

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4472

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with respect to transitioning producers from the noninsured crop assistance program to the whole farm revenue insurance plan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and 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 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with respect to transitioning producers from the noninsured crop assistance program to the whole farm revenue insurance plan.

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 “Save Our Small Farms
5 Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF NON-**
2 **INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

3 Section 196 of the of the Federal Agriculture Im-
4 provement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(C)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
8 inserting “best facilitates” after “assistance
9 program that”;

10 (B) in clause (i)—

11 (i) by striking “best facilitates the use
12 of that” and inserting “the use of those”;
13 and

14 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

15 (C) in clause (ii)—

16 (i) by striking “ensures the avail-
17 ability of that” and inserting “the avail-
18 ability of those”; and

19 (ii) by striking the period at the end
20 and inserting a semicolon; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(iii) the expansion of crops listed on
23 the national crop table of the Agency with
24 a local average market price; and

25 “(iv) the voluntary graduation of pro-
26 gram participants to the whole farm rev-

1 enue insurance plan developed under sec-
 2 tion 522(c)(7) of the Federal Crop Insur-
 3 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)).”;

4 (2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (4)
 5 and inserting the following:

6 “(4) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

7 “(A) DEFINITION OF WHOLE FARM REV-
 8 ENUE INSURANCE PLAN.—In this paragraph,
 9 the term ‘whole farm revenue insurance plan’
 10 means the whole farm revenue insurance plan
 11 developed under section 522(c)(7) of the Fed-
 12 eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)).

13 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
 15 shall establish a streamlined process for
 16 the submission of records and acreage re-
 17 ports under paragraphs (2) and (3), re-
 18 spectively, for—

19 “(I) diverse production systems,
 20 such as those typical of urban produc-
 21 tion systems;

22 “(II) other small-scale production
 23 systems; and

24 “(III) direct-to-consumer produc-
 25 tion systems.

1 “(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The streamlined
2 process established under clause (i) shall
3 include—

4 “(I) reduced acreage report re-
5 quirements; and

6 “(II) allowing the submission to
7 the Secretary of 2 reports per year so
8 as to accommodate later acreage re-
9 porting.

10 “(C) ON-RAMP TO WHOLE FARM REVENUE
11 INSURANCE PLAN.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
13 producer using diverse production systems
14 described in subparagraph (B)(i) that may
15 be eligible for the whole farm revenue in-
16 surance plan, the Secretary, acting through
17 the Administrator of the Agency, shall es-
18 tablish a streamlined revenue-based option
19 under the noninsured crop disaster assist-
20 ance program under this section to assist
21 the producer to transition, on a voluntary
22 basis, from the noninsured crop disaster
23 assistance program under this section to
24 the whole farm revenue insurance plan.

1 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The stream-
2 lined revenue-based option established
3 under clause (i) shall offer a premium dis-
4 count of—

5 “(I) 25 percent for the first crop
6 year for which a producer—

7 “(aa) certifies that the pro-
8 ducer will transition from the
9 noninsured crop disaster assist-
10 ance program under this section
11 to the whole farm revenue insur-
12 ance plan not later than 3 years
13 after the date of the certification;
14 and

15 “(bb) provides revenue his-
16 tory with respect to that crop
17 year;

18 “(II) 50 percent for the crop
19 year following the crop year described
20 in subclause (I) if the producer—

21 “(aa) certifies that the pro-
22 ducer will transition from the
23 noninsured crop disaster assist-
24 ance program under this section
25 to the whole farm revenue insur-

1 ance plan not later than 2 years
2 after the date of the certification;
3 and

4 “(bb) provides revenue his-
5 tory with respect to that crop
6 year; and

7 “(III) 50 percent for the crop
8 year following the crop year described
9 in subclause (II) if the producer—

10 “(aa) purchases insurance
11 under the whole farm revenue in-
12 surance plan not later than 1
13 year after the date of the certifi-
14 cation; and

15 “(bb) provides revenue his-
16 tory with respect to that crop
17 year.

