii) for the purpose of the final preparation of the national plan for the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants that is based on the project. If the Secretary awards a grant under this subparagraph, the national plan shall be completed, and submitted to the Board, not later than 1 year after the grant is made.

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the plan is submitted to the Board under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall submit to Congress the national plan for the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants.

“(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.”

SEC. 214. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM.

Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(1) A*DEC.—The term ‘A*DEC’ means the distance education consortium known as A*DEC.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through A*DEC.”;

(2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “The Secretary shall establish a program, to be administered by the Assistant Secretary for Science and Education,” and inserting “The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program, to be administered through a grant provided to A*DEC under terms and conditions established by the Secretary of Agriculture.”; and

(3) in the first sentence of subsection (f)(2), by striking “the Assistant Secretary for Science and Education” and inserting “A*DEC”.

SEC. 215. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (6);

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in striking “DISSEMINATION.—” and all that follows through “GENERAL.—The” and inserting “DISSEMINATION.—The”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

“(2) NATIONAL GRANT.—Not more than 15 percent of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall be used to carry out subsection (b).”

Subtitle C—Amendments to Other Laws

SEC. 221. 1994 INSTITUTIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(30) Little Priest Tribal College.”.

(b) ACCREDITATION.—Section 533(a) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ACCREDITATION.—To receive funding under sections 534 and 535, a 1994 Institution shall certify to the Secretary that the Institution is—

“(A) accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered; or

“(B) as determined by the agency or association, making progress toward the accreditation.”.

SEC. 222. COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK BY 1862, 1890, AND 1994 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)) is amended in the last sentence by striking “State institutions” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “1994 Institutions (in accordance with regulations that the Secretary may promulgate) and may be administered by the Institutions through cooperative agreements with colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), or the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, located in any State.”.

SEC. 223. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) FUNDING OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall receive such amounts as Congress shall determine for administrative, technical, and other services and for coordinating the extension work of the Department and the several States, territories, and possessions of the United States.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.—

“(A) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), including a foundation established by the colleges or universities, shall be eligible for extension funding awarded under paragraph (1) on a competitive basis.

“(B) NONCOMPETITIVE AWARDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in clause (ii) shall be eligible for extension funding awarded under paragraph (1) on a noncompetitive basis.

“(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Clause (i) shall apply to—

“(I) a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

“(II) a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

“(III) a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); and

“(IV) a foundation established by a college, university, or Institution described in this clause.

“(3) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.—To maximize the use of Federal resources, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into memoranda of understanding, cooperative agreements, or reimbursable agreements with other Federal agencies under which the agencies provide funds, facilities, and other resources of the agencies to the Department of Agriculture to assist the Department in carrying out extension work.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended—

(1) in subsections (b)(1) and (c), by striking “Federal Extension Service” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Agriculture”; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “through the Federal Extension Service”.

SEC. 224. INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than the applicable percentage specified under paragraph (2) of the Federal formula funds that are made available to carry out this Act and subsections (b) and (c) of section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343), to colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), during a fiscal year shall be allotted to activities that integrate cooperative research and extension (referred to in this subsection as ‘integrated activities’).

“(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

“(A) CURRENT EXPENDITURES ON INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall determine the percentage of the Federal formula funds described in paragraph (1) that each State expended for fiscal year 1997 for integrated activities.

“(B) PLANNED EXPENDITURES ON INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES.—For fiscal year 2000 and each subsequent fiscal year, a State shall expend for integrated activities a percentage of the Federal formula funds described in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year that is at least equal to the lesser of—

“(i) 25 percent; or

“(ii) twice the percentage for the State determined under subparagraph (A).

“(C) REDUCTION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may reduce the minimum percentage required to be allotted for integrated activities under subparagraph (B) in a case of hardship, infeasibility, or other similar circumstance beyond the control of the State, as determined by the Secretary.

“(D) COMPLIANCE.—The State shall provide to the Secretary a description of the manner in which the State will meet the requirements of this paragraph.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not apply to funds provided—

“(A) by a State or local government pursuant to a matching requirement;

“(B) to a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); or

“(C) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or Guam.

“(4) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Funds that are used in accordance with paragraph (2)(B) may also be used to satisfy the requirements of subsection (c)(3) and the requirements of section 3(h) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(h)).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) (as amended by section 105(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) REFERENCE TO OTHER LAW.—Section 3(h) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(h)) shall apply to amounts made available to carry out this Act.”

SEC. 225. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) is amended in subsection (b)—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (1), by inserting “national laboratories,” after “Federal agencies,”; and

(2) in the second sentence of paragraph (3)(E), by striking “an individual shall have less than” and all that follows through “research experience” and inserting “an individual shall be within 5 years of the individual’s initial career track position”.

(b) SPECIAL GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) SPECIAL GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make grants, for periods not to exceed 3 years, to colleges, universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals for the purpose of conducting research to address—

“(A) agricultural research needs of immediate importance, by themselves or in conjunction with extension or education; or

“(B) new or emerging areas of agricultural research, by themselves or in conjunction with extension or education.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not make a grant under this subsection—

“(A) for any purpose for which a grant may be made under subsection (d); or

“(B) for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

“(3) REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall make a grant under this subsection for a research activity only if—

“(i) the activity has undergone scientific peer review arranged by the grantee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary; and

“(ii) except in the case of a grant awarded competitively under this subsection, the grantee provides to the Secretary a proposed plan for graduation from noncompetitive Federal funding for grants under this subsection.

