

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3212

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2016

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

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 “Century Farms Act
5 of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the United States has a long history of
9 farming and has historically appreciated the invalu-

1 able contribution of farming to domestic and global
2 populations;

3 (2) family farms represent 97 percent of all
4 farms in the United States, of which 90 percent are
5 small family farms;

6 (3) over 30 States have established Century or
7 Centennial Farm designations and awards; and

8 (4) agricultural producers perform a vital public
9 service that should be recognized and rewarded.

10 **SEC. 3. CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (re-
12 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish
13 a program under which the Secretary recognizes any farm
14 that—

15 (1) a State department of agriculture or similar
16 statewide agricultural organization recognizes as a
17 Century Farm; or

18 (2)(A) is defined as a farm or ranch under sec-
19 tion 4284.902 of title 7, Code of Federal Regula-
20 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
21 Act);

22 (B) has been in continuous operation for at
23 least 100 years; and

24 (C) has been owned by the same family for at
25 least 100 consecutive years, as verified through

1 deeds, wills, abstracts, tax statements, or other simi-
2 lar legal documents considered appropriate by the
3 Secretary.

4 (b) PREFERENCE.—In recognizing farms under this
5 section, the Secretary shall give preference to small farms,
6 as determined by the Secretary.

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