

## Peer Learning for Agriculture Conservation Education (PLACE Act)

Farmers often learn best from other farmers, but there is very little federal funding that supports this type of learning. By helping farmers access leading farmers regenerating soil health, this proposal would help provide the much-needed resources for farmers and ranches of all sizes **transition to regenerative agricultural practices that rebuild soil health**, improve profitability and financial independence, revive family farms, sequester carbon, increase biodiversity, replenish fresh water sources, and build resilience to extreme weather.

While funding for soil health practices and conservation programs are an essential step to help farmers improve soil health, these funds alone don't guarantee success for the farmer. **Education and technical support are crucial for successful implementation at scale**. This proposal would amend RCPP to allow RCPP grants to be awarded solely for Technical Assistance (TA) with the goal of educating farmers through peer-to-peer support systems, based on the latest science and context-based principles for building soil and climate adaptation.

## Develop a farmer-to-farmer peer learning pilot within RCPP that support soil health and regenerative agriculture education, training, technical assistance, particularly for farmer-to-farmer networks

- Fund soil health and conservation-related farmer-to-farmer networks, or entities that lead
  farmer to farmer peer learning technical assistance, to focus on topics such as cover crop
  success and rangeland and grazing success.
- Allow these pilot projects that are centered on farmer-to-farmer peer learning to automatically waive the split between Financing Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA), which would allow 100% of RCPP grant funding to go toward TA as long as the TA is used to help promote NRCS working lands programs with producers.
- Projects can support multiple farmer-to-farmer networks within one application.
- Projects can be State/Multi-state or in a Critical Conservation Area.
- At least five projects will be funded per year.

Bill text is available here.