“(B) EXTENSION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall make a grant under this subsection for an extension or education activity only if—

“(i) the activity has undergone merit review arranged by the grantee in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary; and

“(ii) except in the case of a grant awarded competitively under this subsection, the grantee provides to the Secretary a proposed plan for graduation from noncompetitive Federal funding for grants under this subsection.

“(4) PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(A) IMMEDIATE NEEDS.—Except in the case of a grant awarded competitively under this subsection, to receive a grant under paragraph (1)(A), a recipient of a grant shall enter into a partnership to carry out the grant with another entity referred to in paragraph (1).

“(B) NEW AND EMERGING AREAS.—Except in the case of a grant awarded competitively under this subsection, after a recipient has received a grant under paragraph (1)(B) for 3 consecutive years, to receive such a grant for an additional year, the recipient shall enter into a partnership to carry out the grant with 2 or more entities referred to in paragraph (1).

“(5) REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under this subsection shall—

“(i) prepare on an annual basis a report describing the results of the research, extension, or education activity and the merit of the results; and

“(ii) submit the report to the Secretary.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), on request, the Secretary shall make the report available to the public.

“(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to the extent that making the report, or a part of the report, available to the public is not authorized or permitted by section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.

“(6) SET ASIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amounts made available for a fiscal year to carry out this subsection, not more than 4 percent of the amounts may be retained by the Secretary to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) takes effect on October 1, 1998.

SEC. 226. FUND FOR RURAL AMERICA.

Section 793(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204f(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “January 1, 1997, October 1, 1998, and October 1, 1999” and inserting “October 1, 1997, and each October 1 thereafter through October 1, 2001”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) PURPOSES.—Subject to subsection (d), of the amounts transferred to the Account for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—

“(A) for activities described in subsection (c)(1), not less than 50 percent, and not more than 67 percent, of the funds in the Account; and

“(B) for activities described in subsection (c)(2), all funds in the Account not made available under subparagraph (A).”

SEC. 227. HONEY RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION.

(a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 2 of the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4601) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and “SEC. 2. The Congress” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress”; and

(2) in subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1)), by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Research directed at improving the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of beekeeping and developing better means of dealing with pest and disease problems is essential to keeping honey and honey product prices competitive, facilitating market growth, and maintaining the financial well-being of the honey industry.

“(9) Research involving the quality, safety, and image of honey and honey products, and how that quality, safety, and image may be affected during the extraction, processing, packaging, marketing, and other stages of the honey and honey product production and distribution process, is highly important to building and maintaining markets for honey and honey products.”

(b) RESEARCH PROJECTS.—Section 7(f) of the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 4606(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(f) Funds” and inserting the following:

“(f) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds”; and

(2) by striking “The Secretary shall” and inserting the following:

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(2) RESEARCH PROJECTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Honey Board shall reserve at least 8 percent of all assessments collected during a year for expenditure on approved research projects designed to advance the cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, efficiency, pest and disease control, and other management aspects of beekeeping and honey production.

“(B) SUBSEQUENT AVAILABILITY.—If all funds reserved under subparagraph (A) are

not allocated to approved research projects in a year, any unallocated reserved funds shall be carried forward for allocation and expenditure under subparagraph (A) in subsequent years."

SEC. 228. OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES.

Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 220. OFFICE OF ENERGY POLICY AND NEW USES.

"An Office of Energy Policy and New Uses of the Department shall be established in the Office of the Secretary."

SEC. 229. KIWIFRUIT RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO ORDERS.—Section 554(c) of the National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7463(c)) is amended in the second sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", except that an amendment to an order shall not require a referendum to become effective".

(b) NATIONAL KIWIFRUIT BOARD.—Section 555 of the National Kiwifruit Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 7464) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

"(1) 10 members who are producers, exporters, or importers (or their representatives), based on a proportional representation of the level of domestic production and imports of kiwifruit (as determined by the Secretary).

"(2) 1 member appointed from the general public.";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "MEMBERSHIP.—" and all that follows through "paragraph (2), the" and inserting "MEMBERSHIP.—Subject to the 11-member limit, the"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting "who are producers" after "members";

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting "who are importers or exporters" after "members"; and

(C) in the second sentence of paragraph (5), by inserting "and alternate" after "member".

SEC. 230. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE POLICY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2802) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "the propagation" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "the commercially controlled cultivation of aquatic plants, animals, and microorganisms, but does not include private for-profit ocean ranching of Pacific salmon in a State in which the ranching is prohibited by law.";

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "or aquatic plant" and inserting "aquatic plant, or microorganism";

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) PRIVATE AQUACULTURE.—The term 'private aquaculture' means the commercially controlled cultivation of aquatic plants, animals, and microorganisms other than cultivation carried out by the Federal Government, any State or local government, or an Indian tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

(b) NATIONAL AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—Section 4 of the National Aqua-

culture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2803) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by adding "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C);

(2) in the second sentence of subsection (d), by striking "Secretaries determine that" and inserting "Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary determines are appropriate, determines that"; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking "Secretaries" and inserting "Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary determines are appropriate."

(c) FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF SECRETARIES.—Section 5(b)(3) of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2804(b)(3)) is amended by striking "Secretaries deem" and inserting "Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary determines are appropriate, consider".

(d) COORDINATION OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES REGARDING AQUACULTURE.—The first sentence of section 6(a) of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2805(a)) is amended by striking "(f)" and inserting "(e)".

