

- Authorizing the Secretary to use amounts in the reserve that are not obligated to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, or mid-tier value chains by June 30, to make grants to eligible entities as determined by the Secretary.

Providing mandatory funding of \$30 million.

SEC.6027.TELEMEDICINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

Amends section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act to authorize the Secretary to award loans and grants to schools and medical facilities for acquiring advanced telecommunications technologies to support medical and educational functions in rural areas.

6028. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR ELECTRIFICATION OR TELEPHONE PURPOSES.

Amends section 313A of the REA to authorize the Secretary to guarantee payments issued by cooperatives or other lenders organized on a non-for-profit basis if the proceeds of the bonds or notes are used to make loans for any electrification or telephone purpose eligible for assistance under the REA.

6029.COMPREHENSIVE RURAL BROADBAND STRATEGY.

Authorizes the Secretary to submit to the President and the Congress a report describing a comprehensive rural broadband strategy.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH
SUBTITLE A – GENERAL PROVISIONS

| SEC. 7101. DEFINITIONS.

- Capacity program generally means those formula fund programs that are used to fund faculty needs, building, equipment and repair of agriculture research facilities, as well as State and regional research priorities. Competitive program generally means those grants which are awarded competitively and are used for agricultural research and extension.
- Capacity Program and competitive critical base funding means the total amount of federal funds for all or individual respective programs for FY '07.
- ASCARR Institution is a public college or university that offers a baccalaureate or higher degree in agriculture, but does not include HSACUs or any Morrill Act or Land Grant institutions.
- HSACUs are colleges or universities that qualify as HSI's under the Higher Education Act and offers a baccalaureate in agriculture or food science related field.

SEC. 7102. BUDGET SUBMISSION AND FUNDING.

- Requires the President to submit with the annual budget request a single line item reflecting the total funding request for competitive programs for the fiscal year and the previous five fiscal years.
- The capacity program critical base funding request should be apportioned among programs based on priorities established by the Undersecretary and Directors. Additional funds

requested should enhance 1890's, 1994's, small 1862's and ASCARR Institutions, and HSACUs.

- The competitive program critical base funding request should be apportioned among programs based on priorities established by the Undersecretary and Directors of NARPO. Additional funds requested should support study of emerging problems and their solutions.
- Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated.
- Competitive programs under this section include only those requested by the President for appropriations funding.

SEC. 7103. ADDITIONAL PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

- Adds additional purposes of agricultural research and extension to include:
- Integrating and organizing agricultural research, extension, education and related programs to respond to 21st century challenges, and to continue to meet the needs of society from a local, Tribal, State, National and international perspective;
- Minimize duplication and maximize coordination of the program at all levels;
- Position the research, extension, education and related programs system in order to expand the portfolio to increase its contribution to society.

SEC. 7104. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OFFICE.

- Establishes six research Program Offices, collectively known as the "National Agricultural Research Program Office" within the office of the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. The National Agricultural Research Program Office will coordinate the programs and activities of the research agencies within the mission area to the maximum extent practicable.
- The National Agricultural Research Program Office will include the following offices:
 - Renewable energy, resources, and environment;
 - Food safety, nutrition, and health;
 - Plant health and production;
 - Animal health and production and animal products;
 - Agriculture systems and technology; and
 - Agriculture economics and rural communities.
- Each research Program Office will have a Director appointed by the Under Secretary, and will have conducted outstanding research, education or extension in agriculture or forestry, earned a doctorate, and met the standards for appointment to a senior level of the competitive service.
- The Directors will formulate programs, assess workforce needs, cooperate with the Board in planning for personnel needs, develop strategic planning and priorities for department-wide research, education, extension and related activities, and communicate with program beneficiaries.
- The Under Secretary, along with the Directors and in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Education and Economics Advisory Board, will direct and coordinate programs within relevant departmental agencies to focus on understanding program problems and opportunities, addressing those problems, and national/regional/local priorities.

- The Undersecretary will coordinate with the Directors and receive the advice of the Board to ensure that programs are integrated and coordinated.
- The Under Secretary will fund each Program Office with appropriated funds made available to the agencies within the mission area. The total number of staff for all Program Offices shall not exceed 30 full time positions and shall be filled by current positions.
- The Undersecretary will integrate leadership functions from existing program offices to ensure that Program offices are the primary program leaders.
- Requires the Under Secretary to develop and implement specialty crop research activities; facilitate information delivery; and ensure coordination among research initiatives related to specialty crops.

