

**The Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act of 2017**  
**(The Local FARMS Act of 2017)**  
**S. 1947 / H.R. 3941**  
**Section-by-Section Outline**

**Agricultural Market Development Program** – *Amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946* to consolidate and streamline the Farmers’ Market and Local Food Promotion Program, Value Added Producer grant program, Food LINC - Value Chain Coordinators initiative, and a new Regional Public-Private Partnership program into one larger initiative that provides \$80 million per year in mandatory funding, achieves permanent baseline funding, and advances the purposes and functions of the underlying programs.

The new local and regional food program will provide a comprehensive, streamlined path to economic development work that takes a full supply chain approach and includes the following programs, initiatives and concepts:

**Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program** – increase annual mandatory funding from \$30 million to at least \$40 million per year and clarify program purposes in regards to direct-to-retail and similar projects.

**Value-Added Producer Grants Program** – transfer program administration from Rural Development to the Agricultural Marketing Service, provide for robust outreach and technical assistance capacity, and provide at least \$20 million in mandatory funding per year.

**Local and Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordination Program** – establish a value chain coordination program to increase market development services to farmers and ranchers to help build sustainable local and regional food economies (i.e., codify the USDA Value Chain Coordinators or Food LINC initiative). Provide up to \$10 million per year in mandatory funding.

**The Regional Food Economy Partnership Program** - establish a new public-private partnership program that focuses on regionally targeted food systems planning and development projects to leverage outside investment and expertise from banks, the Farm Credit System, Community Development Financial Institutions, foundations and non-governmental organizations.

**Food Safety Outreach Program** – *Amend Section 405 the Agriculture, Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 and Section 209 of The Food Safety Modernization Act* to prioritize projects led by community based organizations; limit allowable indirect costs; and establish mandatory funding at \$20 million per year.

**Food Safety Certification Cost-share Program** – *Amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* to establish a new national food safety certification and practice implementation cost-share assistance program with \$10 million per year in mandatory funding to support specialty crop producers and handlers. Program includes payment and time limitations and bonus options for beginning, veterans and socially disadvantaged producers.

**National Organic Certification Cost Share Program** – *Amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* to reauthorize the program at \$11.5 million per year in mandatory funding. (\$11.5 million per year in mandatory funding would be level funding compared to the 2014 Farm bill.)

**Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Supply Chain Infrastructure Financing** - *Amend the Agricultural Act of 1961 & Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act* to authorize all Rural Development and Farm Service Agency programs to be used to assist program participants in maintaining and increasing the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, and marketing of value-added, niche, or regionally marketed meat and dairy products.

**Geographic Preference: School Food Procurement** – *Amend Section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act* to provide additional clarity around the use of geographic preference for procurement of school foods by adding locale as an allowed product specification for procurement.

**Harvesting Health Pilot** – *Amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new section* to authorize FNS to conduct produce prescription pilot projects that create partnerships between emergency feeding organizations or other appropriate entities and health clinics or similar entities; allowing health entities to prescribe fresh and vegetables to low-income patients to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of produce prescription programs in addressing food insecurity, supporting local agriculture and reducing health care utilization and associated costs. Establishes mandatory funding at \$10 million per year for pilot projects.

**Senior and Veterans Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** – *Amend Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002* to add veterans to the program and increase annual funding from \$20.6 million to \$50 million.

**Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program** – *Amend the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998* to reauthorize and strengthen appropriations authorization and provide a reservation for the majority funds to be used for regional or national projects.