

TITLE VII—RESEARCH AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy

Act of 1977

SEC. 7101. DEFINITIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively;

(B) by striking “(4) The terms” and inserting the following:

“(4) *COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The terms”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) *INCLUSIONS.*—The terms ‘college’ and ‘university’ include a research foundation maintained by a college or university described in subparagraph (A).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (8), (9) through (11), (12) through (14), (15), (16), (17), and (18) as paragraphs (6) through (9), (11) through (13), (15) through (17), (20), (5), (18), and (19), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in alphabetical and numerical order;

(3) in paragraph (9) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking “renewable natural resources” and inserting “renewable energy and natural resources”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) Soil, water, and related resource conservation and improvement.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(10) *HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities’ means colleges or universities that—

“(i) qualify as Hispanic-serving institutions; and

“(ii) offer associate, bachelors, or other accredited degree programs in agriculture-related fields.

“(B) *EXCEPTION.*—The term ‘Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities’ does not include 1862 institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).”;

(5) by striking paragraph (11) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(11) *HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.*—The term ‘Hispanicserving institution’ has the meaning given the term in section

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502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).”;

and

(6) by inserting after paragraph (13) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(14) *NLGCA INSTITUTION; NON-LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The terms ‘NLGCA Institution’ and ‘non-land-grant college of agriculture’ mean a public college or university offering a baccalaureate or higher degree in the study of agriculture or forestry.

“(B) *EXCLUSIONS.*—The terms ‘NLGCA Institution’ and ‘non-land-grant college of agriculture’ do not include—

“(i) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities;

or

“(ii) any institution designated under—

“(I) the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the ‘First Morrill Act’; 7 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*);

“(II) the Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as the ‘Second Morrill Act’) (7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*);

“(III) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note); or

“(IV) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known as the ‘McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act’) (16 U.S.C. 582a *et seq.*)”.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

(1) Section 2(3) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390(3)) is amended by striking “section 1404(8) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(8))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”.

(2) Section 2(k) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(k)) is amended in the second sentence by striking “section 1404(17) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(17))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”.

(3) Section 18(a)(3)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “section 1404(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(5))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”.

(4) Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319) is amended in the first sentence by striking “section 1404(16) of this title” and inserting “section 1404(18)”.

(5) Section 1619(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 1404(17) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(17))” and inserting

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“section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “section 1404(7) of the

National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(7))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”; and (C) in paragraph (8), by striking “section 1404(13) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”’.

(6) Section 125(c)(1)(C) of Public Law 100–238 (5 U.S.C. 8432 note) is amended by striking “section 1404(5) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(5))” and inserting “section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)”’.

SEC. 7102. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “31” and inserting “25”; and

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

“(3) *MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES.*—The Advisory Board shall consist of members from each of the following categories:

“(A) 1 member representing a national farm organization.

“(B) 1 member representing farm cooperatives.

“(C) 1 member actively engaged in the production of a food animal commodity, recommended by a coalition of national livestock organizations.

“(D) 1 member actively engaged in the production of a plant commodity, recommended by a coalition of national crop organizations.

“(E) 1 member actively engaged in aquaculture, recommended by a coalition of national aquacultural organizations.

“(F) 1 member representing a national food animal science society.

“(G) 1 member representing a national crop, soil, agronomy, horticulture, plant pathology, or weed science society.

“(H) 1 member representing a national food science organization.

“(I) 1 member representing a national human health association.

“(J) 1 member representing a national nutritional science society.

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“(K) 1 member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*).

“(L) 1 member representing the land-grant colleges and universities eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*), including Tuskegee University.

“(M) 1 member representing the 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-

Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382)).

“(N) 1 member representing NLGCA Institutions.

“(O) 1 member representing Hispanic-serving institutions.

“(P) 1 member representing the American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine.

“(Q) 1 member engaged in the transportation of food and agricultural products to domestic and foreign markets.

“(R) 1 member representing food retailing and marketing interests.

“(S) 1 member representing food and fiber processors.

“(T) 1 member actively engaged in rural economic development.

“(U) 1 member representing a national consumer interest group.

“(V) 1 member representing a national forestry group.

“(W) 1 member representing a national conservation or natural resource group.

“(X) 1 member representing private sector organizations involved in international development.

“(Y) 1 member representing a national social science association.”;

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “\$350,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(3) in subsection (h), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(b) NO EFFECT ON TERMS.—Nothing in this section or any amendment made by this section affects the term of any member of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board serving as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7103. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE REPORT.

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

“(4) Analyses of changes in macroeconomic conditions, technologies, and policies on specialty crop production and consumption, with particular focus on the effect of those changes on the financial stability of producers.

“(5) Development of data that provide applied information useful to specialty crop growers, their associations, and other interested beneficiaries in evaluating that industry from a regional and national perspective.”.

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SEC. 7104. RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1408A (7 U.S.C. 3123a) the following:

“SEC. 1408B. RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE.

“(a) INITIAL MEMBERS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the executive committee of the Advisory Board shall establish and appoint the initial members of a permanent renewable energy committee.

“(b) DUTIES.—The permanent renewable energy committee shall study the scope and effectiveness of research, extension, and economics programs affecting the renewable energy industry.

“(c) **NONADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An individual who is not a member of the Advisory Board may be appointed as a member of the renewable energy committee.

“(2) **SERVICE.**—A member of the renewable energy committee shall serve at the discretion of the executive committee.

“(d) **REPORT BY RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of establishment of the renewable energy committee, and annually thereafter, the renewable energy committee shall submit to the Advisory Board a report that contains the findings and any recommendations of the renewable energy committee with respect to the study conducted under subsection (b).

“(e) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), the renewable energy committee shall consult with the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee established under section 9008(d) of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 8605).

“(f) **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN BUDGET RECOMMENDATION.**—In preparing the annual budget recommendations for the Department, the Secretary shall take into consideration those findings and recommendations contained in the most recent report of the renewable energy committee under subsection (d) that are developed by the Advisory Committee.

“(g) **REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.**—In the budget material submitted to Congress by the Secretary in connection with the budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall include a report that describes the ways in which the Secretary addressed each recommendation of the renewable energy committee described in subsection (f).”.

SEC. 7105. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.**—In determining ‘veterinarian shortage situations’, the Secretary may consider—

“(1) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians; and

“(2) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety.”;

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

“(8) **PRIORITY.**—In administering the program, the Secretary shall give priority to agreements with veterinarians for the practice of food animal medicine in veterinarian shortage situations.”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

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

“(d) **USE OF FUNDS.**—None of the funds appropriated to the Secretary under subsection (f) may be used to carry out section 5379 of title 5, United States Code.

“(e) **REGULATIONS.**—Notwithstanding subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 270 days after the date

of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.”.

(b) **DISAPPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—Congress disapproves the transfer of funds from the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to the Food Safety and Inspection Service described in the notice of use of funds for implementation of the veterinary medicine loan repayment program authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (72 Fed. Reg. 48609 (August 24, 2007)), and such funds shall be rescinded on the date of enactment of this Act and made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for use only in accordance with section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) (as amended by subsection (a)).

SEC. 7106. ELIGIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152) is amended—
(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (b), by inserting “(including the University of the District of Columbia)” after “land-grant colleges and universities”; and
(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “(including the University of the District of Columbia)” after “universities”.

SEC. 7107. GRANTS TO 1890 SCHOOLS TO EXPAND EXTENSION CAPACITY.

Section 1417(b)(4) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(4)) is amended by striking “teaching and research” and inserting “teaching, research, and extension”.

SEC. 7108. EXPANSION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AWARDS.

Section 1417(i) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(i)) is amended—
(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “Teaching Awards” and inserting “Teaching, Extension, and Research Awards”; and
(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a National Food and Agricultural Sciences Teaching, Extension, and Research Awards program to recognize and promote
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excellence in teaching, extension, and research in the food and agricultural sciences at a college or university.

“(B) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall make at least 1 cash award in each fiscal year to a nominee selected by the Secretary for excellence in each of the areas of teaching, extension, and research of food and agricultural science at a college or university.”.

SEC. 7109. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

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

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “SECONDARY EDUCATION AND 2-YEAR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHING

PROGRAMS” and inserting “SECONDARY EDUCATION, 2-YEAR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE IN THE K–12 CLASSROOM”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “secondary schools, and institutions of higher education that award an associate’s degree” and inserting “secondary schools, institutions of higher education that award an associate’s degree, other institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations”;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) to support current agriculture in the classroom programs for grades K–12.”

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

(1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection (m); and

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

“(l) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a biennial report detailing the distribution of funds used to implement the teaching programs under subsection (j).”

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1417(m) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) take effect on October 1, 2008.

SEC. 7110. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ALCOHOLS AND INDUSTRIAL HYDROCARBONS FROM AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FOREST PRODUCTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1419 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3154) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1463(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311(a)) is amended by striking “1419”.

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SEC. 7111. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 1419A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “(including commodities, livestock, dairy, and specialty crops)” after “agricultural sectors”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “(including the Food Agricultural Policy Research Institute, the Agricultural and Food Policy Center, the Rural Policy Research Institute, and the National Drought Mitigation Center)” after “research institutions and organizations”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7112. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE-SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 759 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (7 U.S.C. 3242)—

(1) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “2006” and inserting “2012”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, including permitting consortia to designate fiscal agents for the members of the consortia and to allocate among the members funds made available under this section”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “2006” and inserting “2012”;

(2) is redesignated as section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977; and

(3) is moved so as to appear after section 1419A of that Act (7 U.S.C. 3155).

SEC. 7113. EMPHASIS OF HUMAN NUTRITION INITIATIVE.

Section 1424(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3174(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and,”;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) proposals that examine the efficacy of current agriculture policies in promoting the health and welfare of economically disadvantaged populations;”.

SEC. 7114. HUMAN NUTRITION INTERVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 1424(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3174(d)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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SEC. 7115. PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM TO COMBINE MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Section 1424A(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3174a(d)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7116. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (c) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively;

(2) by striking the section heading and designation and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1425. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITION OF 1862 INSTITUTION AND 1890 INSTITUTION.—

In this section, the terms ‘1862 Institution’ and ‘1890 Institution’ have the meaning given those terms in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).”;

(3) in subsection (b) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “(b) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary”;

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking “(c) In order to enable” and inserting the following:

“(c) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—To enable”;

(5) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “(d) Beginning” and inserting the following:

“(d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Beginning”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) Notwithstanding section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343(d)), the remainder shall be allocated among the States as follows:

“(i) \$100,000 shall be distributed to each 1862 Institution and 1890 Institution.

“(ii) Subject to clause (iii), the remainder shall be allocated to each State in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allocated under this clause as—

“(I) the population living at or below 125 percent of the income poverty guidelines (as prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget and as adjusted pursuant to section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) in the State; bears to

“(II) the total population living at or below 125 percent of those income poverty guidelines in all States;

as determined by the most recent decennial census at the time at which each such additional amount is first appropriated.

“(iii)(I) Before any allocation of funds under clause (ii), for any fiscal year for which the amount of funds appropriated for the conduct of the expanded food and 338

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nutrition education program exceeds the amount of funds appropriated for the program for fiscal year 2007, the following percentage of such excess funds for the fiscal year shall be allocated to the 1890 Institutions in accordance with subclause (II):

“(aa) 10 percent for fiscal year 2009.

