

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2810

To amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to assist small cheese producers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2016

Mr. MURPHY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to assist small cheese producers.

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 “Local Cheese Pro-
5 motion and Dairy Support Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL CHEESE PRODUCERS.**

7 The Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et
8 seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural
9 Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 24. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL CHEESE PRODUCERS.**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
4 ble institution’ means—

5 “(A) a land-grant college or university (as
6 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
7 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
8 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

9 “(B) a local office of the National Institute
10 of Food and Agriculture or other regional office
11 of the Department of Agriculture;

12 “(C) a group of regional experts (as deter-
13 mined by the Secretary) that advises beginning
14 farmers or ranchers (as defined under section
15 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))); or

17 “(D) a nonprofit organization.

18 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 “(3) SMALL CHEESE PRODUCER.—The term
21 ‘small cheese producer’ has the meaning given the
22 term by the Secretary.

23 “(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
25 lish a program under which the Secretary shall make

1 competitive grants to, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary—

3 “(A) eligible small cheese producers; and

4 “(B) cooperative groups of small cheese
5 producers.

6 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In making grants under
7 this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference
8 to small cheese producers that—

9 “(A) purchase raw dairy product from pro-
10 ducers located in the same State as the small
11 cheese producers; or

12 “(B) produce raw dairy product on the
13 farms of the small cheese producers.

14 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant
15 under this subsection may use grant funds—

16 “(A) to purchase equipment or renovate
17 and make repairs to production facilities;

18 “(B) to develop a business plan or perform
19 a feasibility study to grow the business of the
20 small cheese producer;

21 “(C) to promote and market cheese;

22 “(D) to participate in accounting and fi-
23 nancial literacy education and training or pur-
24 chase necessary software; and

1 “(E) to carry out food safety upgrades and
2 participate in food safety training.

3 “(c) CHEESE PRODUCTION EDUCATION AND PRO-
4 MOTION PILOT PROJECT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not use
6 more than 10 percent of the funds made available to
7 carry out this section to establish at 1 or more eligi-
8 ble institutions a pilot project that will—

9 “(A) develop a regional cheese-making re-
10 source center with the technical assistance and
11 electronic resource capabilities to provide small
12 cheese producers with financial, marketing, food
13 safety, and production assistance;

14 “(B) support a group of experienced cheese
15 producers or subject matter experts (as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary) to advise beginning
17 cheese producers; and

18 “(C) establish or grow a national cheese-
19 making resource center to act as a clearing-
20 house for best practices relating to finances,
21 marketing, food safety, and production.

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive
23 funding to establish a pilot project described in
24 paragraph (1), an eligible institution shall dem-
25 onstrate to the Secretary—

1 “(A) the capacity and technical expertise
2 to provide the services described in that para-
3 graph;

4 “(B) the support of the eligible institution
5 in the agricultural community; and

6 “(C) the availability of resources (in cash
7 or in kind) of definite value to achieve the goal
8 and sustain the mission of the pilot project.

9 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.

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