H.R. 6083

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Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary of Agriculture

TITLE I – COMMODITIES

SUBTITLE A—REPEALS AND REFORMS

Sec. 1101. Repeal of Direct Payments

Section 1101 repeals direct payments effective with the 2013 crop year.

Sec. 1102. Repeal of Counter-Cyclical Payments

Section 1102 repeals the counter-cyclical payments effective with the 2013 crop year.

Sec. 1103. Repeal of Average Crop Revenue Election Program

Section 1103 repeals the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program effective with the 2013 crop year.

Sec. 1104. Definitions

Section 1104 contains majority and all common definitions for the Title.

Sec. 1105. Base Acres

Section 1105 continues the Secretary’s authority to provide for adjustments to base acres for covered commodities and cotton when a CRP contract is terminated, acres are released from the CRP or when the Secretary designates additional oilseeds in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1106. Payment Yields

Section 1106 continues the Secretary’s authority to establish payment yields for each farm for any designated oilseed that does not have a payment yield. If no payment yield is otherwise established for a covered commodity, the Secretary shall establish an appropriate payment yield using the program payment yields of similarly situated farms. In time for the 2013 crop year, the owner of the farm can update the payment yields of each covered commodity once.

Sec. 1107. Farm Risk Management Election

Section 1107 states that producers with more than 10 planted acres of covered commodities may elect Price Loss Coverage or Revenue Loss Coverage.
Producers are eligible for a price loss coverage payment for covered commodities for the 2013-2017 crop years when the effective price for a covered commodity is less than the reference price for the covered commodities. The effective price is the higher of the national average market price for a covered commodity for the first 5 months of the marketing year (the midseason price) and the national average marketing loan rate established in subtitle B. The reference prices are set in §1104(16). If a payment is required, the payment will be the difference between the reference price and the effective price multiplied by the payment yield (defined in §1104(12)) and the payment acres (defined in §1104(11)). The Secretary shall make price loss coverage payments on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity.

As alternative to price loss coverage, a farmer can make a one-time, irrevocable election on a crop by crop, farm by farm basis to receive revenue loss coverage. Farmers will receive revenue loss coverage payments for the 2013-2017 crop years when the actual county revenue for a covered commodity in a crop year is less than the county revenue loss trigger for the covered commodity.

The actual farm revenue is the product of multiplying the actual county yield for each planted acre of the covered commodity and the higher the first 5 months of the marketing year (the midseason price) or the national average marketing loan rate established in subtitle B. The county revenue loss coverage trigger for a covered commodity is 85 percent of the benchmark county revenue.

The benchmark county revenue is the average historical county yield of a covered commodity in a county for the most recent 5 years, excluding the highest and the lowest, subject to the average national marketing year price. In calculating the benchmark county revenue the Secretary shall use the higher of the historical county yield or 70 percent of the historical county transitional yield. For price the Secretary shall use the higher of the national marketing year average price or the reference price (set in §1104(16)).

If payments are required the payment amount is the difference between the revenue loss county trigger and the actual crop revenue multiplied by the payment acres. Coverage is limited to not more than 10 percent of the benchmark county revenue multiplied by the payment acres. Payments are to be made on October 1 or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity.

Sec. 1108. Producer Agreements

Section 1108 states that before a producer of a covered commodity can receive a payment under section 1107 he or she must comply with sod buster provisions in subtitle B of title XII of the ’85 act, and the swampbuster provisions of subtitle C of the title XII of the ’85 act, keep the land in agriculture or conserving use, and effectively control noxious weeds.

If a producer sells or otherwise transfers his farm to someone else, the new owner or operator must assume all of the compliance obligations or the right to either the price loss coverage payment or the revenue loss coverage payment is terminated.
The producer is still required to submit to the Secretary acreage reports. Accidental errors in the reports will not result in loss of payment.

The Secretary shall provide adequate safeguards to protect the interest of tenants and sharecroppers and for sharing the payments among the producers on a farm on a fair and equitable basis.

Sec. 1109. Period of Effectiveness

Section 1109 sets 2013-2017 as the period of effectiveness for this subtitle.

SUBTITLE B—MARKETING LOANS

Sec. 1201. Availability of Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans for Loan Commodities

Section 1201 authorizes nonrecourse loans for loan commodities for 2013-2017 crop years in the same manner as current law. It also includes a requirement that producers comply with certain conservation requirements.

Sec. 1202. Loan Rates for Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans

Section 1202 continues current law establishing loan rates for commodities, except for an adjustment to upland cotton, as follows for the 2013-2017 crop years:

- Wheat, $2.94 (same as current law)
- Corn, $1.95 (same as current law)
- Grain Sorghum, $1.95 (same as current law)
- Barley, $1.95 (same as current law, though now using the all barley price)
- Oats, $1.39 (same as current law)
- Upland Cotton, for the 2013 and each subsequent crop year, the simple average of the adjusted prevailing world price for the 2 immediately preceding marketing years, but in no case less than $0.47 per pound or more than $0.52 per pound.
- Extra long staple cotton, $0.7977 (same as current law)
- Long grain rice, $6.50 (same as current law)
- Medium/short grain rice, $6.50 (same as current law)
- Soybeans, $5.00 (same as current law)
- Other oilseeds, $10.09 (same as current law)
- Dry Peas, $5.40 (same as same as current law)
- Lentils, $11.28 (same as current law)
- Small Chickpeas, $7.43 (same as current law)
- Large Chickpeas, $11.28 per hundredweight (same as current law)
- Peanuts, $355 per ton (same as current law)
- Graded wool, $1.15 (same as current law)
- Non-graded wool, $0.40 (same as current law)
- Honey, $0.69 (same as current law)
- Mohair, $4.20 (same as current law)
Sec. 1203. Term of Loans

Section 1203 continues the provisions of the current law on the terms of loans: 9 months; no extensions.

Sec. 1204. Repayment of Loans

Section 1204 requires the repayment of marketing assistance loans in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1205. Loan Deficiency Payments

Section 1205 authorizes loan deficiency payments for 2013-2017 crop years under same conditions as 2002 Farm Bill.

Sec. 1206. Payments In Lieu of Loan Deficiency Payments for Grazed Acreage

Section 1206 Continues the authorization for payments in lieu of LDPs for producers who have grazed acreage for the 2013-2017 crop years under in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1207. Special Marketing Loan Provisions for Upland Cotton

Section 1207 continues the authorization for the President to issue special import quota for the 2013-2017 crop year in the same manner as current law using only official USDA data.

Sec. 1208. Special Competitive Provisions for Extra Long Staple Cotton

Section 1208 continues the authorization through July 31, 2013 of the special competitive provisions for extra long staple cotton in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1209. Availability of Recourse Loans for High Moisture Feed Grains and Seed Cotton

Section 1209 continues the authorization for recourse loans for these crops for the 2013-2017 crop years in same manner as current law.

Sec. 1210. Adjustment of Loans

Section 1210 authorizes the Secretary to adjust loan rates.

SUBTITLE C—SUGAR

Sec. 1301. Sugar Program

Section 1301 reauthorizes the sugar program requiring the Secretary to administer the program in the same manner as current law.
SUBTITLE D—DAIRY

PART I—DAIRY PRODUCER MARGIN PROTECTION AND DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 1401. Definitions

Section 1401 defines the terms used in the Dairy Producer Margin Protection and Dairy Market Stabilization Programs, including that a “participating dairy producer” is a dairy producer that registers for the dairy producer margin protection program, and, as a result of the registration, also participates in the dairy market stabilization program.

Sec. 1402. Calculation of Average Feed Cost and Actual Dairy Producer Margins

Section 1402 establishes that the average feed cost be calculated each month using the price of corn, the price of soybean meal in central Illinois, and the price of alfalfa hay, as reported by the Secretary.

For use in the margin protection program, directs the Secretary to calculate the actual dairy producer margin for each consecutive 2 month period by subtracting the average feed cost from the all-milk price for that period.

For use in the stabilization program, directs the Secretary to calculate the actual dairy producer margin for each preceding month by subtracting the average feed cost from the all-milk price for that period.

SUBPART A—DAIRY PRODUCER MARGIN PROTECTION PROGRAM

Sec. 1411. Establishment of Dairy Producer Margin Protection Program

Section 1411 directs the Secretary to establish a dairy producer margin protection program by providing basic margin protection payments when margins are less than a $4 threshold level, and providing supplemental margin protection up to an $8 margin if purchased by the producer.

Sec. 1412. Participation of Dairy Producers in Margin Protection Program

Section 1412 establishes that all dairy producers in the United States are eligible to participate in and sign-up for the margin protection program to receive basic margin protection, and, if the producer so chooses, to purchase supplemental margin protection.

Sec. 1413. Production History of Participating Dairy Producers

Section 1413 establishes the production history of producers.

Sec. 1414. Basic Margin Protection
Section 1414 establishes a basic margin protection program under which participating dairy producers receive a basic margin protection payment when the average actual dairy producer margin falls below $4.00 for a consecutive two-month period.

Sec. 1415. Supplemental Margin Protection

Section 1415 establishes that a dairy producer may purchase supplemental margin protection on a yearly basis to protect a higher level of income than under the basic margin program.

Sec. 1416. Effect of Failure to Pay Administrative Fees and Premiums

Section 1416 mandates that a dairy producer, who elects to participate in the basic or supplemental margin protection programs and fails to pay the required administrative fees or premiums, may not receive basic or supplemental margin protection payments and remains legally obligated to pay such fees or premiums.

SUBPART B—DAIRY MARKET STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Sec. 1431. Establishment of Dairy Market Stabilization Program

Section 1431 establishes a dairy market stabilization program which is triggered when the actual dairy producer margin has been $6 or less per hundredweight of milk for the immediately preceding 2 months or $4 or less for the immediately preceding month. If the stabilization program is triggered, the Secretary will order reduced payments for the participating producer that exceeds the applicable percentage of the producer’s stabilization base.

Sec. 1432. Threshold for Implementation and Reduction in Dairy Producer Payments

Section 1432 requires the Secretary to announce that the stabilization program is in effect and payment reductions are required.

Sec. 1433. Producer Milk Marketing Information

Section 1433 requires the Secretary to establish a process to collect the necessary information while the stabilization program is in effect.

Sec. 1434. Calculation and Collection of Reduced Dairy Producer Payments

Section 1434 requires handlers to reduce payments to participating dairy producers during any month in which payment reductions are in effect.

Sec. 1435. Remitting Monies to the Secretary and Use of Monies
Section 1435 requires handlers to remit to the Secretary an amount equal to reduced producer payments.

Sec. 1436. Suspension of Reduced Payment Requirement

Section 1436 lists the thresholds at which the Secretary will suspend the stabilization program.

Sec. 1437. Enforcement

Section 1437 makes it unlawful for any person subject to the stabilization program to not provide or to delay the reporting of accurate information and remittance of funds to the Secretary.

Sec. 1438. Audit Requirements

Section 1438 is the audit requirements for the stabilization program.

SUBPART C—COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Sec. 1451. Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

Section 1451 requires the Secretary to use the funds and facilities of the CCC to carry out the program.

SUBPART D—INITIATION AND DURATION

Sec. 1461. Rulemaking

Section 1461 exempts the programs from the Administrative Procedures Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Sec. 1462. Duration

Section 1462 terminates the margin protection program and the stabilization program on December 31, 2017.

PART II—REPEAL OR REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER DAIRY-RELATED PROVISIONS

Sec. 1481. Repeal of Dairy Product Price Support and Milk Income Loss Contract Programs

Section 1481 repeals the dairy price support and milk income loss programs.

Sec. 1482. Repeal of Dairy Export Incentive Program

Section 1482 repeals the dairy export incentive program.

Sec. 1483. Extension of Dairy Forward Pricing Program
Section 1483 reauthorizes the dairy forward pricing program through 2020.

Sec. 1484. Extension of Dairy Indemnity Program

Section 1484 reauthorizes the dairy indemnity program through 2017.

Sec. 1485. Extension of Dairy Promotion and Research Program

Section 1485 reauthorizes the dairy promotion and research program through 2017.

Sec. 1486. Repeal of Federal Milk Marketing Order Review Commission

Section 1486 repeals the federal milk marketing order review commission.

PART III—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 1491. Effective Date

Section 1491 states this subtitle is effective October 1, 2012.