SEC. 7105. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS UNDER THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

- Establishes the National Institute for Food and Agriculture within the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service to administer all competitive grants.

SEC. 7106. MERGING OF IFAFS AND NRI.

- The law authorizing IFAFS is repealed; the law authorizing the NRI is amended to establish a competitive grant program available to State ag experiment stations, all colleges, universities, university research foundations, research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations, corporations or individuals.
- Funds may not be used for construction.
- Within this new combined program will be 2 separate programs for basic and applied research, to be referred to as the NRI and IFAFS, respectively.
- NRI funding shall be allocated as follows: 30 per cent for multidisciplinary teams; 20 percent for missions linked systems research; not less than 10 percent for education and research opportunities. The offer or availability of matching funds shall not be taken into account when making a grant. The match requirement may be waived in certain instances.
- Matching funds shall be required for IFAFS grants if the grant is for applied commodity specific research and not national in scope.
- In addition to NRI grants, the Secretary may conduct a program in agricultural, food and environmental sciences in a variety of specified categories.
- 60 percent of funds made available shall fund the NRI, and 40 percent will fund IFAFS.
- Funding made available under current statute for IFAFS will be transferred to this new combined program. \$500,000,000 are authorized to be appropriated, and shall remain available until expended for obligations incurred in that fiscal year.

SEC. 7107. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR ASCARR INSTITUTIONS.

- Grants will be made for ASCARR Institutions to maintain and expand education, outreach and research capacity relating to agriculture, renewable resources and other similar fields.
- Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated.

SEC. 7108. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH LABORATORIES FOR ANIMAL DISEASES.

- Authorizes the Secretary to establish animal disease research laboratories, and to the extent that an animal disease constitutes a threat to the livestock industry, authorizes the Secretary to conduct research, diagnostics, and other activities.
- Prohibits a person, State or Federal agency from importing, transporting or storing at a research facility a live virus that the Secretary determines to be a threat to livestock, such as foot-and-mouth disease. The Secretary may, however, import, transport or store such a live virus, and may also allow for a person, State or Federal agency to do the same, if it is in the public interest.
- Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated.

SEC. 7109. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

- Maintains the operation of the Grazingland Research laboratory in its current location.

SEC. 7110. RESEARCHER TRAINING.

- Plant genetic researchers receiving certain federal funds are required to complete an approved training program.

SEC. 7111. FORT RENO SCIENCE PARK RESEARCH FACILITY.

- The Secretary may lease the land at the Grazinglands Research Laboratory to the University of Oklahoma.

SEC. 7112. ASSESSING THE NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION OF BEEF PRODUCTS.

- A grant will be available to a land-grant university to update the Nutrient Composition Handbook for Beef. Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated.

SEC. 7113. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FUNDING FOR HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH.

- It is the sense of Congress that human nutrition research has the potential for improving the health of Americans.

SUBTITLE B—NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977

This subtitle reauthorizes various grants, programs, centers, appropriations, facilities, institutions under NARETPA.

SEC. 7201. ADVISORY BOARD.

- Increases the maximum annual limitation on expenses for the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to \$500,000.

SEC. 7202. ADVISORY BOARD TERMINATION.

- Extends the authorization of the Board until 2012.

SEC. 7203. RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE.

- Requires the executive committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to establish and appoint initial members to a permanent renewable energy committee, responsible for studying the research, extension, and economics programs affecting the renewable energy industry. The renewable energy committee

will submit annual reports to the Advisory Board with the committee's findings and recommendations.

- The Renewable Energy Committee shall coordinate with the Biomass Research and Development Act Committee.
- When preparing the annual budget recommendations for the Department, the Secretary shall take into account the recommendations made by the committee and adopted by the Advisory Board.

SEC. 7204. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE REPORT.

- Expands the list of recommendations the specialty crops committee must make annually to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board to include economic analyses of the specialty crop sector and data that provide applied information useful to specialty crop growers.

SEC. 7205. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

- Adds the University of the District of Columbia as an eligible university to compete for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education, and makes UDC eligible for a set aside for colleges that uniquely represent minority groups.

SEC. 7206. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION.

- Includes institution of higher education that award an associate's degree, other institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations as eligible institutions for teaching program grants.
- Adds agriculture in the classroom as an eligible grant activity.
- Authorization for appropriations in the current amount of \$60,000,000 for each fiscal year is extended to 2012.
- A report is required to detail the distribution of funds to teaching programs.

SEC. 7207. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ALCOHOLS AND INDUSTRIAL HYDROCARBONS FROM AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FOREST PRODUCTS.

