

March 2, 2026

## Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R.7567](#))

The House Farm Bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R.7567](#)), was introduced on Feb. 13, 2026. The base text includes almost 40 provisions that specifically reference Tribes or related keywords. Other provisions may impact Tribal communities and Native producers. Below, IFAI is providing a summary of provisions that may impact Indian Country organized by Farm Bill Title. This summary is not comprehensive, and other provisions may have impacts on Tribal communities.

### Title I – Commodities

Section	Program	Description and analysis
1003	Specialty crops disaster assistance	Establishes a new disaster assistance framework for specialty crops. Previously, disaster assistance for most specialty crops was delivered on an ad-hoc basis or through a patchwork of programs, including the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). Native producers have especially relied on NAP and ELAP in the absence of other assistance. The new framework may provide more predictability and assistance for specialty crop growers, which includes <a href="#">9% of Native producers</a> .
1008	Loan processing during a government shutdown	<p>Requires the Secretary to continue processing Market Access Loans (MAL) and Sugar Processing Loans during a government shutdown. These loans are processed by county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, which have historically been closed during government shutdowns. However, three weeks into the extended 2025 government shutdown, USDA <a href="#">partially reopened FSA offices</a> and allowed them to process MAL, disaster aid, indemnity programs, dairy margin coverage, and ARC/PLC, providing relief to producers.</p> <p>This section would ensure that producers, including Native producers, would continue receiving payments during a future government shutdown. However, it would not address a key challenge for Native producers during the 2025 shutdown: getting <a href="#">two-party checks</a> endorsed. When ranchers with an FSA operating loan sell their livestock, they are frequently issued a two-party check that requires endorsement by FSA to be deposited. When FSA offices were closed, ranchers were unable to get their checks endorsed, delaying payments for work they had already completed.</p>

## Title II – Conservation

Section	Program	Description and analysis
Sec. 2303	Soil Health Program	Creates a new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) subprogram to assist States and Tribes with implementing soil health programs on agricultural lands. Tribes receive an enhanced federal cost share of 75%, compared to 50% for States, up to \$5 million per project. Funding is competitive.
Sec. 2403	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention	Adds new eligible projects to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operation program, which assists States, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and others in protecting watersheds and preventing floods. This provision amends the program to allow repairs for accelerated deterioration of projects, for projects that aren't meeting their expected service life, and for damage from extreme storms. It also increases the federal cost share for these types of rehabilitation projects to 90% from 65%. While not specific to Tribes, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations are eligible for the program and may benefit from the increased cost share.
Sec. 2404	Emergency Conservation Program	Allows producers to receive up to 75% advanced payments for fence repair and rehabilitation under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Lack of funding for fencing costs has been a significant challenge for Tribal ranchers.
Sec. 2406	Report on Flood Risk	Directs USDA to report on flood risk on agricultural lands, including an analysis of economic losses of crops and livestock, impacts of mitigation activities, analysis of Federal and State data on flood risk, and a description of producer-level conservation practices and government initiatives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk. The provision does not specifically mention Tribes or including Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or other Tribal practices in the study. As a result, traditional practices and Tribal priorities may be overlooked.
Sec. 2406	NRCS Direct Hire Authority	Provides the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) with direct hire authority for positions providing technical assistance. In 2025, NRCS lost an estimated <a href="#">22% of its staff</a> , leading to delays in conservation planning and implementation. The federal hiring process is long and administratively burdensome, so direct hire authority may help speed up the hiring process.