SUBTITLE E—SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Sec. 1501. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

In general, section 1501 authorizes the continuation of certain Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance programs, previously codified in subtitle B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, as a standalone provision within the bill.

Section 1501(a) is the definitions section. The section strikes definitions that are no longer relevant to the title.

Section 1501(b) authorizes the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use such sums as necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used to make livestock indemnity payments to eligible producers for livestock losses in the excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather or attacks by federally reintroduced animals, such as wolves or avian predators. It maintains the 75% of the market value rate for indemnity.

Section 1501(c) authorizes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (ELFP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use such sums as necessary from the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide compensation to eligible livestock producers for livestock losses due to grazing losses caused by drought or fire. Coverage includes native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover, or land that has crops that are specifically planted for the purpose of grazing livestock. However, an eligible livestock producer may not receive assistance for land used for haying or grazing under the Conservation
Reserve Program. The language maintains the payment rate for losses caused by drought for 1 month at equal to the lesser of 60 percent of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock owned or leased by the eligible producer, or the monthly feed cost calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land of the eligible livestock producer. Fire losses continue to be limited to fires that have occurred on federally managed land. The section maintains the payment rate for losses due to fire at equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed costs for the total number of livestock covered by the Federal lease of the eligible livestock producer. The language eliminates the minimum risk management purchase requirement.

Section 1501(d) authorizes the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The subsection authorizes the Secretary to use $20,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide emergency relief for producers to aid in the reduction of loss due to disease and adverse weather. The language clarifies that loss due to disease includes losses from cattle tick fever. The subsection maintains the provision that the funds shall remain available until expended.

Section 1501(e) authorizes the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The Secretary is authorized to use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide assistance to orchardists and nursery growers for losses of trees due to natural disaster. The language provides a reimbursement rate of 65% of the cost of replanting trees for losses in excess of 15% mortality. The language increases the payment cap under TAP to $125,000 per crop year. It further maintains the 500 acre limit on total number of acres planted in trees or tree seedlings for which a person or legal entity shall be entitled to receive payments under this subsection.

Section 1501(f) includes the payment limitation for the entire section. The language increases the payment cap for total amount of disaster assistance payments, excluding TAP payments, to $125,000 received, either directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity. The language eliminated the AGI limitation for payments under this section. It further maintains the application of direct attribution provisions to this section.

**SUBTITLE F—ADMINISTRATION**

**Sec. 1601. Administration Generally**

Section 1601 allows the Secretary to use the funds and facilities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this title. It also provides for an expedited implementation of this title. The Secretary’s authority to adjust expenditures under this title to ensure the United States remains in compliance with our international trade agreements is continued in the same manner as current law.

**Sec. 1602. Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority**

Section 1602 continues the suspension of permanent price authority in the Agriculture Marketing Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agricultural Act of 1949.
Sec. 1603. Payment Limitations

Section 1603 limits the total amount of payments a person or a legal entity can receive under subtitle A to $125,000.

Sec. 1604. Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

Section 1604 replaces the two income limitation test (farm and nonfarm income) with a single $950,000 adjusted gross income limitation for commodity and conservation programs.

Sec. 1605. Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Section 1605 continues the geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers program authorization for reimbursement payments through 2017 in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1606. Personal Liability of Producers for Deficiencies

Section 1606 extends the personal liability of producers for deficiencies through 2017 in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1607. Prevention of Deceased Individuals Receiving Payments Under Farm Commodity Programs

Section 1607 continues the requirement that the Secretary prevent deceased individuals from receiving farm commodity program payments by reconciling the social security numbers of all individuals who received payments under this title with the Commissioner of Social Security in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1608. Technical Corrections

Section 1608 includes technical corrections.

Sec. 1609. Assignment of Payments

Section 1609 continues the authority of a producer who receives a payment under this title to assign the payment to someone else after proper notice to the secretary in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1610. Tracking of Benefits

Section 1610 reauthorizes the Secretary to track the benefits provided to individuals getting payments under titles I and II in the same manner as current law.

Sec. 1611. Signature Authority

Section 1611 continues the signature authority of a producer in the same manner as current law.
Section 1612. Implementation

Section 1612 requires the Secretary to maintain records on base acres and the records for the separate base acres for long grain and medium grain rice through 2017. The Secretary shall make available to the Farm Service Agency to carry out this title $100,000,000.

Title II – Conservation

Subtitle A—Conservation Reserve Program

Sec. 2001. Extension and Enrollment Requirements of Conservation Reserve Program

Section 2001(a) extends the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through fiscal year 2017.

Section 2001(b) amends the definition of eligible land by updating the date for cropping history under highly erodible lands; by removing marginal pasture land converted to wetland or established as wildlife habitat prior to 1999; by adding grasslands as eligible lands; by including filterstrips and riparian buffers devoted to trees, shrubs, and grasses as cropland that would otherwise be ineligible; and by amending the requirement for buffers and filterstrips associated with the remainder of a field enrolled in CRP.

Section 2001(c) amends the requirement for certain lands to be considered planted to an agricultural commodity for the purposes of determining eligibility to land that was devoted to a conserving use during the crop year; and eliminates the inclusion of land enrolled in the water bank program.

Section 2001(d) reduces the acreage cap for fiscal years 2013-2017:

- FY2012 – 32,000,000 acres
- FY2013 – 29,000,000 acres
- FY2014 – 26,000,000 acres
- FY2015 – 26,000,000 acres
- FY2016 – 25,500,000 acres
- FY2017 – 25,000,000 acres

It further adds a provision for enrollment of 2,000,000 acres of grasslands and authorizes the Secretary to give priority to expiring CRP contracts to be enrolled under the grasslands cap.

Section 2001(e) eliminates the five-year extension option for hardwood trees as well as the additional one-year extension for contracts which expired during the 2002 calendar year. Owners and operators of land with hardwoods, windbreaks, or wildlife corridors may specify the duration of the contract within the 10-15 year limitation.

Section 2001(f) eliminates the specified conservation priority area watersheds and leaves the ability to designate a priority area— including non-watershed areas— to the discretion of the
Secretary. It further eliminates the ability for a State agency to apply for withdrawal from a designation

Sec. 2002. Farmable Wetland Program

Section 2002 extends the Farmable Wetlands Program through fiscal year 2017, decreases the program cap from 1,000,000 to 750,000 acres and makes several changes that are clarifying in nature. The program has been further amended so it is no longer a pilot program.

Sec. 2003. Duties of Owners and Operators

Section 2003(a) amends the limitation on harvesting, grazing and commercial use of forage by moving it from the section establishing the duties of owners and operators to the section enumerating the duties of the secretary.

Section 2003(b) amends the conservation plan requirements by eliminating the option for the plan to provide for permanent retirement of existing base history.

Section 2003(c) eliminates the umbrella rental rate reduction for certain authorized uses of the land. Similar rental rate language appears in the section enumerating the duties of the Secretary.

Sec. 2004. Duties of the Secretary

Section 2004 requires the Secretary to allow for certain harvesting, grazing and commercial use of forage in exchange for a reduction in the rental rate at not less than 25 percent, except for in the case of drought or other emergency created by natural disaster, where the activity may occur without any reduction in the rental rate. The section provides for the incidental use of buffers adjacent to agricultural lands. The section adds a new subsection (c) that requires the Secretary to permit certain haying and grazing practices on grasslands specifically. It adds provisions for individuals with expiring contracts to initiate conservation and land improvement practices in the final year of the contract with a commensurate reduction in rental value. Re-enrollment of these lands is prohibited for at least five years.

Sec. 2005. Payments

Section 2005(a) is a technical conforming amendment in response to the elimination of section 1235A.

Section 2005(b) adds “other eligible land” to the annual rental payment language. Subsection (b) further adds the determination for payments to owners or operators of grasslands at 75 percent of the grazing value of the land under contract.

Section 2005(c) amends the payment schedule section to eliminate in-kind commodity payments through Commodity Credit Corporation stocks.
Section 2005(d) is a technical conforming amendment in response to the elimination of in kind commodity payments.

**Sec. 2006. Contract Requirements**

Section 2006(a) allows for a one-time early termination option for an owner or operator if the contract has been in effect for five years. The section further specifies what environmentally sensitive land is exempted from the early termination.

Section 2006(b) makes adjustments to the transition options language regarding the transfer of land from a retired farmer or rancher to a beginning farmer or rancher.

Section 2006(c) allows for an owner or operator to enroll in to the Conservation Stewardship Program in the last year of the owner or operator conservation reserve contract.

**Sec. 2007. Conversion of Land Subject to Contract to Other Conserving Uses**

Section 2007 repeals Section 1235A of the Food Security Act of 1985, Conservation of Land Subject to Contract to other Conserving Uses which is no longer applicable for contracts in place prior to November 28, 1990.

**SUBTITLE B—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**Sec. 2101. Conservation Stewardship Program**

Section 2101 revises the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Definitions: The section includes a definition of “agricultural operation”, strikes the definition of “conservation measurement tool” to conform with other amendments, redefines “priority resource concern”, and it revises the definition of “eligible land”.

Establishment and purposes: The section authorizes the program through 2017. It limits the excluded land by allowing for CRP land to be enrolled in the final year of the contract. The section increases emphasis on new conservation. It also eliminates the requirement that not more than 10 percent of the acres enrolled be non-industrial private forest land. The section allows enrollment of lands that are under agricultural land easements option of the ACE Program.

Stewardship contracting: The section requires participants, at the time of the contract offer, to be meeting the stewardship threshold of at least two priority resource concerns with at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the contract. It establishes a priority consideration for land with expiring CRP contracts. The section also eliminates the conservation measurement tool. It adds the requirement for the producer, in order to renew a contract for an additional year, to meet the stewardship threshold of at least two additional priority resource
concerns or exceed the threshold of at least two existing priority resource concerns by then end of the contract period. It eliminates the on-farm research and demonstration, or pilot testing provisions.

Duties of the Secretary: The section replaces the conservation measurement tool with a science-based stewardship threshold. It includes an acreage enrollment limitation of 9,000,000 acres for each fiscal year and a national average rate of $18 per acre, which shall include costs of assistance.

SUBTITLE C—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Sec. 2201. Purposes

Section 2201 adds “developing and improving wildlife” to the purposes section.

Sec. 2202. Definitions

Section 2202 is the definitions section.

Sec. 2203. Establishment and Administration

Section 2203 extends EQIP though fiscal year 2017.

Section 2203 amends the term of an EQIP contract to a period not to exceed 10 years, eliminating the minimum requirement. The increased payments to certain producers section is amended to include veteran farmers or ranchers. The section increases the amount allowed for an advanced payment to 50 percent and includes a new requirement that funds provided in advance but not expended during the required 90-day period be returned. It maintains the 60 percent allocation for livestock production and creates a new 5 percent allocation for practices benefiting wildlife habitat. The section adds a new subsection in order to include wildlife habitat restoration, improvement, and development activities under EQIP.

Sec. 2204. Evaluation of Applications

Section 2204 amends the evaluation of application process section for the purpose of a conforming amendment.

Sec. 2205. Duties of Producers

Section 2205 is a technical amendment to the duties of producers section.

Sec. 2206. Limitation on Payments

Section 2206 establishes the payment limitation at $450,000 and eliminates the waiver authority.
Sec. 2207. Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments

Section 2207 adds a reporting requirement to CIG projects.

SUBTITLE D—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2301. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Section 2301 establishes a new Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program consolidating the Wetland Reserve Program, the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Farmland Protection Program. The purposes of the program include restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetlands; protecting the agricultural use and conservation values on agricultural lands; and protecting grazing uses and related conservation values on agricultural lands. The program has two distinct branches under the umbrella easement program – agricultural land easements and wetland easements.

The program includes definitions for “agricultural land easement”, “wetland easement”, “eligible entity”, and “eligible land”.

Under the Agricultural Land Easements, the Secretary facilitates and provides funds to eligible entities to purchase conservation easements in agricultural land and grasslands. The easements shall be permanent easements, or easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State law. The scope of the federal share shall not exceed 50 percent of the fair market value of the land using the USPAP, an area-wide market analysis survey, or another industry approved method. There is an exemption for grasslands of special environmental significance, by which the Secretary may provide up to 75 percent of the fair market value.

The Agricultural Land Easement Program establishes a process under which an eligible entity may be certified by the Secretary, though non-certified entities may still participate. Agreements between the Secretary and an eligible entity shall be at least three, but no more than five years unless the eligible entity is certified, in which case the term shall be a minimum of five years.

