

HR 4201

Young and Beginning Farmers Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Nov 1, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Governme

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. (Nov 1, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4201>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Nov 1, 2017
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Apr 10, 2018
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Apr 10, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 1, 2017
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 1, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Young and Beginning Farmers Act

This bill amends various agricultural laws to modify and establish programs to assist beginning farmers.

The bill makes land trusts eligible for certain assistance under the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. In administering the program, USDA must prioritize an application for purchasing an easement that maintains agricultural viability, requires subsequent purchases to be at agricultural value, or both.

The bill modifies several agricultural programs to:

- require the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to prequalify loan applicants,
- increase and index for inflation the limits on the amounts of USDA farm ownership loans,
- transfer jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers to the FSA,
- establish an online customer self-service portal,
- reauthorize the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program with increased mandatory funding and allow specified funds to be transferred for individual development accounts,
- reauthorize the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program,
- reauthorize the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program with increased mandatory funding, and
- authorize grants for farm viability programs.

The FSA must assign state coordinators to promote communication with beginning farmers or ranchers and increase their access to USDA programs.

The General Services Administration may sell surplus farm equipment or property to socially disadvantaged, veteran, or beginning farmers and ranchers.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 1, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.