

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

22

OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 71, line 8, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

Page 71, line 16, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period at the end.

Page 71, after line 16, insert the following:

1 “(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORK.—The
2 term ‘farmer-to-farmer network’ means any affili-
3 ation or association of farmers that share informa-
4 tion, technical assistance, or any other type of mutu-
5 ally beneficial support.”.

Page 77, strike lines 16 through 19 and insert the following:

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—
7 (A) by striking “each of the programs
8 specified in section 1241” and inserting “con-
9 servation programs administered by the Sec-
10 retary”; and

1 (B) by inserting “and for the purpose of
2 carrying out subsection (l)” before the period at
3 the end;

Page 91, after line 14, insert the following:

4 (i) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARM-
5 ER NETWORKS.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act
6 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 “(l) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-
9 FARMER NETWORKS.—

10 “(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this sub-
11 section are—

12 “(A) to build capacity for farmer-to-farmer
13 networks, connect farmers with mentors or
14 group learning opportunities, and support goal
15 setting to increase long-term adoption of con-
16 sistent, science-based, site-specific practices de-
17 signed to achieve conservation objectives on
18 land active in agricultural, forestry, or related
19 uses;

20 “(B) to increase the provision of technical
21 assistance that meets the specific needs of, and
22 is accessible to, farmers, ranchers, and forest
23 owners using different farming models, prac-
24 tices, and scales;

1 “(C) to establish and steward farmer-to-
2 farmer networks; and

3 “(D) to establish reporting requirements
4 for activities carried out under this subsection.

5 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
7 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
8 entities to carry out the purposes described in
9 paragraph (1).

10 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
11 ble to enter into a cooperative agreement with
12 the Secretary under subparagraph (A) is—

13 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
14 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
15 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
16 under section 501(a) of that Code;

17 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

18 “(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal or-
19 ganization (as such term is defined in sec-
20 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
21 and Education Assistance Act);

22 “(iv) a unit of local government (in-
23 cluding a conservation district and a con-
24 servation district association);

1 “(v) an institution of higher edu-
2 cation;

3 “(vi) a State; and

4 “(vii) any other entity designated by
5 the Secretary.

6 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting eligi-
7 ble entities with which to enter into cooperative
8 agreements under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
9 retary shall give priority to eligible entities that
10 seek to meet the specific needs of, and are ac-
11 cessible to—

12 “(i) historically underserved farmers,
13 ranchers, and forest owners, including lim-
14 ited-resource farmers, ranchers, and forest
15 owners (as determined by the Secretary);
16 or

17 “(ii) farmers, ranchers, and forest
18 owners operating in high-poverty areas (as
19 determined by the Secretary).

20 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDERS OF AS-
21 SISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
23 provides assistance to establish a farmer-to-
24 farmer network using assistance provided
25 through a cooperative agreement under para-

1 graph (2), the eligible entity shall be responsible
2 for not less than 2 of the following actions:

3 “(i) Facilitating and increasing farm-
4 er access to farmer-to-farmer networks.

5 “(ii) Facilitating mentor and mentee
6 matchmaking among farmers.

7 “(iii) Coordinating training and re-
8 sources to build the skills of farmer-to-
9 farmer network leaders and participants
10 for effective education, grassroots-based
11 learning, and cross-training with respect to
12 the facilitation of, information about, and
13 other skills with respect to building effec-
14 tive farmer-to-farmer networks.

15 “(iv) Maintaining and promulgating a
16 list of relevant entities, associations, and
17 individuals that are supporting, or have an
18 interest in supporting, farmer-to-farmer
19 networks.

20 “(v) Administering subawards to in-
21 crease farmer access to farmer-to-farmer
22 assistance in accordance with paragraph
23 (4).

24 “(vi) Other actions determined appro-
25 priate by the Secretary.

1 “(B) LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE.—If an eligi-
2 ble entity provides assistance described in sub-
3 paragraph (A) to a non-English speaking farm-
4 er, rancher, or forest owner, the eligible entity
5 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide
6 that assistance in the native language of the
7 farmer, rancher, or forest owner.

8 “(C) REPORTING.—An eligible entity that
9 enters into a cooperative agreement under para-
10 graph (2) shall annually submit to the Sec-
11 retary a report describing—

12 “(i) the conservation activities carried
13 out under the cooperative agreement; and

14 “(ii) any subawards administered pur-
15 suant to subparagraph (A)(v).

16 “(4) SUBAWARDS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
18 awards a subaward pursuant to paragraph
19 (3)(A)(v) to an eligible subawardee described in
20 subparagraph (B), the eligible subawardee shall
21 use that award—

22 “(i) to plan and conduct events, and
23 identify and develop innovative activities,
24 to support building capacity for farmer-to-
25 farmer networks, connecting farmers with

1 mentors or group learning opportunities,
2 and supporting goal setting to increase
3 long-term adoption of consistent, science-
4 based, site-specific conservation objectives
5 on land active in agricultural, forestry, or
6 related uses; and

7 “(ii) to compensate participants in the
8 events and activities described in clause (i)
9 at market rates.

10 “(B) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—An entity
11 eligible for a subaward under paragraph
12 (3)(A)(v) is—

13 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
14 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
15 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
16 under section 501(a) of that Code;

17 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

18 “(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal or-
19 ganization (as such term is defined in sec-
20 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
21 and Education Assistance Act);

22 “(iv) a unit of local government (in-
23 cluding a conservation district and a con-
24 servation district association);

1 “(v) an institution of higher edu-
2 cation;

3 “(vi) an individual; and

4 “(vii) any other entity designated by
5 the Secretary.

6 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, in
7 conjunction with the Chief of the Natural Re-
8 sources Conservation Service, shall establish
9 any necessary additional requirements for sub-
10 awards under paragraph (3)(A)(v).

11 “(5) REPORTING.—Not later than 4 years after
12 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
14 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
15 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
16 ate a report describing the status of activities funded
17 under this subsection, including—

18 “(A) funding awarded;

19 “(B) the results of the activities, including,
20 if feasible, conservation practice adoption out-
21 comes; and

22 “(C) if applicable, outreach activities the
23 Secretary has considered incorporating into
24 other conservation technical assistance efforts

1 as a result of the program established under
2 this subsection.

3 “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use to
4 carry out this subsection such sums as are necessary
5 from annual appropriations for conservation oper-
6 ations of the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
7 ice.”.