Under the Wetlands Easements, the Secretary enrolls wetlands through the use of 30-year easements; permanent easements; easements for the maximum duration allowed under State law; or for Indian tribes only, 30-year contracts. The Secretary shall not acquire easements on land that has been established to trees in CRP, or farmed wetlands or converted wetlands where the conversion was not commenced prior to December 23, 1985. The program establishes a priority based on the value of the wetland easement for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Compensation for permanent easements shall be in an amount necessary to encourage enrollment in the program based on the lowest of the fair market value, the amount corresponding to a geographical cap, or the offer made by the landowner. In the case of a 30-year wetland easement, compensation shall be not less than 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid for a permanent wetland easement.
The Wetlands Easement Program further authorizes the Secretary to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out the establishment of conservation measures and practices to protect wetland functions and values including maintenance. In the case of restoration on permanent wetland easements, the Secretary shall pay at least 70 percent, but not more than 100 percent, of the costs. In the case of a 30-year wetland easement, the Secretary shall pay at least 50 percent, but not more than 75 percent of the costs. The entire ACE Program includes a priority for certain lands currently enrolled in CRP with a contract set to expire within 1 year.

Of the funds made available under the program, at least 40 percent are reserved for agricultural land easements for fiscal years 2013 through 2016 and at least 50 percent for agricultural land easements in fiscal year 2017.

**SUBTITLE E—REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

**Sec. 2401. Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

Section 2401 establishes a Regional Conservation Partnership Program by combining program purposes of the Agricultural Water Enhancement (AWEP) Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiatives (CCPI) Program, and the Great Lakes Basin Program. The new Regional Program works through the existing programs – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – in order to further conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, air, wildlife and related natural resources on a regional or watershed scale while encouraging eligible partners to cooperate with producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements related to agricultural production and implement projects that will affect operations on a local, regional, State, or multi-State basis.

The program includes definitions for “covered programs”, “eligible activities”, “eligible land” and “eligible partner”.

Under the program, the Secretary may enter into short term contracts with eligible partners, who are selected through a competitive process. A partnership agreement may not exceed five years, but may be extended one time for up to 12 months if necessary to meet the objectives of the program. Through the contracts, partners will assist producers with installing and maintaining conservation activities through existing programs. An eligible partner shall provide a significant portion of the overall costs of the scope of the project. The program includes several priorities for applications, including the ability to assist producers in meeting or avoiding regulatory requirements.

The Secretary may also enter into contracts directly with producers who are in an established project area. The Secretary shall make payments directly to the producer in an amount determined by the Secretary to be necessary to achieve the purposes of the program. The language includes a waiver from the adjusted gross income requirement.
The program includes a section for critical conservation areas under which the Secretary can administer the program as well as very limited flood prevention and erosion control projects. When implementing projects under the critical conservation areas, the Secretary may use additional authorities under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

The funding for the program consists of mandatory funds out of the Commodity Credit Corporation of $100,000,000 for each fiscal year, as well as a 6 percent reservation of funds out of the conservation programs mentioned above. Out of all of the funds, 25 percent is allocated to the State conservationist, 50 percent is allocated to the Secretary on a national competitive basis, and 25 percent is allocated for the critical conservation areas.

**SUBTITLE F—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

*Sec. 2501. Conservation of Private Grazing Land*

Section 2501 extends Conservation of Private Grazing Land through fiscal year 2017.

*Sec. 2502. Grassroots Source Water Protection Program*

Section 2502 extends the Grassroots Water Protection Program. It further makes available $5,000,000 in mandatory money to remain available until expended.

*Sec. 2503. Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program*

Section 2503 extends the Voluntary Public Access program through fiscal year 2017, reduces its mandatory funding level to $30,000,000 and requires a report on program effectiveness.

*Sec. 2504. Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program*

Section 2504 provides funding for ACES through the funds made available to carry out each program under the title, excluding CRP.

*Sec. 2505. Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*

Section 2505 reauthorizes the appropriations of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program at current appropriated levels through fiscal year 2017 and further authorizes $250,000,000 in mandatory money for the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program for fiscal year 2013, to remain available until expended.

*Sec. 2506. Agricultural Management Assistance Program*

Section 2506 amends the Agricultural Management Assistance Program, within the Federal Crop Insurance Act, by eliminating the practice of planting trees for windbreaks or for improving water quality and mitigation of risk through resource conservation practices as uses for financial
assistance under the program. The section further eliminates the exception of $15,000,000 in mandatory funding through each fiscal year while maintaining the base $10,000,000 in funding. The section amends the percentages for the distribution of funds decreasing the funds through Natural Resources Conservation Services to 30 percent, maintaining the funds for organic certification cost share through Agricultural Marketing Service at 10 percent, and increasing the funds through the Risk Management Agency to 60 percent.

**SUBTITLE G—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION**

*Sec. 2601. Funding*

Section 2601(a) extends and amends the funding section for conservation programs provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation funds. Funding levels:

CRP TIP- $25,000,000 set aside in the period of fiscal years 2013-2017.

ACE –

- $450,000,000 in FY13;
- $475,000,000 in FY14;
- $500,000,000 in FY15;
- $525,000,000 in FY16; and
- $266,000,000 in FY17.

EQIP- $1,750,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2013-2017.

Section 2601(b) makes the funding covered by this section no year funds.

*Sec. 2602. Technical Assistance*

Section 2602 amends the funding section of the 1985 Act to include an amended technical assistance subsection and also requires a report to Congress on technical assistance.

*Sec. 2603. Regional Equity*

Section 2603 amends Regional Equity by striking the $15,000,000 target for regional equity allocations and replaces it with 0.6 percent of the funds made available for conservation programs in order to allow allocations to synchronize with annual program appropriations.

*Sec. 2604. Reservation of Funds to Provide Assistance to Certain Farmers or Ranchers for Conservation Access*

Section 2604 extends the 5 percent reservation of funds for both socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers through fiscal year 2017. The language adds a priority within the reservation of funds for producers who are veterans.
Sec. 2605. Annual Report on Program Enrollments and Assistance

Section 2605 makes technical amendments to the annual reporting requirement on program enrollments and assistance.

Sec. 2606. Administrative Requirements Applicable to All Conservation Programs

Section 2606 adds a new subsection to the administrative requirements for conservation programs that requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to seek to reduce administrative burdens and costs by streamlining and taking advantage of new technologies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The section clarifies that any payment received under the title is in addition to, and does not affect, the total amount of payments an owner or operator is otherwise eligible to receive.

Sec. 2607. Standards for State Technical Committees

Section 2607 makes a technical change to the standards for state technical committees.

Sec. 2608. Rulemaking Authority

Section 2608 requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations, gives the Secretary rulemaking authority in regards to conservation programs, and provides for the operation of the programs under interim rules.

SUBTITLE H—REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROGRAM AUTHORITIES AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2701. Comprehensive Conservation Enhancement Program

Section 2701 repeals the Comprehensive Conservation Enhancement Program.

Sec. 2702. Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program

Section 2702 repeals the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2703. Wetlands Reserve Program

Section 2703 repeals the Wetlands Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2704. Farmland Protection Program and Farm Viability Program
Section 2704 repeals the Farmland Protection Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2705. Grasslands Reserve Program

Section 2705 repeals the Grassland Reserve Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2706. Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Section 2706 repeals the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2707. Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Section 2707 repeals the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2708. Great Lakes Basin Program

Section 2708 repeals the Great Lakes Basin Program.

Sec. 2709. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program

Section 2709 repeals the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2710. Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Section 2710 repeals the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, but provides for the continuation of existing contracts until the contract’s expiration.

Sec. 2711. Environmental Easement Program

Section 2711 repeals the Environmental Easement Program.

Sec. 2712. Technical Amendments

Section 2712 includes technical amendments.

TITLE III – TRADE

SUBTITLE A—FOOD FOR PEACE ACT

Sec. 3001. General Authority Regarding Emergency and Private Assistance Programs
Section 3001 amends section 201 of the Food for Peace Act by updating the general authorities with language focused on building resilience to reduce the future need for emergency food aid.

Sec. 3002. Set-aside for Support for Organizations through which Nonemergency Assistance is Provided

Section 3002 amends section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act by reducing the maximum allowable cash assistance available for administrative costs in non-emergency programs from 13% to 11% of the total funds made available for the program.

Sec. 3003. Food Aid Quality

Section 3003 amends section 202(h) of the Food for Peace Act by requiring the Administrator to consult with the Secretary in performing the requirements of this subsection related to food aid quality, by establishing a mechanism for USDA and USAID to evaluate food aid commodities and implement appropriate changes, by instructing the agencies to update program guidance on the use of new commodities and limits the available funding for these purposes to $1 million.

Sec. 3004. Minimum Levels of Assistance

Section 3004 amends section 204(a) of the Food for Peace act by reauthorizing the minimum levels of commodities available for emergency and non-emergency assistance under Food for Peace.

Sec. 3005. Food Aid Consultative Group

Section 3005 amends Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing the Food Aid Consultative Group (the “Group”) and adding representatives from the processing sector to the Group. The provision further requires the Administrator to consult with the Group on the implementation of food aid quality provisions and requires the Administrator to provide the Group at least 45 days notice before a proposed regulation handbook or guideline, or revision thereof, becomes final.

Sec. 3006. Oversight, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Food for Peace Act Programs

Section 3006 amends section 207 of the Food for Peace Act by requiring that all regulations and revisions to agency guidance necessary for implementation of the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act be issued within 270 days of enactment. The provision removes authority for purchasing new computer systems, removes obsolete reporting requirements, and provides $10 million per year for monitoring and evaluation. Further, the provision requires a report on the extent of monitoring and evaluation required by eligible organizations participating in Food for Peace programs.

Sec. 3007. Assistance for Stockpiling and Rapid Transportation, Delivery, and Distribution of Shelf-stable Pre-packaged Foods
Section 3007 amends section 208 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing assistance for stockpiling and rapid transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable prepackaged foods at $8 million per year.

Sec. 3008. General Provisions

Section 3008 amends section 403 of the Food for Peace Act by requiring USDA and USAID to seek information on the potential benefits of monetization to local economies. The provision further clarifies that implementing partners should sell monetized commodities at fair market value. The Secretary and the Administrator are also instructed to coordinate assessments which guide the use of monetization to ensure consistency across programs. The provision requires USAID to issue a report detailing the use of funds made available for implementing partners, including funds for administrative and indirect costs.

Sec. 3009. Procurement, Transportation, and Storage of Agricultural Commodities for Prepositioning in the United States and Foreign Countries

Section 3009 amends section 407(c) of the Food for Peace Act by increasing funding for prepositioning of agricultural commodities from $10 million to $15 million per year. The section also allows the Administrator discretion to establish additional prepositioning sites based on the results of assessments of need, feasibility, and cost.

Sec. 3010. Annual Report Regarding Food Aid Programs and Activities

Section 3010 amends section 407(f) of the Food for Peace Act by requiring the annual report regarding food aid programs and activities include information on the actual beneficiaries of the programs and by specifying the report include the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Sec. 3011. Deadline for Agreements to Finance Sales or to Provide Other Assistance

Section 3011 amends section 408 of the Food for Peace Act by extending the expiration of Food for Peace authorities through 2017.

Sec. 3012. Authorization of Appropriations; Minimum Level of Nonemergency Food Assistance

Section 3012 amends section 412 of the Food for Peace Act by reducing the authorization for appropriations from $2.5 to $2 billion per year and sets the minimum level of development programming at $400 million per year.

Sec. 3013. Micronutrient Fortification Programs

Section 3013 amends section 415 of the Food for Peace Act by striking a reference to an obsolete report and reauthorizes the micronutrient fortification program through 2017.
Sec. 3014. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Section 3014 amends section 501 of the Food for Peace Act by reauthorizing the Farmer-to-Farmer program and increasing the minimum level of funding from $10 million to $15 million per year.

SUBTITLE B—AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 3101. Funding for Export Credit Guarantee Program

Section 3101 amends section 211 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 reauthorizing funding for the Export Credit Guarantee Program through 2017.

Sec. 3102. Funding for market Access Program

Section 3102 amends section 211 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 reauthorizing funding for the Market Access Program through 2017.

