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U.S. SENATOR *for* SOUTH DAKOTA

Thune-Authored-and-Supported Provisions Included in the 2018 Farm Bill

- Provisions of Thune’s Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP), which was included in [S. 499](#) that he introduced in March 2017. SHIPP is a new voluntary income protection program that would provide participant farmers with a short-term acreage conserving use program, which unlike the traditional Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), requires a commitment of only three to five years. SHIPP is authorized and funded as a pilot program at 50,000 acres in the six Prairie Pothole Region states: South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota.
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 1259](#)) that would require Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)-County payments be calculated using the physical location of each farm’s tract of land instead of the current policy, which uses a farm’s administrative county to determine payments.
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 2749](#)) that would increase plug yields (used when yield data is missing from a farm) from 70 percent to 80 percent, call for the use of a crop insurance trend-adjusted yield factor to calculate the ARC benchmark yield, and require the ARC individual option to remain available, which was removed in the House farm bill.
- Additional provisions of S. 2749 that would improve the current ARC program and improve its safety net potential by expanding the yield data sources that are used to calculate payments and by including procedures that would adjust payments to allow for quality losses.
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 1479](#)) that would greatly improve the approval rate of Livestock Indemnity Program applications for death losses due to weather-related diseases. USDA, at Thune’s request, [approved](#) this administratively on April 24, 2018.
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 2614](#)) that would authorize the USDA secretary to allow cost-sharing for fencing and water distribution practices for acres enrolled in CRP.
- Provisions of an amendment [introduced](#) by Thune and included in the Senate farm bill that would allow producers who are currently enrolled in ARC or PLC to change enrollment in 2021, which is not permitted under current law. This provision was expanded in the final farm bill to also include 2022 and 2023.

- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 909](#)) to increase the CRP acreage cap. Thune proposed increasing it from 24 million to 30 million acres, and the final farm bill increased it to 27 million acres.
- Additional provisions of S. 909 that would target CRP acreage enrollment based on a state’s historical CRP acreage enrollment, allow greater flexibility and expanded haying and grazing options on land enrolled in CRP and eliminate payment limitation restrictions on public entities such as rural water districts that use CRP as wellhead protection areas.
- Provisions of Sen. Thune’s “New Beginnings Initiative.” Under this program, USDA would match funding for Indian education programs at land grant universities.
- Provisions of language offered by Thune and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) that would improve the agriculture mediation process.
- Provisions of language offered by Thune at the Agriculture Committee that would include the term “soil health” as a priority for USDA research funding (at the request of SDSU).
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 1913](#)) that would close additional loopholes in sodsaver provisions to further disincentivize producers for converting native sod to cropland in exchange for increased crop insurance indemnities.
- Provisions of Thune’s bill ([S. 2936](#)) that would provide tools and direction to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help improve the accuracy of the U.S. Drought Monitor and require the coordination of USDA agencies that use precipitation data to determine livestock grazing loss assistance and stocking rates.