

## 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.