- Authorization for appropriations is extended to 2012.

SEC. 7208. POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

- Includes FAPRI as eligible to receive grants under this section. Extends authorization for appropriations through 2012.

SEC. 7209. HUMAN NUTRITION INTERVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

- Extends authorization of appropriations through 2012.

SEC. 7210. PILOT RESEARCH PROGRAM TO COMBINE MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

- Extends authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2012, for the Secretary to conduct a pilot research program to link major cancer and heart disease research efforts with agricultural research efforts to identify compounds in vegetables and fruits that prevent these diseases.

SEC. 7211. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$83,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to carry out the food and nutrition education program.

SEC. 7212. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary up to \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to support continuing animal health and disease research programs.

SEC. 7213. COOPERATION AMONG ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.

- The Secretary shall encourage cooperation among institutions eligible for funding under Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs in setting research priorities.

SEC. 7214. APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH ON NATIONAL OR REGIONAL PROBLEMS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary up to \$35,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to support research on specific national or regional animal health or disease problems, or national or regional problems relating to pre-harvest, on-farm food safety.

SEC. 7215. AUTHORIZATION LEVEL OF EXTENSION AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.

- Increases the amount from funds appropriated for cooperative extension work at land-grant institutions from 15 to 20 per cent of the total.

SEC. 7216. AUTHORIZATION LEVEL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.

- Increases the amount of funds appropriated under the Hatch Act for ag research from 25 to 30 percent.

SEC. 7217. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY.

- Authorizes \$750,000 each fiscal year through 2012 to support efforts to acquire, alter or repair facilities and equipment at USDC necessary for agricultural research.

SEC. 7218. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for grants to 1890 land-grant institutions to acquire and improve agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment.

SEC. 7219. NATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING VIRTUAL CENTERS.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make a competitive grant to five national research and training virtual centers located at 1890 land-grant institutions.

SEC. 7220. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES OF 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

- Establishes a formula for States to provide matching funds to be provided to 1890 land-grant institutions for agricultural research, extension, and education activities, through fiscal year 2012.

SEC. 7221. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants to Hispanic-serving institutions to promote and strengthen the institutions' abilities to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs.

SEC. 7222. HISPANIC SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

- Establishes an endowment fund, institutional capacity building grant program, and a competitive grant program to benefit Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.
- HSACUs are defined as institutions that qualify as Hispanic serving institutions under the Higher Education Act and offer an associate, bachelor or other accredited degree in agricultural fields of study.
- Necessary funds are authorized to be appropriated for the endowment fund, extension, and institutional capacity building and competitive grants through 2012. A formula for distribution of appropriations is authorized for endowment and maintenance of HSACUs under the Second Morrill Act.

SEC. 7223. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

- The Secretary may give priority to institutions with existing memorandums of understanding or other formal agreements to U.S. institutions or State and Federal agencies expanding USDA coordination on agricultural research, extension and teaching activities with other countries.
- Includes HSACs as organizations the Secretary may enter into agreements with to help develop a sustainable global agriculture system.
- Adds HSACs to the list of universities eligible for support to do collaborative research with other countries on U.S. agricultural competitiveness.
- Adds HSACs to the list of colleges and universities where Federal scientists are involved with research conducted internationally.
- Establishes a program to provide fellowships to U.S. or foreign students to study at foreign agricultural colleges.

SEC. 7224. COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants directed to agricultural research, extension, and teaching

activities to colleges and universities to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness and promote international market development.

SEC. 7225. LIMITATION ON INDIRECT COSTS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS.

- The limitation of no more than 19 percent of federal funds for indirect charges now applies to any grant under this section.

SEC. 7226. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants for the acquisition of special purpose scientific research equipment for use in the food and agricultural science programs of eligible institutions.

SEC. 7227. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for certain existing and new agriculture research programs.

SEC. 7228. EXTENSION SERVICE.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to carry out the extension programs of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 7229. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

- Requires the Secretary to develop and implement a research project for the development of supplemental and alternative crops.

SEC. 7230. AQUACULTURE RESEARCH FACILITIES.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants to Hispanic-serving institutions to promote and strengthen the institutions' abilities to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs.

SEC. 7231. RANGELAND RESEARCH.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated not to exceed \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make grants to land-grant colleges and universities, State agricultural experiment stations, and other institutions to conduct rangeland research.

SEC. 7232. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND RESPONSE.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for biosecurity planning and response.

