

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4717

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 21, 2017

Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. HILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to recognize farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Century Farms Act  
5 of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the United States has a long history of  
9 farming and has historically appreciated the invalu-

1       able contribution of farming to domestic and global  
2       populations;

3               (2) family farms represent 97 percent of all  
4       farms in the United States, of which 90 percent are  
5       small family farms;

6               (3) over 30 States have established Century or  
7       Centennial Farm designations and awards; and

8               (4) agricultural producers perform a vital public  
9       service that should be recognized and rewarded.

10 **SEC. 3. CENTURY FARMS PROGRAM.**

11       The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this sec-  
12       tion as the “Secretary”) shall establish a program under  
13       which the Secretary recognizes any farm that—

14               (1) a State department of agriculture or similar  
15       statewide agricultural organization recognizes as a  
16       Century Farm; or

17               (2)(A) is defined as a farm or ranch under sec-  
18       tion 4284.902 of title 7, Code of Federal Regula-  
19       tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this  
20       Act);

21               (B) has been in continuous operation for at  
22       least 100 years; and

23               (C) has been owned by the same family for at  
24       least 100 consecutive years, as verified through  
25       deeds, wills, abstracts, tax statements, or other simi-

- 1 lar legal documents considered appropriate by the
- 2 Secretary.

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