Sec. 2407	Emergency Watershed Program	Allows USDA to work with States, Tribes, landowners, and non-governmental organizations to restore vegetative cover and hydrological function on land subject to a floodplains easement under the Emergency Watershed Program.
Sec. 2502	Conservation Practice Standards	<p>Among other changes, this provision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allows States and Tribes to become eligible to certify Technical Service Providers (TSPs). TSPs provide tailored, on-the-ground technical assistance to producers to address conservation concerns, but shortages and delays in certifying TSPs have limited their reach. Allowing Tribes to certify TSPs could lead to increased access to TSPs with experience working in Indian Country.</li> <li>2. Directs USDA to update conservation practice standards every five years and to consider input from Native entities on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).</li> </ol>
Sec. 2602	Agricultural Land Easements	Among other changes, increases the maximum federal cost share for agricultural land easements from 50% to 65%. For grasslands with "special environmental significance", the federal cost share is increased to 75%. If the land has a majority owner who is a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (SDFR) this provision newly allows an increased federal cost share of 90%. This provision also allows the Secretary to evaluate applications from SDFRs in a separate pool. While not specific to Tribal and Tribal members, the definition of SDFRs includes Tribal members (Sec. 2602). If the Secretary chooses to evaluate SDFR applications in a separate pool, this provision may also make applications from Tribal producers more competitive.
Sec. 2603	Wetland Reserve Easement	Among other changes, allows socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs), in addition to Tribes, to enroll eligible land in 30-year contracts in addition to easements under the Wetland Reserve Easement Program. This section also allows the Secretary to evaluate applications from SDFRs in a separate application pool. While this provision is not specific to Tribes or Tribal members, the definition of SDFRs includes Tribal members. If the Secretary chooses to evaluate SDFR applications in a separate pool, this provision may also make applications from Tribal producers more competitive. The provision also allows USDA to enter agreements with federal, state, or local agency, Indian Tribe, NGO, or private entity to provide assistance on a wetlands easement.

Sec. 2701	Forest Conservation Easement Program	<p>Establishes a new Forest Conservation Easement Program, replacing the Healthy Forest Reserve Program. Under the new program, eligible forest land can be enrolled in either the Forest Land Easement program or the Forest Reserve Easement program. Eligible land includes, among other types of land, private forest land and forest land held by a Tribe, which is defined to include individual and Tribal trust land, fee and restricted fee land, land held by ANCs, and land that is subject to the use, occupancy, and benefits of an Indian Tribe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forest Land Easement Program assists the forest landowner with conserving and protecting natural resources while allowing the forest to be used for economic purposes, as long as it is consistent with a forest management plan. The federal cost share for purchasing a Forest Land Easement Program is 50% unless the land is owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner, which includes Tribal landowners, or is special environmental significance.</li> <li>• The Forest Reserve Easement Program allows the USDA to purchase easements or other interests in land to protect its natural resources, endangered species, and forest character, while allowing the landowner to continue using the land for economic purposes consistent with the forest reserve easement plan. Tribes uniquely have the option to enter 30-year contracts with USDA, rather than an easement, allowing them to receive compensation without encumbering the land (Sec. 2701).</li> </ul>
Sec. 2803	Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Sets a new deadline of 180 days for USDA to review Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) applications and 30 days to issue payments to partners. It also directs USDA to issue guidance on requesting a waiver or adjustment on an agreement. While this provision is not specific to Tribes or Tribal producers, both may benefit from streamlined development of agreements and more timely payments.
Sec. 2804	Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Establishes a minimum 50% cost share for partners under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Alternative Funding Agreements (AFA). Previously, AFAs did not have a minimum cost share for partners. This reduced funding flexibility could make it more difficult for Tribes to enter AFAs.

### Title III – Trade

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 3201	Market Access Program	Increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program. MAP is increased from \$200 million in FY26 to \$400 million in FY27 and \$410M thereafter. FMD is increased from \$34.5 million in FY26 to \$70.5 million in FY27 and \$82 million thereafter. While MAP and FMD are not specific to Tribes and Tribal producers, these programs are critical for developing international markets for Tribes and Tribal producers. Using funding from MAP, for example, the American Indian Foods (AIF) program at the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) supports Tribal producers and agribusinesses in attending international trade shows and trade visits, facilitating new purchasing agreements (Sec. 3201).