SEC. 7233. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION AND DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSULAR AREA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the Secretary to make competitive or non-competitive grants to eligible institution in

insular areas to strengthen the capacity of such institutions to carry out distance food and agricultural education programs using digital network technologies.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for competitive grants to insular area institutions to strengthen educational capacities in the food and agricultural sciences.

SUBTITLE C—FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

This subtitle reauthorizes various programs, initiatives, and a clearinghouse under FACTA.

SEC. 7301. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the national genetics resources program.

SEC. 7302 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEM.

- Authorizes \$5,000,000 in appropriations advisory programs for State agricultural weather information systems.

Sec. 7303. PARTNERSHIPS.

- Grant proposals received under the High Priority Research and Extension Initiatives must be scientifically meritorious and involve the cooperation of multiple entities in order to receive priority consideration.

SEC. 7304. AFLATOXIN RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.

- Changes the existing grant description to improve and commercialize aflatoxin control in corn and other crops.

Sec. 7305. HIGH PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AREAS.

- The following are added to the High Priority Research and Extension Area Initiatives: Farmed and wild cervid disease and genetic research; air emissions from livestock operations; swine genome project; cattle fever tick program; colony collapse disorder program; synthetic gypsum from power plants research; cranberry research program; sorghum research initiative; and bean health research program.

SEC. 7306. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for competitive grants for specified high-priority research and extension initiatives.

SEC. 7307. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

- Adds grant proposals that address unique regional concerns as eligible for priority treatment
- Adds dairy cattle waste as types of waste to be studied to develop new methods of managing air and water quality.
- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for competitive grants for the nutrient management research and extension initiative.

SEC. 7308. AGRICULTURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated not to exceed \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to encourage the development and utilization of an agricultural communications network to strengthen agricultural extension, resident education and research, and marketing of agricultural commodities.

SEC. 7309. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make demonstration grants to support cooperative programs between State Cooperative Extension Service agencies and private nonprofit disability organizations to provide on-the-farm agricultural education and assistance for individuals with disabilities who are engaged in farming.

SEC. 7310. ORGANIC RESEARCH.

- Extends the Organic Research and Extension Initiative to examine optimal conservation and environmental outcomes for organically produced agricultural products, and to develop new and improved seed varieties that are particularly suited for organic agriculture.
- Authorizes appropriations of \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years through 2012 for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative.
- The Director of the National Agricultural Research Program Office shall coordinate this program to avoid duplication.

SEC. 7311. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$500,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012 for the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse to provide and distribute information and data to any industry, organization, or Federal, State, or local government entity about programs and services provided in rural areas.

SUBTITLE D—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

This subtitle reauthorizes various partnerships, initiatives, grants, and offices under AREERA.

SEC. 7401. PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGH-VALUE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY RESEARCH.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants to eligible partnerships to coordinate and manage research and extension activities to enhance the quality of high-value agricultural products.

SEC. 7402. PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants to conduct research, education, or information dissemination projects for the development and advancement of precision agriculture.

SEC. 7403. BIOBASED PRODUCTS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to develop, commercialize, and promote the use of biobased products.

SEC. 7404. THOMAS JEFFERSON INITIATIVE FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to fund the Thomas Jefferson Initiative for Crop Diversification, which supports research and development on the production, marketing and efficient use of new and nontraditional crops needed to strengthen and diversify the agricultural production base of the U.S.

SEC. 7405. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for an integrated research, education, and extension competitive grant program.

SEC. 7406. FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM GRANTS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make grants to consortia of land-grant colleges and universities to enhance the ability of the consortia to conduct multi-State research projects aimed at understanding and combating diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by Fusarium graminearum and related fungi.

SEC. 7407. BOVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to conduct research, testing and evaluation for the control and management of Johne's disease in livestock.

SEC. 7408. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make grants to specified youth organizations to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas.

SEC. 7409. AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to make competitive grants to institutions or nonprofit organizations to develop agricultural biotechnology for developing countries.

SEC. 7410. AGRICULTURAL BIOENERGY AND BIOBASED PRODUCTS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

- Amends the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to establish a bioenergy and biobased products research initiative to enhance the production, sustainability and conversion of biomass to renewable fuels and related products.
- The research initiative will be supported by a bioenergy and biobased product laboratory network that will focus research on improving biomass production and sustainability, and improving biomass conversion in biorefineries.
- The Director of the research institute established under Sec. 7103 will coordinate projects and activities under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 to coordinate and maximize the strengths of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy.
- The Secretary may carry out research and award grants on a competitive basis.
- \$50,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out this section.