“(bb) 11 percent for fiscal year 2010.

“(cc) 12 percent for fiscal year 2011.

“(dd) 13 percent for fiscal year 2012.

“(ee) 14 percent for fiscal year 2013.

“(ff) 15 percent for fiscal year 2014 and for each fiscal year thereafter.

“(II) Funds made available under subclause (I) shall be allocated to each 1890 Institution in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allocated under this clause as—

“(aa) the population living at or below 125 percent of the income poverty guidelines (as prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget and as adjusted pursuant to section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.

9902(2))) in the State in which the 1890 Institution is located; bears to

“(bb) the total population living at or below 125 percent of those income poverty guidelines in all States in which 1890 Institutions are located; as determined by the most recent decennial census at the time at which each such additional amount is first appropriated.

“(iv) Nothing in this subparagraph precludes the Secretary from developing educational materials and programs for persons in income ranges above the level designated in this subparagraph.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3); and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **COMPLEMENTARY ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure the complementary administration of the expanded food and nutrition education program by 1862 Institutions and 1890 Institutions in a State.

“(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the expanded food and nutrition education program established under section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343(d)), and this section \$90,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1588(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 3175e(b)) is amended by striking “section 1425(c)(2)” and inserting “section 1425(d)(2)”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2008.

SEC. 7117. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1433(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195(a)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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SEC. 7118. COOPERATION AMONG ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **COOPERATION AMONG ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**—The Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall encourage eligible institutions to cooperate in setting research priorities under this section through the conduct of regular regional and national meetings.”.

SEC. 7119. APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH ON NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROBLEMS.

Section 1434(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3196(a)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7120. ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 1434(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3196(b)) is amended by inserting after “universities” the following: “(including 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)))”.

SEC. 7121. AUTHORIZATION LEVEL FOR EXTENSION AT 1890 LANDGRANT COLLEGES.

Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,

and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking “15 percent” and inserting “20 percent”.

SEC. 7122. AUTHORIZATION LEVEL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.

Section 1445(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222(a)(2)) is amended by striking “25 percent” and inserting “30 percent”.

SEC. 7123. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7124. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1447 (7 U.S.C. 3222b) the following:

“SEC. 1447A. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the intent of Congress to assist the landgrant university in the District of Columbia established under section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–471; 88 Stat. 1428) in efforts to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research.

“(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

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SEC. 7125. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AT INSULAR AREA LANDGRANT INSTITUTIONS.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1447A (as added by section 7124) the following:

“SEC. 1447B. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AT INSULAR AREA LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the intent of Congress to assist the landgrant institutions in the insular areas in efforts to acquire, alter, or repair facilities or relevant equipment necessary for conducting agricultural research.

“(b) **METHOD OF AWARING GRANTS.**—Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be made in such amounts and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may promulgate such rules and regulations as the Secretary considers to be necessary to carry out this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 7126. NATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING VIRTUAL CENTERS.

Section 1448 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222c) is amended by

striking “2007” each place it appears in subsections (a)(1) and (f) and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7127. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES OF 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1449(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222d(c)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007,”; and

(B) by inserting “equal” before “matching”; and

(2) by striking the second sentence and all that follows through paragraph (5).

SEC. 7128. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “(or grants without regard to any requirement for competition)”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “of consortia”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$40,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7129. HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after section 1455 (7 U.S.C. 3241) the following:

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“SEC. 1456. HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

“(a) *DEFINITION OF ENDOWMENT FUND.*—In this section, the term ‘endowment fund’ means the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Fund established under subsection (b).

“(b) *ENDOWMENT.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish in accordance with this subsection a Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Fund.

“(2) *AGREEMENTS.*—The Secretary of the Treasury may enter into such agreements as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(3) *DEPOSIT TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the endowment fund any—

“(A) amounts made available through Acts of appropriations, which shall be the endowment fund corpus; and

“(B) interest earned on the endowment fund corpus.

“(4) *INVESTMENTS.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest the endowment fund corpus and income in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

“(5) *WITHDRAWALS AND EXPENDITURES.*—

“(A) *CORPUS.*—The Secretary of the Treasury may not make a withdrawal or expenditure from the endowment fund corpus.

“(B) *WITHDRAWALS.*—On September 30, 2008, and each September 30 thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall withdraw the amount of the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year and warrant the funds to the Secretary of Agriculture who, after making adjustments for the cost of administering the endowment fund, shall distribute

the adjusted income as follows:

“(i) 60 percent shall be distributed among the Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities on a pro rata basis based on the Hispanic enrollment count of each institution.

“(ii) 40 percent shall be distributed in equal shares to the Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.

“(6) ENDOWMENTS.—Amounts made available under this subsection shall be held and considered to be granted to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities to establish an endowment in accordance with this subsection.

“(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR ANNUAL PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this subsection an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

“(A) \$80,000; by

“(B) the number of Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.

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“(2) PAYMENTS.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the treasurer of each Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university an amount equal to—

“(A) the total amount made available by appropriations under paragraph (1); divided by

“(B) the number of Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this subsection shall be used in the same manner as is prescribed for colleges under the Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as the ‘Second Morrill Act’) (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.).

“(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the requirements of that Act shall apply to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities under this section.

“(d) INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall make grants to assist Hispanicserving agricultural colleges and universities in institutional capacity building (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings).

“(2) CRITERIA FOR INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants under this subsection on the basis of a competitive application process under which Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities may submit applications to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(B) DEMONSTRATION OF NEED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—As part of an application for a grant under this subsection, the Secretary shall require the applicant to demonstrate need for the grant, as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.—The Secretary may award a grant under this subsection only to an applicant that demonstrates a failure to obtain funding for a project after making a reasonable effort to otherwise obtain the funding.

“(C) PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—A grant awarded under this subsection shall be made only if the recipient of the grant pays a non-Federal share in an amount that is specified by the Secretary and based on assessed institutional needs.

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.

“(e) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grants program to fund fundamental and applied research at Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities in agriculture, human nutrition, food science, bioenergy, and environmental science.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

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

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for payments to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) such sums as are necessary to carry out this paragraph for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

“(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be in addition to any other amounts made available under this section to States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, or the United States Virgin Islands.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be—

“(i) distributed on the basis of a competitive application process to be developed and implemented by the Secretary;

“(ii) paid by the Secretary to the State institutions established in accordance with the Act of July 2, 1862

(commonly known as the ‘First Morrill Act’) (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); and

“(iii) administered by State institutions through cooperative agreements with the Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities in the State in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.”;

and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

after “1994 INSTITUTIONS”;

(B) by striking “pursuant to subsection (b)(3)” and inserting “or Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b)”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

The term ‘Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities’ has the meaning given the term in section 344

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1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).”.

(2) Section 102(c) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7612(c)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

after “INSTITUTIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and 1994 Institution” and inserting “1994 Institution, and Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university”.

(3) Section 103(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

To be eligible to obtain agricultural extension funds from the Secretary for an activity, each Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university shall—

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

and

“(B) review the activity in accordance with such process.”.

(4) Section 406(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(b)) is amended by striking “and 1994 Institutions” and inserting “, 1994 Institutions, and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities”.

SEC. 7130. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” after the

semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and” at the end;
and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) giving priority to those institutions with existing memoranda of understanding, agreements, or other formal ties to United States institutions, or Federal or State agencies;”;

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

“(3) enter into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, the Agency for International Development, and international organizations (such as the United Nations, the World Bank, regional development banks, international agricultural research centers), or other organizations, institutions, or individuals with comparable goals, to promote and support—

“(A) the development of a viable and sustainable global agricultural system;

“(B) antihunger and improved international nutrition efforts; and

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“(C) increased quantity, quality, and availability of food;”;

(3) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “and land-grant colleges and universities” and inserting “, land-grant colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities”;

(4) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or other colleges and universities” and inserting “, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, or other colleges and universities”;

and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(5) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) establish a program for the purpose of providing fellowships to United States or foreign students to study at foreign agricultural colleges and universities working under agreements provided for under paragraph (3).”.

SEC. 7131. COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Section 1459A(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b(c)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7132. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS.**—Section 1462(a) of the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “a competitive” and inserting “any”; and

(2) by striking “19 percent” and inserting “22 percent”.

(b) **AUDITING, REPORTING, BOOKKEEPING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 1469(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315(a)(3)) is amended by striking “appropriated” and inserting

“made available”.

SEC. 7133. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7134. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.

Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311) is amended by striking “2007” each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7135. EXTENSION SERVICE.

Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3312) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7136. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

Section 1473D(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d(a)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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SEC. 7137. NEW ERA RURAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1473E. NEW ERA RURAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—In this section, the term ‘community college’ means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))—

“(1) that admits as regular students individuals who—

“(A) are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located; and

“(B) have the ability to benefit from the training offered by the institution;

“(2) that does not provide an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor’s degree or an equivalent degree; and

“(3) that—

“(A) provides an educational program of not less than 2 years that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree; or

“(B) offers a 2-year program in engineering, technology, mathematics, or the physical, chemical, or biological sciences, designed to prepare a student to work as a technician or at the semiprofessional level in engineering, scientific, or other technological fields requiring the understanding and application of basic engineering, scientific, or mathematical principles of knowledge.

“(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the ‘New Era Rural Technology Program’, to make grants available for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce.

“(B) **SUPPORT.**—The initiative under this section shall support the fields of—

“(i) bioenergy;

“(ii) pulp and paper manufacturing; and

“(iii) agriculture-based renewable energy resources.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING.—To receive funding under this section, an entity shall—

“(A) be a community college or advanced technological center, located in a rural area and in existence on the date of the enactment of this section, that participates in agricultural or bioenergy research and applied research;

“(B) have a proven record of development and implementation of programs to meet the needs of students, educators, and business and industry to supply the agriculture-based, renewable energy or pulp and paper manufacturing fields with certified technicians, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(C) have the ability to leverage existing partnerships and occupational outreach and training programs for secondary schools, 4-year institutions, and relevant nonprofit organizations.

“(c) GRANT PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities working in partnership—

“(1) to improve information-sharing capacity; and

“(2) to maximize the ability to meet the requirements of this section.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”

SEC. 7138. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTITUTIONS.

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310 et seq.) (as amended by section 7137) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1473F. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to NLGCA Institutions to assist the NLGCA Institutions in maintaining and expanding the capacity of the NLGCA Institutions to conduct education, research, and outreach activities relating to—

“(A) agriculture;

“(B) renewable resources; and

“(C) other similar disciplines.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An NLGCA Institution that receives a grant under paragraph (1) may use the funds made available through the grant to maintain and expand the capacity of the NLGCA Institution—

“(A) to successfully compete for funds from Federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, State, and local interest;

“(B) to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to—

“(i) interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities;

“(ii) the public; and

“(iii) any other interested entity;
“(C) to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities by providing matching funding to leverage grant funds; and
“(D) through—
“(i) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings);
“(ii) the professional growth and development of the faculty of the NLGCA Institution; and
“(iii) the development of graduate assistantships.
“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

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SEC. 7139. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310 et seq.) (as amended by section 7138) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1473G. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a fellowship program, to be known as the ‘Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program,’ to provide fellowships for scientific training and study in the United States to individuals from eligible countries (as described in subsection (b)) who specialize in agricultural education, research, and extension.

