

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2762

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2018

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JONES, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Next Generation in
5 Agriculture Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
9 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
4 graph (A), by inserting “to increase oppor-
5 tunities” after “initiatives”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
7 “and succession” after “transfer”;

8 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
9 (M) and (N) as subparagraphs (N) and
10 (O), respectively; and

11 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
12 (L) the following:

13 “(M) food safety;”;

14 (B) by striking paragraph (4);

15 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
16 through (12) as paragraphs (4) through (11),
17 respectively;

18 (D) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-
19 nated)—

20 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
21 (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and
22 (G), respectively; and

23 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
24 (D) the following:

1 “(E) the consultation of beginning farmers
 2 and ranchers in design, implementation, and
 3 decisionmaking relating to an initiative de-
 4 scribed in paragraph (1);”;

5 (E) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-
 6 nated), by striking “10” and inserting “15”;
 7 and

8 (F) in paragraph (11) (as so redesign-
 9 nated), by striking “(8)(B)” and inserting
 10 “(7)(B)”;

11 (2) in subsection (g)—

12 (A) by inserting “(including owners or op-
 13 erators that have ended, or expect to end within
 14 5 years, active labor in farming or ranching op-
 15 erations as a producer)” after “not beginning
 16 farmers or ranchers”; and

17 (B) by striking “educating” and inserting
 18 “increasing opportunities for”; and

19 (3) in subsection (h)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 22 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH
 23 2018”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 25 “and” at the end;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 2 “, to remain available until expended.” and
 3 inserting a semicolon; and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 “(D) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 7 2019 and 2020;

8 “(E) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 9 2021 and 2022; and

10 “(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and
 11 each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available
 12 until expended.”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 15 ing “2014 THROUGH 2018” and inserting
 16 “2018 THROUGH 2023”; and

17 (ii) by striking “2014 through 2018”
 18 and inserting “2018 through 2023”.

19 **SEC. 3. YOUTH OUTREACH AND BEGINNING FARMER CO-**
 20 **ORDINATION.**

21 Subtitle D of title VII of the Farm Security and
 22 Rural Investment Act of 2002 is amended by inserting
 23 after section 7405 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) the following:

1 **“SEC. 7405A. YOUTH OUTREACH AND BEGINNING FARMER**
 2 **COORDINATION.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The
 5 term ‘beginning farmer or rancher’ has the meaning
 6 given the term in section 7405(a).

7 “(2) NATIONAL COORDINATOR.—The term ‘Na-
 8 tional Coordinator’ means the National Beginning
 9 Farmer and Rancher Coordinator established under
 10 subsection (b)(1).

11 “(3) STATE COORDINATOR.—The term ‘State
 12 coordinator’ means a State beginning farmer and
 13 rancher coordinator designated under subsection
 14 (c)(1)(A).

15 “(4) STATE OFFICE.—The term ‘State office’
 16 means—

17 “(A) a State office of—

18 “(i) the Farm Service Agency;

19 “(ii) the Natural Resources Conserva-
 20 tion Service;

21 “(iii) the Rural Business-Cooperative
 22 Service; or

23 “(iv) the Rural Utilities Service; or

24 “(B) a regional office of the Risk Manage-
 25 ment Agency.

1 “(b) NATIONAL BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER
2 COORDINATOR.—

3 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
4 tablish in the Department the position of National
5 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator.

6 “(2) DUTIES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Coordi-
8 nator shall—

9 “(i) advise the Secretary and coordi-
10 nate activities of the Department on pro-
11 grams, policies, and issues relating to be-
12 ginning farmers and ranchers; and

13 “(ii) in consultation with the applica-
14 ble State food and agriculture council, de-
15 termine whether to approve a plan sub-
16 mitted by a State coordinator under sub-
17 section (c)(3)(B).

18 “(B) DISCRETIONARY DUTIES.—Duties of
19 the National Coordinator may include—

20 “(i) developing and implementing new
21 strategies to support beginning farmers
22 and ranchers by conducting outreach and
23 developing strategies to provide assistance
24 to beginning farmers and ranchers and
25 owners or operators that have ended, or

1 expect to end within 5 years, active labor
2 in farming or ranching operations as a
3 producer; and

4 “(ii) facilitating interagency and
5 interdepartmental collaboration on issues
6 relating to beginning farmers and ranch-
7 ers.

8 “(3) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once
9 each year, the National Coordinator shall distribute
10 within the Department and make publicly available
11 a report describing the status of steps taken to carry
12 out the duties described in subparagraphs (A) and
13 (B) of paragraph (2).

14 “(4) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
15 MENTS.—In carrying out the duties under para-
16 graph (2), the National Coordinator may enter into
17 a contract or cooperative agreement with an institu-
18 tion of higher education (as defined in section 101
19 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
20 1001)), cooperative extension services (as defined in
21 section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research,
22 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
23 U.S.C. 3103), or a nonprofit organization—

1 “(A) to conduct research on the profit-
 2 ability of new farms in operation for not less
 3 than 5 years in a region;

4 “(B) to develop educational materials;

5 “(C) to conduct workshops, courses, train-
 6 ing, or certified vocational training; or

7 “(D) to conduct mentoring activities.