Sec. 3103. Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program

Section 3103 amends section 703 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Foreign Market Development Coordinator Program through 2017.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE LAWS

Sec. 3201. Food for Progress Act of 1985

Section 3201 amends the Food for Progress Act of 1985 by reauthorizing the program through 2017 and repeals a completed project in Malawi.

Sec. 3202. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust

Section 3202 amends the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to reauthorize the Trust through 2017.

Sec. 3203. Promotion of Agricultural Exports to Emerging Markets

Section 3203 amends section 1542 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets through 2017.

Sec. 3204. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program


Sec. 3205. Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops

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Section 3205 amends section 3205 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the export assistance program known as Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops through 2017 at $9 million per year and clarifies that technical barriers to trade can be addressed through the program.

Sec. 3206. Global Crop Diversity Trust

Section 3206 amends section 3202(c) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing the U.S. Agency for International Development to make a contribution of up to $50 million over 5 years to the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

TITLE III – TRADE

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TITLE IV – NUTRITION

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 4001. Retailers

Section 4001(a) amends section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the “Act”) by requiring retailers to provide perishable items in at least 3 of the staple food categories.

Section 4001(b) amends section 7 of the Act by requiring that retailers will be responsible for purchasing and paying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) point-of-sale equipment and supplies. The subsection terminates the use of manual vouchers except in cases of disasters or other similar situations. The subsection requires parties providing electronic benefit
transfer services to maintain unique terminal identification numbers throughout the SNAP routing system.

Section 4001(c) amends section 7 of the Act by removing outdated language related to the use of coupons.

Section 4001(d) amends section 9 of the Act by making retailers selling more than 45% of prohibited SNAP items, such as alcohol and tobacco, ineligible to participate in the program.

Sec. 4002. Enhancing Services to Elderly and Disabled Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program Recipients

Section 4002 amends section 3 of the Act by adding governmental or nonprofit food purchasing delivery services to the list of eligible retailers if they serve elderly or disabled individuals who are otherwise unable to shop for their own food.

Sec. 4003. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Section 4003 amends section 4(b) of the Act by reauthorizing the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Sec. 4004. Updating Program Eligibility

Section 4004 amends section 5 of the Act by restricting categorical eligibility for SNAP to only those households receiving cash assistance through other low-income assistance programs.

Sec. 4005. Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments

Section 4005 amends section 5 of the Act by requiring a household to receive a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payment of $10 or more in order to receive the SNAP Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) deduction when calculating SNAP benefits.

Sec. 4006. Eligibility Disqualifications

Section 4006 amends section (6)(e) of the Act by requiring that State SNAP Employment and Training programs are limited to assisting only those college students enrolled in specific career and technical education courses or basic adult education, remedial, and literacy courses.

Sec. 4007. Ending Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits for Lottery or Gambling Winners

Section 4007 amends section 6 of the Act by making any household in which a member receives substantial lottery or gambling winnings ineligible for SNAP benefits.

Sec. 4008. Improving Security of Food Assistance
Section 4008 amends section 7 of the Act by allowing States to request information from households that repeatedly lose their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card in order to investigate potential fraud and trafficking violations. The section provides protection for those who are not intentionally committing fraud.

**Sec. 4009. Demonstration Projects on Acceptance of Benefits of Mobile Transactions**

Section 4009 amends section 7 of the Act by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture (the “Secretary”) to implement a pilot program to test the feasibility of allowing Retailers to accept SNAP benefits through mobile transactions.

**Sec. 4010. Restaurant Meals Program**

Section 4010 amends section 11 of the Act by requiring greater oversight of States choosing to operate a Restaurant Meals Program that allows only homeless, elderly and disabled SNAP populations to redeem their benefits at approved restaurants. The section requires USDA to approve the State’s implementation plan and ensure that a documented need exists to serve the target populations in specific geographic areas.

**Sec. 4011. Repeal of Bonus Programs**

Section 4011 repeals section 16(d) of the Act to eliminate the performance bonuses provided to States for effectively administering SNAP.

**Sec. 4012. Funding of Employment and Training Programs**

Section 4012 amends section 16(h) of the Act by reducing the allocation to State agencies to carry out employment and training programs from $90 million to $79 million per year.

**Sec. 4013. Monitoring Employment and Training Programs**

Section 4013 amends section 16(h) of the Act by requiring that the Secretary implement monitoring and performance measures for State employment and training programs. The section requires that the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, develop reporting measures for participants in employment and training programs. The section requires that States report annually on such measures. The section further provides that if a State agency’s performance is inadequate, the Secretary may require the State agency to modify its employment and training plan.

**Sec. 4014. Cooperation with Program Research and Evaluation**

Section 4014 amends section 17 of the Act by requiring entities that participate in SNAP programs to cooperate with the Department of Agriculture and its agents in conducting evaluations and studies authorized under the Act.

**Sec. 4015. Authorization of Appropriations**
Section 4015 amends section 18 of the Act by extending the authorization for appropriations to carry out the Act through fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 4016. Assistance for Community Food Projects

Section 4016 amends section 25 of the Act by providing an additional $10 million per fiscal year for Community Food Projects.

Sec. 4017. Emergency Food Assistance

Section 4017 amends section 27 of the Act by providing an additional $20 million per fiscal year for Emergency Food Assistance. The section also reauthorizes Emergency Food Program Infrastructure Grants through fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 4018. Nutrition Education

Section 4018 amends section 28(b) of the Act by including “physical activity” as an allowable activity under the SNAP nutrition education program.

Sec. 4019. Retailer Trafficking

Section 4019 amends the Act by providing $5 million each fiscal year for USDA to use in preventing SNAP fraud and trafficking violations.

Sec. 4020. Technical and Conforming Amendments

Section 4020 makes technical and conforming amendments to the Act.

Sec. 4021. Tolerance Level for Excluding Small Errors

Section 4021 prevents the Secretary from excluding payment errors greater than $25 from improper payments calculations.

Sec. 4022. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Pilot Program

Section 4022 requires the Secretary to conduct a study to assess the capabilities of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to operate the SNAP program in the same manner it is operated in the States. The section requires that if, following the study, the Secretary determines that it is feasible for the CNMI to operate the SNAP program in the same manner it is operated by the States, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program in CNMI for such purposes.

SUBTITLE B—COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Sec. 4101. Commodity Distribution Program
Section 4101 amends section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 by reauthorizing the Commodity Distribution Program through fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 4102. Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Section 4102 amends section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 by modifying the eligibility of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to serve only elderly populations. Those individuals under the age of 60 currently being served by the program may remain in the program until they no longer meet the current eligibility requirements. The section also reauthorizes the program through fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 4103. Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects

Section 4103 amends section 114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 by reauthorizing Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects through fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 4104. Processing of Commodities

Section 4104 amends the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 by ensuring that the Secretary has legal standing to enter into national processing agreements and allows the Secretary to retain title to commodities processed under those agreements prior to their final delivery to schools.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 4201. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

Section 4201 amends section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by expanding the program purposes to allow additional at-risk populations to be served and by requiring the Secretary to specify terms and conditions to encourage expanding the participation of small scale farmers in Federal nutrition programs.

Sec. 4202. Nutrition Information and Awareness Pilot Program

Section 4202 repeals section 4403 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, eliminating the Nutrition Information and Awareness Pilot Program.

Sec. 4203. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Section 4203 amends section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by expanding the forms of fruits and vegetables made available to students through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to include canned, frozen, and dried.
Sec. 4204. Additional Authority for Purchase of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Specialty Food Crops

Section 4204 amends section 10603 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring the Secretary to establish a pilot program in which five participating States shall have the option to receive a grant to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions in lieu of participating in the DOD fresh program.

TITLE V – CREDIT

SUBTITLE A – FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Sec. 5001. Eligibility for Farm Ownership Loans

Section 5001(a) expands eligibility for farm ownership loans by including “other legal entities” to the list of eligible borrowers that includes farmers, ranchers, farming cooperatives and private domestic companies. An entity that is or will become only the operator of a family farm is deemed to meet the owner operator requirements if the owners own more than 50% of the entity. An entity that is an owner-operator that is owned, in whole or in part, by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership requirement if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

Section 5001(b) allows a borrower to meet the experience requirements of farming or ranching for 3 years if he or she has “other acceptable experience for a period of time, as determined by the Secretary”.

Sec. 5002. Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

Section 5002 expands the eligibility for the conservation loan and guarantee program by adding “or other such legal entities as the Secretary deems appropriate” to the list of eligible borrowers. It also raises the limitation on the loan guarantee from 75% to 90% and extends the program until 2017.

Sec. 5003. Down Payment Loan Program

Section 5003 increase the possible principal amount of the loan from 45% of $500,000 to 45% of $667,000.

Sec. 5004. Elimination of Mineral Rights Appraisal Requirement

Section 5004 eliminates the requirement to do a mineral rights appraisal for real estate loans.
Sec. 5101. Eligibility for Farm Operating Loans

Section 5101 expands eligibility for operating loans by including “other legal entities” to the list of eligible borrowers that includes farmers, ranchers, farming cooperatives and private domestic companies. An entity that is an operator and is owned in whole or in part by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

Sec. 5102. Authority to Waive Personal Liability for Youth Loans Due to Circumstances beyond Borrower Control

Section 5102 allows the Secretary, on a case by case basis, to waive the personal liability of a borrower for an operating loan if any default on the loan was due to circumstances beyond the control of the borrower.

SUBTITLE C–EMERGENCY LOANS

Sec. 5201. Eligibility for Emergency Loans

Section 5201 expands the eligibility for emergency loans by adding “or other such legal entities as the Secretary deems appropriate” to the list of approved borrowers. An entity that is an owner-operator and is owned in whole or in part by other entities is deemed to meet the direct ownership if at least 75% of the embedded entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the farm.

SUBTITLE D–ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 5301. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program

Section 5301 reauthorizes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program through 2017.

Sec. 5302. Eligible Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Section 5302 expands the definition of a beginning farmer or rancher to include “or other such legal entity”. It also changes the acreage ownership limitation from 30% of the median acreage of farms in the county to 30% of the average acreage of farms in the county.

Sec. 5303. Loan Authorization Levels

Section 5303 reauthorizes the Secretary’s ability to make loans under each subtitle through 2017.

Sec. 5304. Priority for Participation Loans.

Section 5304 adds a new priority for beginning farmer and rancher direct loans to those applicants who apply under the down payment loan program or for joint financing arrangements.
Sec. 5305. Loan Fund Set-Asides

Section 5305 reauthorizes the loan fund set-asides through 2017.

Sec. 5306. Conforming Amendment to Borrower Training Provision, Relating to Eligibility Changes

Section 5306 is a conforming amendment to a borrower training provision.

SUBTITLE E–STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 5401. State Agricultural Mediation Programs

Section 5401 reauthorizes the state agricultural mediation programs through 2017.

SUBTITLE F–LOANS TO PURCHASERS OF HIGHLY FRACTIONATED LAND

Sec. 5501. Loans to Purchasers of Highly Fractionated Land

Section 5501 authorizes the use of a revolving loan fund for purchasers of highly fractionated land.

TITLE VI – RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBTITLE A—CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT


Sec. 6001. The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations for water, waste disposal and wastewater facility grants (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii)) from $30,000,000 to $15,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6002. Rural Business Opportunity Grants.


Sec. 6003. Elimination of Reservation of Community Facilities Grant Program Funds.

Sec. 6003. A reservation of funds (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) within the community facilities grant program is repealed.

Sec. 6004. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program.
Sec. 6004. The Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended to continue with a national program that is consistent with the activities and results of the program prior to enactment of this paragraph, and funded from the Secretary through the Rural Utilities Service. $20,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec. 6005. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities.

Sec. 6005. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25(C)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from $10,000,000 to $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6006. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program.

Sec. 6006. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 1926a(j)(2)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from $35,000,000 to $27,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6007. Grants to Nonprofit Organizations to Finance the Construction, Refurbishing, and Servicing of Individually-Owned Household Water Well Systems in Rural Areas for Individuals with Low or Moderate Incomes.

Sec. 6007. Grants to nonprofits to finance the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually-owned household water well systems (7 U.S.C. 1926e(d)) is amended to decrease the current authorization of appropriations from $10,000,000 to $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6008. Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Sec. 6008. Rural Cooperative Development Grants (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)(12)) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from $50,000,000 to $40,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6009. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products.

