

By Senator Rouson

16-01357A-25

2025178__

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to an agronomic study on emerging
3 crops; requiring Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
4 University to conduct an agronomic study on emerging
5 crops in this state, subject to legislative
6 appropriation; requiring Florida Agricultural and
7 Mechanical University to submit a report to the
8 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
9 providing requirements for the report; providing an
10 effective date.

11
12 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Florida agricultural
13 producers have endured a continuous stream of deadly diseases
14 and adverse weather conditions, including drought, wind,
15 flooding, and hurricanes, and

16 WHEREAS, these damaging weather conditions have severely
17 reduced agricultural production, caused a loss of jobs, and
18 caused severe economic loss to communities, families, and
19 individual producers, and

20 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that preserving agricultural
21 production is vital to Florida's rural communities and overall
22 economy, and

23 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that preserving agricultural
24 land through production of crops rather than using the land for
25 development has many ecological benefits, including maintaining
26 wildlife habitat, absorbing carbon dioxide, recharging aquifers,
27 reducing greenhouse gases, and controlling soil erosion, and

28 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that this loss of
29 agricultural infrastructure, jobs, economic opportunity, and

16-01357A-25

2025178__

30 wildlife habitat is not sustainable and has a negative impact on
31 the quality of life for all Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

32
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34
35 Section 1. Agronomic study on emerging crops in Florida.—

36 (1) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the
37 Legislature, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
38 shall conduct an agronomic study on emerging agricultural crops
39 and determine whether there exists one or more viable crops or
40 products that would provide economic benefit to growers using
41 current agricultural infrastructure on land that has been taken
42 out of production due to the effects of diseases and adverse
43 weather conditions.

44 (2) By December 1, 2025, Florida Agricultural and
45 Mechanical University shall submit a report to the Governor, the
46 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
47 Representatives which includes, at a minimum:

48 (a) Information about each crop or product considered,
49 detailing the environmental impact;

50 (b) An assessment of each crop's suitability to Florida's
51 climate, and the expected economic benefit to Florida growers
52 and communities; and

53 (c) Recommendations for best practices to sustain and
54 improve Florida's agricultural industry.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.