“(2) PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall carry out the fellowship program by implementing 3 programs designed to assist individual fellowship recipients, including—

“(A) a graduate studies program in agriculture to assist individuals who participate in graduate agricultural degree training at a United States institution;

“(B) an individual career improvement program to assist agricultural scientists from developing countries in upgrading skills and understanding in agricultural science and technology; and

“(C) a Borlaug agricultural policy executive leadership course to assist senior agricultural policy makers from eligible countries, with an initial focus on individuals from sub-Saharan Africa and the independent states of the former Soviet Union.

“(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—An eligible country is a developing country, as determined by the Secretary using a gross national income per capita test selected by the Secretary.

“(c) PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIPS.—A fellowship provided under this section shall—

“(1) promote food security and economic growth in eligible countries by—

“(A) educating a new generation of agricultural scientists;

“(B) increasing scientific knowledge and collaborative

research to improve agricultural productivity; and
“(C) extending that knowledge to users and intermediaries
in the marketplace; and

“(2) shall support—

“(A) training and collaborative research opportunities
through exchanges for entry level international agricultural
research scientists, faculty, and policymakers from eligible
countries;

“(B) collaborative research to improve agricultural productivity;

“(C) the transfer of new science and agricultural technologies
to strengthen agricultural practice; and

“(D) the reduction of barriers to technology adoption.

“(d) FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS.—

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“(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES.—The Secretary may provide fellowships
under this section to individuals from eligible countries
who specialize or have experience in agricultural education,
research, extension, or related fields, including—

“(A) individuals from the public and private sectors;

and

“(B) private agricultural producers.

“(2) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall use
the expertise of United States land-grant colleges and universities
and similar universities, international organizations
working in agricultural research and outreach, and national
agricultural research organizations to help identify program
candidates for fellowships under this section from the public
and private sectors of eligible countries.

“(e) USE OF FELLOWSHIPS.—A fellowship provided under this
section shall be used—

“(1) to promote collaborative programs among agricultural
professionals of eligible countries, agricultural professionals of
the United States, the international agricultural research system,
and, as appropriate, United States entities conducting research;
and

“(2) to support fellowship recipients through programs described
in subsection (a)(2).

“(f) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall provide
for the management, coordination, evaluation, and monitoring of
the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship
Program and for the individual programs described in subsection
(a)(2), except that the Secretary may contract out to 1 or
more collaborating universities the management of 1 or more of the
fellowship programs.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized
to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section,
to remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 7140. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 1477 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324) is amended by
striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7141. RANGELAND RESEARCH GRANTS.

Section 1483(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3336(a)) is amended
by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7142. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND RESPONSE.

Section 1484(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7143. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION AND DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSULAR AREA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.—Section 1490(f) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3362(f)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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(b) RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.—Section 1491 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3363) is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (c); and
(2) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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

SEC. 7201. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

Section 1635(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7202. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

Section 1641(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5855(c)) is amended by striking “1991 through 1997” and inserting “2008 through 2012”.

SEC. 7203. PARTNERSHIPS.

Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AREAS.

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

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and controlling aflatoxin in the food and feed chains.” and inserting “, improving, and eventually commercializing, aflatoxin controls in corn and other affected agricultural products and crops.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (1), (4), (7), (8), (15), (17), (21), (23), (26), (27), (32), (34), (41), (42), (43), and (45);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), (9) through (14), (16), (18) through (20), (22), (24), (25), (28) through (31), (33), (35) through (40), and (44) as paragraphs (1) through (29), respectively; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(30) AIR EMISSIONS FROM LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of conducting field verification tests and developing mitigation options for air emissions from animal feeding operations.

“(31) SWINE GENOME PROJECT.—Research grants may be made under this section to conduct swine genome research, including the mapping of the swine genome.

“(32) *CATTLE FEVER TICK PROGRAM.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study cattle fever ticks to facilitate understanding of the role of wildlife in the persistence and spread of cattle fever ticks, to develop advanced methods for eradication of cattle fever ticks, and to improve
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management of diseases relating to cattle fever ticks that are associated with wildlife, livestock, and human health.

“(33) *SYNTHETIC GYPSUM.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study the uses of synthetic gypsum from electric power plants to remediate soil and nutrient losses.

“(34) *CRANBERRY RESEARCH PROGRAM.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study new technologies to assist cranberry growers in complying with Federal and State environmental regulations, increase production, develop new growing techniques, establish more efficient growing methodologies, and educate cranberry producers about sustainable growth practices.

“(35) *SORGHUM RESEARCH INITIATIVE.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study the use of sorghum as a bioenergy feedstock, promote diversification in, and the environmental benefits of sorghum production, and promote water conservation through the use of sorghum.

“(36) *MARINE SHRIMP FARMING PROGRAM.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to establish a research program to advance and maintain a domestic shrimp farming industry in the United States.

“(37) *TURFGRASS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study the production of turfgrass (including the use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, fossil fuels, and machinery for turf establishment and maintenance) and environmental protection and enhancement relating to turfgrass production.

“(38) *AGRICULTURAL WORKER SAFETY RESEARCH INITIATIVE.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section—

“(A) to study and demonstrate methods to minimize exposure of farm and ranch owners and operators, pesticide handlers, and agricultural workers to pesticides, including research addressing the unique concerns of farm workers resulting from long-term exposure to pesticides; and

“(B) to develop rapid tests for on-farm use to better inform and educate farmers, ranchers, and farm and ranch workers regarding safe field re-entry intervals.

“(39) *HIGH PLAINS AQUIFER REGION.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to carry out interdisciplinary research relating to diminishing water levels and increased demand for water in the High Plains aquifer region.

“(40) *DEER INITIATIVE.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to support collaborative research focusing on the development of viable strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious, parasitic, and toxic diseases of farmed deer and the mapping of the deer genome.

“(41) PASTURE-BASED BEEF SYSTEMS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study the development of forage sequences and combinations for cow-calf, heifer development, stocker, and finishing systems, to deliver optimal nutritive value for efficient production of cattle for pasture finishing, to optimize forage sys352

O:\WEI\WEI08437.xml [file 8 of 16] S.L.C. tems to improve marketability of pasture-finished beef, and to assess the effect of forage quality on reproductive fitness.

“(42) AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for field and laboratory studies that examine the ecosystem from gross to minute scales and for projects that explore the relationship of agricultural practices to climate change.

“(43) BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL AND ERADICATION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to conduct research relating to the development of vaccines and vaccine delivery systems to effectively control and eliminate brucellosis in wildlife, and to assist with the controlling of the spread of brucellosis from wildlife to domestic animals.

“(44) BIGHORN AND DOMESTIC SHEEP DISEASE MECHANISMS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to conduct research relating to the health status of (including the presence of infectious diseases in) bighorn and domestic sheep under range conditions.

“(45) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAN-PACIFIC REGION.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to support food and agricultural science at a consortium of land-grant institutions in the American-Pacific region.

“(46) TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.—Research grants may be made under this section, in equal dollar amounts to the Caribbean and Pacific Basins, to support tropical and subtropical agricultural research, including pest and disease research, at the land-grant institutions in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

“(47) VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to study—

“(A) the effects of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (referred to in this paragraph as ‘VHS’) on freshwater fish throughout the natural and expanding range of VHS; and

“(B) methods for transmission and human-mediated transport of VHS among waterbodies.

“(48) FARM AND RANCH SAFETY.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to carry out projects to decrease the incidence of injury and death on farms and ranches, including—

“(A) on-site farm or ranch safety reviews;

“(B) outreach and dissemination of farm safety research and interventions to agricultural employers, employees, youth, farm and ranch families, seasonal workers, or other individuals; and

“(C) agricultural safety education and training.

“(49) WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase

participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary.

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“(50) ALFALFA AND FORAGE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of studying improvements in alfalfa and forage yields, biomass and persistence, pest pressures, the bioenergy potential of alfalfa and other forages, and systems to reduce losses during harvest and storage.

“(51) FOOD SYSTEMS VETERINARY MEDICINE.—Research grants may be made under this section to address health issues that affect food-producing animals, food safety, and the environment, and to improve information resources, curriculum, and clinical education of students with respect to food animal veterinary medicine and food safety.

“(52) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Grants may be made under this section for research, extension, and integrated activities relating to the study of biochar production and use, including considerations of agronomic and economic impacts, synergies of coproduction with bioenergy, and the value of soil enhancements and soil carbon sequestration.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (j);

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) POLLINATOR PROTECTION.—

“(1) RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

“(A) GRANTS.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section—

“(i) to survey and collect data on bee colony production and health;

“(ii) to investigate pollinator biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics;

“(iii) to conduct research on various factors that may be contributing to or associated with colony collapse disorder, and other serious threats to the health of honey bees and other pollinators, including—

“(I) parasites and pathogens of pollinators;

and

“(II) the sublethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees and native and managed pollinators;

“(iv) to develop mitigative and preventative measures to improve native and managed pollinator health;

and

“(v) to promote the health of honey bees and native pollinators through habitat conservation and best management practices.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(2) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, increase the capacity and infrastructure of the Department—

“(i) to address colony collapse disorder and other long-term threats to pollinator health, including the hiring of additional personnel; and
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“(ii) to conduct research on colony collapse disorder and other pollinator issues at the facilities of the Department.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$7,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(3) HONEY BEE PEST AND PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to conduct a nationwide honey bee pest and pathogen surveillance program \$2,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(4) ANNUAL REPORT ON RESPONSE TO HONEY BEE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report describing the progress made by the Department of Agriculture in—

“(A) investigating the cause or causes of honey bee colony collapse; and

“(B) finding appropriate strategies to reduce colony loss.

“(i) REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall prioritize regional centers of excellence established for specific agricultural commodities for the receipt of funding under this section.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—A regional center of excellence shall be composed of 1 or more colleges and universities (including landgrant institutions, schools of forestry, schools of veterinary medicine, or NLGCA Institutions (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103))) that provide financial support to the regional center of excellence.

“(3) CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The criteria for consideration to be a regional center of excellence shall include efforts—

“(A) to ensure coordination and cost-effectiveness by reducing unnecessarily duplicative efforts regarding research, teaching, and extension;

“(B) to leverage available resources by using public/private partnerships among agricultural industry groups, institutions of higher education, and the Federal Government;

“(C) to implement teaching initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities;

“(D) to increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues; and

“(E) to improve teaching capacity and infrastructure at colleges and universities (including land-grant institutions, schools of forestry, and schools of veterinary medicine).”;
and

(4) in subsection (j) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking “(e), (f), and (g)” and inserting “(e) through (i)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraphs (1), (6), (7), and (11)” and inserting “paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsections (e) through (i)”.

SEC. 7205. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

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

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

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.”;

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) *PRIORITY.*—Following the completion of a peer review process for grant proposals received under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to those grant proposals that involve—

“(1) the cooperation of multiple entities; and

“(2) States or regions with a high concentration of livestock, dairy, or poultry operations.”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “and dairy and beef cattle waste” after “swine waste”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) *ALTERNATIVE USES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.*—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of finding innovative methods and technologies to allow agricultural operators to make use of animal waste, such as use as fertilizer, methane digestion, composting, and other useful byproducts.”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f); and

(5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7206. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) (commonly known as the “Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative”) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

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“(7) examining optimal conservation and environmental outcomes relating to organically produced agricultural products;

and

“(8) developing new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section—

“(A) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(B) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

“(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.”.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the amendment made by this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the Division Chief of the applicable Research, Education, and Extension Office established under section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) coordinates projects and activities under this section to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that unnecessary duplication of effort is eliminated or minimized.

