

Community College Agriculture Advancement Act

Senators John Hickenlooper, Deb Fischer, Amy Klobuchar, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mark Kelly, Jon Husted

Community College Agriculture Advancement Act Overview:

- The Community College Agriculture Advancement Act would amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize capacity-building grants for community college agriculture programs.
- The bill has a House counterpart, led by Reps. Trent Kelly (R-MS) and Salud Carbajal (D-CA).
- These grants would support workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities in agriculture.

This Legislation Would:

- Create new opportunities for community and technical colleges through Capacity Building Grants for Community College Agriculture Programs.
- Give priority to institutions that work directly with local agriculture operations to provide experiential training for students.
- Include farm business management-related subjects such as accounting and finance, so that farmers, ranchers, and others in the industry have the tools to build thriving businesses.
- Authorize the program at \$20,000,000.

Bottom Line: Congress has authorized Department of Agriculture grants and assistance to institutions of higher education that generally have not benefited the nation's nearly 1,100 community colleges. This bill is a commonsense step to ensuring that all education institutions have the capacity to meet the needs of future farmers and agriculture service providers.

Supporters: Association of Community College Trustees, American Association of Community Colleges