(e) NATIONAL POLICY FOR PRIVATE AQUACULTURE.—The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 as sections 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 6 (16 U.S.C. 2805) the following:

"SEC. 7. NATIONAL POLICY FOR PRIVATE AQUACULTURE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary shall coordinate and implement a national policy for private aquaculture in accordance with this section. In developing the policy, the Secretary may consult with other agencies and organizations.

"(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AQUACULTURE PLAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and implement a Department of Agriculture Aquaculture Plan (referred to in this section as the 'Department plan') for a unified aquaculture program of the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the 'Department') to support the development of private aquaculture.

"(2) ELEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT PLAN.—The Department plan shall address—

"(A) programs of individual agencies of the Department related to aquaculture that are consistent with Department programs related to other areas of agriculture, including livestock, crops, products, and commodities under the jurisdiction of agencies of the Department;

"(B) the treatment of cultivated aquatic animals as livestock and cultivated aquatic plants as agricultural crops; and

"(C) means for effective coordination and implementation of aquaculture activities and programs within the Department, including individual agency commitments of personnel and resources.

"(c) NATIONAL AQUACULTURE INFORMATION CENTER.—In carrying out section 5, the Secretary may maintain and support a National Aquaculture Information Center at the National Agricultural Library as a repository for information on national and international aquaculture.

"(d) TREATMENT OF AQUACULTURE.—The Secretary shall treat—

"(1) private aquaculture as agriculture; and

"(2) commercially cultivated aquatic animals, plants, and microorganisms, and products of the animals, plants, and microorganisms, produced by private persons and transported or moved in standard commodity channels as agricultural livestock, crops, and commodities.

"(e) PRIVATE AQUACULTURE POLICY COORDINATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

"(1) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall have responsibility for coordinating, developing, and carrying out policies and programs for private aquaculture.

"(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall—

"(A) coordinate all intradepartmental functions and activities relating to private aquaculture; and

"(B) establish procedures for the coordination of functions, and consultation with, the coordinating group.

"(f) LIAISON WITH DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior shall each designate an officer or employee of the Department of the Secretary to be the liaison of the Department to the Secretary of Agriculture."

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 11 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (as redesignated by subsection (e)(1)) is amended by striking "the fiscal years 1991, 1992, and 1993" each place it appears and inserting "fiscal years 1991 through 2002".

Subtitle D—New Programs

SEC. 231. BIOBASED PRODUCTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF BIOBASED PRODUCT.—In this section, the term "biobased product" means a product that is produced from a renewable agricultural or forestry product.

(b) COORDINATION OF BIOBASED PRODUCT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate the research, technical expertise, economic information, and market information resources and activities of the Department to develop, commercialize, and promote the use of biobased products;

(2) solicit input from private sector persons who produce, or are interested in producing, biobased products;

(3) provide a centralized contact point for advice and technical assistance for promising and innovative biobased products; and

(4) submit an annual report to Congress describing the coordinated research, marketing, and commercialization activities of the Department relating to biobased products.

(c) RESEARCH AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR BIOBASED PRODUCTS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE CONTRACTOR.—In this subsection, the term "eligible contractor" means—

(A) a party that has entered into a cooperative research and development agreement with the Department under section 12 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a);

(B) a recipient of funding from the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation established under section 1658 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5902);

(C) a recipient of funding from the Biotechnology Research and Development Center; or

(D) a recipient of funding from the Department under a Small Business Innovation Research Program established under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

(2) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may use the funds, facilities, and technical expertise of

the Agricultural Research Service, cooperative research and development agreement funds, or other funds—

(A) to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible contractors to operate pilot plants and other large-scale preparation facilities to promote the practical application of biobased technologies; and

(B) to conduct—

(i) research on environmental impacts of the technologies;

(ii) research on lowering the cost of manufacturing biobased products; or

(iii) other appropriate research.

(3) **SALE OF BIOBASED PRODUCTS.**—For the purpose of determining the market potential for biobased products, an eligible contractor who enters into a cooperative agreement may sell biobased products produced at a pilot plant or other large-scale preparation facility under paragraph (2).

(d) **PILOT PROJECT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Agricultural Research Service, shall establish and carry out a pilot project under which grants are provided, on a competitive basis, to scientists of the Agricultural Research Service to—

(A) encourage innovative and collaborative science; and

(B) during each of fiscal years 1999 through 2001, develop biobased products with promising commercial potential.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

SEC. 232. PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGRICULTURAL INPUTS.**—The term “agricultural inputs” includes all farm management, agronomic, and field-applied agricultural production inputs, such as machinery, labor, time, fuel, irrigation water, commercial nutrients, livestock waste, crop protection chemicals, agronomic data and information, application and management services, seed, and other inputs used in agricultural production.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a State agricultural experiment station;

(B) a college or university;

(C) a research institution or organization;

(D) a Federal agency;

(E) a national laboratory;

(F) a private organization or corporation;

or

(G) an individual.

(3) **PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**—The term “precision agriculture” means an integrated information- and production-based farming system that is designed to increase long-term site-specific and whole-farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profitability while minimizing unintended impacts on wildlife and the environment by—

(A) combining agricultural sciences, agricultural inputs and practices, agronomic production databases, and precision agriculture technologies to efficiently manage agronomic systems;

(B) gathering on-farm information pertaining to the variation and interaction of site-specific spatial and temporal factors affecting crop production;

(C) integrating the information with appropriate data derived from remote sensing and other precision agriculture technologies in a timely manner in order to facilitate on-farm decisionmaking; or

(D) using the information to prescribe and deliver site-specific application of agricultural inputs and management practices in agricultural production systems.