SEC. 7207. AGRICULTURAL BIOENERGY FEEDSTOCK AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 *et seq.*) is amended by inserting after section 1672B (7 U.S.C. 5925b) the following:

“SEC. 1672C. AGRICULTURAL BIOENERGY FEEDSTOCK AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—There is established within the Department of Agriculture an agricultural bioenergy feedstock and energy efficiency research and extension initiative (referred to in this section as the ‘Initiative’) for the purpose of enhancing the production of biomass energy crops and the energy efficiency of agricultural operations.

“(b) COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to support research and extension activities specified in subsections (c) and (d).

“(c) AGRICULTURAL BIOENERGY FEEDSTOCK RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AREAS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Agricultural bioenergy feedstock research and extension activities funded under the Initiative shall focus on improving agricultural biomass production, biomass conversion in biorefineries, and biomass use by—

“(A) supporting on-farm research on crop species, nutrient requirements, management practices, environmental impacts, and economics;

“(B) supporting the development and operation of onfarm, integrated biomass feedstock production systems;

“(C) leveraging the broad scientific capabilities of the Department of Agriculture and other entities in—

“(i) plant genetics and breeding;

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“(ii) crop production;

“(iii) soil and water science;

“(iv) use of agricultural waste; and
“(v) carbohydrate, lipid, protein, and lignin chemistry, enzyme development, and biochemistry; and
“(D) supporting the dissemination of any of the research conducted under this subsection that will assist in achieving the goals of this section.
“(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting grant recipients for projects under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—
“(A) the capabilities and experiences of the applicant, including—
“(i) research in actual field conditions; and
“(ii) engineering and research knowledge relating to biofuels or the production of inputs for biofuel production;
“(B) the range of species types and cropping practices proposed for study (including species types and practices studied using side-by-side comparisons of those types and practices);
“(C) the need for regional diversity among feedstocks;
“(D) the importance of developing multiyear data relevant to the production of biomass feedstock crops;
“(E) the extent to which the project involves direct participation of agricultural producers;
“(F) the extent to which the project proposal includes a plan or commitment to use the biomass produced as part of the project in commercial channels; and
“(G) such other factors as the Secretary may determine.
“(d) ENERGY-EFFICIENCY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AREAS.—On-farm energy-efficiency research and extension activities funded under the Initiative shall focus on developing and demonstrating technologies and production practices relating to—
“(1) improving on-farm renewable energy production;
“(2) encouraging efficient on-farm energy use;
“(3) promoting on-farm energy conservation;
“(4) making a farm or ranch energy-neutral; and
“(5) enhancing on-farm usage of advanced technologies to promote energy efficiency.
“(e) BEST PRACTICES DATABASE.—The Secretary shall develop a best-practices database that includes information, to be available to the public, on—
“(1) the production potential of a variety of biomass crops; and
“(2) best practices for production, collection, harvesting, storage, and transportation of biomass crops to be used as a source of bioenergy.
“(f) ADMINISTRATION.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) shall apply with respect to making grants under this section.
“(2) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

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“(A) make the grants in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; and

“(B) coordinate projects and activities carried out under the Initiative with projects and activities under section 9008 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that—

“(i) unnecessary duplication of effort is eliminated or minimized; and

“(ii) the respective strengths of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy are appropriately used.

“(3) GRANT PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to grant applications that integrate research and extension activities established under subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

“(4) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this section, the Secretary shall require the recipient of the grant to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount that is at least equal to the amount provided by the Federal Government.

“(5) PARTNERSHIPS ENCOURAGED.—Following the completion of a peer review process for grant proposals received under this section, the Secretary may provide a priority to those grant proposals found as a result of the peer review process—

“(A) to be scientifically meritorious; and

“(B) that involve cooperation—

“(i) among multiple entities; and

“(ii) with agricultural producers.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 7208. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND BENCHMARKING. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1672C (as added by section 7207) the following:

“**SEC. 1672D. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make competitive research and extension grants for the purpose of—

“(1) improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers; and

“(2) establishing and maintaining a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

“(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In allocating funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may give priority to grants that—

“(1) demonstrate an ability to work directly with agricultural producers;

“(2) collaborate with farm management and producer associations;

“(3) address the farm management needs of a variety of crops and regions of the United States; and

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“(4) use and support the national farm financial management database.

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) shall apply with respect to the making

of grants under this section.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 7209. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM.

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

SEC. 7210. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680(c)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933(c)(1)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7211. RESEARCH ON HONEY BEE DISEASES.

Section 1681 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5934) is repealed.

SEC. 7212. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

Subtitle C—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998

SEC. 7301. PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.

Section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONSIDERATION.—Peer and merit review procedures established under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not take the offer or availability of matching funds into consideration.”.

SEC. 7302. PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGH-VALUE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY RESEARCH.

Section 402 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7622) is repealed.

SEC. 7303. PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

Section 403 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7623) is repealed.

SEC. 7304. BIOBASED PRODUCTS.

(a) PILOT PROJECT.—Section 404(e)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.

7624(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 404(h) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624(h)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

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SEC. 7305. THOMAS JEFFERSON INITIATIVE FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION.

Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is repealed.

SEC. 7306. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7307. FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM GRANTS.

Section 408 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7628) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading, by striking “GRANT” and inserting “GRANTS”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7308. BOVINE JOHNE’S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM.

Section 409(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7629(b)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7309. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 410 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630) is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary shall provide maximum flexibility in content delivery to each organization receiving funds under this section so as to ensure that the unique goals of each organization, as well as the local community needs, are fully met.

“(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED.—Recipients of funds under this section may redistribute all or part of the funds received to individual councils or local chapters within the councils without further need of approval from the Secretary.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”

SEC. 7310. AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Section 411(c) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7631(c)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7311. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 412. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Initiative’ means the specialty crop research and extension initiative established by subsection (b).

“(2) SPECIALTY CROP.—The term ‘specialty crop’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Specialty Crops

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Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department a specialty crop research and extension initiative to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions, including—

“(1) research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics, such as—

“(A) product, taste, quality, and appearance;

“(B) environmental responses and tolerances;

“(C) nutrient management, including plant nutrient uptake efficiency;

“(D) pest and disease management, including resistance to pests and diseases resulting in reduced application management strategies; and

“(E) enhanced phytonutrient content;

“(2) efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators;

“(3) efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing);

“(4) new innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and

“(5) methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce.

“(c) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—The Secretary may carry out the Initiative through—

“(1) Federal agencies;

“(2) national laboratories;

“(3) colleges and universities;

“(4) research institutions and organizations;

“(5) private organizations or corporations;

“(6) State agricultural experiment stations;

“(7) individuals; or

“(8) groups consisting of 2 or more entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

“(d) *RESEARCH PROJECTS.*—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis.

“(e) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—With respect to grants awarded under subsection (d), the Secretary shall—

“(A) seek and accept proposals for grants;

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

“(C) award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance.

“(2) *TERM.*—The term of a grant under this section may not exceed 10 years.

“(3) *MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.*—The Secretary shall require the recipient of a grant under this section to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount that

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is at least equal to the amount provided by the Federal Government.

“(4) *OTHER CONDITIONS.*—The Secretary may set such other conditions on the award of a grant under this section as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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

“(1) are multistate, multi-institutional, or multidisciplinary; and

“(2) include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public.

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

“(h) *FUNDING.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012, from which activities under each of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (b) shall be allocated not less than 10 percent.

“(2) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—In addition to funds made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(3) *TRANSFER.*—Of the funds made available to the Secretary under paragraph (1) for fiscal year 2008 and authorized for use for payment of administrative expenses under section 1469(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3315(a)(3)), the Secretary shall transfer, upon the date of enactment of this section, \$200,000 to the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency for use in conducting a meta-analysis relating to methyl bromide.

“(4) *AVAILABILITY.*—Funds made available pursuant to this subsection for a fiscal year shall remain available until expended to pay for obligations incurred in that fiscal year.”.

(b) *COORDINATION.*—In carrying out the amendment made by this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the Division Chief of the applicable Research, Education, and Extension Office established under section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) coordinates projects and activities under this section to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that unnecessary duplication of effort is eliminated or minimized.

SEC. 7312. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM. Section 604 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—In addition to any other funds available to carry out subsection (c), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

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SEC. 7313. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.

Section 614(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

Subtitle D—Other Laws

SEC. 7401. CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.

Section 16(a) of the Critical Agricultural Materials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7402. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.

(a) *DEFINITION OF 1994 INSTITUTIONS.*—Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended by adding at the end the following: “(34) Ilisagvik College.”.

(b) *ENDOWMENT FOR 1994 INSTITUTIONS.*—Section 533 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “this section and” before “sections 534,”; and

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(c) **REDISTRIBUTION.**—Section 534(a)(3) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

(1) by striking “The amounts” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amounts”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **REDISTRIBUTION.**—Funds that would be paid to a 1994 Institution under paragraph (2) shall be withheld from that 1994 Institution and redistributed among the other 1994 Institutions if that 1994 Institution—

“(i) declines to accept funds under paragraph (2);

or

“(ii) fails to meet the accreditation requirements under section 533(a)(3).”.

(d) **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.**—Section 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended by striking “2007” each place it appears and inserting “2012”.

(e) **RESEARCH GRANTS.**—Section 536(c) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 2008.

SEC. 7403. SMITH-LEVER ACT.

(a) **PROGRAM.**—Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) is amended in the second sentence by striking “apply for and receive” and all that follows through paragraph (2) and inserting

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“compete for and receive funds directly from the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

(b) **ELIMINATION OF THE GOVERNOR’S REPORT REQUIREMENT FOR EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.**—Section 5 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 345) is amended by striking the third sentence.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking “after September 30, 1995, under section 3(d) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d))” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting “under section 3(d) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 343(d)).”.

SEC. 7404. HATCH ACT OF 1887.

(a) **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**—Section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA” after “AREAS”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “and the District of Columbia” after “United States”; and

(B) by inserting “and the District of Columbia” after “respectively,”; and

(3) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or the District of Columbia” after “area”.

(b) **ELIMINATION OF PENALTY MAIL AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361f) is amended in the first sentence by striking “under penalty indicia:” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting a period.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS IN OTHER LAWS.**—

(A) **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.**—

(i) Section 1444(f) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(f)) is amended by striking “under penalty indicia:” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting a period.

(ii) Section 1445(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222(e)) is amended by striking “under penalty indicia:” and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting a period.

(B) **OTHER PROVISIONS.**—Section 3202(a) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (D), by adding “and” at the end;

(II) in subparagraph (E), by striking “sections; and” and inserting “sections.”; and

(III) by striking subparagraph (F);

(ii) in paragraph (2), by adding “and” at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (3) by striking “thereof; and” and inserting “thereof.”; and

(iv) by striking paragraph (4).

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SEC. 7405. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.

Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7406. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department of Agriculture an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under which the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this subsection as ‘the Secretary’) may make competitive grants for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences (as defined under section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

“(2) **PRIORITY AREAS.**—The competitive grants program established under this subsection shall address the following areas:

“(A) **PLANT HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND PLANT PRODUCTS.**—

Plant systems, including—

“(i) *plant genome structure and function;*
“(ii) *molecular and cellular genetics and plant biotechnology;*
“(iii) *conventional breeding, including cultivar and breed development, selection theory, applied quantitative genetics, breeding for improved food quality, breeding for improved local adaptation to biotic stress and abiotic stress, and participatory breeding;*
“(iv) *plant-pest interactions and biocontrol systems;*
“(v) *crop plant response to environmental stresses;*
“(vi) *unproved nutrient qualities of plant products;*
and
“(vii) *new food and industrial uses of plant products.*

“(B) *ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS.—Animal systems, including—*

“(i) *aquaculture;*
“(ii) *cellular and molecular basis of animal reproduction, growth, disease, and health;*
“(iii) *animal biotechnology;*
“(iv) *conventional breeding, including breed development, selection theory, applied quantitative genetics, breeding for improved food quality, breeding for improved local adaptation to biotic stress and abiotic stress, and participatory breeding;*
“(v) *identification of genes responsible for improved production traits and resistance to disease;*
“(vi) *improved nutritional performance of animals;*
“(vii) *improved nutrient qualities of animal products and uses; and*
“(viii) *the development of new and improved animal husbandry and production systems that take into*
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account production efficiency, animal well-being, and animal systems applicable to aquaculture.

“(C) *FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH.—Nutrition, food safety and quality, and health, including—*

“(i) *microbial contaminants and pesticides residue relating to human health;*
“(ii) *links between diet and health;*
“(iii) *bioavailability of nutrients;*
“(iv) *postharvest physiology and practices; and*
“(v) *improved processing technologies.*
“(D) *RENEWABLE ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT.—Natural resources and the environment, including—*
“(i) *fundamental structures and functions of ecosystems;*
“(ii) *biological and physical bases of sustainable production systems;*
“(iii) *minimizing soil and water losses and sustaining surface water and ground water quality;*
“(iv) *global climate effects on agriculture;*
“(v) *forestry; and*
“(vi) *biological diversity.*

“(E) *AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY.—Engineering, products, and processes, including—*

“(i) *new uses and new products from traditional*

and nontraditional crops, animals, byproducts, and natural resources;

“(ii) robotics, energy efficiency, computing, and expert systems;

“(iii) new hazard and risk assessment and mitigation measures; and

“(iv) water quality and management.

“(F) AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Markets, trade, and policy, including—

“(i) strategies for entering into and being competitive in domestic and overseas markets;

“(ii) farm efficiency and profitability, including the viability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized dairy, livestock, crop and other commodity operations;

“(iii) new decision tools for farm and market systems;

“(iv) choices and applications of technology;

“(v) technology assessment; and

“(vi) new approaches to rural development, including rural entrepreneurship.

“(3) TERM.—The term of a competitive grant made under this subsection may not exceed 10 years.

“(4) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) seek and accept proposals for grants;

“(B) determine the relevance and merit of proposals through a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613);

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“(C) award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance;

“(D) solicit and consider input from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, extension, or education in accordance with section 102(b) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7612(b)); and

“(E) in seeking proposals for grants under this subsection and in performing peer review evaluations of such proposals, seek the widest participation of qualified individuals in the Federal Government, colleges and universities, State agricultural experiment stations, and the private sector.

“(5) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall allocate funds to the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to ensure that, of funds allocated for research activities—

“(A) not less than 60 percent is made available to make grants for fundamental research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971)), of which—

“(i) not less than 30 percent is made available to make grants for research to be conducted by multidisciplinary teams; and

“(ii) not more than 2 percent is used for equipment grants under paragraph (6)(A); and

“(B) not less than 40 percent is made available to make grants for applied research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971)).

“(6) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary may assist in the development of capabilities in the agricultural, food, and environmental sciences by providing grants—

“(A) to an institution to allow for the improvement of the research, development, technology transfer, and education capacity of the institution through the acquisition of special research equipment and the improvement of agricultural education and teaching, except that the Secretary shall use not less than 25 percent of the funds made available for grants under this subparagraph to provide fellowships to outstanding pre- and post-doctoral students for research in the agricultural sciences;

“(B) to a single investigator or coinvestigators who are beginning research careers and do not have an extensive research publication record, except that, to be eligible for a grant under this subparagraph, an individual shall be within 5 years of the beginning of the initial career track position of the individual;

“(C) to ensure that the faculty of small, mid-sized, and minority-serving institutions who have not previously been successful in obtaining competitive grants under this subsection receive a portion of the grants; and

“(D) to improve research, extension, and education capabilities in States (as defined in section 1404 of the Na368

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tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) in which institutions have been less successful in receiving funding under this subsection, based on a 3-year rolling average of funding levels.

“(7) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may make grants to carry out research, extension, and education under this subsection to—

“(A) State agricultural experiment stations;

“(B) colleges and universities;

“(C) university research foundations;

“(D) other research institutions and organizations;

“(E) Federal agencies;

“(F) national laboratories;

“(G) private organizations or corporations;

“(H) individuals; or

“(I) any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

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

“(9) MATCHING FUNDS.—

“(A) EQUIPMENT GRANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), in the case of a grant made under paragraph (6)(A),

the amount provided under this subsection may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the special research equipment or other equipment acquired using funds from the grant.

“(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under clause (i) in the case of a college, university, or research foundation maintained by a college or university that ranks in the lowest 1/3 of such colleges, universities, and research foundations on the basis of Federal research funds received, if the equipment to be acquired using funds from the grant costs not more than \$25,000 and has multiple uses within a single research project or is usable in more than 1 research project.

“(B) APPLIED RESEARCH.—As a condition of making a grant under paragraph (5)(B), the Secretary shall require the funding of the grant to be matched with equal matching funds from a non-Federal source if the grant is for applied research that is—

“(i) commodity-specific; and

“(ii) not of national scope.

“(10) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, shall allocate grants under this subsection to high-priority research, taking into consideration, when available, the determinations made by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (as established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)).

“(11) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, of which—

“(i) not less than 30 percent shall be made available for integrated research pursuant to section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626); and

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

“(B) AVAILABILITY.—Funds made available under this paragraph shall—

“(i) be available for obligation for a 2-year period beginning on October 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds are first made available; and

“(ii) remain available until expended to pay for obligations incurred during that 2-year period.”.

(b) REPEALS.—

(1) Section 401 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7621) is repealed.

(2) Subsection (d) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(d)) is repealed.

(c) EFFECT ON CURRENT SOLICITATIONS.—The amendments

made by this section shall not apply to any solicitation for grant applications issued by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service before the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319) is amended in the first sentence by striking “and subsection (d)”.

(2) Section 1671(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(d)) is amended by striking “Paragraphs (1), (6), (7), and (11)” and inserting “Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B)”.

(3) Section 1672B(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(b)) is amended by striking “Paragraphs (1), (6), (7), and (11)” and inserting “Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B)”.

SEC. 7407. AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 221 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 6711(g)) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

“(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.”.

SEC. 7408. EXCHANGE OR SALE AUTHORITY.

Title III of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354; 108 Stat. 3238) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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“SEC. 307. EXCHANGE OR SALE AUTHORITY.

“(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ITEM OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.—
In this section, the term ‘qualified item of personal property’ means—

“(1) an animal;

“(2) an animal product;

“(3) a plant; or

“(4) a plant product.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in subsection (c), notwithstanding chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, in managing personal property for the purpose of carrying out the research functions of the Department, may exchange, sell, or otherwise dispose of any qualified item of personal property, including by way of public auction, and may retain and apply the sale or other proceeds, without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, in whole or in partial payment—

“(1) to acquire any qualified item of personal property; or

“(2) to offset costs related to the maintenance, care, or feeding of any qualified item of personal property.

“(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) does not apply to the free dissemination of new varieties of seeds and germplasm in accordance with section 520 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ‘Department of Agriculture Organic Act’) (7 U.S.C. 2201).”.

SEC. 7409. ENHANCED USE LEASE AUTHORITY PILOT PROGRAM.

Title III of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354; 108 Stat. 3238) (as amended by section 7408) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 308. ENHANCED USE LEASE AUTHORITY PILOT PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To enhance the use of real property administered by agencies of the Department, the Secretary may establish a pilot program, in accordance with this section, at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center of the Agricultural Research Service and the National Agricultural Library to lease nonexcess property of the Center or the Library to any individual or entity, including agencies or instrumentalities of State or local governments.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary may lease real property at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center or the National Agricultural Library in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, if the Secretary determines that the lease—

“(A) is consistent with, and will not adversely affect, the mission of the Department agency administering the property;

“(B) will enhance the use of the property;

“(C) will not permit any portion of Department agency property or any facility of the Department to be used for the public retail or wholesale sale of merchandise or residential development;

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“(D) will not permit the construction or modification of facilities financed by non-Federal sources to be used by an agency, except for incidental use; and

“(E) will not include any property or facility required for any Department agency purpose without prior consideration of the needs of the agency.

“(2) TERM.—The term of a lease under this section shall not exceed 30 years.

“(3) CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Consideration provided for a lease under this section shall be—

“(i) in an amount equal to fair market value, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(ii) in the form of cash.

“(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Consideration provided for a lease under this section shall be—

“(I) deposited in a capital asset account to be established by the Secretary; and

“(II) available until expended, without further appropriation, for maintenance, capital revitalization, and improvements of the Department properties and facilities at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and National Agricultural Library.

“(ii) BUDGETARY TREATMENT.—For purposes of the budget, the amounts described in clause (i) shall not be treated as a receipt of any Department agency or any other agency leasing property under this section.

“(4) COSTS.—The lessee shall cover all costs associated with a lease under this section, including the cost of—

“(A) the project to be carried out on property or at a facility

covered by the lease;

“(B) provision and administration of the lease;

“(C) construction of any needed facilities;

“(D) provision of applicable utilities; and

“(E) any other facility cost normally associated with the operation of a leased facility.

“(5) PROHIBITION OF USE OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Secretary shall not use any funds made available to the Secretary in an appropriations Act for the construction or operating costs of any space covered by a lease under this section.

“(6) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—This section and the authority provided by this section terminate—

“(A) on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section; or

“(B) with respect to any particular leased property, on the date of termination of the lease.

“(c) EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.—

“(1) UTILIZATION.—Property that is leased pursuant to this section shall not be considered to be unutilized or underutilized for purposes of section 501 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411).

“(2) DISPOSAL.—Property at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center or the National Agricultural Library that is

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leased pursuant to this section shall not be considered to be disposed of by sale, lease, rental, excessing, or surplus for purposes of section 523 of Public Law 100–202 (101 Stat. 1329–417).

“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes detailed management objectives and performance measurements by which the Secretary intends to evaluate the success of the program under this section.

“(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1, 3, and 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the implementation of the program under this section, including—

“(A) a copy of each lease entered into pursuant to this section; and

“(B) an assessment by the Secretary of the success of the program using the management objectives and performance measurements developed by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 7410. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS.—Section 7405(c) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f(c)) is amended—

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

“(3) MAXIMUM TERM AND SIZE OF GRANT.—

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

“(i) have a term that is not more than 3 years; and

“(ii) be in an amount that is not more than \$250,000 for each year.

