

HR 4173

Advancing Automation Research and Development in Agriculture Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 15, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology. (Aug 21, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4173>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]

Party: Republican • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jun 15, 2023
Rep. Miller, Max L. [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Jun 15, 2023
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Jun 15, 2023
Rep. Caraveo, Yadira [D-CO-8]	D · CO		Jun 23, 2023
Rep. Chavez-DeRemer, Lori [R-OR-5]	R · OR		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Duarte, John S. [R-CA-13]	R · CA		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Jul 18, 2023
Rep. Jackson, Jonathan L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jul 24, 2023
Rep. Cammack, Kat [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jul 27, 2023
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Aug 8, 2023
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Sep 27, 2023
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Sep 29, 2023
Rep. Tokuda, Jill N. [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Nov 1, 2023
Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]	D · OR		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. Perez, Marie Gluesenkamp [D-WA-3]	D · WA		Feb 26, 2024
Rep. Manning, Kathy E. [D-NC-6]	D · NC		Feb 29, 2024
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Mar 12, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 21, 2023

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

## Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Jun 15, 2023)

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### Advancing Automation Research and Development in Agriculture Act

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish within USDA a stand-alone competitive research and extension grant program to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the United States through the advancement and acceleration of mechanization and automation. *Specialty crops* are fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

The bill provides specified funds for FY2024 and each succeeding year to carry out the program.

The grant program includes projects that

- create or improve cost-effective technologies to reduce a specialty crop grower's manual labor requirements and increase the efficiency of crop production, resource management, harvesting, processing, post-harvest technologies, and packaging;
- increase adoption of mechanization and automation technologies; and
- accelerate automation and mechanization through prototype development, in-field trial testing, ongoing industry engagement, and rapid commercialization.

Entities eligible for the grant program are federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations and corporations, state agricultural experiment stations, individuals, and organizations representing specialty crop growers.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Aug 21, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.
- **Jun 15, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 15, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.