(4) **PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES.**—The term “precision agriculture technologies” includes—

(A) instrumentation and techniques ranging from sophisticated sensors and software systems to manual sampling and data collection tools that measure, record, and manage spatial and temporal data;

(B) technologies for searching out and assembling information necessary for sound agricultural production decisionmaking;

(C) open systems technologies for data networking and processing that produce valued systems for farm management decisionmaking, including high bandwidth networks, distributed processing, spatial databasing, object technology, global positioning systems, data modeling, high performance image processing, high resolution satellite imagery, digital orthophotogrammetry simulation, geographic information systems, computer aided design, and digital cartography; or

(D) machines that deliver information based management practices, including global positioning satellites, digital field mapping, on-the-go yield monitoring, automated pest scouting, and site-specific agricultural input application to accomplish the objectives of precision agriculture.

(5) **SYSTEMS RESEARCH.**—The term “systems research” means an integrated, coordinated, and iterative investigative process that considers the multiple interacting components and aspects of precision agriculture systems, including synthesis of new knowledge regarding the physical-chemical-biological processes and complex interactions with cropping and natural resource systems, precision agriculture technologies development and implementation, data and information collection and interpretation, production scale planning, production-scale implementation, and farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profitability.

(b) **GRANTS.**—After consultation with the Advisory Board, the Secretary may make competitive grants, for periods not to exceed 5 years, to eligible entities to carry out research, education, and information dissemination projects for the development and promotion of precision agriculture. The projects shall address 1 or more of the following:

(1) The study and promotion of components of precision agriculture technologies using a systems research approach designed to increase long-term site-specific and whole-farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profitability.

(2) The improvement in the understanding of agronomic systems, including soil, water, land cover, and meteorological variability.

(3) The development, demonstration, and dissemination of information regarding precision agriculture technologies and systems into an integrated program.

(4) The promotion of systems research and education projects focusing on the integration of the multiple aspects of precision agriculture, including development, production-scale implementation, and farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profitability.

(5) The education of agricultural producers and consumers regarding the costs and benefits of precision agriculture as it relates to increased long-term farm production efficiencies, productivity, and profitability, as well as the maintenance of the environment and improvements in international trade.

(6) The provision of training and educational programs for State cooperative extension services agents, agricultural producers, agricultural input machinery, product, and service providers, and certified crop advisers and other professionals involved in agricultural production and the transfer of integrated precision agriculture technology.

(7) The study of whether precision agriculture technologies are applicable and accessible to small and medium size farms and the study of methods of improving the applicability of precision agriculture technologies to the farms.

(c) **EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.**—Of the funds allocated for grants under this section, the Secretary shall reserve a portion of the funds for education and information dissemination grants regarding precision agriculture.

(d) **PRECISION AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Board, shall encourage the establishment of appropriate multistate and national partnerships or consortia among—

(A) land-grant colleges and universities;

(B) State agricultural experiment stations;

(C) State cooperative extension services;

(D) other colleges and universities with demonstrable expertise regarding precision agriculture;

(E) agencies of the Department;

(F) national laboratories;

(G) agribusinesses;

(H) agricultural equipment and input manufacturers and retailers;

(I) certified crop advisers;

(J) commodity organizations;

(K) other Federal or State government entities and agencies;

(L) nonagricultural industries and non-profit organizations with demonstrable expertise regarding precision agriculture; and

(M) agricultural producers and other land managers.

(2) **AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**—The partnerships established pursuant to this subsection may include the agreement entered into (before the date of enactment of this Act) by the Secretary of Energy (on behalf of the national laboratories of the Department of Energy) and the Secretary of Agriculture (on behalf of agencies of the Department) to promote cooperation and coordination between the national laboratories of the Department of Energy and agencies of the Department of Agriculture in the areas of systems research, technology research and development, and the transfer, utilization, and private-sector commercialization of technology.

(3) **ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS.**—Partnerships described in paragraph (1) shall be eligible grantees for conducting systems research (including on-farm research) regarding precision agriculture and precision agriculture technologies.

(e) **LIMITATION.**—A grant made under this section may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

(f) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—The Secretary may not take the offer or availability of matching funds into consideration in making a grant under this section.

(g) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than January 1 of each year, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress an annual report describing the policies, priorities, and operations of the grant program authorized by this section during the preceding fiscal year.

(h) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out this section.

(i) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.) shall not apply to a panel or board created for the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submitted under this section.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to

carry out this section for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002, of which, for each fiscal year—

(A) not less than 30 percent shall be available to make grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams;

(B) not less than 40 percent shall be available to make grants for research to be conducted by eligible entities conducting mission-linked systems research; and

(C) not more than 4 percent may be retained by the Secretary to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be available for obligation for a 2-year period beginning on October 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds are made available.

SEC. 233. FORMOSAN TERMITE ERADICATION PROGRAM.

(a) **RESEARCH PROGRAM.**—The Secretary may make competitive research grants for terms of not to exceed 5 years to regional and multijurisdictional entities, local government planning organizations, and local governments for the purpose of conducting research for the control, management, and possible eradication of Formosan termites in the United States.

(b) **ERADICATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with regional and multijurisdictional entities, local government planning organizations, and local governments for the purposes of—

(A) conducting projects for the control, management, and possible eradication of Formosan termites in the United States; and

(B) collecting data on the effectiveness of the projects.

