

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2720

To direct the agricultural research service to expand organic research, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the agricultural research service to expand organic
research, 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 “Strengthening Organic
5 Agricultural Research (SOAR) Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ORGANIC RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

7 Section 1672B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
8 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(f)) is
9 amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and
4 each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting a
5 semicolon; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(H) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

8 “(I) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

9 “(J) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

10 “(K) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

11 and

12 “(L) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2028

13 and each fiscal year thereafter.”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2028”.

16 **SEC. 3. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

17 Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
18 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.) is amended
19 by inserting before section 1667, as added by section 3,
20 the following:

21 **“SEC. 1666. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC**
22 **PROGRAM.**

23 “(a) **COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND**
24 **EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary may
25 make competitive grants to support research, education,

1 and extension activities regarding the transition of non-
2 organic production systems into organic production for the
3 purposes of—

4 “(1) overcoming social, economic, and manage-
5 ment barriers to organic transition;

6 “(2) documenting and understanding the effects
7 of organic practices on ecosystem services, including
8 soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation
9 and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-
10 related services, and pest management; and

11 “(3) developing improved technologies, methods,
12 models, and metrics to document, describe, and opti-
13 mize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural
14 production into organic management.

15 “(b) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS.—Paragraphs (4),
16 (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive,
17 Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.
18 3157) shall apply with respect to the making of grants
19 under this section.

20 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS ENCOURAGED.—Following the
21 completion of a peer review process for applications for
22 a grant received under this section, the Secretary may pro-
23 vide a priority to any such proposal for such a grant
24 that—

1 “(1) is found in the peer review process to be
2 scientifically meritorious;

3 “(2) includes as active partners organic pro-
4 ducers that are conducting on-farm research and
5 demonstrations (and the organizations that represent
6 such producers); and

7 “(3) actively involves—

8 “(A) 1890 Institutions (as defined in sec-
9 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
11 7601));

12 “(B) 1994 Institutions (as defined in such
13 section 2); and

14 “(C) Hispanic-serving institutions (as de-
15 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
16 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
17 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

20 “(1) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
21 through 2026; and

22 “(2) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
23 through 2028.”.

1 **SEC. 4. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INITIA-**
2 **TIVES.**

3 Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
4 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (d)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 the period at the end and inserting “;
11 and”; and

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(C) \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal
15 years 2024 to 2028.”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
17 and inserting “2028”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(e) ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF ORGANIC
20 FARMING AND CERTIFICATION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
22 culture, acting through the Administrator of the
23 Economic Research Service (referred to in this sub-
24 section as the ‘Secretary’), shall—

25 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
26 of the enactment of this subsection, prepare,

1 and submit, a plan to conduct an economic im-
2 pact analysis of organic agriculture, as defined
3 in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Produc-
4 tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) to the Com-
5 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
6 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
7 culture of the House of Representatives; and

8 “(B) not later than 3 years after the date
9 on which the plan is submitted under paragraph
10 (1), submit such economic impact analysis to
11 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
12 Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
13 Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

14 “(2) CONTENTS.—The analysis under para-
15 graph (1) shall include an analysis of—

16 “(A) farming and ranching operations of a
17 variety of sizes, with regional differences, and
18 that have a diversity of production practices
19 and methods; and

20 “(B) the direct and indirect economic im-
21 pacts of organic agriculture on rural and urban
22 communities, including—

23 “(i) the vitality of the local economy;

24 “(ii) the labor market;

25 “(iii) environmental quality;

1 “(iv) social dynamics;
2 “(v) land ownership; and
3 “(vi) any other information, data, or
4 analysis the Secretary considers necessary
5 to make the economic impact analysis com-
6 prehensive, accurate, and useful.”.

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