Sec. 6009. Locally or regionally produced agricultural food products (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(v)(I)) is reauthorized through 2017. The Secretary shall reserve not more than 7 percent of funds made available to carry out this loan program for this authority.

Sec. 6010. Intermediary Relending Program.

Sec. 6010. Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922-1936a) is amended to authorize the Intermediary Relending Program. $10,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6011. Simplified Applications.
Sec. 6011. Amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) authorizing the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, develop a simplified application process, including single page applications where possible, for specific grants and relending programs authorized in this title. Within 2 years, after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of simplified applications.


Sec. 6012. Grants for NOAA weather radio transmitters (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) are authorized to be appropriated at $1,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6013. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

Sec. 6013. The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (7 U.S.C. 2008s(d)(2)) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from $40,000,000 to $20,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6014. Delta Regional Authority.

Sec. 6014. The Delta Regional Authority is reauthorized (7 U.S.C. 2009aa-13) and amended (7 U.S.C. 2009aa-12(a)) to decrease the current authorization level from $30,000,000 to $12,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6015. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority.

Sec. 6015. The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-13) is reauthorized and amended (7 U.S.C. 2009bb-12(a)) to decrease the current authorization level from $30,000,000 to $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6016. Rural Business Investment Program.

Sec. 6016. The Rural Business Investment Program (7 U.S.C. 2009cc-18) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from $50,000,000 to $20,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

SUBTITLE B—RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936

Sec. 6101. Relending for Certain Purposes.

Sec. 6101. The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended to authorize loans for borrower relending to ultimate consumers for the purpose of energy efficiency. Loans and grants are also authorized under the Cushion of Credit Payments Program for relending to ultimate consumers for the purpose of energy efficiency.

Sec. 6102. Fees for Certain Loan Guarantees.
Sec. 6102. The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended to require that the Secretary, at the request of an electrification baseload generation loan guarantee borrower, charge an upfront fee that is equal to the costs of the loan guarantee to cover the costs of the loan guarantee. A borrower may not use funds from a loan or other debt obligation made or guaranteed by the Federal Government to pay the fee.

Sec. 6103. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Electrification or Telephone Purposes.

Sec. 6103. Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for electrification or telephone purposes (7 U.S.C. 940c-1(f)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 6104. Expansion of 911 Access.

Sec. 6104. Expansion of 911 access (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 6105. Access to Broadband Telecommunications Services in Rural Areas.

Sec. 6105. The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is reauthorized and amended to prioritize applications that offer to provide service to at least 25 percent of customers in the proposed service territory that are commercial interests. Publication of notice of applications shall include the amount and type of support requested and a list of the census block groups or tracts to be served. The Secretary is authorized to establish a process where an incumbent service provider that as of the date of the publication of notice of an application is providing broadband service to a remote rural area, may submit information to the Secretary regarding the broadband services offered in the application’s proposed service territory so that the Secretary may assess whether the application is an eligible project. The Secretary is also authorized to take into consideration the upgrade or replacement cost for construction or acquisition of facilities and equipment in considering the technology needs of customers in a proposed service territory.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 6201. Distance Learning and Telemedicine.

Sec. 6201. Distance Learning and Telemedicine (7 U.S.C. 950aaa-5) is amended to decrease the current authorization level from $100,000,000 to $65,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6202. Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Program Grants.

Sec. 6202. Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Program Grants (7 U.S.C. 1632a(b)(7)) are reauthorized.

Sec. 6203. Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program.
Sec. 6203. The Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration program (7 U.S.C. 1632b(i)) is amended to decrease the current authorization from $6,000,000 to $1,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 6204. Program Metrics.

Sec. 6204. The Secretary is authorized to collect data regarding economic activities created through grants and loans and to measure the short and long term viability of award recipients and any entities to whom those recipients provide assistance using award funds under certain authorities. The data shall be collected both during the award period and after the award period for a minimum of 2 years. Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that contains data collected including specific information on actions taken by the Secretary to utilize the data, the number of jobs, including self employment and the value of salaries and wages, how the grant or loan affected the local economy and any other benefit, as the Secretary deems appropriate.

Sec. 6205. Study of Rural Transportation Issues.

Sec. 6205. An update on the study on rural transportation issues is authorized to be submitted not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act to Congress.

Title VII—Research, Extension, and Related Matters


Sec. 7101. Option to Not be Included as Hispanic-Serving Agricultural College or University.

Sec. 7101. The National Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(10)(A)) is amended to allow Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities to opt out of the designation.


Sec. 7102. The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (7 U.S.C. 3123) is extended through September 30, 2017 and amended to provide authority for the board to consult with industry groups and make recommendations to the Secretary.

Sec. 7103. Specialty Crop Committee.

Sec. 7103. Amends Specialty Crop Committee (7 U.S.C. 3123a) to authorize in its annual report recommendations regarding research, extension and teaching programs designed to improve competitiveness in the specialty crop industry.
Sec. 7104. Veterinary Services Grant Program.

Sec. 7104. The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended to provide the Secretary authority to establish a competitive grant program for the purpose of developing, implementing, and sustaining veterinary services. Grants shall only be made to qualified entities that substantially relieve veterinary shortage situations, support of facilitate private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, or support or facilitate the practices of veterinarians who are or have completed services in emergency situations. The Secretary shall give preference to qualified entities that coordinate with other qualified entities, consider together the availability of funds and the grant purpose when selecting grant recipients, and consider these grants to be competitive research, extension or education grants. A qualified entity may use funds to relieve veterinary shortage situations and support vet services for any of 5 purposes. However, qualified entities operating a veterinary clinic may only use a grant to establish or expand veterinary practices and those entities are subject to an agreement with the Secretary that includes a term of service for the recipient where the Secretary shall consider together the amount and specific purpose of the grant. The agreement shall provide remedies for any breach by the recipient and a waiver of repayment based on extreme hardship as determined by the Secretary. Funds recovered shall be credited to the account carrying out this program and remain available until expended. Funds may not be used for the purpose of constructing a new building or facility, or to acquire, expand, remodel or alter an existing building or facility. The Secretary shall promulgate regulations for this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section. There are authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 7105. Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education.

Sec. 7105. Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education (7 U.S.C. 3152(m)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from $60,000,000 to $40,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7106. Policy Research Centers.

Sec. 7106. The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) is amended to authorize the Secretary to act through the office of the Chief Economist, and make competitive grants or cooperative agreements to policy research centers with a history of providing unbiased, nonpartisan economic analysis to Congress. Eligible recipients are amended to include other public research institutions and organizations. The Secretary shall give a preference to certain policy research centers that provide analysis to Congress. There are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7107. Repeal of Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research Program.

Sec. 7107. Human Nutrition Intervention and Health Promotion Research (7 U.S.C. 3174) is repealed.
Sec. 7108. Repeal of Pilot Research Program to Combine Medical and Agricultural Research.

Sec. 7108. Pilot Research Program to Combine Medical and Agricultural Research (7 U.S.C. 3174a) is repealed.

Sec. 7109. Nutrition Education Program.

Sec. 7109. Nutrition Education Program (7 U.S.C. 3175(f)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7110. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs.

Sec. 7110. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended by decreasing the authorization of appropriations from $25,000,000 to $15,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7111. Repeal of Appropriations for Research on National or Regional Problems.

Sec. 7111. Appropriations for Research on National or Regional Problems (7 U.S.C. 3196) is repealed.

Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, Including Tuskegee University.

Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7113. Repeal of National Research and Training Virtual Centers.

Sec. 7113. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment at Insular Area Land-Grant Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2(d)) is reauthorized and amended (7 U.S.C. 3222b-2(a)) to authorize grants to support tropical and subtropical research, including pest and disease research.

Sec. 7114. Repeal of National Research and Training Virtual Centers.

Sec. 7114. National Research and Training Virtual Centers (7 U.S.C. 3222c) is repealed.

Sec. 7115. Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Sec. 7115. Hispanic-Serving Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7116. Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs.

Sec. 7116. Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs (7 U.S.C. 3292b(c)) is authorized at $5,000,000 through for each fiscal year through 2017.
Sec. 7117. **Repeal of Research Equipment Grants.**

Sec. 7117. Research Equipment Grants (7 U.S.C. 3310a) is repealed.

Sec. 7118. **University Research.**

Sec. 7118. University Research (7 U.S.C. 3311) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7119. **Extension Service.**

Sec. 7119. Extension Service (7 U.S.C. 3312) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7120. **Auditing, Reporting, Bookkeeping, and Administrative Requirements.**

Sec. 7120. Section 1469 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315) is amended to authorize the Secretary to retain not more than 4 percent of amounts made available for agricultural research, extension and teaching assistance programs towards administration, with the exception of peer panel expense or limitations on administrative expenses that are less than 4 percent.

Sec. 7121. **Supplemental and Alternative Crops.**

Sec. 7121. Supplemental and Alternative Crops (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended to authorize competitive grants and authorized at $1,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7122. **Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions.**

Sec. 7122. Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions (7 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7123. **Aquaculture Assistance Programs.**

Sec. 7123. Aquaculture Assistance Programs (7 U.S.C. 3322(b)) are amended to authorize competitive grants and decrease the authorization of appropriations from $7,500,000 to $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7124. **Rangeland Research Programs.**

Sec. 7124. Rangeland Research Programs (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from $10,000,000 to $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7125. **Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response.**
Sec. 7125. Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)) is authorized at $10,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7126. Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education.

Sec. 7126. Distance Education and Resident Instruction Grants Program for Insular Area Institutions of Higher Education (7 U.S.C. 3362) is amended to authorize competitive grants at $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017. Also, Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas (7 U.S.C. 3363) is authorized at $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7127. Matching Funds Requirement.

Sec. 7127. The National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended to apply a match fund requirement to competitive grants involving applied research or extension that are commodity or State-specific under certain covered laws. The recipient shall provide a match of at least 100 percent of the amount of the grant, from sources other than funds provided through the grant. The Secretary is given the authority to waive the match requirement if the Advisory Board has determined that the applied research is a national priority. This provision will apply to grants awarded after Oct. 1, 2012, unless this authority is withstood.

SUBTITLE B—FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

Sec. 7201. Best Utilization of Biological Applications.

Sec. 7201. Best Utilization of Biological Applications (7 U.S.C. 5814) is authorized for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7202. Integrated Management Systems.

Sec. 7202. Integrated Pest Management Systems (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)) is authorized for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7203. Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program.

Sec. 7203. Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)) is authorized at $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7204. National Training Program.

Sec. 7204. National Training Program (7 U.S.C. 5832(9)) is authorized for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7205. National Genetics Resources Program.
Sec. 7205. National Genetics Resources Program (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)) is authorized at $1,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7206. Repeal of National Agricultural Weather Information System.

Sec. 7206. National Agricultural Weather Information System (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) is repealed.

Sec. 7207. Repeal of Rural Electronic Commerce Extension Program.

Sec. 7207. Rural Electronic Commerce Extension Program (7 U.S.C. 5923) is repealed.

Sec. 7208. Repeal of Agricultural Genome Initiative.

Sec. 7208. Agricultural Genome Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5924) is repealed.

Sec. 7209. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives.

Sec. 7209. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives (7 U.S.C. 5925) is reauthorized and amended to repeal certain authorities. Reauthorizes pollinator protection and authorizes research on bed bugs and pests that are a risk to public health. Authorizes an annual report to address honey bee health disorders and best management practices.

Sec. 7210. Repeal of Nutrient Management Research and Extension Initiative.

Sec. 7210. Nutrient Management Research and Extension Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5925a) is repealed.

Sec. 7211. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.

Sec. 7211. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is reauthorized and amended to authorize a priority for grant proposals that, after the peer review process, are found to be scientifically meritorious under the criteria for priority under the farm business management grant authority. Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, $16,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7212. Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative (7 U.S.C. 5925e) is repealed.

Sec. 7213. Farm Business Management.

Sec. 7213. Farm Business Management (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)) is authorized at $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7214. Regional Centers of Excellence.
Sec. 7214. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f) is amended to authorize the Secretary to prioritize regional centers of excellence for specific agricultural commodities to receive funding for competitive research or extension programs. A regional center of excellence is composed of 1 or more of the eligible entities under the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Certain criteria will be considered for recognition as a center of excellence.

Sec. 7215. Repeal of Red Meat Safety Research Center.

Sec. 7215. Red Meat Safety Research Center (7 U.S.C. 5929) is repealed.

Sec. 7216. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities.