(2) **FUNDING PRIORITY.**—In allocating funds made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall provide a higher priority for regions or locations with the highest historical rates of infestation of Formosan termites.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

SEC. 234. NUTRIENT COMPOSITION DATA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall update, on a periodic basis, nutrient composition data.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the method the Secretary will use to update nutrient composition data, including the quality assurance criteria that will be used and the method for generating the data; and

(2) the timing for updating the data.

SEC. 235. CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND LABORATORY FACILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.), the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or section 5 of the Public Buildings Amendments of 1972 (40 U.S.C. 602a), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, may enter into contracts for the design, construction, and operation of a consolidated administrative and laboratory facility of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be located in or near Ames, Iowa.

(b) **AWARDING OF CONTRACT.**—

(1) **SOLICITATION.**—The Secretary may solicit contract proposals from interested parties to carry out subsection (a).

(2) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding contracts under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(A) review the proposals; and

(B) provide a higher priority to proposals that—

(i) are—

(I) the most cost effective for the Federal Government; or

(II) safer, based on the relative safety of the proposed facility in comparison to facilities of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service located in Ames, Iowa, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) allow for the use of donated land, federally owned property, or lease-purchase arrangements.

(c) **DONATIONS.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may, in connection with real property, buildings, and facilities, accept on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service such gifts or donations of services or property, real or personal, as the Secretary determines necessary.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 236. NATIONAL SWINE RESEARCH CENTER.

Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, or through a reprogramming of funds provided for swine research to carry out this section pursuant to established procedures, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending December 31, 1998, the Secretary, acting through the Agricultural Research Service, may accept as a gift, and administer, the National Swine Research Center located in Ames, Iowa.

SEC. 237. COORDINATED PROGRAM OF RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION TO IMPROVE VIABILITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may carry out a coordinated program of research, extension, and education to improve the competitiveness, viability, and sustainability of small and medium size dairy and livestock operations (referred to in this section as “operations”).

(b) **COMPONENTS.**—To the extent the Secretary elects to carry out the program, the Secretary shall conduct—

(1) research, development, and on-farm extension and education concerning low-cost production facilities and practices, management systems, and genetics that are appropriate for the operations;

(2) research and extension on management-intensive grazing systems for livestock and dairy production to realize the potential for reduced capital and feed costs through greater use of management skills, labor availability optimization, and the natural benefits of grazing pastures;

(3) research and extension on integrated crop and livestock systems that increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and prevent environmental pollution to strengthen the competitive position of the operations;

(4) economic analyses and market feasibility studies to identify new and expanded opportunities for producers on the operations that provide tools and strategies to meet consumer demand in domestic and international markets, such as cooperative marketing and value-added strategies for milk and meat production and processing; and

(5) technology assessment that compares the technological resources of large specialized producers with the technological needs of producers on the operations to identify and transfer existing technology across all

sizes and scales and to identify the specific research and education needs of the producers.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary may use the funds, facilities, and technical expertise of the Agricultural Research Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and other funds available to the Secretary (other than funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation) to carry out this section.

SEC. 238. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES OF WHEAT AND BARLEY CAUSED BY FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM.

(a) **RESEARCH GRANT AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary may make a grant to a consortium of land-grant colleges and universities to enhance the ability of the consortium to carry out a multi-State research project aimed at understanding and combating diseases of wheat and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi (referred to in this section as “wheat scab”).

(b) **RESEARCH COMPONENTS.**—Funds provided under this section shall be available for the following collaborative, multi-State research activities:

(1) Identification and understanding of the epidemiology of wheat scab and the toxicological properties of vomitoxin, a toxic metabolite commonly occurring in wheat and barley infected with wheat scab.

(2) Development of crop management strategies to reduce the risk of wheat scab occurrence.

(3) Development of—

(A) efficient and accurate methods to monitor wheat and barley for the presence of wheat scab and resulting vomitoxin contamination;

(B) post-harvest management techniques for wheat and barley infected with wheat scab; and

(C) milling and food processing techniques to render contaminated grain safe.

(4) Strengthening and expansion of plant-breeding activities to enhance the resistance of wheat and barley to wheat scab, including the establishment of a regional advanced breeding material evaluation nursery and a germplasm introduction and evaluation system.

(5) Development and deployment of alternative fungicide application systems and formulations to control wheat scab and consideration of other chemical control strategies to assist farmers until new more resistant wheat and barley varieties are available.

(c) **COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS.**—Funds provided under this section shall be available for efforts to concentrate, integrate, and disseminate research, extension, and outreach-orientated information regarding wheat scab.

(d) **MANAGEMENT.**—To oversee the use of a grant made under this section, the Secretary may establish a committee composed of the directors of the agricultural experiment stations in the States in which land-grant colleges and universities that are members of the consortium are located.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,200,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002.

SEC. 239. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM.

(a) **CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall continue operation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program (referred to in this section as the “FARAD program”) through contracts with appropriate colleges or universities.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the FARAD program, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide livestock producers, extension specialists, scientists, and veterinarians with information to prevent drug, pesticide, and

environmental contaminant residues in food animal products;

(2) maintain up-to-date information concerning—

(A) withdrawal times on FDA-approved food animal drugs and appropriate withdrawal intervals for drugs used in food animals in the United States, as established under section 512(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b(a));

(B) official tolerances for drugs and pesticides in tissues, eggs, and milk;

(C) descriptions and sensitivities of rapid screening tests for detecting residues in tissues, eggs, and milk; and

(D) data on the distribution and fate of chemicals in food animals;

(3) publish periodically a compilation of food animal drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

(4) make information on food animal drugs available to the public through handbooks and other literature, computer software, a telephone hotline, and the Internet;

(5) furnish producer quality-assurance programs with up-to-date data on approved drugs;

(6) maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date, residue avoidance database;

(7) provide professional advice for determining the withdrawal times necessary for food safety in the use of drugs in food animals; and

(8) engage in other activities designed to promote food safety.