### Title IV - Nutrition

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 4103	SNAP	Allows States to contract out SNAP certification to third parties if the State is unable to process applications in a timely manner due to pandemics, workforce shortages, surges in applications, and other circumstances. While not specific to Tribes or Tribal citizens, this added flexibility could make it easier for Tribal citizens to enroll in SNAP benefits. Contractors with experience working in Indian Country or who are located in Indian Country or other rural and remote areas may be more accessible to Tribal producers who may otherwise have to travel long distances to certify at a state SNAP office.
Sec. 4112	TEFAP	Reauthorizes infrastructure grants for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) through 2031 but does not increase the authorization of appropriations, which has remained flat at \$15 million per fiscal year since FY2008, despite significant increases in the cost of infrastructure and equipment. While TEFAP is not specific to Tribes or Tribal citizens, food insecurity among Tribal communities is significantly higher than the national average, and many rely on TEFAP. The lack of infrastructure and equipment, including cold storage, for TEFAP providers in rural areas and in Indian Country is a

		significant challenge. Additionally, although Tribes can act as eligible recipient agencies for TEFAP, Tribes are not eligible to administer the program directly as they do with other commodity programs.
Sec. 4113	FDPIR	Reauthorizes a program for purchasing traditional and locally or regionally grown food for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The authorization of appropriations remains unchanged from the 2008 level of \$5 million per fiscal year, despite inflation and significant increases in the cost of foods. The section does not include any continuation of the “638” demonstration program created by the 2018 Farm Bill. The “638” contracts currently in process with Tribes and USDA should be able to continue for a short time using previously appropriated funds, but there is no provision in this draft bill to enable that opportunity to continue past the life of those contracts. It is unlikely any additional Tribes would be able to take advantage of the opportunity with the limited remaining funding available.
Sec. 4202	CSFP	Creates a home delivery pilot program for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides food boxes for low-income seniors. Home delivery may particularly benefit older Tribal citizens who lack access to a vehicle (Sec. 4202).
Sec. 4204	CSFP	Establishes a “638” pilot program for Tribes to take over procurement for CSFP. Only Indian Tribal Organization (ITOs) who are currently participating CSFP are eligible to participate, which would limit this opportunity to approximately six Tribal Nations.
Sec. 4204	Self-determination contracts	Requires USDA to make an existing office responsible for administering self-determination contracts and provides \$1.2 million in authorization of appropriations for staffing.
Sec. 4303	GusNIP	Extends the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP), which provides funding for innovative projects incentivizing the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, and newly allows USDA to waive cost-share requirements for projects in persistent poverty areas (Sec. 4303). While GusNIP is not specific to, Tribes are eligible to participate. In addition, Tribal communities are more likely to be in persistent poverty counties and may be eligible for a cost-share waiver.

Sec. 4306	Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Program	<p>Establishes a new, non-competitive program for the USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with State and Tribal agencies to purchase locally produced and minimally processed foods for distribution to the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten percent of funds are set aside for Tribal governments and will be allocated via a funding formula.</li> <li>• At least 25% of purchased foods must be from small- or mid-sized producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or veteran farmers.</li> <li>• Funds can also be used to provide technical assistance to support local producers, including with obtaining food safety training, and to support growth of the local agricultural value chain.</li> </ul> <p>The program is modeled on the Local Food Purchasing Agreement program (LFPA) established under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and terminated by the Trump administration in 2025. Over 90 Tribes participated in LFPA. However, unlike LFPA, this program does not include a requirement to purchase foods from socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs). The provision authorizes \$200 million in appropriations per fiscal year, a significant decrease from LFPA (Sec. 4306).</p>
Sec. 4308	Dietary Guidelines of America	<p>Prohibits the USDA from including information on taxation, social welfare, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agriculture production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, or nutrition regulations in updates to the Dietary Guidelines of America. As a result, differences in access to food among Tribal communities and culturally relevant information will not be included in future updates.</p>

### Title V – Credit

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 5102	Farm Ownership Loans	<p>Changes eligibility for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct Farm Ownership Loan to require two years of farm experience, instead of three. The USDA <a href="#">Tribal Advisory Committee</a> recommended a similar change in 2024 to increase access to capital for newer producers.</p>