“(B) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this subsection.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

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

“(5) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall evaluate—

“(A) relevancy;

“(B) technical merit;

“(C) achievability;

“(D) the expertise and track record of 1 or more applicants;

“(E) the adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience; and

“(F) other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

“(6) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

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“(7) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community-based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section—

“(A) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(B) \$19,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds provided under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 7411. PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN PRODUCING FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Section 10802 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5921a) is repealed.

SEC. 7412. MCINTIRE-STENNIS COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of Public Law 87–788 (commonly known as the “McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act”) (16 U.S.C. 582a–1) is amended by inserting “and 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)),” before “and (b)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 2008.

SEC. 7413. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Renewable

Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1675) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Section 8 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note; Public Law 95–306) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7414. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.

Section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2809) is amended by striking “2007” each place it appears and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7415. CONSTRUCTION OF CHINESE GARDEN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM.

The Act of March 4, 1927 (20 U.S.C. 191 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 7. CONSTRUCTION OF CHINESE GARDEN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM.

“A Chinese Garden may be constructed at the National Arboretum established under this Act with—

“(1) funds accepted under section 5;

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“(2) authorities provided to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 6; and

“(3) appropriations provided for this purpose.”.

SEC. 7416. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1985.

Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 7417. ELIGIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR CERTAIN LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–471; 88 Stat. 1428) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “, except” and all that follows through the period and inserting a period; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “section 3” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(c)”; and

(B) by striking “Such sums may be used to pay” and all that follows through “work.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2008.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 7501. DEFINITIONS.

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, in this subtitle:

(1) CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.—The term “capacity and infrastructure program” has the meaning given the term in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) (as added by section 7511(a)(4)).

(2) CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM CRITICAL BASE FUNDING.—The term “capacity and infrastructure program critical base funding” means the aggregate amount of Federal funds made available for capacity and infrastructure programs for fiscal year 2006, as appropriate.

(3) COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.—The term “competitive program”

has the meaning given the term in subsection (f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) (as added by section 7511(a)(4)).

(4) COMPETITIVE PROGRAM CRITICAL BASE FUNDING.—The term “competitive program critical base funding” means the aggregate amount of Federal funds made available for competitive programs for fiscal year 2006, as appropriate.

(5) HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The term “Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities” has the meaning given the term in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

(6) NLGCA INSTITUTION.—The term “NLGCA Institution” has the meaning given the term in section 1404 of the National

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Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

(7) 1862 INSTITUTION; 1890 INSTITUTION; 1994 INSTITUTION.—The terms “1862 Institution”, “1890 Institution”, and “1994 Institution” have the meanings given the terms in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).

SEC. 7502. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Except as otherwise specifically authorized by law and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal land and facilities at El Reno, Oklahoma, administered by the Secretary (as of the date of enactment of this Act) as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory, shall not at any time, in whole or in part, be declared to be excess or surplus Federal property under chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, or otherwise be conveyed or transferred in whole or in part, for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7503. FORT RENO SCIENCE PARK RESEARCH FACILITY.

The Secretary may lease land to the University of Oklahoma at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory at El Reno, Oklahoma, on such terms and conditions as the University and the Secretary may agree in furtherance of cooperative research and existing easement arrangements.

SEC. 7504. ROADMAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics (referred to in this section as the “Under Secretary”), shall commence preparation of a roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension that—

(1) identifies current trends and constraints;

(2) identifies major opportunities and gaps that no single entity within the Department of Agriculture would be able to address individually;

(3) involves—

(A) interested parties from the Federal Government and nongovernmental entities; and

(B) the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.

3123);

(4) incorporates roadmaps for agricultural research, education, and extension made publicly available by other Federal entities, agencies, or offices; and

(5) describes recommended funding levels for areas of agricultural research, education, and extension, including—

(A) competitive programs;

(B) capacity and infrastructure programs, with attention to the future growth needs of—

(i) small 1862 Institutions, 1890 Institutions, and 1994 Institutions;

(ii) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities;

(iii) NLGCA Institutions; and

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(iv) colleges of veterinary medicine; and

(C) intramural programs at agencies within the research, education, and economics mission area; and

(6) describes how organizational changes enacted by this Act have impacted agricultural research, extension, and education across the Department of Agriculture, including minimization of unnecessary programmatic and administrative duplication.

(b) **REVIEWABILITY.**—The roadmap described in this section shall not be subject to review by any officer or employee of the Federal Government other than the Secretary (or a designee of the Secretary).

(c) **ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary commences preparation of the roadmap under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement and use the roadmap to set the research, education, and extension agenda of the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) make the roadmap available to the public.

SEC. 7505. REVIEW OF PLAN OF WORK REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall work with university partners in extension and research to review and identify measures to streamline the submission, reporting under, and implementation of plan of work requirements, including those requirements under—

(1) sections 1444(d) and 1445(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(d) and 3222(c), respectively);

(2) section 7 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361g); and

(3) section 4 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 344).

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the review and formulating and compiling the recommendations, the Secretary shall consult with the land-grant institutions.

SEC. 7506. BUDGET SUBMISSION AND FUNDING.

(a) **DEFINITION OF COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS.**—In this section, the term “competitive programs” includes only competitive programs for which annual appropriations are requested in the annual budget submission of the President.

(b) **BUDGET REQUEST.**—The President shall submit to Congress, together with the annual budget submission of the President, a single budget line item reflecting the total amount requested by the President for funding for research, education, and extension activities of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area of the Department for that fiscal year and for the preceding 5 fiscal years.

(c) *CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM REQUEST.*—Of the funds requested for capacity and infrastructure programs in excess of the capacity and infrastructure program critical base funding level, budgetary emphasis should be placed on enhancing funding for—

- (1) 1890 Institutions;
 - (2) 1994 Institutions;
 - (3) NLGCA Institutions;
 - (4) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities;
- and
- (5) small 1862 Institutions.

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(d) *COMPETITIVE PROGRAM REQUEST.*—Of the funds requested for competitive programs in excess of the competitive program critical base funding level, budgetary emphasis should be placed on—

- (1) enhancing funding for emerging problems; and
- (2) finding solutions for those problems.

PART II—RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

SEC. 7511. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Under Secretary’)” before the period at the end;
- (2) by striking subsections (b) through (d);
- (3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and
- (4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) *CONFIRMATION REQUIRED.*—The Under Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among distinguished scientists with specialized training or significant experience in agricultural research, education, and economics.

“(c) *CHIEF SCIENTIST.*—The Under Secretary shall—

- “(1) hold the title of Chief Scientist of the Department; and
- “(2) be responsible for the coordination of the research, education, and extension activities of the Department.

“(d) *FUNCTIONS OF UNDER SECRETARY.*—

“(1) *PRINCIPAL FUNCTION.*—The Secretary shall delegate to the Under Secretary those functions and duties under the jurisdiction of the Department that relate to research, education, and economics.

“(2) *SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.*—The Under Secretary shall—

“(A) identify, address, and prioritize current and emerging agricultural research, education, and extension needs (including funding);

“(B) ensure that agricultural research, education, and extension programs are effectively coordinated and integrated—

“(i) across disciplines, agencies, and institutions;

and

“(ii) among applicable participants, grantees, and beneficiaries;

“(C) promote the collaborative use of all agricultural research, education, and extension resources from the local, State, tribal, regional, national, and international levels to

address priority needs; and

“(D) foster communication among agricultural research, education, and extension beneficiaries, including the public, to ensure the delivery of agricultural research, education, and extension knowledge.

“(3) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Under Secretary shall perform such other functions and duties as may be required by law or prescribed by the Secretary.

“(e) RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION OFFICE.—
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“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary shall organize within the office of the Under Secretary 6 Divisions, to be known collectively as the ‘Research, Education, and Extension Office’, which shall coordinate the research programs and activities of the Department.

“(2) DIVISION DESIGNATIONS.—The Divisions within the Research, Education, and Extension Office shall be as follows:

“(A) Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment.

“(B) Food safety, nutrition, and health.

“(C) Plant health and production and plant products.

“(D) Animal health and production and animal products.

“(E) Agricultural systems and technology.

“(F) Agricultural economics and rural communities.

“(3) DIVISION CHIEFS.—

“(A) SELECTION.—The Under Secretary shall select a Division Chief for each Division using available personnel authority under title 5, United States Code, including—

“(i) by term, temporary, or other appointment, without regard to—

“(I) the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service;

“(II) the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, relating to retention preference; and

“(III) the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

“(ii) by detail, notwithstanding any Act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, whether enacted before, on, or after the date of enactment of this paragraph, requiring reimbursement for those details unless the appropriation Act specifically refers to this subsection and specifically includes these details;

“(iii) by reassignment or transfer from any other civil service position; and

“(iv) by an assignment under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) SELECTION GUIDELINES.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Under Secretary shall select Division Chiefs under subparagraph (A) in a manner that—

“(i) promotes leadership and professional development;

“(ii) enables personnel to interact with other agencies

of the Department; and

“(iii) maximizes the ability of the Under Secretary to allow for rotations of Department personnel into the position of Division Chief.

“(C) TERM OF SERVICE.—Notwithstanding title 5, United States Code, the maximum length of service for an
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individual selected as a Division Chief under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 4 years.

“(D) QUALIFICATIONS.—To be eligible for selection as a Division Chief, an individual shall have—

“(i) conducted exemplary research, education, or extension in the field of agriculture or forestry; and

“(ii) earned an advanced degree at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

“(E) DUTIES OF DIVISION CHIEFS.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each Division Chief shall—

“(i) assist the Under Secretary in identifying and addressing emerging agricultural research, education, and extension needs;

“(ii) assist the Under Secretary in identifying and prioritizing Department-wide agricultural research, education, and extension needs, including funding;

“(iii) assess the strategic workforce needs of the research, education, and extension functions of the Department, and develop strategic workforce plans to ensure that existing and future workforce needs are met;

“(iv) communicate with research, education, and extension beneficiaries, including the public, and representatives of the research, education, and extension system, including the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, to promote the benefits of agricultural research, education, and extension;

“(v) assist the Under Secretary in preparing and implementing the roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension, as described in section 7504 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; and

“(vi) perform such other duties as the Under Secretary may determine.

“(4) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any Act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, whether enacted before, on, or after the date of enactment of this paragraph unless the appropriation Act specifically refers to this subsection and specifically includes the administration of funds under this section, the Secretary may transfer funds made available to an agency in the research, education, and economics mission area to fund the costs of Division personnel.

“(B) LIMITATION.—To the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) the Under Secretary shall minimize the number of full-time equivalent positions in the Divisions;

and

“(ii) at no time shall the aggregate number of staff for all Divisions exceed 30 full-time equivalent positions.

“(C) ROTATION OF PERSONNEL.—To the maximum extent practicable, and using the authority described in paragraph (3)(A), the Under Secretary shall rotate personnel

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among the Divisions, and between the Divisions and agencies of the Department, in a manner that—

“(i) promotes leadership and professional development; and

“(ii) enables personnel to interact with other agencies of the Department.

“(5) ORGANIZATION.—The Under Secretary shall integrate leadership functions of the national program staff of the research agencies into the Research, Education and Extension Office in such form as is required to ensure that administrative duplication does not occur.

“(f) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

“(B) APPLIED RESEARCH.—The term ‘applied research’ means research that includes expansion of the findings of fundamental research to uncover practical ways in which new knowledge can be advanced to benefit individuals and society.