Sec. 7216. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities (7 U.S.C. 5933(c)(1)) is amended, decreasing the authorization of appropriations from $6,000,000 to $3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7217. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.

Sec. 7217. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is reauthorized.

SUBTITLE C—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

Sec. 7301. Relevance and Merit of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Funded by the Department.

Sec. 7301. The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)(2)) is amended to require procedures for review to address relevance for grants administered on a competitive basis by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and provides for ongoing consultation between the Secretary and advisory board regarding merit review procedures.

Sec. 7302. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.

Sec. 7302. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 7626(e)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7303. Repeal of Coordinated Program of Research, Extension, and Education to Improve Viability of Small and Medium Size Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Operations.

Sec. 7303. Coordinated Program of Research, Extension, and Education to Improve Viability of Small and Medium Size Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Operations (7 U.S.C. 7627) is repealed.

Sec. 7304. Repeal of Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program.
Sec. 7304. Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (7 U.S.C. 7629) is repealed.

Sec. 7305. Grants for Youth Organizations.

Sec. 7305. Grants for Youth Organizations (7 U.S.C. 7630(d)) is authorized at $3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7306. Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

Sec. 7306. The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is reauthorized and amended to include efforts to improve handling and processing. It is also amended to authorize competitive grants based on an initial scientific peer review conducted by a panel of subject matter experts and a final funding determination based on a review and ranking for merit, relevance and impact by an appropriate panel of specialty crop industry representatives. Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, $25,000,000 is authorized for fiscal year 2013; $30,000,000 for each fiscal years 2014 and 2015; $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each year thereafter.

Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program.

Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program is reauthorized through 2017.

Sec. 7308. Repeal of National Swine Research Center.

Sec. 7308. National Swine Research Center (P.L. 105-185; 112 Stat. 605) is repealed.

Sec. 7309. Office of Pest Management Policy.

Sec. 7309. Office of Pest management Policy (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)) is authorized at $3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7310. Repeal of Studies of Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education.

Sec. 7310. Studies of Agricultural Research, Extension and Education (7 U.S.C. 7671 et seq.) is repealed.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER LAWS


Sec. 7401. Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is authorized at $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7402. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; P.L. 103-382) is amended to update and add colleges to the list of 1994 institutions. Section 533 extends the authorization of appropriations and the consideration of 1994 Institutions as land-grant colleges eligible to participate in the youth-at-risk and the federally recognized Tribes Extension Program implemented under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act. Section 535 reauthorizes Institutional Capacity Building Grants. Section 536 expands the list of partners eligible to enter into cooperative agreements with 1994 Institutions to conduct research from land-grant colleges or universities only, to include ARS, Non-land Grant College of Agriculture, or McIntyre-Stennis recognized schools of forestry and authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2017.

Sec. 7403. Research Facilities Act.

Sec. 7403. Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is reauthorized.

Sec. 7404. Repeal of Carbon Cycle Research.

Sec. 7404. Carbon Cycle Research (7 U.S.C. 6711) is repealed.

Sec. 7405. Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act.

Sec. 7405. Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450(i)) is reauthorized. Plant based foods that are a major source of nutrients, zoonotic diseases in wildlife reservoirs presenting potential concern to public health or domestic livestock, animal drugs for minor species and minor uses in major species and conservation efforts addressing nutrient loss and water quality are authorized as priority areas for competitive grants. Requires the Secretary to establish procedures under which State or Federal commodity promotion entities may directly submit proposals for requests for applications for grants to address issues related to established priorities. Also authorizes the Secretary to provide grants to eligible entities for research proposals submitted by State or Federal commodity promotion entities. The emphasis on sustainable agriculture is repealed.


Sec. 7408. Repeal of Use of Remote Sensing Data.

Sec. 7408. Use of Remote Sensing Data (7 U.S.C. 5935) is repealed.


Sec. 7410. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

Sec. 7410. Sec. 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended to authorize competitive grants towards certain programs and services and provide a priority for school based agriculture education organizations. At least 5 percent of funds shall be used to support programs and services addressing the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers who are also military veterans. These grant recipients are encouraged to coordinate with recipients under the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities. Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, $10,000,000 is authorized for each fiscal year through 2017, to be available until expended.

Sec. 7411. Inclusion of Northern Mariana Islands as a State Under McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act.

Sec. 7411. Public Law 87-788, commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-7) is amended to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as a state.

SUBTITLE E—FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

Sec. 7501. Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center.

Sec. 7501. Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center (7 U.S.C. 8912(c)) is authorized at $2,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7502. Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation, and Response.

Sec. 7502. Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity Planning, Preparation and Response (7 U.S.C. 8913) is each authorized at $15,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7503. Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures.

Sec. 7503. Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures (7 U.S.C. 8921(b)) is amended, decreasing the authorization from $50,000,000 to $15,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7504. Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program.

Sec. 7504. Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program (7 U.S.C. 8922(e)) is authorized at $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017, to remain available until expended.
Sec. 7511. Enhanced Use Lease Authority Pilot Program.

Sec. 7511. Enhanced Use Lease Authority Pilot Program (7 U.S.C. 3125a) is reauthorized through 2017.

Sec. 7512. Grazinglands Research Laboratory.


Sec. 7513. Budget Submission and Funding.

Sec. 7513. Section 7506 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7641c) is amended to add a budget and funding submission requirement. The budget submission shall include for each funding request for covered programs, certain baseline for each covered program, including the location and staff years of each covered program carried out by ERS or ARS, and specific information for each request for awards under certain authorities. Covered programs may not be carried out during the fiscal year if required information is not submitted with the budget. Authorizes a report containing a description of the agricultural research, extension and education activities carried out by the Federal government during the fiscal year immediately preceding.

Sec. 7514. Repeal of Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria.

Sec. 7514. Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (7 U.S.C. 3202) is repealed.

Sec. 7515. Repeal of Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

Sec. 7515. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (7 U.S.C. 5936) is repealed.

Sec. 7516. Repeal of Seed Distribution.

Sec. 7516. Seed Distribution (7 U.S.C. 415-1) is repealed.

Sec. 7517. Natural Products Research Program.

Sec. 7517. Natural Products Research Program (7 U.S.C. 5937(e)) is authorized at $7,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 7518. Sun Grant Program.

Sec. 7518. Sec. 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended to authorize the Secretary to coordinate among appropriate Federal agencies. Authorizes grants to be used towards integrated, multistate research, extension and education
programs on technology development and implementation. Repeals funding allocations for specific programs. Amends the requirements for the plan for research activities to be funded to address bioproducts and priorities of appropriate Federal agencies. The Sun Grant Program is reauthorized.

Sec. 7519. Repeal of Study and Report on Food Deserts.

Sec. 7519. Study and Report on Food Deserts (PL 110-246, 112 Stat. 2039) is repealed.

Sec. 7520. Repeal of Agricultural and Rural Transportation Research and Education.

Sec. 7520. Agricultural and Rural Transportation Research and Education (7 U.S.C. 5938) is repealed.

Sec. 7521. Conveyance of Land Comprising Subtropical Horticulture Research Station.

Sec. 7521. Authorizes the Secretary to convey land comprising subtropical horticulture research station in exchange for an amount of cash equal to the market value of the property from Miami-Dade County in the state of Florida. The Secretary shall deposit all funds received from the conveyance into the Treasury of the United States, to be credited to the appropriation for the Agricultural Research Service, until expended, for the operation, upkeep and maintenance of the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station.

Sec. 7522. Concessions, Fees, and Voluntary Services at National Arboretum.

Sec. 7522. The Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 196) is amended to allow the Secretary to grant concessions to nonprofit organizations that support the purpose of the National Arboretum. In addition, a nonprofit organization granted a concession may recognize donors if such recognition is approved by the Secretary.

Sec. 7523. Cotton Disease Research Report.

Sec. 7523. Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a Cotton Disease Research Report.

Sec. 7524. Miscellaneous Technical Corrections.

Sec. 7524. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (PL 110-246; 122 Stat. 2013) is amended to make a technical correction.

TITLE VIII –FORESTRY

SUBTITLE A –REPEAL OF CERTAIN FORESTRY PROGRAMS
Sec. 8001. Forest Land Enhancement Program

Section 8001 amends section 4 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by repealing the Forest Land Enhancement Program.

Sec. 8002. Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

Section 8002 amends section 6 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by repealing the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program.

Sec. 8003. Expired Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program

Section 8003 amends section 18 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1987 by repealing the Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program.

Sec. 8004. Hispanic-Serving Institution Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program

Section 8004 amends section 8402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Hispanic-serving Institutional Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program.

Section 8005. Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program

Section 8005 amends section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by repealing the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program.

SUBTITLE B—REAUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978 PROGRAMS

Sec. 8101. Forest Legacy Program

Section 8101 amends section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by reauthorizing the Forest Legacy Program through FY 2017 at $55,000,000 for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017.

Sec. 8102. Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Section 8102 amends section 7A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by reauthorizing the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program at $1,500,000 for each fiscal year 2013 though 2017.

SUBTITLE C—REAUTHORIZATION OF OTHER FORESTRY-RELATED LAWS

Sec. 8201. Rural Revitalization Technologies
Section 8201 amends section 2371 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the Rural Revitalization Technologies at the current level of $5,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 8202. Office of International Forestry**

Section 8201 amends section 2405 of the Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the Office of International Forestry within the Forest Service at $6,000,000 for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017.

**Sec. 8203. Change in Funding Source for Healthy Forest Reserve Program**

Section 8203 amends section 508 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by making the Healthy Forest Reserve Program subject to appropriated funds at an authorization level of $9,750,000 for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017. The section further allows the Secretary to use funds appropriated for a given fiscal to carry out the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, if necessary to cover the cost of technical assistance, management, and enforcement responsibilities for land enrolled in the program as permanent easements or 30-year easements.

**Sec. 8204. Stewardship End Result Contracting Project Authority**

Section 8204 amends section 347 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act by reauthorizing Forest Service’s stewardship end contracting authority through FY 2017.

**SUBTITLE D—NATIONAL FOREST CRITICAL AREA RESPONSE**

**Sec. 8301. Definitions**

Section 8301 defines the terms “critical area” and “National Forest system” for the purposes of the title.

**Sec. 8302. Designation of Critical Areas**

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to designate critical areas within the National Forest System for the purposes of addressing deteriorating forest health conditions in existence at the time of this Act due to insect infestation, drought, disease, or storm damage as well as future risk of insect infestations or disease outbreaks.

Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to use the most recent annual forest health aerial surveys of mortality and defoliation for the purpose of determining deteriorating forest health conditions at the time of this Act and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map for the purpose determining of future risk when considering National Forest System land for designation as a critical area.
Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to designate the first critical areas no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Subsection (d) establishes that a critical area designation under this subtitle shall last for 10 years.

Sec. 8303. Application of Expedited Procedures and Activities of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to Critical Areas

Subsection (a), subject to specified modifications within the section, allows for the application of authorities of title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to all Forest Service projects and activities carried out in a designated critical area.

Subsection (b) exempts projects conducted in accordance with this section from section 322 of Public Law 102-381 which prohibits the use of appropriations to complete and issue the five-year program under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to make the following modifications when applying title I authorities to Forest Service projects and activities in a critical area: (1) the authority should apply to the entire critical area; and (2) all projects and activities of the Forest Service shall be considered to be authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects for the purpose of applying this title.

Subsection (d) excludes projects that comprise less than 1,000 acres from the requirements for an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The exclusion does not apply to: land in the National Wilderness Preservation System; any Federal land on which, by an Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, removal of vegetation is restricted; a congressionally designated wilderness study area; or an area in which the activity would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.

Subsection (e) requires that all projects and activities carried out in a critical area pursuant to the subtitle shall be consistent with land and resource management plans.

Sec. 8304. Good Neighbor Authority

Subsection (a) defines the terms “eligible State” and “State forester” for the purposes of the section.

Subsection (b) gives the Secretary authority to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with a State forester authorizing the State forester to provide the forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services on National Forest System land in the eligible State. Restoration and protection services include activities to treat insect infected trees, activities to reduce hazardous fuels, and any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health. Such cooperative agreement or contract may authorize the State forester to serve as the agent for the Secretary in providing those authorized services. A State forester may enter into subcontracts to provide those authorized services if it is in accordance with applicable
contract procedures for the eligible State. Any decision required to be made under NEPA may not be delegated to a State forester or any other officer or employee of the eligible State under this section.

