

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 719

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2023

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Precision Agriculture
5 Loan Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRECISION AGRICULTURE LOAN PROGRAM.**

7 Subtitle F of title I of the Food, Conservation, and
8 Energy Act of 2008 is amended by inserting after section
9 1614 (7 U.S.C. 8789) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1614A. PRECISION AGRICULTURE LOAN PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that—

4 “(1) producers depend on a healthy environ-
5 ment to effectively produce the food and fiber need-
6 ed for all communities;

7 “(2) precision agriculture technologies can—

8 “(A) provide producers with better insight
9 into the health of the environment of the pro-
10 ducer; and

11 “(B) allow producers to make more in-
12 formed decisions that improve efficiencies, re-
13 duce waste, and improve environmental quality
14 in a manner that benefits both nature and the
15 financial well-being of the producer;

16 “(3) the adoption of precision agriculture tech-
17 nologies has already demonstrated that farmers and
18 ranchers can produce crops in a manner that uses
19 less water, reduces soil erosion, and mitigates green-
20 house gas emissions while increasing carbon seques-
21 tration, water quality, and yields; and

22 “(4) the Department of Agriculture should seek
23 to address hurdles to producers seeking to adopt
24 precision agriculture technologies that allows for
25 broader adoption of these technologies that provide
26 benefits for both producers and the environment.

1 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
3 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
4 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
5 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
6 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
7 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
8 maintain or improve environmental quality.

9 “(2) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—
10 The term ‘precision agriculture technology’ means
11 any technology (including equipment that is nec-
12 essary for the deployment of that technology) that
13 directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved
14 efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock produc-
15 tion, including—

16 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or
17 geospatial mapping;

18 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

19 “(C) yield monitors;

20 “(D) soil mapping;

21 “(E) sensors for gathering data on crop,
22 soil, or livestock conditions;

23 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics
24 technologies;

1 “(G) data management software and ad-
2 vanced analytics;

3 “(H) network connectivity products and
4 solutions;

5 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
6 auto-steer systems;

7 “(J) variable rate technology for applying
8 inputs, such as section control; and

9 “(K) any other technology, as determined
10 by the Secretary, that leads to a reduction in,
11 or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock
12 production inputs, which may include seed,
13 feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time.

14 “(c) PROGRAM.—As soon as practicable after the
15 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall es-
16 tablish a precision agriculture loan program to encourage
17 the adoption of precision agriculture by providing funds
18 to producers engaged in livestock or crop production for
19 the purchase of precision agriculture technology.

20 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The precision agriculture
21 loan program under this section shall be administered by
22 the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Administrator
23 for Farm Programs of the Farm Service Agency.

24 “(e) ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—A precision agriculture
25 loan under this section shall be made available to any pro-

1 ducer described in subsection (c) that, as determined by
2 the Secretary—

3 “(1) has a satisfactory credit history;

4 “(2) will use the loan funds to purchase preci-
5 sion agriculture technology; and

6 “(3) demonstrates an ability to repay the loan.

7 “(f) TERM OF LOANS.—A precision agriculture loan
8 under this section shall have a maximum term of 12 years.

9 “(g) LOAN AMOUNT.—The maximum aggregate loan
10 amount of a precision agriculture loan under this section
11 shall be \$500,000.

12 “(h) LOAN SECURITY.—Approval of a precision agri-
13 culture loan under this section shall require the borrower
14 to provide loan security to the Secretary, in the form of—

15 “(1) a lien on the precision agriculture tech-
16 nology being purchased; or

17 “(2) such other security as is acceptable to the
18 Secretary.

19 “(i) REPORTING.—

20 “(1) DEFINITION OF RECIPIENT PRODUCER.—

21 In this subsection, the term ‘recipient producer’
22 means an eligible producer described in subsection
23 (e) that received a precision agriculture loan under
24 this section during the fiscal year covered by the ap-
25 plicable report prepared under paragraph (2).

1 “(2) PREPARATION OF REPORT.—For each fis-
2 cal year, the Secretary shall prepare a report that
3 includes—

4 “(A) aggregate data based on a review of
5 each outstanding loan made by the Secretary
6 under this section; and

7 “(B) a description of—

8 “(i) for the United States and for
9 each State and county (or equivalent juris-
10 diction) in the United States—

11 “(I) the age of each recipient
12 producer;

13 “(II) the duration during which
14 each recipient producer has engaged
15 in agricultural production;

16 “(III) the size of the farm or
17 ranch of each recipient producer;

18 “(IV) the total amount provided
19 as loans under this section for each
20 category of equipment or technology
21 described in subparagraphs (A)
22 through (K) of subsection (b)(2) dur-
23 ing the fiscal year covered by the re-
24 port;

1 “(V) the estimated input reduced
2 or environmental benefits received per
3 category of equipment or technology
4 described in those subparagraphs with
5 respect to which a loan was provided
6 under this section during the fiscal
7 year covered by the report or any
8 prior fiscal year, including the esti-
9 mated input reduced or environmental
10 benefits received per category—

11 “(aa) during the fiscal year
12 covered by the report with re-
13 spect to—

14 “(AA) loans provided
15 under this section during
16 that fiscal year; and

17 “(BB) loans provided
18 under this section during
19 that fiscal year or any prior
20 fiscal year; and

21 “(bb) in the aggregate with
22 respect to all loans provided
23 under this section during or prior
24 to the fiscal year covered by the
25 report;

1 “(VI) the race, ethnicity, and
2 gender of each recipient producer;

3 “(VII) the 1 or more agricultural
4 commodities or types of enterprise for
5 which each loan provided under this
6 section during the fiscal year was pro-
7 vided;

8 “(VIII) the amount of each loan
9 provided under this section during the
10 fiscal year; and

11 “(IX) the default rate of the
12 loans made under this section dur-
13 ing—

14 “(aa) the fiscal year covered
15 by the report;

16 “(bb) each preceding fiscal
17 year; and

18 “(cc) in the aggregate with
19 respect to all loans provided
20 under this section during or prior
21 to the fiscal year covered by the
22 report; and

23 “(ii) for each State and county (or
24 equivalent jurisdiction) in the United
25 States, the number of outstanding loans

1 made under this section, according to the
2 loan size cohort.

3 “(3) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The Secretary
4 shall—

5 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, and annually there-
7 after, submit the report described in paragraph
8 (2) to—

9 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture,
10 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

11 “(ii) the Committee on Appropriations
12 of the Senate;

13 “(iii) the Committee on Agriculture of
14 the House of Representatives; and

15 “(iv) the Committee on Appropria-
16 tions of the House of Representatives; and

17 “(B) not later than 90 days after the date
18 on which the report is submitted under sub-
19 paragraph (A), make the report publicly avail-
20 able.

21 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
23 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

○