8 “(c) STATE BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER CO-
 9 ORDINATORS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(A) DESIGNATION.—The National Coor-
 12 dinator, in consultation with State food and ag-
 13 riculture councils and Directors of State offices,
 14 shall designate in each State a State beginning
 15 farmer and rancher coordinator from among
 16 employees of State offices.

17 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be designated
 18 as a State coordinator, an employee shall—

19 “(i) be familiar with issues relating to
 20 beginning farmers and ranchers; and

21 “(ii) have the ability to interface with
 22 other Federal departments and agencies.

23 “(2) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall develop a
 24 training plan to provide to each State coordinator
 25 knowledge of programs and services available from

1 the Department for beginning farmers and ranchers,
2 taking into consideration the unique needs of each
3 type of production method and size of agricultural
4 operation.

5 “(3) DUTIES.—A State coordinator shall—

6 “(A) coordinate technical assistance at the
7 State level to assist beginning farmers and
8 ranchers in accessing programs of the Depart-
9 ment;

10 “(B) develop and submit to the National
11 Coordinator for approval under subsection
12 (b)(2)(A)(ii) a State plan to improve the coordi-
13 nation, delivery, and efficacy of programs of the
14 Department to beginning farmers and ranchers,
15 taking into consideration the unique needs of
16 each type of production method and size of ag-
17 ricultural operation, at each county and area of-
18 fice in the State;

19 “(C) oversee implementation of an ap-
20 proved State plan described in subparagraph
21 (B);

22 “(D) work with outreach coordinators in
23 the State offices to ensure appropriate informa-
24 tion about technical assistance is available at
25 outreach events and activities; and

1 “(E) coordinate partnerships and joint out-
2 reach efforts with other organizations and gov-
3 ernment agencies serving beginning farmers
4 and ranchers.

5 “(d) AGRICULTURAL YOUTH COORDINATOR.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
7 tablish in the Department the position of Agricul-
8 tural Youth Coordinator.

9 “(2) DUTIES.—The Agricultural Youth Coordi-
10 nator shall—

11 “(A) promote the role of school-based agri-
12 cultural education and youth-serving agricul-
13 tural organizations in motivating and preparing
14 young people to pursue careers in the agri-
15 culture, food, and natural resources systems;

16 “(B) coordinate programs and agencies
17 within the Department—

18 “(i) to work with schools and youth-
19 serving organizations to develop joint pro-
20 grams and initiatives, such as internships;
21 and

22 “(ii) to provide resources and input to
23 schools and youth-serving organizations re-
24 garding motivating and preparing young

1 people to pursue careers in the agriculture,
 2 food, and natural resources systems;

3 “(C) raise awareness among youth about
 4 the importance of agriculture in a diversity of
 5 fields and disciplines;

6 “(D) provide information to youth involved
 7 in food and agriculture and youth agriculture
 8 organizations about the availability of, and eli-
 9 gibility requirements for, agricultural programs,
 10 with particular emphasis on—

11 “(i) beginning farmer and rancher
 12 programs;

13 “(ii) agriculture education;

14 “(iii) nutrition education;

15 “(iv) science, technology, engineering,
 16 and mathematics education; and

17 “(v) other food and agriculture pro-
 18 grams for youth;

19 “(E) serve as a resource for youth involved
 20 in food and agriculture applying for participa-
 21 tion in agricultural programs;

22 “(F) conduct outreach to youth agriculture
 23 organizations; and

24 “(G) advocate on behalf of youth involved
 25 in food and agriculture and youth organizations

1 in interactions with employees of the Depart-
2 ment.

3 “(3) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once
4 each year, the Agricultural Youth Coordinator shall
5 distribute within the Department and make publicly
6 available a report describing the status of steps
7 taken to carry out the duties described in subpara-
8 graphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

9 “(4) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
10 MENTS.—For purposes of carrying out the duties de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2), the Agricultural Youth Co-
12 ordinator—

13 “(A) shall consult with the cooperative ex-
14 tension services and the land-grant colleges and
15 universities; and

16 “(B) may enter into contracts or coopera-
17 tive agreements with the research centers of the
18 Agricultural Research Service, institutions of
19 higher education (as defined in section 101 of
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1001)), or nonprofit organizations for—

22 “(i) the development of educational
23 materials;

24 “(ii) the conduct of workshops,
25 courses, and certified vocational training;

1 “(iii) the conduct of mentoring activi-
 2 ties; or

3 “(iv) the provision of internship op-
 4 portunities.”.

5 **SEC. 4. NEXT GENERATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY**
 6 **CHALLENGE.**

7 Subtitle C of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
 8 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by
 9 inserting after section 1418 (7 U.S.C. 3153) the following:
 10 **“SEC. 1419. NEXT GENERATION AGRICULTURE TECH-**
 11 **NOLOGY CHALLENGE.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 13 next generation agriculture technology challenge competi-
 14 tion to provide an incentive for the development of innova-
 15 tive mobile technology that removes barriers to entry in
 16 the marketplace for beginning farmers and ranchers (as
 17 defined in section 7405(a) of the Farm Security and Rural
 18 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f(a))).

19 “(b) AMOUNT.—The Secretary may award not more
 20 than \$1,000,000 in the aggregate to one or more winners
 21 of the competition under subsection (a).”.

1 **SEC. 5. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER CROP INSUR-**
2 **ANCE.**

3 Section 502(b)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
4 (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(3)) is amended by striking “5” and in-
5 serting “10”.

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