Services performed under such cooperative agreement or contract shall be exempt from subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Subsection (d) of that Act requires the Secretary to advertise all timber sales unless extraordinary conditions exist or the appraised value of the sale is less than $10,000. Subsection (g) of that Act requires that designation and marking, and supervision of harvesting of trees be conducted by persons employed by the Secretary and have no personal interest in the purchase or harvest of such products nor be in the direct or indirect employ of the purchaser.

The restoration and protection services under this section shall be carried out on a project-by-project basis under existing Forest Service authorities.

**SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

*Sec. 8401. Revision of Strategic Plan for Forest Inventory and Analysis*

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, revise the strategic plan for forest inventory and analysis to address the new requirements imposed by this section.

Subsection (b) enumerates a list of new requirements for the purpose of revising the strategic plan for forest inventory and analysis.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to submit the revised strategic plan to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

*Sec. 8402. Forest Service Participation in ACES Program*

Section 8402 allows the Forest Service to use certain Forest Service funds for the purpose of using the Agricultural Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program to provide technical services for conservation-related programs and authorities carried out on Forest Service System lands.

**TITLE IX – ENERGY**

*Sec. 9001. Definitions*

Section 9001 amends section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by modifying the definition of “biobased product” and adding a definition of “forest product” to ensure that mature forest products are treated in the same manner as other biobased products.
The section also adds a definition for “renewable energy system” which limits the eligible projects in the Rural Energy for America Program.

**Sec. 9002. Biobased Markets Program**

Section 9002 amends section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Biobased Markets Program with discretionary funding authorized at $2 million per fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 9003. Biorefinery Assistance**

Section 9003 amends section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating grant funding in the Biorefinery Assistance Program to ensure that program funding is spent more efficiently through loan guarantees with discretionary funding at $75 million per fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 9004. Repeal of Repowering Assistance Program**

Section 9004 amends section 9004 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by repealing the Repowering Assistance Program and transferring any remaining funds to the Rural Energy for America Program.

**Sec. 9005. Bioenergy Program for Advance Biofuels**

Section 9005 amends section 9005 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels with discretionary funding at $50 million per fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 9006. Biodiesel Fuel Education Program**

Section 9006 amends section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program with discretionary funding at $2 million per fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 9007. Rural Energy for America Program**

Section 9007 amends section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating the authority for feasibility studies, creating a three-tiered application process, and reauthorizing the Rural Energy for America Program with discretionary funding at $45 million per fiscal year through 2017.

**Sec. 9008. Biomass Research and Development**

Section 9008 amends section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing Biomass Research and Development with discretionary funding at $20 million per fiscal year through 2017.
Sec. 9009. Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

Section 9009 amends section 9010 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers through 2017.

Sec. 9010. Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Section 9010 amends section 9011 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by eliminating collection, harvest, storage, and transportation (“CHST”) payments and reauthorizing the program with discretionary funding at $75,000,000 per fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 9011. Community Wood Energy Program

Section 9011 amends section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Community Wood Energy Program with discretionary funding at $2 million per fiscal year through 2017.

Sec. 9012. Repeal of Biofuels Infrastructure Study

Section 9012 amends section 9002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Biofuels Infrastructure Study.

Sec. 9013. Repeal of Renewable Fertilizer Study

Section 9013 amends section 9003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by repealing the Renewable Fertilizer Study.

TITLE X – HORTICULTURE

Sec. 10001. Specialty Crops Market News Allocation

Section 10001 amends section 10107 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing appropriations for specialty crop news market services at $9,000,000 for each fiscal year, through FY 2017.

Sec. 10002. Repeal of Grant Program to Improve Movement of Specialty Crops

Sec. 10002 amends section 10403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 repealing the grant program to improve movement of specialty crops.

Sec. 10003. Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
Sec. 10003 amends section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 and the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. The section includes “local food” in the title and establishment section. It further clarifies the purposes section of the program to highlight “locally and regionally produced agricultural products”.

The section includes a matching fund requirement at 25 percent for entities carrying out local and regional food business enterprises. It limits the use of grant money by prohibiting its use for purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of buildings or structure.

The section makes available $20,000,000 in mandatory funding each year and maintains the authorization for $10,000,000 for the program for each fiscal year 2013 through FY 2017. Of the funds made available, 50 percent is reserved for activities related to direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities, such as farmers’ market and roadside stands; and 50 percent is reserved for activities of local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, and store locally or regionally produced food products. Not more than 3 percent of the total amount of funds made available to the program can be used for administrative expenses.

Sec. 10004. Organic Agriculture

Section 10004(a) amends section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by reauthorizing the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives through FY 2017 at $5,000,000 for each fiscal year. In addition to appropriated funds, the subsection makes available $5,000,000 in mandatory funds to remain available until expended.

Section 10004(b) amends section 2122 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the National Organic Program to include a section requiring the Secretary to modernize database and technology systems for the program.

Section 10004(c) amends section 2123 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 by reauthorizing the program at the current level of $11,000,000 for each fiscal year through FY 2017. In addition to appropriated funds, the subsection makes available $5,000,000 in mandatory funds to remain available until expended.

Section 10004(d) amends section 10606 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by repealing the National Organic Certification Cost-share Program.

Sec. 10005. Investigations and Enforcement of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521) is amended to authorize the Secretary to take investigative actions necessary to carry out this title to verify the accuracy of information and determine whether a person covered by this title has committed a violation of any provision of this title. The Secretary is authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, take evidence and require the production of records required to be maintained under this title, relevant to the investigation. It is an unlawful act for any person covered by this title to refuse to provide information required by the Secretary under this title or to violate a suspension or revocation of either the organic certification of a producer or handler.
or the accreditation of a certifying agent. The Secretary may suspend, after notice and opportunity for an expedited administrative, hearing the organic certification or accreditation if the Secretary has reason to believe that a covered person has violated or is violating any provision of this title. If the Secretary, subsequent to an investigation, determines that a violation has occurred, the suspension shall remain in effect until the Secretary issues a revocation of the certification or the accreditation, after an expedited administrated appeal is completed. After the appeal, if a violation of this title is determined to have occurred, the Secretary shall revoke the certification or the accreditation. A revocation of a certification or accreditation may be appealed to a U.S. district court within 30 days of the revocation. A revocation shall be set aside only if the revocation is clearly erroneous. The Secretary may apply to the appropriate U.S. district court for enforcement of a final revocation, and the court shall enforce the revocation. Civil penalties under the title are authorized if there is a violation of the revocation.

Sec. 10006. Food Safety Education Initiatives

Section 10006 amends section 10105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by extending the authorization of appropriations for Food Safety Education Initiatives at $1,000,000 through FY 2017.

Sec. 10007. Specialty Crop Block Grants

Section 10007 amends section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 by changing the grant allocation formula. It makes available $70,000,000 in mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants for each fiscal year and extends the authorization at the current level of $55,000,000 for each fiscal year, 2013 through FY 2017. The section requires the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this Act, to issue guidance for the purpose of making grants to multistate projects and designates mandatory funds for such purposes. The Secretary may not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available for a fiscal year for administrative expenses. A State receiving a Specialty Crop Block Grant may not use more than 8 percent of the funds received under the grant for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

Sec. 10008. Report on Honey

Section 10008(a) requires the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders, to submit a report to the Commissioner of the FDA, describing how an appropriate Federal standard for identifying honey would be in the interest of consumers and the honey industry. The Secretary shall submit such a report not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act.

Section 10008(b) requires the Secretary to consider the March, 2006, Standard of Identity citizens’ petition filed with the FDA, including any current industry amendments or clarifications, when preparing such a report.

Sec. 10009. Bulk Shipments of Apples to Canada
Section 10009(a) exempts apples shipped to Canada in bulk bins from the provisions of the Export Apple Act.

Section 10009(b) amends the definitions section of the Export Apple Act to include a definition of the term “bulk bin”.

Section 10009(c) requires the Secretary to issue regulations to carry out the amendments, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**Sec. 10010. Inclusion of Olive Oil in Import Controls under the Agricultural Adjustment Act**

Section 10010 amends section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to include olive oil in the list of commodities regulated by import controls.

**Sec. 10011. Petitions to Determine Organism Not a Plant Pest**

The Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7711) is amended to expand the scope and clarify the procedures of the process by which a person may petition the Secretary for a determination that an organism that is subject to regulation by the Secretary as a plant pest is not a plant pest. In reviewing a petition, the Secretary shall conduct a plant pest risk assessment as well as an environmental analysis of any likely adverse effects of such organism on the soil, water, air quality, non-target organisms, and listed threatened and endangered species and the critical habitat of such species for the environment in which such organism is likely to be grown or otherwise used under the conditions in the petition. The Secretary shall issue a determination that an organism is not a plant pest if, based on sound science and the plant pest risk assessment, the Secretary determines that the organism is not likely to be a plant pest. The Secretary shall complete the risk assessment and authorized environmental analysis and issue a determination not later than 1 year after the Secretary determines that a petition is complete. The Secretary may extend the 1 year review period for an additional 180 days if the Secretary determines the additional review is necessary, after written notification to the person submitting the petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if after completing the risk assessment, the Secretary finds there is no reason to believe that an organism is a plant pest and does not grant or deny a petition within the time period required, such organism shall be deemed not to be a plant pest.

If an organism contains a plant-incorporated protectant, a determination made that an organism is not a plant pest or the deeming that an organism is not a plant pest shall not be effective until the registration of the plant-incorporated protectant is approved under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a et seq.). Notwithstanding a determination that an organism is not a plant pest or that such organism has been deemed not to be a plant pest, the Secretary may issue a determination, based on information discovered after the date of such determination or the date on which the organism was so deemed and sound science that an organism is a plant pest.
The Secretary shall publish notice in the Federal Register of a grant or denial of a petition or a deeming that such organism is not a plant pest. The risk assessment and environmental analysis shall be provided to the person who submitted a petition and made available to the public.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the environmental analysis required here shall be the only analysis or procedure regarding the effects on the environment of an organism that is the subject of a petition required or authorized by law with respect to reviewing and taking action on such petition. No funds made available by any act shall be obligated, expended or used for any environmental analysis or procedure other than the environmental analysis required here for petitions. The Secretary shall also not require or solicit any financial assistance from a person submitting a petition for any environmental analysis or procedure required here, or for any other analysis or procedure.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall use data collected under a permit, with respect to an organism, among other relevant data, for the purposes of the review of a petition submitted with respect to such organism, and shall use the analysis or procedures required under the regulations issued under the Federal Plant Pest Act, continued in effect in accordance with section 438(c), as the only analyses or procedures required or authorized by law with respect to reviewing and taking action on an application for a permit.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in reviewing an application for a permit that is not currently excluded from environmental review, the Secretary shall conduct the environmental analysis authorized here. Such analysis shall be the only environmental analysis or procedure required or authorized by law with respect to reviewing and taking a action on this type of permit.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 411A of the Plant Protection Act, if the Secretary determined that a petition submitted before the date of enactment of this section was complete before such date, the Secretary shall consider such petition to remain complete and maintain such status. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including subsection (c) of section 411 of this Act, if the Secretary determined that a permit application submitted before the date of enactment of this section was complete before such date, the Secretary shall consider such application to remain complete and maintain such status.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall use any environmental analysis conducted for purposes of a petition before the date of enactment of this section with respect to an organism to the greatest extent possible to complete the environmental analysis conducted under section 411A of this Act for a petition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall use any environmental analysis conducted for purposes of a permit application before the date of enactment of this section with respect to an organism to the greatest extent possible to complete any environmental analysis that may be required for this type of permit after the date of enactment.

The Secretary shall determine the length of the period for the review of petitions that were pending review on the date of the enactment of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each covered petition, if the Secretary finds that there is no reason to
believe that the subject organism is a plant pest, and the petition is not granted or denied, not later than 90 days after enactment of this section, such organism shall be deemed not to be a plant pest. A covered petition is a petition submitted before the date of enactment of this section for which a plant pest risk assessment and an environmental assessment have been published and a notice and comment period have been completed as of the date of enactment. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the amendments made by this section.

