

AGRICULTURE MANAGER'S PACKAGE

Bill language for Senator Tester and Senator Hoeven regarding 1994 Land Grant Institutions

Bill language for Senator Reed regarding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Report language for Senator Merkley regarding Organic Production Survey

Report language for Senator Cochran regarding the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program

Report language for Senator Coons regarding poultry losses

Report language for Senator Merkley regarding price elections

Report language for Senator Merkley regarding the Rural Housing Assistance Grant Program

On Page 85 of the bill, between lines 2 and 3 insert the following language:

SEC. (a) The Senate finds that—

(1) October 20, 2014, marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing into law of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382), which granted Federal land-grant status to Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) known as the 1994 land-grant institutions;

(2) the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 addresses the essential need for Native Americans to explore and adopt new and evolving technologies for managing tribal land, with the hope of continued improvement of reservation land;

(3) the extension programs of the 1994 land-grant institutions strengthen communities through outreach programs designed to bolster economic development, community resources, family and youth development, natural resources development, agriculture, and health and nutrition education;

(4) the 1994 land-grant institutions are helping to address the epidemic rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease that plague Indian reservations through the promotion of healthful food systems and food science and nutrition education programs; and

(5) the mission and successes of the 1994 land-grant institutions deserve national recognition.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the outstanding contributions of the 1994 land-grant institutions to the work of the great land-grant system of the United States should be recognized;

(2) expanded collaboration and cooperation within the land-grant system is encouraged to advance and sustain academic and community programs that serve all people of the United States; and

(3) the people of the United States are encouraged to observe and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the signing into law of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382), including efforts to advance the growth and sustainability of the 1994 land-grant institutions and communities served by those institutions.

On page 50, line 16, after “\$155,000,000” insert:

“of which \$2,800,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ‘Food and Nutrition Service, Commodity Assistance Program’ to begin service in 6 additional States that have plans approved by the Department for the commodity supplemental food program but are not currently participating”

On page 24 of the report, after “Nutrition Research and Aging” insert the following paragraph:

Organic Production Survey.—In 2008, NASS conducted the first ever comprehensive Organic Production Survey as a follow-on survey to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Published in February 2010, the survey has provided information vital to the organic sector’s growth. The Committee believes the Organic Production Survey should be conducted on a regular basis to properly assess the characteristics, trends, and changes in the sector. The Committee provided \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2014 for this purpose and expects USDA to conduct the Organic Production Survey as a comprehensive follow-on survey to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

On page 54 of the report, after “County Staff” insert the following paragraph:

Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program.—The Committee directs the Department to expeditiously carry out its contractual obligations on all contracts and agreements entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 1231A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a). The Committee expects the authorized review process for outstanding 2013 EFCRP payments to remain consistent with the review process for 2012 and prior year CRP payments.

On page 58 of the report, at the bottom of the page insert the following:

The Committee recognizes that there are many research priorities that competitive funding may be used to address, including the feasibility of insurance programs to cover business interruption due to integrator bankruptcy and catastrophic loss in the poultry industry. The Committee encourages RMA to support research into these priorities.

Price elections.—The committee encourages RMA to pool data from as many sources as possible, including guaranteed contracts as well as data from industry and extension agents, to demonstrate compliance with the Agriculture Act of 2014. In addition, RMA is encouraged to make use of the data from the NASS 2014 Organic Production and Price Survey to publish remaining organic price elections as quickly as possible.”

On page 72 of the report, after the table insert the following:

The Committee recommends that the Rural Housing Service prioritize funding for communities with unique weather patterns in need of replacing antiquated heating systems with more efficient technologies.