

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

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

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 Program Act of 2021”.

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) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

10 “(2) PRECISION AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT.—
11 The term ‘precision agriculture equipment’ means
12 any equipment or technology that directly contrib-
13 utes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, in-
14 puts used in crop or livestock production, includ-
15 ing—

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;

25 “(G) data management software and ad-
26 vanced analytics;

1 “(H) network connectivity products and
2 solutions;

3 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
4 auto-steer systems;

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

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

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

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

22 “(d) ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—A precision agriculture
23 loan under this section shall be made available to any pro-
24 ducer described in subsection (b) that, as determined by
25 the Secretary—

1 “(1) has a satisfactory credit history;

2 “(2) will use the loan funds to purchase preci-
3 sion agriculture equipment; and

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

5 “(e) TERM OF LOANS.—A precision agriculture loan
6 under this section shall have a maximum term of 12 years.

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

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

13 “(1) a lien on the precision agriculture equip-
14 ment being purchased; or

15 “(2) such other security as is acceptable to the
16 Secretary.

17 “(h) REPORTING.—

18 “(1) DEFINITION OF RECIPIENT PRODUCER.—
19 In this subsection, the term ‘recipient producer’
20 means an eligible producer described in subsection
21 (d) that received a precision agriculture loan under
22 this section during the fiscal year covered by the ap-
23 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 (a)(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 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 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
23 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.