

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8179

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out research and development with respect to winter oilseed crops, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2024

Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. MANN, and Mr. STRONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out research and development with respect to winter oilseed crops, 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 “Winter Oilseed Study
5 Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES AND FINDINGS.**

7 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
8 lows:

9 (1) To ensure the continued growth of clean
10 and sustainable feedstocks, crops such as winter

1 canola will need access to crop insurance products
2 that allow for additional growing practices.

3 (2) To recognize the importance and regionality
4 characteristics of rotationally and double-crop grown
5 canola and the economic and environmental benefits
6 to producers.

7 (3) By investing in lower carbon-intensity re-
8 newable fuels, such as those produced from canola,
9 the United States can provide sustainable fuels, cre-
10 ate jobs, enhance our rural communities, and bolster
11 our national security.

12 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

13 (1) Canola improves farm economics by increas-
14 ing yield in cereal, soybean, and other crops that fol-
15 low winter canola.

16 (2) Canola oil is a source of renewable energy
17 as a feedstock for biodiesel, renewable diesel, and jet
18 biofuel.

19 (3) Canola oil-based renewable fuels reduce
20 greenhouse gas emissions by over 50 percent com-
21 pared to conventional fuels, providing significant air
22 quality improvements.

23 (4) Expanding winter canola production will
24 provide additional feedstock to meet growing renew-
25 able fuel demand without bringing new land into

1 production, which will yield an even more favorable
2 carbon intensity compared to conventional fuels.

3 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS**
4 **UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROP-**
5 **PING POLICIES.**

6 Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
7 4 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(20) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL
10 CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

11 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
12 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
13 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed and canola crops.

14 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
15 The Corporation shall carry out research and
16 development, or offer to enter into 1 or more
17 contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to
18 carry out research and development, with re-
19 spect to the inclusion of covered oilseed crops
20 under double cropping and rotational cropping
21 policies.

22 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and
23 development carried out pursuant to subpara-
24 graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation
25 with stakeholders to evaluate—

1 “(i) the factors impacting availability
2 and cost of crop insurance when incor-
3 porating covered oilseed crops into double
4 cropping and rotational cropping policies;
5 and

6 “(ii) the potential risk management
7 benefits associated with incorporating cov-
8 ered oilseed crops into double cropping and
9 rotational cropping policies, specifically
10 with respect to winter planted covered oil-
11 seed crops, including risk management
12 benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the
13 profitability of farming operations.

14 “(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts
15 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may
16 place emphasis on qualified persons that—

17 “(i) have previous research experience
18 with covered oilseed crops; and

19 “(ii) have access to a facility with the
20 capacity to carry out the applicable re-
21 search.

22 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months
23 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
24 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
25 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
2 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
3 scribes—

4 “(i) the results of the research and
5 development carried out under subpara-
6 graph (B); and

7 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
8 spect to those results.”.

9 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**
10 **AMENDMENTS.**

11 Section 1473D of the Food and Agriculture Act of
12 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c)(3)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (B) by redesignation subparagraph (F) as
17 subparagraph (G); and

18 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
19 the following:

20 “(F) to examine potential benefits and opportu-
21 nities for supplemental and alternative crops (includ-
22 ing winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted
23 canola crops); and”;

24 (2) in subsection (e) by adding at the end the
25 following:

1 “(4) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
2 through 2029.”.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Not later than 13 months after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
7 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
8 Senate a report that describes—

9 (1) the results of the research and development
10 carried out under the amendments made by section
11 3; and

12 (2) any recommendations with respect to those
13 results.

○