To reduce enteric methane emissions, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Bеннет (for himself, Mr. Crapo, Ms. Baldwin, and Mr. Moran) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To reduce enteric methane emissions, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Enteric Methane Innovation Tools for Lower Emissions and Sustainable Stock Act of 2024” or the “EMIT LESS Act of 2024”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—ENABLING ENTERIC METHANE RESEARCH
Sec. 101. Creation of enteric methane product and practice testing capacity through the Agricultural Research Service.

Sec. 102. Training programs for enteric methane livestock emissions.

TITLE II—ON-FARM ENTERIC METHANE EMISSION REDUCTIONS

Sec. 201. On-farm conservation innovation trials.
Sec. 203. Environmental quality incentives program payments.
Sec. 204. Conservation Stewardship Program payments.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—ENABLING ENTERIC METHANE RESEARCH

SEC. 101. CREATION OF ENTERIC METHANE PRODUCT AND PRACTICE TESTING CAPACITY THROUGH THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

(a) In General.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, shall—

(1) establish and operate laboratory and testing facilities to conduct studies to enhance the understanding of baseline enteric methane emissions and the safety and efficacy of enteric methane-mitigating products and practices;

(2) develop the ongoing capacity of personnel of the Agricultural Research Service with expertise in conducting the studies described in paragraph (1); and

(3) regularly assess—
(A) baseline enteric methane emissions;

(B) the impacts of enteric methane produc-
tion on animal productivity and animal health
and welfare; and

(C) the impacts of enteric methane-miti-
gating products and practices on greenhouse
gas emissions, animal productivity, and animal
health and welfare.

(b) Activities.—The Secretary, acting through the
Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, may
use amounts made available to carry out this section, in
accordance with subsection (a)—

(1) to construct federally owned testing facili-
ties;

(2) to purchase assessment technologies;

(3) to retrofit or renovate existing facilities; and

(4) to contract with independent or academic
facilities to conduct research.

SEC. 102. TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ENTERIC METHANE
LIVESTOCK EMISSIONS.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting
before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:
“SEC. 401. TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ENTERIC METHANE LIVESTOCK EMISSIONS.

“(a) In General.—The Secretary shall establish or expand at eligible institutions training programs relating to, with respect to enteric methane emissions from livestock—

“(1) livestock management and nutrition;

“(2) greenhouse gas monitoring, verification, and reporting technologies;

“(3) testing skills and capacity;

“(4) innovation; and

“(5) livestock health and welfare.

“(b) Eligible Institutions.—

“(1) In General.—An institution eligible for a training program under this section is an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution.

“(2) Requirement.—The Secretary shall establish or expand a training program under this section at not less than one 1862 Institution, not less than one 1890 Institution, and not less than one 1994 Institution.”
TITLE II—ON-FARM ENTERIC METHANE EMISSION REDUCTIONS

SEC. 201. ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION TRIALS.

Section 1240H(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

(A) in subclause (VI), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subclause (VII) as subclause (VIII); and

(C) by inserting after subclause (VI) the following:

“(VII) livestock-related practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including enteric methane emissions; and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) ENTERIC METHANE EMISSIONS STUDIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall carry out one or more studies on changes in methane emissions and, if feasible, economic outcomes, generated as a result
of livestock-related practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including enteric methane emissions.

“(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
be appropriate to assist in reducing enteric methane emissions;

“(B) revise appropriate conservation practice standards in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this paragraph as necessary to assist in reducing enteric methane emissions; and

“(C) establish any appropriate new conservation practice standards to assist in reducing enteric methane emissions.”.

SEC. 203. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting “management” after “means a”; and

(B) by inserting “land or livestock management” after “set of”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting “or livestock” after “land”.

(b) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (3)(E), by inserting “, including greenhouse gas emission reductions” before the semicolon; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) provides reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including enteric methane emissions from livestock; or”.

SEC. 204. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PAYMENTS.

(a) Definition of Conservation Activities.—

Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “livestock or” after “measures, and”.

(b) Supplemental Payments for Resource-conserving Crop Rotations, Advanced Grazing Management, and Livestock Feed Management.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—
(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND LIVESTOCK FEED MANAGEMENT”; 

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) LIVESTOCK FEED MANAGEMENT.— The term ‘livestock feed management’ means providing livestock with forage and feed that—

“(i) manipulates and controls the quantity and quality of available nutrients, feedstuffs, ingredients, or additives fed to livestock;

“(ii) minimizes excess nutrients in surface water and ground water by reducing the quantity of nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, salts, or other nutrients excreted in manure; or

“(iii) reduces emissions of ammonia, odors, greenhouse gases, volatile organic
components, or dust from animal feeding operations.”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) livestock feed management.”; and

(4) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, livestock feed management,” after “crop rotations”.