

section 1601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091).

(13) APPLICATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (10), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply beginning with the 2018 crop year.

(b) MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS.—

(1) MONTHLY CALCULATION OF ACTUAL DAIRY PRODUCTION MARGIN.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1401 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9051) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (4); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (11) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively.

(B) CALCULATION OF ACTUAL DAIRY PRODUCTION MARGIN.—Section 1402(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9052(b)(1)) is amended by striking “consecutive 2-month period” each place it appears and inserting “month”.

(C) MARGIN PROTECTION PAYMENTS.—Section 1406 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9056) is amended—

(i) by striking “consecutive 2-month period” each place it appears and inserting “month”; and

(ii) in subsection (c)(2)(B), by striking “6” and inserting “12”.

(2) PARTICIPATION OF DAIRY OPERATIONS IN MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Section 1404 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9054) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including the establishment of a date each calendar year by which a dairy operation shall register for the calendar year” before the period at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) EXTENSION OF ELECTION PERIOD FOR 2018 CALENDAR YEAR.—The Secretary shall extend the election period for the 2018 calendar year by not less than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 or such additional period as the Secretary determines is necessary for dairy operations to make new elections to participate for that calendar year, including dairy operations that elected to so participate before that date of enactment.”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) EXEMPTION.—A limited resource, beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer, as defined by the Secretary, shall be exempt from the administrative fee under this subsection.”.

(3) PRODUCTION HISTORY OF PARTICIPATING DAIRY OPERATIONS.—Section 1405(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9055(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF BASE PRODUCTION HISTORY.—A production history established for a dairy operation under paragraph (1) shall be the base production history for the dairy operation in subsequent years (as adjusted under paragraph (2)).”.

(4) PREMIUMS FOR MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Section 1407 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following: “TIER I: PREMIUM PER HUNDREDWEIGHT FOR FIRST 5,000,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCTION.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “4,000,000” and inserting “5,000,000”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking “\$0.010” and inserting “None”; and

(II) by striking “\$0.025” and inserting “None”;

(III) by striking “\$0.040” and inserting “\$0.009”; and

(IV) by striking “\$0.055” and inserting “\$0.016”;

(V) by striking “\$0.090” and inserting “\$0.040”; and

(VI) by striking “\$0.217” and inserting “\$0.063”;

(VII) by striking “\$0.300” and inserting “\$0.087”; and

(VIII) by striking “\$0.475” and inserting “\$0.142”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following: “TIER II: PREMIUM PER HUNDREDWEIGHT FOR PRODUCTION IN EXCESS OF 5,000,000 POUNDS.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “4,000,000” and inserting “5,000,000”.

(5) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply beginning with the 2018 calendar year.

(c) LIMITATION ON CROP INSURANCE LIVESTOCK-RELATED EXPENDITURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 523(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (10).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516) is amended in subsections (a)(2)(C) and (b)(1)(D) by striking “subsections (a)(3)(E)(ii) and (b)(10) of section 523” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a)(3)(E)(ii) of that section”.

SEC. 60102. (a) Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—During each of the 2002 through 2019 fiscal years, the Secretary shall provide payments to producers that enter into contracts with the Secretary under the program.”.

(b) Section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2018” and inserting “2018 (and fiscal year 2019 in the case of the program specified in paragraph (5))”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(E), by striking “fiscal year 2018” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2018 through 2019”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and inserting “2018 (and fiscal year 2019 in the case of the program specified in subsection (a)(5))”.

This division may be cited as the “Improvements to Agriculture Programs Act of 2018”.

DIVISION G—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 70101. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The budgetary effects of division A, subdivision 2 of division B, and division C and each succeeding division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of division A, subdivision 2 of division B, and division C and each succeeding division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of division A, subdivision 2 of division B, and division C and each succeeding division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act

of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 1931. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1930 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty, as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 1932. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 1933. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1932 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty; as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

SA 1934. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1933 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 1932 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1892, to amend title 4, United States Code, to provide for the flying of the flag at half-staff in the event of the death of a first responder in the line of duty, as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Impact of Federal Environmental Regulations and Policies on American Farming and Ranching Communities.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 5 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Turkey and the Way Ahead."

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorizing DHS: Positioning DHS to Address New and Emerging Threats to the Homeland."

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "From Joint Pain to Pocket Pain: Cost and Competition Among Rheumatoid Arthritis Therapies."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND
CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS AND
MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 112-166, and further amended by Public Law 113-128, the appointment of the following to serve as a member of the National Council on Disability: Andres J. Gallegos of Illinois.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Thursday, February 8; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 695, with the time until the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:44 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 8, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 7, 2018:

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY
SERVICE

BARBARA STEWART, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRETT GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO THE QUALIFICATIONS THEREFOR AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS, AND TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.