“(C) CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.—The term ‘capacity and infrastructure program’ means each of the following agricultural research, extension, education, and related programs for which the Secretary has administrative or other authority as of the day before the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008:

“(i) Each program providing funding to any of the 1994 Institutions under sections 533, 534(a), and 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382).

“(ii) The program established under section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) providing research grants for 1994 Institutions.

“(iii) Each program established under subsections (b) and (c) of section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343).

“(iv) Each program established under the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.).

“(v) Each program established under section 1417(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)).

“(vi) The animal health and disease research program established under subtitle E of the National Agricultural

Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.).

“(vii) Each extension program available to 1890 Institutions established under section 1444 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221).

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“(viii) The program established under section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222).

“(ix) The program providing grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 Institutions established under section 1447 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b).

“(x) The program providing distance education grants for insular areas established under section 1490 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3362).

“(xi) The program providing resident instruction grants for insular areas established under section 1491 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3363).

“(xii) Each research and development and related program established under Public Law 87-788 (commonly known as the ‘McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act’) (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.).

“(xiii) Each program established under the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.).

“(xiv) Each program providing funding to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities under section 1456 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

“(xv) The program providing capacity grants to NLGCA Institutions under section 1473F of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

“(xvi) Other programs that are capacity and infrastructure programs, as determined by the Secretary.

“(D) COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.—The term ‘competitive program’ means each of the following agricultural research, extension, education, and related programs for which the Secretary has administrative or other authority as of the day before the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008:

“(i) The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative established under section 2(b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)).

“(ii) The program providing competitive grants for risk management education established under section 524(a)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)(3)).

“(iii) The program providing community food

project competitive grants established under section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034).

“(iv) The program providing grants for beginning farmer and rancher development established under section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f).

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“(v) The program providing grants under section 1417(j) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(j)).

“(vi) The program providing grants for Hispanicserving institutions established under section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241).

“(vii) The program providing competitive grants for international agricultural science and education programs under section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b).

“(viii) The research and extension projects carried out under section 1621 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5811).

“(ix) The organic agriculture research and extension initiative established under section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b).

“(x) The specialty crop research initiative under section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

“(xi) The administration and management of the Agricultural Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency Research and Extension Initiative carried out under section 1672C of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

“(xii) The research, extension, and education programs authorized by section 407 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7627) relating to the competitiveness, viability and sustainability of small- and medium-sized dairy, livestock, and poultry operations.

“(xiii) Other programs that are competitive programs, as determined by the Secretary.

“(E) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Institute.

“(F) FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH.—The term ‘fundamental research’ means research that—

“(i) increases knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and has the potential for broad application; and

“(ii) has an effect on agriculture, food, nutrition, or the environment.

“(G) INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Institute’ means the National Institute of Food and Agriculture established by paragraph (2)(A).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—*The Secretary shall establish within the Department an agency to be known as the ‘National Institute of Food and Agriculture’.*

“(B) TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES.—*The Secretary shall transfer to the Institute, effective not later than October 1, 383*

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2009, *the authorities (including all budget authorities, available appropriations, and personnel), duties, obligations, and related legal and administrative functions prescribed by law or otherwise granted to the Secretary, the Department, or any other agency or official of the Department under—*

“(i) *the capacity and infrastructure programs;*

“(ii) *the competitive programs;*

“(iii) *the research, education, economic, cooperative State research programs, cooperative extension and education programs, international programs, and other functions and authorities delegated by the Under Secretary to the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service pursuant to section 2.66 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and*

“(iv) *any and all other authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.*

“(3) DIRECTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—*The Institute shall be headed by a Director, who shall be an individual who is—*

“(i) *a distinguished scientist; and*

“(ii) *appointed by the President.*

“(B) SUPERVISION.—*The Director shall report directly to the Secretary, or the designee of the Secretary.*

“(C) FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR.—*The Director shall—*

“(i) *serve for a 6-year term, subject to reappointment for an additional 6-year term;*

“(ii) *periodically report to the Secretary, or the designee of the Secretary, with respect to activities carried out by the Institute; and*

“(iii) *consult regularly with the Secretary, or the designee of the Secretary, to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that—*

“(I) *research of the Institute is relevant to agriculture in the United States and otherwise serves the national interest; and*

“(II) *the research of the Institute supplements and enhances, and does not supplant, research conducted or funded by other Federal agencies.*

“(D) COMPENSATION.—*The Director shall receive basic pay at a rate not to exceed the maximum amount of compensation payable to a member of the Senior Executive Service under subsection (b) of section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, except that the certification requirement*

in that subsection shall not apply to the compensation of the Director.

“(E) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.— Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subsection, the Director shall—

“(i) exercise all of the authority provided to the Institute by this subsection;

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“(ii) formulate and administer programs in accordance with policies adopted by the Institute, in coordination with the Under Secretary;

“(iii) establish offices within the Institute;

“(iv) establish procedures for the provision and administration of grants by the Institute; and

“(v) consult regularly with the Advisory Board.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Institute shall have such authority as is necessary to carry out this subsection, including the authority to promulgate such regulations as the Institute considers to be necessary for governance of operations, organization, and personnel.

“(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall organize offices and functions within the Institute to administer fundamental and applied research and extension and education programs.

“(B) RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—The Director shall ensure the research priorities established by the Under Secretary through the Research, Education and Extension Office are carried out by the offices and functions of the Institute, where applicable.

“(C) FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH.—The Director shall—

“(i) determine an appropriate balance between fundamental and applied research programs and functions to ensure future research needs are met; and

“(ii) designate staff, as appropriate, to assist in carrying out this subparagraph.

“(D) COMPETITIVELY FUNDED AWARDS.—The Director shall—

“(i) promote the use and growth of grants awarded through a competitive process; and

“(ii) designate staff, as appropriate, to assist in carrying out this subparagraph.

“(E) COORDINATION.—The Director shall ensure that the offices and functions established under subparagraph (A) are effectively coordinated for maximum efficiency.

“(6) FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to funds otherwise appropriated to carry out each program administered by the Institute, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for each fiscal year.

“(B) ALLOCATION.—Funding made available under subparagraph (A) shall be allocated according to recommendations contained in the roadmap described in section

7504 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.’’.

(b) *FUNCTIONS.*—Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

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“(6) the authority of the Secretary to establish in the Department, under section 251—

“(A) the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics;

“(B) the Research, Education, and Extension Office; and

“(C) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.’’.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—The following conforming amendments shall take effect on October 1, 2009:

(1) Section 522(d)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(2) Section 524(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(B) and (3)(A) by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” each place it appears and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(3) Section 306(a)(11)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11)(C)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(4) Section 5(b)(2)(E) of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Public Law 102–554) is amended by striking “Cooperative Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(5) Section 11(f)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(f)(1)) is amended by striking “Cooperative Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(6) Section 502(h) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Extension Service staff” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture staff”.

(7) Section 7404(b)(1)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3101 note; Public Law 107–171) is amended by striking clause (vi) and inserting the following: “(vi) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.”.

(8) Section 1408(b)(4) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123(b)(4)) is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service”

and inserting “the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(9) Section 2381(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(a)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

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(10) The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended—

(A) in section 1424A(b) (7 U.S.C. 3174a(b)), by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in section 1458(a)(10) (7 U.S.C. 3291(a)(10)), by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(11) Section 1587(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 3175d(a)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” each place it appears and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(12) Section 1444(b)(2)(A) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(13) Section 1473D(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d(d)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research Service, the Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(14) Section 1499(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5506(c)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research Service” and all that follows through “extension services;” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in conjunction with the system of State agricultural experiment stations and State and county cooperative extension services; the Economic Research Service;”.

(15) Section 1622 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5812) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “the Cooperative State Research Service in close cooperation with the Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

“(B) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;”;

and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (L) as subparagraphs (C) through (K), respectively.

(16) Section 1627(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(17) Section 1629 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832) is amended—
(A) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by striking “the Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

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(18) Section 1638(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5852(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “Cooperative State Research Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “Cooperative State Research Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(19) Section 1640(a)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5854(a)(2)) is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Extension Service, the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research Service” and inserting “the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(20) Section 1641(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5855(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Cooperative State Research Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(21) Section 1668(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(b)) is amended by striking “Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(22) Section 1670(a)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5923(a)(4)) is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(23) Section 1677(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5930(a)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(24) Section 2122(b)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(25) Section 2371 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “Service” and inserting “System”.

(26) Section 2377(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6615(a)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of

Food and Agriculture'.

(27) Section 212(a)(2)(A) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “251(d),” and inserting “251(f),”.

(28) Section 537 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7446) is amended in each of 388

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subsections (a)(2) and (b)(3)(B)(i) by striking “Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “cooperative extension”.

(29) Section 101(b)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7611(b)(2)) is amended by striking “Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(30) Section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)) is amended—
(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”; and
(B) in each of paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(31) Section 407(c) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7627(c)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(32) Section 410(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630(a)) is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(33) Section 307(g)(5) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 8606(g)(5)) is amended by striking “Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service” and inserting “Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(34) Section 5(a) of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1674a(a)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(35) Section 6(b) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103b(b)) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, may provide technical, financial, and related assistance to State foresters, equivalent State officials, or Cooperative Extension officials” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, may provide technical, financial, and related assistance to State foresters, equivalent State officials, or cooperative extension officials”.

(36) Section 9(g)(2)(A)(viii) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(g)(2)(A)(viii)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(37) Section 19(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113(b)(1)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

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(38) Section 1261(c)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3861(c)(4)) is amended by striking “Extension Service” and inserting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(39) Section 105(a) of the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2293 note; Public Law 105–385) is amended by striking “the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)” and inserting “the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”.

(40) Section 307(a)(4) of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16657(a)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) the program and structure of, peer review process of, management of conflicts of interest by, compensation of reviewers of, and the effects of compensation on reviewer efficiency and quality within, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture;”.

PART III—NEW GRANT AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

SEC. 7521. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS FOR THE STUDY OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall provide research and education grants, on a competitive basis—

(1) to study the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, including—

(A) movement of antibiotic-resistant bacteria into groundwater and surface water; and

(B) the effect on antibiotic resistance from various drug use regimens; and

(2) to study and ensure the judicious use of antibiotics in veterinary and human medicine, including—

(A) methods and practices of animal husbandry;

(B) safe and effective alternatives to antibiotics;

(C) the development of better veterinary diagnostics to improve decisionmaking; and

(D) the identification of conditions or factors that affect antibiotic use on farms.

(b) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 7522. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall make competitive grants to support cooperative programs between State cooperative extension services and nonprofit organizations to establish a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network that provides stress assistance

programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations.

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(b) *ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.*—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling and referral for other forms of assistance as necessary through—

- (1) farm telephone helplines and websites;
- (2) community education;
- (3) support groups;
- (4) outreach services and activities; and
- (5) home delivery of assistance, in a case in which a farm resident is homebound.

(c) *EXTENSION SERVICES.*—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection directly to State cooperative extension services to enable the State cooperative extension services to enter into contracts, on a multiyear basis, with nonprofit, community-based, direct-service organizations to initiate, expand, or sustain cooperative programs described in subsections (a) and (b).

(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 7523. SEED DISTRIBUTION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to carry out a seed distribution program to administer and maintain the distribution of vegetable seeds donated by commercial seed companies.