Sec. 5103	Farmer Ownership Loan Guarantees	Allows FSA to refinance distressed Farm Ownership Loan Guarantees as direct loans. This change could help distressed borrowers with obtaining more favorable loan terms and is similar to a <a href="#">2024 TAC recommendation</a> .
Sec. 5203	Microloans	Increases the Microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000, as recommended <a href="#">by TAC in 2024</a> .
Sec. 5203	Farm Ownership Loans	Establishes a pilot process to streamline and expedite the approval process for qualified borrowers seeking a direct farm ownership loan or a bridge loan. Tribal producers face extended approval times for FSA loans on trust land: according to an Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) analysis, loan approval times for producers on trust land are on average five times longer than approval times for producers on fee simple land. Streamlining or expediting the loan approval process would be a significant benefit to Tribal producers but would require USDA to better coordinate with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has jurisdiction over trust lands. No such provision is included in this section.

## Title VI – Rural Development

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 6201	ReConnect	Codifies the ReConnect program, which assists Tribes, among others, with broadband deployment. While projects in geographically underserved and distressed areas will be prioritized, a Tribal set aside was not included.
Sec. 6201	Broadband Technical Assistance	Among other changes, establishes a technical assistance program to support broadband access in rural communities. Tribes, States, land-grant universities including 1994 Institutions, and others are eligible to receive technical assistance grants. Grants can be used to assist with loans and loan guarantees; identifying resources; feasibility studies; preparing reports and surveys; analyzing and improving broadband management; and collecting data. Tribes and intertribal organizations face challenges competing for broadband grants, loans, and loan guarantees. Targeted technical assistance tailored for Tribal communities may assist with increasing broadband access.

Sec. 6301	Rural Energy Savings Program	Among other changes, makes Tribes eligible for the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), which assists homeowners and rural communities with projects to improve energy efficiency, such as home weatherization and replacement of manufactured homes.
Sec. 6304	Meat Processing Grants	Establishes a competitive grant program for increasing access to meat processing facilities in rural areas, including by establishing new, mobile, and innovative meat processing facilities and by purchasing cold storage and other equipment. Tribes are eligible for the program.
Sec. 6305	Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative	<p>Provides priority for applicants to certain Rural Development program if the purpose of the application is to improve the availability, quality, or cost of childcare. The Rural Development programs included in the initiative are (1) essential community facilities loan and grant program, (2) the business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program, (3) the rural microentrepreneur assistance program, and (4) the intermediary relending program.</p> <p>While these programs are not specific to Tribes, the definition of childcare explicitly includes childcare providers who are licensed or regulated by Indian Tribes and meet Tribal requirements, and Tribes are eligible for all four included programs. Access to childcare in tribal communities remains expensive and challenging. While this provision does not provide new funding for improving access to childcare, it may help make childcare-focused applications more competitive for funding.</p>
Sec. 6306	Technical Assistance for Geographically Underserved and Distressed Area	<p>Establishes a technical assistance program to assist geographically underserved and distressed areas access Rural Development programs. A geographically underserved and distressed area is defined as (1) a socially vulnerable community, (2) a persistent poverty county, (3) an economically distressed area, or (4) in a colonia.</p> <p>While not specific to Tribes, some Tribal communities may qualify as geographically underserved and distressed areas. Tribes have described challenges accessing Rural Development programs, and targeted technical assistance tailored to the needs of local Tribes may help improve access.</p>
Sec. 6402	Circuit Rider Program	Codifies the popular Circuit Rider Program, which provides tailored technical assistance to rural water systems through partnerships with local non-profits. To be eligible to provide technical assistance through the Circuit Rider program, the non-profit must serve a rural community and a public body, non-