Sec.10012.  Consolidation of Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs

Amends the Plant Protection Act to authorize the National Clean Plant Network, as previously authorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7761). The use of any Commodity Credit Corporation funds under this section to provide technical assistance shall not be considered an allotment or fund transfer from the Corporation for the purposes of the limit on expenditure for technical assistance imposed by the Corporation’s Charter Act (7 U.S.C. 714i). The section makes available $71,500,000 in mandatory funds for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Sec.10013.  Authority for Regulation of Plants

Any living stage of a plant, including any nucleic acid or other genetic material as contained in such plant, shall be exclusively subject to regulation under statutes which authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue regulations with respect to plants. However, a pesticidal substance that is contained in a plant, subjected to the Plant Protection Act and intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest shall be subject to regulation as a plant incorporated protectant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.). The regulations issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for plant-incorporated protectants shall be based on sound science, use the least burdensome requirements, and provide for exemptions from the requirements otherwise applicable to pesticides that are not plant-incorporated protectants.

Sec.10014.  Report to Congress on Regulation of Biotechnology

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress a report on the measures taken and proposed to be taken to provide for balanced and appropriate regulatory oversight of agricultural biotechnology products.

Sec. 10015.  Pesticide Registration Improvement

Section 4 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(i)) is amended by authorizing the total amount of maintenance fees collected in the aggregate to $27,800,000 through fiscal year 2017. The maximum amount of fees payable by a registrant holding not more than 50 pesticide registrations is $115,500, and for one holding over 50
pesticide registrations, $184,800 through fiscal year 2017. The maximum amount of fees payable by a registrant that is a small business holding not more than 50 pesticide registrations is $70,600, and for one holding over 50 pesticide registrations, $122,100 through fiscal year 2017. The Administrator is also authorized to provide a waiver in the amount of 25 percent of the fee applicable to the first registration of a qualified small business not formed or manipulated primarily for the purpose of qualifying for the waiver. The paragraph on maintenance fees is reauthorized through 2017.

The abatement of other fees not included in sections 4 or 33 of FIFRA is extended. Section 408(m)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a(m)(3)) is extended to reauthorize the abatement of tolerance fees through fiscal year 2017.

The Reregistration and Expedited Processing Fund is authorized to offset costs to enhance information systems capabilities to improve the tracking of pesticide registration decisions. Amends the Act to authorize the Administrator to use between 1/9 and 1/8 of maintenance fees collected in a fiscal year to review and evaluate inert ingredients through fiscal year 2017. The Reregistration and Expedited Processing Fund is also authorized to offset costs, in an amount not to exceed $800,000, to improving information systems capabilities for the Office of Pesticide Programs to enhance tracking of registration actions and status of conditional registrations, allow electronic capability of review of labels and confidential statements of formula in registration actions, and enhance database capabilities for information on endangered species assessments in the registration review process.

Section 33 of this Act is amended to update the schedule of covered pesticide registration applications and corresponding fees and require its publication. Fee adjustments for covered pesticide registration applications are reauthorized. The Act is amended to allow the Administrator to provide a refund of a portion of a covered registration service fee on the basis that the application is rejected based on the initial content and preliminary technical screening.

The worker protection set aside in the Pesticide Registration Fund is reauthorized through fiscal year 2017. $500,000 each fiscal year through 2017 shall be used out of the fund for partnership grants. The pesticide safety education program is reauthorized through fiscal year 2017.

Authorization to assess registration service fees is made contingent upon an amount of appropriations for salaries, contracts, and expense for functions as of fiscal year 2012, of the Office of Pesticide Programs equal or greater to the amount of appropriations for covered functions for fiscal year 2012. The measure of compliance allowing a decline of 3 percent to be regarded as equal to the amount of appropriations is repealed.

This Act is amended to update the schedule of decision review periods for covered pesticide registration actions and fees and require its publication. The start of the decision time review period begins after the receipt of the covered pesticide registration application and fee. The Administrator is also authorized to provide for a preliminary technical screening in addition to the current authorization for initial content. The preliminary technical screening shall be conducted not later than 45 or 90 days, whichever is appropriate, after the date on which the decision time review period begins. The Administrator is authorized to reject the application at
any time before the completion of the authorized preliminary technical screening if it is
determined that the application failed the initial content or preliminary technical screening and
the failure is not corrected before the date that is 10 business days after the applicant receives
notification of the failure. The Administrator shall determine whether an application appears to
contain necessary forms, data and draft labeling in conducting an initial content screening. A
preliminary technical screening determines whether the application including the data and
information submitted are accurate and complete, as well as consistent with the proposed
labeling and any proposal for a tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance
under the FFDCA and could result in the granting of the application.

The annual report describing pesticide registration fees is reauthorized through March 1, 2017,
including new information regarding the number of extensions of decision time review periods,
progress towards carrying out section 4(k)(4) and the amounts from the Reregistration and
Expedited Processing Fund used for the purposes described, implementing the new electronic
tracking system, the number of applications rejected by the Administrator under the initial
content and preliminary technical screening, an update of the Pesticide Incident Data System,
and an assessment of the public availability of summary pesticide usage data.

Section 33(m) Termination of Effectiveness is in each instance extended 5 years.

Sec. 10016. Modification, Cancellation, or Suspension on Basis of a Biological Opinion.

Except in the case of a voluntary request from a registrant under section 3 of the Federal
Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a), a registration may be modified,
canceled or suspended on the basis of the implementation of a Biological Opinion issued by the
NMFS or the USFWS prior to the completion of the National Academy of Sciences study
commissioned by the Administrator of the EPA or Jan. 1, 2014, whichever is earlier, only if the
action is taken pursuant to section 6 of the Act and the Biological Opinion complies with the
recommendations contained in the study. The study shall include at minimum: (1) a formal,
independent, and external peer review, consistent with OMB policies of each Biological
Opinion, (2) an assessment of economic impacts of measures or alternatives recommended in
each Biological Opinion, (3) an examination of specific scientific and procedural questions and
issues pertaining to economic feasibility contained in a June 23, 2011 letter sent to the
Administrator and other Federal officials from Members of Congress.

Sec. 10017. Use and Discharges of Authorized Pesticides

Section 10017(a) is the short title.

Section 10017(b) amends section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
prohibiting the Administrator or a State from requiring a permit under the Federal Water
Pollution Control Act for pesticide applications authorized under the Federal Insecticide,
Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, except in certain instances.
Section 10017(c) amends section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibiting the
Administrator or a State from requiring a permit under section 402 for the application into
navigable waters of a pesticide applications authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Subsection (s)(2) provides exceptions for certain instances.

Sec. 10018. Effective Date

The effective date of this title is October 1, 2012, except for Sections 10008 and 10009.

TITLE XI –CROP INSURANCE

Sec. 11001. Information Sharing

Section 11001 if the producer authorizes it, this section requires the FSA to provide to an agent or an approved insurance provider (AIP) information that may assist the agent or AIP in insuring the producer.

Sec. 11002. Publication of Information on Violations of Prohibition on Premium Adjustments

Section 11002 requires the RMA to publish on its website violations of the prohibition to give rebates or discounts in premium in sufficient detail to serve as guidance to AIP, agents and producers.

Sec. 11003. Supplemental Coverage Option

Section 11003 establishes the new Supplemental Coverage Option to give a producer the option of purchasing additional coverage on an individual or area yield and loss basis or a margin basis. Coverage cannot exceed the difference between 90 percent of the actual loss and the coverage level selected by the producer of the underlying policy or plan of insurance.

Sec. 11004. Premium Amounts for Catastrophic Risk Protection

Section 11004 requires a re-rating of the catastrophic risk protection premium.

Sec. 11005. Repeal of Performance-Based Discount

Section 11005 repeals unused authority for performance-based discounts.

Sec. 11006. Permanent Enterprise Unit Subsidy

Section 11006 makes permanent the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (the Corporation) authority to pay a portion of the premiums for policies that insure on a enterprise unit basis.

Sec. 11007. Enterprise Units for Irrigated and Non-Irrigated Crops

Section 11007 requires enterprise units to be made available by practice (irrigated or non-irrigated).
Sec. 11008. Data Collection

Section 11008 allows the use of data collected by the Risk Management Agency, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, or both, to determine yields. Where sufficient county data is not available, this section authorizes the Secretary to use data from other sources.

Sec. 11009. Adjustment in Actual Production History to Establish Insurable Yields

Section 11009 increases the percentage of the applicable transitional yield used to replace excluded recorded or appraised yields from 60 percent to 70 percent.

Sec. 11010. Submission and Review of Policies

Section 11010 requires the Corporation to review policies developed under the research and development contracting authority at 522(c), or pilot program developed under 523, and submit to the Board for review policies that will likely result in viable and marketable policies, provide crop insurance in a significantly improved form, and adequately protect the interests of producers. This section also requires and encourages approval of certain policies.

Sec. 11011. Equitable Relief for Specialty Crop Producers

Section 11011 provides equitable relief on specialty crop policies that were disproportionately adversely impacted by the SRA but clarifies that Congress does not provide statutory assent to SRA provisions.

Sec. 11012. Budget Limitations on Renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement

Section 11012 requires the Board to ensure budget neutrality to the maximum extent practicable, and return any savings realized in Standard Reinsurance Agreement renegotiations to specific crop insurance purposes.

Sec. 11013. Crop Production on Native Sod

Section 11013 availability on crop insurance to protect native sod.

Sec. 11014. Coverage Levels by Practice

Section 11014 allows producers to elect different coverage for both dry land and irrigated land.

Sec. 11015. Beginning Farmer and Rancher Provisions

Section 11015 provides beginning farmers and ranchers with additional premium assistance, enhanced T-yields, and the ability to use previous producer’s APH or an assigned yield.

Sec. 11016. Stacked Income Protection Plan for Producers of Upland Cotton

Section 11016 requires a stacked income protection plan to be made available to upland cotton producers beginning with the 2013 crop year.

Sec. 11017. Peanut Revenue Crop Insurance
Section 11017 creates a revenue crop insurance program for peanut producers, beginning in crop year 2013, using the effective price for peanuts equal to the Rotterdam price index, adjusted to reflect the farmer stock price of peanuts in the U.S.

Sec. 11018. Authority to Correct Errors

Section 11018 allows an insurance provider or agent to correct information to make it consistent with information a producer reported to FSA, provided the corrections do not allow the producer to obtain a disproportionate benefit or avoid any ineligibility requirements or legal obligations.

Sec. 11019. Implementation

Section 11019 requires the Secretary to maintain and upgrade information management systems and to implement an acreage report streamlining initiative.

Sec. 11020. Research and Development Priorities

Section 11020 make specialty crops, sweet sorghum, biomass sorghum, rice, peanuts and sugarcane a research and development priority.

Sec.11021. Additional Research and Development Contracting Requirements

Section 11021 lists additional research and development contracting priorities.

Sec. 11022. Pilot Programs

Section 11022 clarifies Corporation may conduct pilot programs at its sole discretion.

Sec. 11023. Limitation on Expenditures for Livestock Pilot Programs

Section 11023 increases the funding for livestock pilot program funding to $50 million per year.

Sec. 11024. Noninsured Crop Assistance Program

Section 11024 amends the noninsured crop assistance program (NAP) to allow for the purchase of additional NAP coverage for crops that do not otherwise have coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance Act.

Sec. 11025. Technical Amendments

Section 11025 makes technical amendments.
Sec. 12101. National Sheep Industry Improvement Center

Section 12101 amends section 375 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by reauthorizing the appropriations for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center though fiscal year 2017, at the current level of $10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Sec. 12102. Trichinae Certification Program

Section 12102 amends section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act by reauthorizing the Trichinae Certification Program through fiscal year 2017, at the current level of $1,500,000 to remain available until expended, as well as such additional sums as may be necessary.

Sec. 12103. National Aquatic Animal Health Plan

Section 12103 amends section 11013 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 by reauthorizing the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.

SUBTITLE B—SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS AND LIMITED RESOURCE PRODUCERS

Sec. 12201. Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Section 12201(a) amends section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include veteran farmers and ranchers. The section makes available $10,000,000 in mandatory funding for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017. The section also adds a new authorization of appropriations of $20,000,000 for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017.

Section 12201(b) includes a definition of the term “veteran farmer or rancher”.

Sec. 12202. Office of Advocacy and Outreach

Section 12202 amends paragraph (3) of section 226B(f) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to include an authorization of appropriations of $2,000,000 for each fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 12301. Grants to Improve Supply, Stability, Safety, and Training of Agricultural Labor Force

Section 12301 amends section 14204(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to include an authorization of appropriations of $10,000,000 for each fiscal year 2013 through 2017.