

**URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE**

**SEC. 7212 of the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Report**

*(a) IN GENERAL.—The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1672D (7 U.S.C. 5925f) the following:*

**SEC. 1672E. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

(a) COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—In consultation with the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee established under section 222(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, the Secretary may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of facilitating the development of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packaging, distribution, and markets, including by—

- (1) assessing and developing strategies to remediate contaminated sites;
- (2) determining and developing the best production management and integrated pest management practices;
- (3) identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production;
- (4) analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs;
- (5) exploring new technologies that minimize energy, lighting systems, water, and other inputs for increased food production;
- (6) examining building material efficiencies and structural upgrades for the purpose of optimizing growth of agricultural products;
- (7) developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets; or
- (8) examining the impacts of crop exposure to urban elements on environmental quality and food safety.

(b) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS.—Subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (4), paragraph (7), and paragraph (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

(c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give priority to grant proposals that involve—

- (1) the cooperation of multiple entities; or
- (2) States or regions with a high concentration of or significant interest in urban farms, rooftop farms, and indoor production facilities. “

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2019, to remain available until expended.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

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*(29) Urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production research, education, and extension initiative (Report)*

The Senate amendment authorizes competitive research and extension grants to support research, education, and extension activities for the purposes of enhancing urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production. Priority may be given to grant proposals that involve the cooperation of multiple entities, or States or regions with a high concentration of or significant interest in urban farms, rooftop farms, and indoor production facilities. The Senate amendment provides \$4 million in mandatory CCC funds for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 and authorizes appropriations of an additional \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023. It requires the Secretary to conduct a census of urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production and provides a separate authorization of an additional \$14 million for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2021 to carry out this census. (Section 7212)

The House bill contains no comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with amendments striking the inclusion of assessment of shipping and transportation impacts on nutritional values for research under the competitive research and extension grants, providing \$10 million in mandatory CCC funds for fiscal year 2019 to remain available until expended, and making other technical changes. (Section 7212)

The Managers recognize that methods of agricultural production are changing and evolving across the country. For example, agricultural production occurs on vacant land in urban areas, contributing to economic recovery and creating opportunities for new farmers. Highly-efficient indoor farms grow fresh produce in

areas near consumers to increase access to their products year-round. Rooftop agriculture produces local food and creates new entrepreneurial opportunities in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The Managers recognize that these and other emerging agriculture production methods bring a new generation of farmers and connect consumers to agriculture. The Managers intend for the Secretary to fund research, education, and extension that support these efforts and address the specific research needs and challenges faced by urban, indoor and other emerging agricultural production methods.

## OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

### SEC. 12302. Of the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Report

*Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) (as amended by section 12202) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

### SEC. 222. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION

#### (a) OFFICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a senior official to serve as the Director of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (referred to in this section as the ‘Di- rector’).

(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of Urban Agri- culture and Innovative Production shall be to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural prac- tices, including—

- (A) community gardens and farms located in urban areas, suburbs, and urban clusters;
- (B) rooftop farms, outdoor vertical production, and green walls;
- (C) indoor farms, greenhouses, and high-tech vertical technology farms;
- (D) hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facili- ties; and
- (E) other innovations in agricultural production, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall be responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the mission described in paragraph (3), including by—

- (A) managing programs, including for community gardens, urban farms, rooftop agriculture, and indoor vertical production;
- (B) advising the Secretary;
- (C) coordinating with the agencies and officials of the Department to update relevant programs;
- (D) engaging in stakeholder relations and developing external partnerships;
- (E) identifying common State and municipal best practices for navigating

local policies;

(F) coordinating networks of community gardens and facilitating connections to local food banks, in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Service; and

(G) collaborating with other Federal agencies.

(b) URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Committee’) to advise the Secretary on—

(A) the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and

(B) any other aspects of the implementation of this section.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 12 members, of whom—

(i) 4 shall be individuals who are agricultural producers, of whom—

(I) 2 individuals shall be agricultural producers located in an urban area or urban cluster; and

(II) 2 individuals shall be farmers that use innovative technology;

(ii) 2 shall be representatives from an institution of higher education or extension program;

(iii) 1 shall be an individual who represents a nonprofit organization, which may include a public health, environmental, or community organization;

(iv) 1 shall be an individual who represents business and economic development, which may include a business development entity, a chamber of commerce, a city government, or a planning organization;

(v) 1 shall be an individual with supply chain experience, which may include a food aggregator, whole-sale food distributor, food hub, or

an individual who has direct-to-consumer market experience;

(vi) 1 shall be an individual from a financing entity; and

(vii) 2 shall be individuals with related experience or expertise in urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to the Committee—

(i) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years;

(ii) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(iii) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

(C) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

(ii) shall be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial appointee of the committee may serve an additional consecutive term if the member is reappointed by the Secretary.

(4) MEETINGS.—

(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the Committee shall hold the first meeting of the Committee.

(5) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

- (i) develop recommendations and advise the Director on policies, initiatives, and outreach administered by the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production;
- (ii) evaluate and review ongoing research and extension activities relating to urban, indoor, and other innovative agricultural practices;
- (iii) identify new and existing barriers to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; and
- (iv) provide additional assistance and advice to the Director as appropriate.