		profit, or Indian Tribe with legal authority to own and operate the water facility. Indian Tribes are therefore explicitly included in the program.
Sec. 6403	Zero and Low Interest Loans for Distressed Water Systems.	<p>Establishes a new program for USDA to provide assistance to distressed rural water or wastewater providers. Under the program, USDA will be able to provide zero interest or low interest loans, debt relief, refinancing, fee waivers, and operational and financial planning support. To be eligible to participate, the rural water or waste water provider must be (1) participating in Water and Waste Facility Loan and Grant programs including the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant (Sec. 306A), the Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risk (Sec. 306C), and Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska program Sec. 306D), and (2) is either (a) in a socially disadvantaged community, persistent poverty county, colonia, or distressed tribal area, or (b) facing an economic hardship.</p> <p>Tribes are included in these USDA programs, other than the emergency program, and water and wastewater providers in distressed Tribal areas are eligible. This increased flexibility and availability of capital may assist Tribes and Alaska Native Villages with maintaining or improving water and wastewater facilities.</p>
Sec. 6404	TCU Essential Community Facilities	Extends, but does not modify, the Tribal College and University (TCU) Essential Community Facilities program. The authorization of appropriations for this program has been set at \$10 million since fiscal year 2008, despite inflation and significant increases in the cost of construction. This program is one of the few sources of federal funding for TCUs to improve educational facilities and purchase equipment.
Sec. 6406	Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska	Extends, but does not modify, the Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska program. The authorization of appropriations for the program has been flat at \$30 million since 2008, despite inflation and significant increases in the cost of construction.
Sec. 6409	Solid Waste Management Grants	Makes Tribes eligible for Solid Waste Management Grants program, which provides funding for technical assistance or training to improve the planning and operation of solid waste sites.

Sec. 6422	Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program	Increases the maximum microloan under the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and increases the maximum federal cost share from 75% to 100%. While not specific to Tribes, access to capital is a major challenge for Native producers and agribusinesses, and the increased loan limit and cost share could better assist Native business owners.
Sec. 7107	Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions	Extends, but does not change, education grants for Alaska Native serving and Native Hawaiian serving institutions of higher education. The authorization of appropriations for the program has been flat at \$10 million since 2001, despite inflation and significant increases in the cost of higher education.
Sec. 7115	New Beginnings for Tribal Students	Eliminates the \$500,000 per state limit for the New Beginnings for Tribal Students program, which provides competitive grants to land grant universities to support Native students. The authorization of appropriations for the program is unchanged from the 2019 level of \$5 million.
Sec. 7201	Section 2501 Program	Extends the Section 2501 Program, which provides outreach and technical assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Ranchers (SDFR), including Native producers. The provision does not change the funding level.
Sec. 7501	Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994	<p>Increases flexibility in the authorization of appropriations for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs, also called 1994 Institutions). Previously, the authorization of appropriations for direct assistance to TCUs was capped at \$100,000 times the number of TCUs. This provision removes the \$100,000 cap, which could allow Congress to pass increased appropriations for TCUs.</p> <p>Removes a requirement that research grants at TCUs be conducted via a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) or a non-Tribal land grant university. Removing this provision allows TCUs to conduct research independently, like other land grant institutions.</p>

		Extends authorization of appropriations for TCU endowments, capacity building grants, and research grants. The authorizations are not set at a specific amount.
Sec. 7606	National Agricultural Statistics Service	Establishes a new commission charged with reviewing and modernizing the data collection at the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). NASS is responsible for collecting data for and publishing the U.S. Census of Agriculture, which provides critical information on the characteristics of U.S. farms and ranches, as well as agricultural land use. While the census includes some information on farms and ranches operated by producers who self-identify as Native American and on agriculture on American Indian reservations, these reports paint an incomplete picture of agriculture on Tribal lands. The Census, for example, does not report on agriculture production on trust lands, only within reservations. In other data tables, data from Indian reservations is combined with data from prison farms, estates or trusts, grazing associations, and other unrelated groups. Modernizing NASS could improve data collection and reporting on Tribal agriculture, but this provision does not include a requirement for Tribal consultation or include a Tribal representative on the commission.