(c) **CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer to enter into contracts with appropriate colleges and universities to operate the FARAD program.

(2) **TERM.**—The term of a contract under subsection (a) shall be 3 years, with options to extend the term of the contract triennially.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year.

SEC. 240. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN RURAL AREAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to a nationally recognized organization to promote educational opportunities at the primary and secondary levels in rural areas with a historic incidence of poverty and low academic achievement, including the Lower Mississippi River Delta.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section up to \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Subtitle E—Studies and Miscellaneous

SEC. 241. EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall conduct a performance evaluation to determine whether federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education programs result in public goods that have national or multistate significance.

(b) **CONTRACT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with an expert in research assessment and performance evaluation to provide input and recommendations to the Secretary with respect to federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education programs.

(2) **GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The contractor under paragraph (1) shall develop and propose to the Secretary practical guidelines for measuring performance of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education programs.

(B) **CONSISTENCY WITH GPRA.**—The guidelines shall be consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62) and amendments made by that Act.

SEC. 242. STUDY OF FEDERALLY FUNDED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than January 1, 1999, the Secretary shall request the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the role and mission of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study shall—

(1) evaluate the strength of science conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and the relevance of the science to national priorities;

(2) examine how the work of the Agricultural Research Service relates to the capacity of the agricultural research, extension, and education system of the United States;

(3) examine the formulas for funding agricultural research and extension; and

(4) examine the system of competitive grants for agricultural research, extension, and education.

(c) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry of the Senate—

(1) not later than 18 months after the commencement of the study, a report that describes the results of the study as it relates to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), including any appropriate recommendations; and

(2) not later than 3 years after the commencement of the study, a report that describes the results of the study as it relates to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b), including any appropriate recommendations.

SEC. 243. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STATE MATCH FOR 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that States should provide matching funds for agricultural research and extension formula funds provided by the Federal Government to 1890 Institutions.

TITLE III—INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

SEC. 301. INITIATIVE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (referred to in this section as the "Account") to provide funds for activities authorized under this section.

(b) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Account—

(A) on October 1, 1997, \$100,000,000; and

(B) on October 1, 1998, and each October 1 thereafter through October 1, 2001, \$170,000,000.

(2) **ENTITLEMENT.**—The Secretary—

(A) shall be entitled to receive the funds transferred to the Account under paragraph (1);

(B) shall accept the funds; and

(C) shall use the funds to carry out this section.

(c) **PURPOSES.**—

(1) **CRITICAL EMERGING ISSUES.**—The Secretary shall use the funds in the Account—

(A) subject to paragraph (2), for research, extension, and education grants (referred to in this section as "grants") to address critical emerging agricultural issues related to—

(i) future food production;

(ii) environmental protection; or

(iii) farm income; and

(B) for activities carried out under the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.).

(2) **PRIORITY MISSION AREAS.**—

(A) **FISCAL YEAR 1998.**—In making grants under this section for fiscal year 1998, the Secretary shall address priority mission areas related to—

(i) food genome;

(ii) food safety, food technology, and human nutrition;

(iii) new and alternative uses and production of agricultural commodities and products;

(iv) agricultural biotechnology; and

(v) natural resource management, including precision agriculture.

(B) **FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2002.**—In making grants under this section for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002, the Secretary shall address—

(i) priority mission areas described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) after consultation with the Advisory Board, new or different priority mission areas, including the viability and competitiveness of small and medium sized dairy, livestock, crop, and other commodity operations.

(d) **ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.**—The Secretary may make a grant under this section to—

(1) a Federal research agency;

(2) a national laboratory;

(3) a college or university or a research foundation maintained by a college or university; or

(4) a private research organization with an established and demonstrated capacity to perform research or technology transfer.

(e) **USE OF GRANTS.**—

(1) **SMALLER INSTITUTIONS.**—The Secretary may award grants under this section to ensure that the faculty of small and mid-sized institutions who have not previously been successful in obtaining competitive grants awarded by the Secretary under subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) receive a portion of the grants.

(2) **PRIORITIES.**—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall provide a higher priority to—

(A) a project that is multistate, multi-institutional, or multidisciplinary; or

(B) a project that integrates agricultural research, extension, and education.

(f) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) seek and accept proposals for grants;

(B) determine the relevance and merit of proposals through a system of peer review in accordance with section 103;

(C) award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes and priority mission areas established under subsection (c); and

(D) solicit and consider input from stakeholders in accordance with section 102(b)(1).

(2) **COMPETITIVE BASIS.**—A grant under this section shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

(3) **TERM.**—A grant under this section shall have a term that does not exceed 5 years.

(4) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—As a condition of making a grant under this section, the Secretary shall require the funding of the grant be matched with equal matching funds from a non-Federal source if the grant is—

(A) for applied research that is commodity-specific; and

(B) not of national scope.

(5) **DELEGATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer this section through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the Department.

(B) INSTITUTES.—The Secretary may establish 1 or more institutes to carry out all or part of the activities authorized under this section.

(6) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds for grants under this section shall be available for obligation for a 2-year period.

(7) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary may use not more than 4 percent of the funds made available for grants under this section for administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(8) BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.—Funds made available for grants under this section shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

TITLE IV—EXTENSION OR REPEAL OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES; TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 401. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES.