- The Director of the National Agricultural Research Program Office shall coordinate this program to avoid duplication of projects carried out under the Biomass Research and Development Act.

SEC. 7411. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

- Establishes the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops and their regions, including work in plant breeding and genetics, safety, quality, and yield; efforts to identify and address threats posed by invasive species; and efforts to improve production.
- The Secretary may carry out research and award grants on a competitive basis.
- \$100,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out this section.
- The Director of the National Agricultural Research Program Office shall coordinate this program to avoid duplication.

SEC. 7412. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the Office of Pest Management Policy to provide for the effective coordination of agricultural policies related to pesticides and pest management tools.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER LAWS

SEC. 7501. CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to carry out the Critical Agricultural Materials Act.

SEC. 7502. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for specified institutions to be considered land grant colleges.
- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the Secretary to provide grants to an institution named in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the study, plan, design, structure, and related costs of agricultural research facilities under the Research Facilities Act.

SEC. 7504. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1985.

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for the cost of planning, construction, and other public improvements for Federal agricultural research facilities.

SEC. 7505. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RESEARCH GRANT ACT (NATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE).

- Authorizes appropriations of \$500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to provide competitive research grants for high priority research.

SEC. 7506. AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 2000 (CARBON CYCLE RESEARCH).

- Authorizes funds to be appropriated as necessary for each of the fiscal years through 2012, to provide a grant to the Consortium for Agricultural Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gasses.

SEC. 7507. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for funding to eligible States with forests yielding renewable resources.

SEC. 7508. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.

- Authorizes appropriations of \$1,000,000 for the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and the Department of Interior, respectively, for each of the fiscal years through 2012, for funding for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980.

SEC. 7509. CONSTRUCTION OF A CHINESE GARDEN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM.

- Authorizes the construction of a Chinese garden at the National Arboretum.

SEC. 7510. PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN PRODUCING FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

- Extends the authorization to 2012 for a program to communicate with the public regarding scientific based information on the safety of biotech foods for human consumption.

SEC. 7511. FRESH CUT PRODUCE SAFETY GRANTS.

- Authorizes the Secretary to award competitive research and extension grants to improve and enhance the safety of fresh cut produce.
- Universities, colleges and other entities that have relationships with producers of fresh cut produce are eligible.
- The recipient must provide an equal of amount of matching funds or in kind support from non-federal sources.
- The Director of the National Agricultural Research Program Office shall coordinate this program to avoid duplication.
- Necessary funds are authorized to be appropriated through 2012.

SEC. 7512. UDC/EFNEP ELIGIBILITY.

- Amends the DC Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act to make UDC eligible for The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

SEC. 7513. SMITH-LEVER ACT.

- Allows the Secretary to waive UDC from matching requirements under the Smith-Lever Act.

SEC. 7514. HATCH ACT OF 1987.

- Allows the Secretary to waive UDC from matching requirements under the Hatch Act.

SUBTITLE F – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

SEC. 7601. MERIT REVIEW OF EXTENSION AND EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.

- Consistent with the establishment of competitive grant programs under NIFA, inserts NIFA as the administering body for which merit review procedures must be established.

SEC. 7602. REVIEW OF PLAN OF WORK REQUIREMENTS.

- The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress identifying measures to streamline work plan requirements under the '77 Act, the Hatch Act and the Smith-Lever Act.

SEC. 7603. MULTISTATE AND INTEGRATION FUNDING.

- Of the federal formula funds States receive under the Hatch Act, 25 percent must be spent on the integration of cooperative research and extension activities.

SEC. 7604. EXPANDED FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

- Changes the allocation of funds in excess of the amount appropriated in FY 1981.
- Increases authorized appropriations from \$83,000,000 to \$90,000,000 through 2014.

SEC. 7605. GRANTS TO 1890 SCHOOLS TO EXPAND EXTENSION CAPACITY.

- Adds “extensions” to grants for designing agricultural programs at colleges and universities with significant minority enrollment.

SEC. 7606. BORLAUG INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

- Creates a fellowship program to provide scientific training to individuals from eligible countries who specialize in agricultural education, research and extension.
- Necessary sums are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitation.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

SUBTITLE A—COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978

SEC. 8001. NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PRIVATE FOREST CONSERVATION.

Amends Section 2 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) by requiring the Secretary to focus on a set of three national private forest conservation priorities when allocating appropriated CFAA funds. The national priorities are:

- Conserving and managing working forest landscapes;
- Protecting forests from threats and restoring forests in response to threats to forest health; and
- Enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and recreation.