(b) *PURPOSES.*—The purposes of this program include—

- (1) the distribution of seeds donated by commercial seed companies free-of-charge to appropriate—
 - (A) individuals;
 - (B) groups;
 - (C) institutions;
 - (D) governmental and nongovernmental organizations;and
- (E) such other entities as the Secretary may designate;
- (2) distribution of seeds to underserved communities, such as communities that experience—
 - (A) limited access to affordable fresh vegetables;
 - (B) a high rate of hunger or food insecurity; or
 - (C) severe or persistent poverty.

(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(d) *SELECTION.*—An eligible entity selected to receive a grant under subsection (a) shall have—

- (1) expertise regarding the distribution of vegetable seeds donated by commercial seed companies; and
- (2) the ability to achieve the purpose of the seed distribution program.

(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 7524. LIVE VIRUS FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE RESEARCH.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall issue a permit required under section 12 of the Act of May 29, 1884 (21 U.S.C. 113a) to the

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Secretary of Homeland Security for work on the live virus of foot and mouth disease at any facility that is a successor to the Plum Island Animal Disease Center and charged with researching highconsequence biological threats involving zoonotic and foreign animal diseases (referred to in this section as the “successor facility”).

(b) *LIMITATION TO SINGLE FACILITY.*—Not more than 1 facility shall be issued a permit under subsection (a).

(c) *LIMITATION ON VALIDITY.*—The permit issued under this section shall be valid unless the Secretary determines that the study of live foot and mouth disease virus at the successor facility is not being carried out in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8401 et seq.).

(d) *AUTHORITY.*—The suspension, revocation, or other impairment of the permit issued under this section—

(1) shall be made by the Secretary; and

(2) is a nondelegable function.

SEC. 7525. NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a natural products research program.

(b) *DUTIES.*—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall coordinate research relating to natural products, including—

(1) research to improve human health and agricultural productivity through the discovery, development, and commercialization of products and agrichemicals from bioactive natural products, including products from plant, marine, and microbial sources;

(2) research to characterize the botanical sources, production, chemistry, and biological properties of plant-derived natural products; and

(3) other research priorities identified by the Secretary.

(c) *PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.*—The Secretary shall—

(1) determine the relevance and merit of research under this section through a system of peer review established by the Secretary pursuant to section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613); and

(2) approve funding for research on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes of this section.

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

(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 7526. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program to provide grants to the sun grant centers and subcenter specified in subsection (b)—

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(1) to enhance national energy security through the development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy technologies;

(2) to promote diversification in, and the environmental sustainability of, agricultural production in the United States through biobased energy and product technologies;

(3) to promote economic diversification in rural areas of the United States through biobased energy and product technologies; and

(4) to enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration among—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Department of Energy; and

(C) land-grant colleges and universities.

(b) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts made available under subsection (g) to provide grants to each of the following:

(A) NORTH-CENTRAL CENTER.—A north-central sun grant center at South Dakota State University for the region composed of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

(B) SOUTHEASTERN CENTER.—A southeastern sun grant center at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville for the region composed of—

(i) the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia;

(ii) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(iii) the United States Virgin Islands.

(C) SOUTH-CENTRAL CENTER.—A south-central sun grant center at Oklahoma State University for the region composed of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

(D) WESTERN CENTER.—A western sun grant center at Oregon State University for the region composed of—

(i) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington;

and

(ii) insular areas (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103 (other than the insular areas referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B))).

(E) NORTHEASTERN CENTER.—A northeastern sun grant center at Cornell University for the region composed of the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

(F) WESTERN INSULAR PACIFIC SUBCENTER.—A western insular Pacific sun grant subcenter at the University of Hawaii for the region of Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American

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Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(2) *MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION.*—

(A) *CENTERS.*—*In providing any funds made available under subsection (g), the Secretary shall distribute the grants in equal amounts to the sun grant centers described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).*

(B) *SUBCENTER.*—*The sun grant center described in paragraph (1)(D) shall allocate a portion of the funds received under paragraph (1) to the subcenter described in paragraph (1)(F) pursuant to guidance issued by the Secretary.*

(3) *FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.*—*If the Secretary finds on the basis of a review of the annual report required under subsection (f) or on the basis of an audit of a sun grant center or subcenter conducted by the Secretary that the center or subcenter has not complied with the requirements of this section, the sun grant center or subcenter shall be ineligible to receive further grants under this section for such period of time as may be prescribed by the Secretary.*

(c) *USE OF FUNDS.*—

(1) *COMPETITIVE GRANTS.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*A sun grant center or subcenter shall use 75 percent of the funds described in subsection (b) to provide competitive grants to entities that are—*

- (i) eligible to receive grants under subsection (b)(7) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(7)); and*
- (ii) located in the region covered by the sun grant center or subcenter.*

(B) *ACTIVITIES.*—*Grants described in subparagraph (A) shall be used by the grant recipient to conduct, in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a), multi-institutional and multistate—*

- (i) research, extension, and education programs on technology development; and*
- (ii) integrated research, extension, and education programs on technology implementation.*

(C) *FUNDING ALLOCATION.*—*Of the amount of funds that is used to provide grants under subparagraph (A), the sun grant center or subcenter shall use—*

- (i) not less than 30 percent of the funds to carry out the programs described in subparagraph (B)(i); and*
- (ii) not less than 30 percent of the funds to carry out the programs described in subparagraph (B)(ii).*

(D) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

(i) *PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.*—*In making grants under this paragraph, a sun grant center or subcenter shall—*

- (I) seek and accept proposals for grants;*
- (II) determine the relevance and merit of proposals through a system of peer review similar to that established by the Secretary pursuant to sec394*

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*tion 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
7613); and*

*(III) award grants on the basis of merit, quality,
and relevance to advancing the purposes of
this section.*

*(ii) PRIORITY.—A sun grant center or subcenter
shall give a higher priority to programs that are consistent
with the plan approved by the Secretary under
subsection (d).*

*(iii) TERM.—A grant awarded by a sun grant center
or subcenter shall have a term that does not exceed
5 years.*

(iv) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

*(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclauses
(II) and (III), as a condition of receiving a
grant under this paragraph, the sun grant center
or subcenter shall require that not less than 20
percent of the cost of an activity described in subparagraph
(B) be matched with funds, including
in-kind contributions, from a non-Federal source.*

*(II) EXCLUSION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply
to fundamental research (as defined in subsection
(f)(1) of section 251 of the Department of Agriculture
Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971)
(as added by section 7511(a)(4)).*

*(III) REDUCTION.—The sun grant center or
subcenter may reduce or eliminate the requirement
for non-Federal funds under subclause (I) for applied
research (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of
section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization
Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) (as added
by section 7511(a)(4)) if the sun grant center or
subcenter determines that the reduction is necessary
and appropriate pursuant to guidance
issued by the Secretary.*

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

*(vi) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS.—A sun grant
center or subcenter may not recover the indirect costs
of making grants under subparagraph (A).*

*(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A sun grant center or subcenter
may use up to 4 percent of the funds described in subsection
(b) to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying
out paragraph (1).*

*(3) RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—
The sun grant centers and subcenter shall use the remainder of
the funds described in subsection (b) to conduct, in a manner
consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a), multiinstitutional
and multistate—*

(A) *research, extension, and educational programs on technology development; and*

(B) *integrated research, extension, and educational programs on technology implementation.*

(d) *PLAN FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds under subsection (g), and in cooperation with land-grant colleges and universities and private industry in accordance with paragraph (2), the sun grant centers and subcenter shall jointly develop and submit to the Secretary for approval a plan for addressing the bioenergy, biomass, and gasification research priorities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy at the State and regional levels.*

(2) *GASIFICATION COORDINATION.—With respect to gasification research activity, the sun grant centers and subcenter shall coordinate planning with land-grant colleges and universities in their respective regions that have ongoing research activities in that area.*

(3) *FUNDING.—Funds described in subsection (c)(2) shall be available to carry out planning coordination under paragraph (1).*

(4) *USE OF PLAN.—The sun grant centers and subcenter shall use the plan described in paragraph (1) in making grants under subsection (c)(1).*

(e) *GRANT INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER.—The sun grant centers and subcenter shall maintain a Sun Grant Information Analysis Center at the sun grant center specified in subsection (b)(1)(A) to provide the sun grant centers and subcenter with analysis and data management support.*

(f) *ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, a sun grant center or subcenter receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the policies, priorities, and operations of the program carried out by the center or subcenter during the fiscal year, including—*
(1) *the results of all peer and merit review procedures conducted pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(D)(i); and*
(2) *a description of progress made in facilitating the priorities described in subsection (d)(1).*

(g) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, of which not more than \$4,000,000 for each fiscal year shall be made available to carry out subsection (e).*

SEC. 7527. STUDY AND REPORT ON FOOD DESERTS.

(a) *DEFINITION OF FOOD DESERT.—In this section, the term “food desert” means an area in the United States with limited access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly such an area composed of predominantly lower-income neighborhoods and communities.*

(b) *STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary shall carry out a study of, and prepare a report on, food deserts.*

(c) *CONTENTS.—The study and report shall—*

(1) *assess the incidence and prevalence of food deserts;*

(2) *identify—*

(A) characteristics and factors causing and influencing food deserts; and
(B) the effect on local populations of limited access to affordable and nutritious food; and
(3) provide recommendations for addressing the causes and effects of food deserts through measures that include—
(A) community and economic development initiatives;
(B) incentives for retail food market development, including supermarkets, small grocery stores, and farmers' markets; and
(C) improvements to Federal food assistance and nutrition education programs.

(d) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.**—
The Secretary shall conduct the study under this section in coordination and consultation with—

(1) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
(2) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
(3) the Institute of Medicine; and
(4) representatives of appropriate businesses, academic institutions, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

(e) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate the report prepared under this section, including the findings and recommendations described in subsection (c).

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$500,000.

SEC. 7528. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY POSITIONS.

Notwithstanding section 4703(d)(1) of title 5, United States Code, the amendment to the personnel management demonstration project established in the Department of Agriculture (67 Fed. Reg. 70776 (2002)), shall become effective upon the date of enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect unless modified by law.

SEC. 7529. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall make competitive grants to institutions of higher education to carry out agricultural and rural transportation research and education activities.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—Research and education grants made under this section shall be used to address rural transportation and logistics needs of agricultural producers and related rural businesses, including—
(1) the transportation of biofuels; and
(2) the export of agricultural products.

(c) **SELECTION CRITERIA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award grants under this section on the basis of the transportation research, education, and outreach expertise of the applicant, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to institutions of higher education

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for use in coordinating research and education activities with other institutions of higher education with similar agricultural

and rural transportation research and education programs.

(d) DIVERSIFICATION OF RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section in areas that are regionally diverse and broadly representative of the diversity of agricultural production and related transportation needs in the rural areas of the United States.

(e) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require each recipient of a grant under this section to provide, from non-Federal sources, in cash or in kind, 50 percent of the cost of carrying out activities under the grant.

(f) GRANT REVIEW.—A grant shall be awarded under this section on a competitive, peer- and merit-reviewed basis in accordance with section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(a)).

(g) NO DUPLICATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that activities funded under this section do not duplicate the efforts of the University Transportation Centers described in sections 5505 and 5506 of title 49, United States Code.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.