(a) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended—

(1) in subsection (l) of section 1417 (7 U.S.C. 3152) (as redesignated by section 202(1)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(2) in section 1419(d) (7 U.S.C. 3154(d)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(3) in section 1419A(d) (7 U.S.C. 3155(d)), by striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”;

(4) in section 1424(d) (7 U.S.C. 3174(d)), by striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”;

(5) in section 1425(c)(3) (7 U.S.C. 3175(c)(3)), by striking “and 1997” and inserting “through 2002”;

(6) in the first sentence of section 1433(a) (7 U.S.C. 3195(a)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(7) in section 1434(a) (7 U.S.C. 3196(a)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(8) in section 1447(b) (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)), by striking “and 1997” and inserting “through 2002”;

(9) in section 1448 (7 U.S.C. 3222c)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and 1997” and inserting “through 2002”; and

(B) in subsection (f), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(10) in section 1455(c) (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)), by striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1997 through 2002”;

(11) in section 1463 (7 U.S.C. 3311), by striking “1997” each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2002”;

(12) in section 1464 (7 U.S.C. 3312), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(13) in section 1473D(a) (7 U.S.C. 3319d(a)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(14) in the first sentence of section 1477 (7 U.S.C. 3324), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”; and

(15) in section 1483(a) (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(b) FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990.—The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended—

(1) in section 1635(b) (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(2) in section 1673(h) (7 U.S.C. 5926(h)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”;

(3) in section 1676(e) (7 U.S.C. 5929(e)), by striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1997 through 2002”;

(4) in section 2381(e) (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”; and

(5) in section 2412 (7 U.S.C. 6710), by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(c) CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.—Section 16(a) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(d) RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.—Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 1996 and 1997” and inserting “each of fiscal years 1996 through 2002”.

(e) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1985.—Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (99 Stat. 1566) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(f) COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RESEARCH GRANT ACT.—Subsection (b)(10) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10)) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(g) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1981.—Section 1432(b)(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1981 (Public Law 97-98; 7 U.S.C. 3222 note) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

(h) EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.—Sections 533(b) and 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note) are amended by striking “2000” each place it appears and inserting “2002”.

(i) RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.—Section 6 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1675) is amended in the first sentence by striking “the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “each of fiscal years 1987 through 2002”.

SEC. 402. REPEAL OF AUTHORITIES.

(a) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—Sections 1424A and 1476 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3174a, 3323) are repealed.

(b) FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990.—Subtitle G of title XIV and sections 1670 and 1675 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5501 et seq., 5923, 5928) are repealed.

(c) FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT AND REFORM ACT OF 1996.—Subtitle E of title VIII of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 1184) is repealed.

SEC. 403. SHORT TITLES FOR SMITH-LEVER ACT AND HATCH ACT OF 1887.

(a) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—The Act of May 8, 1914 (commonly known as the “Smith-Lever Act”) (38 Stat. 372, chapter 79; 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 11. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Smith-Lever Act’.”.

(b) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—The Act of March 2, 1887 (commonly known as the “Hatch Act of 1887”) (24 Stat. 440, chapter 314; 7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 10. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Hatch Act of 1887’.”.

SEC. 404. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO RESEARCH PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT AND REFORM ACT OF 1996.

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS RESEARCH.—Section 819(b)(5) of the Federal

Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127; 110 Stat. 1167) is amended by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(3)”.

(b) JOINT COUNCIL ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.—Section 1413(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3128(b)) is amended by striking “Joint Council, the Advisory Board,” and inserting “Advisory Board”.

(c) ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) SUPPORT FOR ADVISORY BOARD.—Section 1412 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3127) is amended—

(A) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “their duties” each place it appears and inserting “its duties”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “their recommendations” and inserting “its recommendations”.

(2) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Section 1413(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3128(a)) is amended by striking “their powers” and inserting “its duties”.

(d) PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM.—Section 1629(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(g)) is amended by striking “section 1650.”.

(e) GRANTS TO UPGRADE 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGE EXTENSION FACILITIES.—Section 873 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127; 110 Stat. 1175) is amended by striking “1981” and inserting “1985”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on April 4, 1996.

TITLE V—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM SAVINGS

SEC. 501. NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

(a) FOOD STAMPS.—Section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Subject to subsection (k), the Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) REDUCTIONS IN PAYMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) AFDC PROGRAM.—The term ‘AFDC program’ means the program of aid to families with dependent children established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq. (as in effect, with respect to a State, during the base period for that State)).

“(B) BASE PERIOD.—The term ‘base period’ means the period used to determine the amount of the State family assistance grant for a State under section 403 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603).

“(C) MEDICAID PROGRAM.—The term ‘medicaid program’ means the program of medical assistance under a State plan or under a waiver of the plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

“(2) DETERMINATIONS OF AMOUNTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO BENEFITTING PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the States, shall, with respect to the base period for each State, determine—

“(A) the annualized amount the State received under section 403(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3) (as in effect during the base period)) for administrative costs common to determining the eligibility of individuals, families, and households eligible or applying for the AFDC program and the food stamp program, the AFDC program and the medicaid program, and the AFDC

program, the food stamp program, and the medicaid program that were allocated to the AFDC program; and

“(B) the annualized amount the State would have received under section 403(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3) (as so in effect)), section 1903(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(7) (as so in effect)), and subsection (a) of this section (as so in effect), for administrative costs common to determining the eligibility of individuals, families, and households eligible or applying for the AFDC program and the food stamp program, the AFDC program and the medicaid program, and the AFDC program, the food stamp program, and the medicaid program, if those costs had been allocated equally among such programs for which the individual, family, or household was eligible or applied for.

