

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Farm and Food Cyber-
3 security Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CRITICAL INFRA-**
7 **STRUCTURE SECTOR.**—The term “agriculture and
8 food critical infrastructure sector” means—

9 (A) any activity relating to the production,
10 processing, distribution, storage, transportation,
11 consumption, or disposal of agricultural or food
12 products; and

13 (B) any entity involved in an activity de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A), including a farm-
15 er, rancher, processor, manufacturer, dis-
16 tributor, retailer, consumer, and regulator.

17 (2) **CYBERSECURITY THREAT; DEFENSIVE**
18 **MEASURE; INCIDENT; SECURITY VULNERABILITY.**—
19 The terms “cybersecurity threat”, “defensive meas-
20 ure”, “incident”, and “security vulnerability” have
21 the meanings given those terms in section 2200 of
22 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

23 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (4) SECTOR-SPECIFIC ISAC.—The term “sec-
2 tor-specific ISAC” means the Food and Agriculture-
3 Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

4 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF CYBERSECURITY THREATS AND**
5 **SECURITY VULNERABILITIES IN THE AGRI-**
6 **CULTURE AND FOOD CRITICAL INFRASTRUC-**
7 **TURE SECTOR.**

8 (a) RISK ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in coordina-
9 tion with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security
10 Agency, shall conduct a risk assessment, on a biennial
11 basis, on the cybersecurity threats to, and security
12 vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infra-
13 structure sector, including—

14 (1) the nature and extent of cyberattacks and
15 incidents that affect the agriculture and food critical
16 infrastructure sector;

17 (2) the potential impacts of a cyberattack or in-
18 cident on the safety, security, and availability of
19 food products, as well as on the economy, public
20 health, and national security of the United States;

21 (3) the current capability and readiness of the
22 Federal Government, State and local governments,
23 and private sector entities to prevent, detect, miti-
24 gate, respond to, and recover from cyberattacks and
25 incidents described in paragraph (2);

1 (4) the existing policies, standards, guidelines,
2 best practices, and initiatives applicable to the agri-
3 culture and food critical infrastructure sector to en-
4 hance defensive measures in that sector;

5 (5) the gaps, challenges, barriers, or opportuni-
6 ties for improving defensive measures in the agri-
7 culture and food critical infrastructure sector; and

8 (6) any recommendations for Federal legislative
9 or administrative actions to address the cybersecu-
10 rity threats to, and security vulnerabilities in, the
11 agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector,
12 including intrusive, duplicative, or conflicting regu-
13 latory requirements that may divert attention and
14 resources from operational risk management to a
15 compliance regime that impedes security efforts.

16 (b) PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.—In con-
17 ducting a risk assessment under subsection (a), the Sec-
18 retary shall consult with appropriate entities in the private
19 sector, including—

20 (1) the sector-specific ISAC; and

21 (2) the appropriate sector coordinating council.

22 (c) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years there-
24 after, the Secretary shall submit a report on each risk as-
25 sessment conducted under subsection (a) to—

1 (1) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
2 and Forestry of the Senate;

3 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security and
4 Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

5 (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the
8 House of Representatives.

9 **SEC. 4. FOOD SECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE SIMULA-**
10 **TION EXERCISE.**

11 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in coordina-
12 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Sec-
13 retary of Health and Human Services, the Director of Na-
14 tional Intelligence, and the heads of other relevant Federal
15 agencies, shall conduct, over a 5-year period, an annual
16 cross-sector crisis simulation exercise relating to a food-
17 related emergency or disruption (referred to in this section
18 as an “exercise”).

19 (b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of each exercise are—

20 (1) to assess the preparedness and response ca-
21 pabilities of Federal, State, Tribal, local, and terri-
22 torial governments and private sector entities in the
23 event of a food-related emergency or disruption;

1 (2) to identify and address gaps and
2 vulnerabilities in the food supply chain and critical
3 infrastructure;

4 (3) to enhance coordination and information
5 sharing among stakeholders involved in food produc-
6 tion, processing, distribution, and consumption;

7 (4) to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency
8 of existing policies, programs, and resources relating
9 to food security and resilience;

10 (5) to develop and disseminate best practices
11 and recommendations for improving food security
12 and resilience; and

13 (6) to identify key stakeholders and categories
14 that were missing from the exercise to ensure the in-
15 clusion of those stakeholders and categories in fu-
16 ture exercises.

17 (c) DESIGN.—Each exercise shall—

18 (1) involve a realistic and plausible scenario
19 that simulates a food-related emergency or disrup-
20 tion affecting multiple sectors and jurisdictions;

21 (2) incorporate input from experts and stake-
22 holders from various disciplines and sectors, includ-
23 ing agriculture, public health, nutrition, emergency
24 management, transportation, energy, water, commu-
25 nications, related equipment suppliers and manufac-

1 turers, and cybersecurity, including related academia
2 and private sector information security researchers
3 and practitioners, including the sector-specific ISAC;

4 (3) use a variety of methods and tools, such as
5 tabletop exercises, workshops, seminars, games,
6 drills, or full-scale exercises; and

7 (4) include participants from Federal, State,
8 Tribal, local, and territorial governments and private
9 sector entities, including the sector-specific ISAC
10 and appropriate sector coordinating councils, that
11 have roles and responsibilities relating to food secu-
12 rity and resilience.

13 (d) PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.—In con-
14 ducting an exercise, the Secretary shall consult with ap-
15 propriate entities in the private sector, including—

16 (1) the sector-specific ISAC; and

17 (2) the appropriate sector coordinating councils.

18 (e) FEEDBACK; REPORT.—After each exercise, the
19 Secretary, in consultation with the heads of the Federal
20 agencies described in subsection (a), shall—

21 (1) provide feedback to, and an evaluation of,
22 the participants in that exercise on their perform-
23 ance and outcomes; and

24 (2) produce, and submit to Congress, a report
25 that summarizes, with respect to that exercise, the

1 findings of that exercise, lessons learned from that
2 exercise, and recommendations to enhance the cyber-
3 security and resilience of the agriculture and food
4 critical infrastructure sector.

5 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.