(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Committee is established, and every 2 years through 2023, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the recommendations developed under subparagraph (A).

(6) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(7) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B).

(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on which the Committee terminates, the Secretary may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year periods.

(c) GRANTS.—The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production to any of the following eligible entities:

- (1) A nonprofit organization.
- (2) A unit of local government.

(3) A Tribal government.

(4) Any school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.

(d) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) URBAN AND SUBURBAN COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that establishes 10 county committees in accordance with section 8(b)(5)(B)(ii)(II) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)(B)(ii)(II)) to operate in counties located in urban or suburban areas with a high concentration of urban or suburban farms.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph requires or precludes the establishment of a Farm Service Agency office in a county in which a county committee is established under subparagraph (A).

(C) REPORT.—For fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing a summary of—

(i) the status of the pilot program under subparagraph (A);

(ii) meetings and other activities of the committees established under that subparagraph; and

(iii) the types and volume of assistance and services provided to farmers in counties in which county committees are established under that subparagraph.

(2) INCREASING COMMUNITY COMPOST AND REDUCING FOOD WASTE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall carry out pilot projects under which the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements with local or municipal governments in not fewer than 10 States to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND PURPOSES OF PILOT PROJECTS.—Under a cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide assistance to municipalities, counties, local governments, or city planners, as appropriate, to carry out planning and implementing activities that will—



- (i) generate compost;
- (ii) increase access to compost for agricultural producers;
- (iii) reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer;
- (iv) improve soil quality;
- (v) encourage waste management and permaculture business development;
- (vi) increase rainwater absorption;
- (vii) reduce municipal food waste; and
- (viii) divert food waste from landfills.

(C) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—

(i) CRITERIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish criteria for the selection of pilot projects under this paragraph.

(ii) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting, undertaking, or funding pilot projects under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider any commonly known significant impact on existing food waste recovery and disposal by commercial, marketing, or business relationships.

(iii) PRIORITY.—In selecting a pilot project under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for a pilot project that—

- (I) anticipates or demonstrates economic benefits;
- (II) incorporates plans to make compost easily accessible to agricultural producers, including community gardeners;
- (III) integrates other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and
- (IV) provides for collaboration with multiple partners.

(D) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The recipient of assistance for a pilot project under this paragraph shall provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both from sources other than funds provided through the grant in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of the grant.

(E) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot

projects funded under this paragraph to assess different solutions for increasing access to compost and reducing municipal food waste, including an evaluation of—

- (i) the amount of Federal funds used for each project; and
- (ii) a measurement of the outcomes of each project.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

### **REPORT LANGUAGE:**

#### *(16) Urban agriculture*

The Senate amendment adds a new section 222 in the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to: (1) establish an Office and Director of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices; (2) establish an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee; (3) provide for the assignment of a farm number for rooftop, indoor, and other urban farms; (4) provide authority to award competitive grants to operate community gardens or nonprofit farms, educate a community on food systems, nutrition, environmental impacts, and agricultural production, and help offset start-up costs for new and beginning farmers; (5) establish pilot projects to increase compost and reduce food waste, and create urban and suburban county committees; and (6) authorize appropriations of \$25 million a year. (Section 12302)

The House bill does not contain a comparable provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with an amendment that adjusts the Director's responsibilities, reduces the committee to 12 members, amends the reporting requirement, removes provision relating to the assignment of farm numbers, removes community organizations and institutions of higher learning from consideration for grants, removes funding priority provision, and limits authorization of appropriations to fiscal years 2019 through 2023. (Section 12302)

The Managers recognize that urban agriculture and innovative production methods like indoor and rooftop farming create new economic opportunities in urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Managers acknowledge that urban agriculture and innovative production methods also increase access to food in low-income communities and improve availability of fresh products throughout the entire year, and recognize that these agricultural opportunities help build a new generation of farmers. The Managers intend that the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production be responsible for policy and program development, as well as interagency collaboration, and provide customer service to external stakeholders on issues pertaining to urban agriculture and innovative production. The

Managers direct the Secretary to update Farm Service Agency procedures that allow for assignment of farm numbers (as defined in section 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) to include rooftop farms, indoor farms, and other urban farms.

The Managers direct that individual grants awarded through the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production serve multiple farmers or gardeners for the purposes of community service, education, farm incubation, or making a profit. The Managers encourage the Secretary to use these grants to assist with costs related to agricultural production including but not limited to land acquisition, equipment, utilities, seeds and plants, supplies, basic transportation, and farm cooperative development. The Managers expect the Secretary to establish criteria and guidelines to meet the suggested purposes of the grant program.

The Managers recognize composting is not the only available technology for food waste recovery. It is the Managers' intent that any pilot project under this section does not adversely impact existing commercial relationships of other food waste recovery efforts, including those of commercial renderers who collect and process animal and food waste from commercial and farm sources. It is the Manager's intent that activities occurring through pilot projects selected under this paragraph shall take into consideration the most-preferred food waste recovery activities as described in the Food Recovery Hierarchy of the Environmental Protection Agency (as of the date of enactment or any successor guidance or outreach materials).