“(3) REDUCTION IN PAYMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, effective for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002, the Secretary shall reduce, for each fiscal year, the amount paid under subsection (a) to each State by an amount equal to the amount determined for the food stamp program under paragraph (2)(B).

“(4) DETERMINATIONS NOT SUBJECT TO REVIEW.—The determinations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (2) shall be final and not subject to administrative or judicial review.

“(5) ALLOCATION OF COMMON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In allocating administrative costs common to determining the eligibility of individuals, families, and households eligible or applying for 2 or more State-administered public benefit programs, the head of a Federal agency may require States to allocate the costs among the programs.”.

(b) MEALS FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING FAMILIES.—

(1) GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME AREAS.—Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) LOW-INCOME AREA GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligible school’ means a school—

“(i) attended by children, a significant percentage of whom are members of low-income families, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(ii) (I) as used with respect to a school breakfast program, that agrees to operate the school breakfast program established or expanded with the assistance provided under this subsection for a period of not less than 3 years; and

“(II) as used with respect to a summer food service program for children, that agrees to operate the summer food service program for children established or expanded with the assistance provided under this subsection for a period of not less than 3 years.

“(B) SERVICE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘service institution’ means an institution or organization described in paragraph (1)(B) or (7) of section 13(a) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)).

“(C) SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.—The term ‘summer food service program for children’ means a program authorized by section 13 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program under this subsection to be known as the ‘Low-Income Area Grant Program’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to assist eligible schools and service institutions through grants to initiate or expand programs under the school breakfast program and the summer food service program for children.

“(3) PAYMENTS.—

“(A) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and each fiscal year thereafter.

“(B) ENTITLEMENT TO FUNDS.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds made available under subparagraph (A) and shall accept the funds.

“(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall use the funds made available under subparagraph (A) to make payments under the Program—

“(i) in the case of the school breakfast program, to school food authorities for eligible schools; and

“(ii) in the case of the summer food service program for children, to service institutions.

“(D) INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF APPLICANTS.—The Secretary may expend less than the amount described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year to the extent that there is an insufficient number of suitable applicants to initiate or expand programs under this subsection for the fiscal year.

“(4) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall make payments under the Program on a competitive basis and in the following order of priority (subject to the other provisions of this subsection) to:

“(A) School food authorities for eligible schools to assist the schools with non-recurring expenses incurred in—

“(i) initiating a school breakfast program under this section; or

“(ii) expanding a school breakfast program.

“(B) Service institutions to assist the institutions with nonrecurring expenses incurred in—

“(i) initiating a summer food service program for children; or

“(ii) expanding a summer food service program for children.

“(5) PAYMENTS ADDITIONAL.—Payments under the Program shall be in addition to payments under subsection (b) of this section and section 13 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761).

“(6) PREFERENCES.—Consistent with paragraph (4), in making payments under the Program for any fiscal year to initiate or expand school breakfast programs or summer food service programs for children, the Secretary shall provide a preference to a school food authority for an eligible school or service institution that—

“(A) in the case of a summer food service program for children, is a public or private nonprofit school food authority;

“(B) has significant public or private resources that will be used to carry out the initiation or expansion of the programs during the year;

“(C) serves an unmet need among low-income children, as determined by the Secretary; or

“(D) is not operating a school breakfast program or summer food service program for children, as appropriate.

“(7) RECOVERY AND REALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall act in a timely manner to recover and reallocate to other school food authorities for eligible schools or service institutions any amounts under the Program that are not expended within a reasonable period (as determined by the Secretary).

“(8) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Expenditures of funds from State, local, and private sources for the maintenance of the school breakfast program and the summer food service program for children shall not be diminished as a result of payments received under the Program.”.

(2) MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—Section 13(b)(2) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(B) by striking “(2) Any service” and inserting the following:

“(2) MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any service”;

(C) by striking “3 meals, or 2 meals and 1 supplement,” and inserting “4 meals”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CAMPS AND MIGRANT PROGRAMS.—A camp or migrant program may serve a breakfast, a lunch, a supper, and meal supplements.”.

(3) NUMBER OF MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—Section 17(f)(2) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) NUMBER OF MEALS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no reimbursement may be made to any institution under this paragraph, or to a family or group day care home sponsoring organization under paragraph (3), for more than 2 meals and 1 supplement per day per child.

“(ii) CHILD CARE.—A reimbursement may be made to an institution under this paragraph (but not a family or group day care home sponsoring organization) for 2 meals and 2 supplements, or 3 meals and 1 supplement, per day per child for children that are maintained in a child care setting for 8 or more hours per day.”.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraphs (2) and (3) take effect on September 1, 1998.

(c) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 26(d) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “\$150,000” and all that follows through “1998” and inserting “\$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, and \$185,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2002”.

(d) FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN INDIANS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIANS.—Section 402(a)(2)(G) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612(a)(2)(G)) is amended—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “SSI EXCEPTION” and inserting “EXCEPTION”; and

(B) by striking “program defined in paragraph (3)(A) (relating to the supplemental security income program)” and inserting “specified Federal programs described in paragraph (3)”.

(2) BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INDIANS.—Section 403(d) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(d)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “SSI AND MEDICAID”; and

(B) by striking “(a)(3)(A)” and inserting “(a)(3)”.

SEC. 502. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(g) of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714b(g)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “\$275,000,000” and inserting “\$193,000,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 1997.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session