

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to expand the availability of programs of the Department of Agriculture to veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to expand the availability of programs of the Department of Agriculture to veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

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 “Farmer Veteran Op-  
5 portunity Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
2 **PROGRAMS FOR VETERAN FARMERS AND**  
3 **RANCHERS.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCH-  
5 ER.—Section 2501(e)(7) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(7))  
7 is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at  
9 the end;

10 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
11 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(C) is a veteran (as defined in section  
14 101 of that title) who has first obtained status  
15 as a veteran (as so defined) during the most re-  
16 cent 10-year period.”.

17 (b) FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.—

18 (1) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR  
19 RANCHER.—Section 502(b) of the Federal Crop In-  
20 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)) is amended by add-  
21 ing at the end the following:

22 “(12) VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The  
23 term ‘veteran farmer or rancher’ means a farmer or  
24 rancher who—

1           “(A) has served in the Armed Forces (as  
2 defined in section 101 of title 38, United States  
3 Code); and

4           “(B)(i) has not operated a farm or ranch;  
5           “(ii) has operated a farm or ranch for not  
6 more than 5 years; or

7           “(iii) is a veteran (as defined in section  
8 101 of that title) who has first obtained status  
9 as a veteran (as so defined) during the most re-  
10 cent 5-year period.”.

11           (2) CROP INSURANCE.—Section 508 of the Fed-  
12 eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508) is amend-  
13 ed—

14           (A) in subsection (b)(5)(E), by inserting “,  
15 and veteran farmers or ranchers” before the pe-  
16 riod at the end;

17           (B) in subsection (e)(8)—

18           (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-  
19 serting “AND VETERAN” after “BEGIN-  
20 NING”; and

21           (ii) by inserting “or veteran farmer or  
22 rancher” after “beginning farmer or  
23 rancher” each place it appears; and

24           (C) in subsection (g)—

1 (i) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), in the  
2 matter preceding subclause (I), by insert-  
3 ing “or veteran farmer or rancher” after  
4 “beginning farmer or rancher” each place  
5 it appears; and

6 (ii) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii)(II), by in-  
7 serting “and veteran farmers or ranchers”  
8 after “beginning farmers or ranchers”.

9 (3) EDUCATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT AS-  
10 SISTANCE.—Section 524(a)(4) of the Federal Crop  
11 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)(4)) is amended—

12 (A) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking  
13 “and” at the end;

14 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the  
15 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

17 “(F) veteran farmers or ranchers.”.

18 (c) DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.—Section  
19 310E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
20 Act (7 U.S.C. 1935) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “qualified  
22 beginning farmers or ranchers and socially disadvan-  
23 taged farmers or ranchers” and inserting “eligible  
24 farmers or ranchers”;

25 (2) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “re-  
2 cipients of the loans” and inserting “farmers or  
3 ranchers”;

4 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
5 ing the following:

6 “(3) encourage retiring farmers and ranchers to  
7 assist in the sale of their farms and ranches to eligi-  
8 ble farmers or ranchers by providing seller financ-  
9 ing;”; and

10 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “for be-  
11 ginning farmers or ranchers or socially dis-  
12 advantaged farmers or ranchers” and inserting  
13 the following: “for—

14 “(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

15 “(B) socially disadvantaged farmers or  
16 ranchers, as defined in section 355(e); or

17 “(C) veteran farmers or ranchers, as de-  
18 fined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agri-  
19 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
20 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”; and

21 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking “a quali-  
22 fied beginning farmer or rancher or socially dis-  
23 advantaged farmer or rancher” and inserting  
24 “an eligible farmer or rancher”; and

1           (3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the  
2 following:

3           “(e) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE FARMER OR RANCH-  
4 ER.—In this section, the term ‘eligible farmer or rancher’  
5 means—

6           “(1) a qualified beginning farmer or rancher;

7           “(2) a socially disadvantaged farmer or ranch-  
8 er, as defined in section 355(e); and

9           “(3) a veteran farmer or rancher, as defined in  
10 section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).”.

12          (d) INTEREST RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM.—Sec-  
13 tion 351(e)(2)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1999(e)(2)(B)) is amended—

15           (1) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting  
16 “AND VETERAN” after “BEGINNING”;

17           (2) in clause (i), by inserting “or veteran farm-  
18 ers and ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e) of  
19 the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act  
20 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)))” before the period at  
21 the end; and

22           (3) in clause (ii), by striking “beginning”.

23          (e) NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDU-  
24 CATION, EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-  
25 SISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 405(c) of the Agricultural

1 Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998  
2 (7 U.S.C. 7625(c)) is amended by inserting “veteran  
3 farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e) of the  
4 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
5 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))),” after “socially disadvantaged farm-  
6 ers,”.

7 (f) ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF NON-  
8 INSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 196 of  
9 the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of  
10 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (k)(2), by inserting “, or a  
12 veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in section  
13 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
14 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)))” before the  
15 period at the end; and

16 (2) in subsection (l)(4)—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting  
18 “VETERAN,” before “AND SOCIALLY”; and

19 (B) by inserting “and veteran farmers or  
20 ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e) of the  
21 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act  
22 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)))” before “in ex-  
23 change”.

24 (g) FUNDING FOR TRANSITION OPTION FOR CER-  
25 TAIN FARMERS OR RANCHERS.—Section 1241(a)(1)(B) of

1 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)(1)(B))  
2 is amended by striking “beginning farmers or ranchers  
3 and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers” and in-  
4 serting “covered farmers or ranchers, as defined in section  
5 1235(f)(1)”.

6 (h) SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AS-  
7 SISTANCE.—

8 (1) DEFINITION OF COVERED PRODUCER.—Sec-  
9 tion 1501(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
10 U.S.C. 9081(a)) is amended—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
12 through (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), re-  
13 spectively; and

14 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as  
15 so redesignated) the following:

16 “(1) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term ‘covered  
17 producer’ means an eligible producer on a farm that  
18 is—

19 “(A) as determined by the Secretary—

20 “(i) a beginning farmer or rancher;

21 “(ii) a socially disadvantaged farmer  
22 or rancher; or

23 “(iii) a limited resource farmer or  
24 rancher; or



1           “(B) a veteran farmer or rancher, as de-  
2           fined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agri-  
3           culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
4           (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).”.

5           (2) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK,  
6           HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.—Section  
7           1501(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.  
8           9081(d)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9           lowing:

10           “(4) PAYMENT RATE FOR COVERED PRO-  
11           DUCERS.—In the case of a covered producer that is  
12           eligible to receive assistance under this subsection,  
13           the Secretary shall provide reimbursement of 90 per-  
14           cent of the cost of losses described in paragraph (1)  
15           or (2).”.