### Title VIII – Forestry

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 8305	Reforestation, Nursery, and Seed Orchard Support	<p>1. Directs USDA to work with Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, and other entities to provide training, technical assistance, and research to nurseries and tree establishment programs (Sec. 8305).</p> <p>2. Establishes a new Nursery and Seed Orchard Financial Assistance program that will provide grants for supporting nurseries and seed orchards. State forestry agencies, Indian Tribes, private nurseries with experience with growing Native trees, including native plants and seeds that are culturally significant to Tribes, and other entities are eligible. Grants can be used to improve seed collection, processing and collection; increase seedling production, storage, and distribution; and enhance seedling survival; establish, improve, or expand nurseries or seed orchards; among other activities. Tribal communities have advocated for increased federal support to protect Native seeds and plants, including seeds and plants that are culturally important to Tribes. This new program could provide new resources for seed</p>

		rematriation, protection of native and culturally important seeds and trees, and expanded growth and distribution of these seeds and plants.
Sec. 8407	Forest Management Activities on National Forest System Lands.	<p>1. Establishes a new categorical exclusion for forest fuels reductions if coordinated with impacted parties (including Tribes), consultations occur with relevant entities, the fuel reduction activity wouldn't impact more than 10,000 acres, and is consistent with the forest management plan. The categorical exclusion for fuel reduction is likely meant to streamline and simplify the process to remove hazardous buildup of fuels in forests and to reduce the frequency and intensity of forest fires. The U.S. Forest System has not kept up with much needed hazardous fuel reductions. However, categorical exclusions can be used to sidestep environmental protections, and while the provision directs USDA to consult with relevant entities, it does not include an explicit requirement to formally consult with impacted Indian Tribes (Sec. 8407).</p> <p>2. Establishes a new categorical exclusion for forest fuels reductions if coordinated with impacted parties (including Tribes), consultations occur with relevant entities, the fuel reduction activity wouldn't impact more than 10,000 acres, and is consistent with the forest management plan. The categorical exclusion for fuel reduction is likely meant to streamline and simplify the process to remove hazardous buildup of fuels in forests and to reduce the frequency and intensity of forest fires. The U.S. Forest System has not kept up with much needed hazardous fuel reductions. However, categorical exclusions can be used to sidestep environmental protections, and while the provision directs USDA to consult with relevant entities, it does not include an explicit requirement to formally consult with impacted Indian Tribes (Sec. 8407).</p>
Sec. 8412	Good Neighbor Authority	<p>Makes several changes to Good Neighbor Agreements, which allows the USFS to partner with eligible entities to manage forests. For Tribes, these changes include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing Indian Tribes to participate in Good Neighbor Agreements;</li> <li>• Allowing timber revenue under a good Neighbor Agreement to be used on lands held by an Indian Tribe; and</li> <li>• Allowing timber revenue under a good Neighbor Agreement to be used on lands held by an Indian Tribe.</li> </ul>
Sec. 8413	Collaborative Forest	Adds new selection criteria for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program to include reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increasing ecological restoration activities on state, Tribal, and private lands and in the wildland-urban interface. Tribal communities have faced more

	Landscape Restoration	frequent and more intense wildfires due to drought and more frequent extreme temperatures. Prioritizing wildfire mitigation projects, among others, in this program may help address these challenges.
Sec. 8414	Wildfire Technology Deployment and Testbed Partnership	Establishes a joint USDA and Department of Interior (DOI) pilot program for testing and deploying new wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation strategies, including from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This pilot program may help coordinate, streamline, and deploy different technologies and approaches for wildfire management across different agencies. This pilot program may help coordinate, streamline, and deploy different technologies and approaches for wildfire management across different agencies.
Sec. 8418	Utilizing Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction.	Directs USDA and DOI to establish new strategies for using livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on public lands, as well as to eradicate invasive annual species, restore landscapes, and recover from fires. While not specific to Tribes, many Tribes and Tribal producers graze livestock on public lands.
Sec. 8420	Tribal Forest Management Program	Makes permanent the Tribal Forest Management Demonstration Project, which allows Tribes to enter 638 contracts to take over administration of Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) management activities.
Sec. 8434	Biochar Application Demonstration Project	Establishes a new demonstration program to support the development and commercialization of biochar. Among others, Indian Tribes and 1994 Institutions are eligible to participate.
Sec. 8505	Charges and Fees for Harvest of Forest Botanical Products.	Codifies a program to charge fees for harvesting forest products, other than timber and portions of trees, for non-personal use. Fees will be set at fair market value, and harvesting cannot exceed sustainable levels. The USDA will also establish harvest levels for personal use and will not charge fees for personal use. The provision does not provide exceptions for Tribes or Tribal members who may harvest forest products exceeding personal use limits.

