

Wyden Soil Health Provisions in the 2018 Senate Farm Bill

Amendments to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Section 2201: Adds soil health planning, including planning to increase soil organic matter, to the definitions of conservation activities.

Section 2204: Adds building soil organic matter to the definition of resource-conserving crop rotation, which is available for CSP payments. Directs the USDA Secretary to streamline and coordinate procedures, and manage the program to enhance soil health.

Amendments to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Section 2302: Adds soil health planning, including planning to increase soil organic matter, to the definitions of conservation activities.

Section 2305: Directs the USDA Secretary to streamline and coordinate procedures, and manage the program to enhance soil health.

Section 2308: Establishes a soil health demonstration pilot project that provides incentives to producers to adopt practices that improve soil health, including by increasing carbon levels in soil. Directs the USDA Secretary to:

1. Identify regions of the U.S. for the pilot project based on factors such as soil type and cropping history;
2. Establish payments that incentivize practices which improve soil health and increase carbon levels in the soil;
3. Establish protocols for measuring carbon levels in soil to measure gains in soil health as a result of practices used in the pilot project.

Directs the USDA Secretary to conduct a study regarding changes in soil health as a result of the practices used in the pilot project, and submit a report to Congress.

The pilot project would be funded at \$15 million for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.