18 “(iii) TAX FORM SCHEDULE F.—The
19 Secretary shall accept the Internal Rev-
20 enue Service Tax Form Schedule F (or a
21 successor form) with respect to a producer
22 for purposes of establishing revenue history
23 under clause (ii).

24 “(iv) REVENUE HISTORY SHARING.—
25 The Secretary shall submit to the Federal

1 Crop Insurance Corporation the revenue
2 history submitted to the Secretary pursu-
3 ant to clause (ii).

4 “(D) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90
5 days after the date of enactment of the Save
6 Our Small Farms Act of 2024, the Secretary
7 shall issue regulations to ensure that premium
8 discounts under this paragraph are only avail-
9 able to producers described in subparagraph
10 (C)(i) that comply with this paragraph.”;

11 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(5) NOTICE OF CERTAIN LOSSES.—A producer
14 of a hand-harvested or rapidly deteriorating crop
15 may submit to the Secretary evidence of a loss of
16 that crop at any time after the 120-hour period fol-
17 lowing the loss in order to be eligible for assistance
18 under this section.

19 “(6) APPRAISAL OF LOSS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which
21 an appraisal of crop acreage is requested by a
22 producer or determined to be necessary by a
23 State agricultural official or a State executive
24 director of the Agency for a year in which a no-
25 tice of loss is filed under this subsection, par-

1 ticularly in any case in which a loss adjuster is
2 not available within 72 hours of the notice, Sec-
3 retary shall permit the following alternatives to
4 an in-person appraisal by a loss adjuster:

5 “(i) Remote appraisal, including time-
6 stamped photographs, drone footage, and
7 other technology applications.

8 “(ii) Appraisal by field office staff of
9 the Agency with requisite training, in con-
10 junction with a remote appraisal under
11 clause (i).

12 “(B) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall re-
13 quire field office staff to attend noninsured crop
14 disaster assistance appraisal training for pur-
15 poses of subparagraph (A)(ii).”;

16 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “65 per-
17 cent” and inserting “100 percent”;

18 (5) in subsection (i)(2)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A)
25 and (B), in the case of a limited resource, be-

1 ginning, or socially disadvantaged farmer, as
2 determined by the Secretary, a veteran farmer
3 or rancher (as defined in section 2501(a) of the
4 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
5 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))), or a producer par-
6 ticipating in the streamlined revenue-based op-
7 tion pursuant to subsection (b)(4)(C),
8 \$600,000.”;

9 (6) in subsection (k)(2)—

10 (A) by striking “defined by the Secretary,
11 or a veteran” and inserting “determined by the
12 Secretary, a veteran”; and

13 (B) by inserting “, or a producer partici-
14 pating in the streamlined revenue-based option
15 pursuant to subsection (b)(4)(C)” before the
16 period at the end;

17 (7) in subsection (l), by striking paragraph (3)
18 and inserting the following:

19 “(3) PREMIUM DISCOUNT.—The coverage made
20 available under this subsection shall be available to
21 limited resource, beginning, or socially disadvan-
22 taged farmers, as determined by the Secretary, vet-
23 eran farmers or ranchers (as defined in section
24 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
25 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))), and pro-

1 ducers participating in the streamlined revenue-
2 based option pursuant to subsection (b)(4)(C), in ex-
3 change for a premium that is 25 percent of the pre-
4 mium determined under paragraph (2).”; and

5 (8) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(m) DELIVERY.—The Secretary shall collaborate
7 with outreach and technical assistance providers, exten-
8 sion offices, and State departments of agriculture to ad-
9 vertise the noninsured crop disaster assistance program
10 under this section, particularly to limited resource, begin-
11 ning, or socially disadvantaged farmers, as determined by
12 the Secretary, veteran farmers or ranchers (as defined in
13 section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
14 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))), and pro-
15 ducers eligible to participate in the streamlined revenue-
16 based option pursuant to subsection (b)(4)(C).”.

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