## Title XI – Energy

No relevant provisions

## Title X – Horticulture

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 10003	Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	<p>Directs the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to (1) use the resources of USDA and State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide technical assistance on incorporating businesses, navigating local zoning, and managing farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous parcels, (2) use the resources of USDA and State, Tribal, and local agencies to promote conservation techniques, and (3) assist urban and innovative producers navigate Federal, State, Tribal and local policies.</p> <p>In addition, this provision authorizes grants and cooperative agreements to support development of urban and innovative agricultural production and technical or financial assistance to producers. Eligible applicants for grants and cooperative agreements include Tribes, local governments, and non-profits, among others.</p>
Sec. 10005	Hemp production.	<p>Makes changes to State and Tribal regulation of hemp production. Among other changes, it requires States and Tribes to require producers to identify if they are producing only industrial hemp (fiber, grain, or seed) versus hemp for other purposes, including hemp grown for cannabinoids. States and Tribes can choose to implement a process for inspection of industrial-only hemp production that reduces or eliminates sampling or testing. It also allows States and Tribes to waive a ten-year ineligibility period for individuals convicted of a controlled substance felony if they only doing industrial hemp production.</p>
Sec. 10102.	Local Agriculture Market Program	<p>Makes various changes to the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), which was established in the 2018 Farm Bill to support producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets, and value-added agricultural products. Among other changes, this provision –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expands the purpose of LAMP to include regional food chain coordination;</li><li>• Directs USDA to provide technical assistance to LAMP program participants;</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows LAMP grants to be used for purchasing special purpose equipment; and</li> <li>• Establishes a simplified application process for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program if applications for less than \$100,000.</li> </ul> <p>While these programs are not specific to Tribes or Tribal members, both are eligible to participate in LAMP programs. Allowing participants to use funds to purchase special purchase equipment may be particularly beneficial for Tribes and Tribal producers who often face barriers to accessing credit or capital for equipment purchases.</p>
Sec. 10106	Report on procurement	<p>Directs USDA to report to Congress on its domestic procurement process; barriers to procuring non-traditional, culturally relevant, or local and regional commodities or products; the diet quality and accessibility of procured commodities; and recommendations for improvements.</p> <p>Indian Country has long advocated for changes to USDA's procurement process that would enable purchase and distribution of locally or regionally grown commodities, as well as enhance procurement of culturally important foods. USDA procurement occurs on a national level, meaning that Tribal producers, who are typically small- or mid-sized, often cannot compete for contracts. A regionalized procurement system may better allow USDA to procure locally or regionally produced foods from Tribal producers and provide more culturally relevant foods.</p>
Sec. 10212	Safe Harbor for Certain Discharges of Wildland Fire Chemicals	<p>Prohibits courts from stopping the use of aerial fire retardants and water enhancers for fighting wildfires, if its use follows relevant regulations. The provision covers Federal, State, and Tribal agencies who are authorized to deploy aerial fire retardants.</p> <p>This section responds to a district court ruling in May 2023 that the U.S. Forest Service had violated the Clean Water Act in deploying aerial fire retardants (<a href="#">Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. United States Forest Service</a>). The court, however, did not enjoin the USFS from using aerial fire retardants due to safety concerns and instead ordered USFS to obtain the necessary permits. USFS initiated the permit process prior to the court ruling, and the process is ongoing. In the meantime, this provision is intended to provide Federal, State, and Tribal agencies with safe harbor for deploying aerial fire retardant.</p>

## Title XI – Crop Insurance

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 11007	Veteran farmer or rancher	<p>Expands the definition of veteran farmer or rancher to include producers who are veterans with up to 10 years of farming experience, up from the previous limit of 5 years. It also increases the federal crop insurance subsidy for veteran farmers and ranchers from an additional 10% to an additional 15% for the first five years and then decreasing down to 10% over the subsequent five years.</p> <p>These changes align the definition of veteran farmers and ranchers and associated crop insurance subsidies to the definition of the beginner farmer or rancher established in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. While not specific to Tribal producers, Tribal citizens who are veterans may benefit from these enhanced crop insurance subsidies.</p>

## Title XII – Miscellaneous

Section	Program	Description
Sec. 12205	Office of Tribal Relations	<p>Expands the responsibilities of the Office of Tribal Relations to specifically include overseeing self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts. Previously, the Office's only statutory responsibilities were advising the Secretary on Indian policy and carrying out other functions as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>Separately, Sec. 4204 of this Farm Bill also directs the USDA to appoint an existing office to oversee self-determination contracts, including awarding Food and Nutrition Service self-determination contracts. Sec. 4204 also authorizes \$1.2 million in appropriations for staffing, while this section does not provide any funding. It is unclear if these two provisions are intended to be implemented jointly, in which case the Office of Tribal Relations may receive additional appropriations. The Office of Tribal Relations currently does not have the staffing capacity to oversee 638 contracts throughout the Department.</p>
Sec. 12206	Office of the Ombudsman	Re-establishes an Office of the Ombudsman to assist producers and other USDA customers with navigating the civil rights review process. USDA previously had an Office of the Ombudsperson, but it

		<p>was sunset in April 2019. While not specific to Tribes or Tribal producers, both may benefit from the Office's assistance with the civil rights process.</p>
Sec. 12401	Commission on Farm Transitions - Needs for 2050	<p>Requires USDA to stand up a Commission on Farm Transitions - Needs for 2050 within 60 days. This Commission was first authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill but was never implemented. In addition to the Commission's original charge to study and make recommendations to improve access to land, credit, risk management, and training, the section directs the Commission to also study heirs property issues, succession of agricultural land, and unique barriers faced by historically underserved and women farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>While the section does not specifically mention Tribes or Tribal producers, Tribal producers are included in the definition of historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Tribal producers face many unique challenges to accessing land and credit, including probate, fractionization, and trust status of lands. The Commission's members, as envisioned in the 2018 Farm Bill, do not specifically include a Tribal representative. To adequately address the unique needs of Indian Country, Tribal advocates should consider close collaboration with the Commission.</p>
Sec. 12403	U.S. Drought Monitor	<p>Reauthorizes, but does not change, a requirement that USDA coordinate with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve data collection for the U.S. Drought Monitor. This data underlies eligibility for and payments under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, among others</p> <p>NOAA weather stations are not consistently distributed throughout the nation, and in some cases, Tribal producers are dozens or hundreds of miles away from the nearest weather station, leading to inaccurate information and erroneous ineligibility for drought programs. There is a need for USDA and NOAA to coordinate with Tribal Nations to improve drought monitoring in Indian Country.</p>
Sec. 12404	Reports on Land Access and Farmland Ownership Data Collection	<p>Updates a requirement from the 2018 Farm Bill that the USDA reports on barriers to land access and on federal programs for assisting beginner farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and rancher (SDFRs) with accessing land. Under this section, the USDA will be required to issue this land access report every two years and to include a review of Federal, State and private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets, including assistance related to conducting Tribal consultations. While not specific to Tribes, Native producers are considered SDFRs.</p>

