

1 AN ACT concerning agriculture.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Sustainable Agriculture Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 2 and 5 as follows:

6 (505 ILCS 135/2) (from Ch. 5, par. 2652)

7 Sec. 2. Findings. It is the intent of this Act to  
8 provide for funding of the developmental research program  
9 that serves production agriculture in Illinois. Illinois is  
10 blessed with some of the richest agricultural soils and the  
11 most favorable agricultural climate of any land area in the  
12 world of similar size. An economically competitive  
13 production agriculture in Illinois is essential to sustaining  
14 Illinois farmers plus a vast infrastructure of the State's  
15 input, processing, distribution and marketing industries and  
16 financial institutions and provides the economic base for  
17 many rural communities and municipalities.

18 Production agriculture in Illinois faces rapidly growing  
19 competition for international markets, for which the basis of  
20 competition is cost of production. In order to compete  
21 effectively, agricultural producers in Illinois must be the  
22 early and most effective adapters of new  
23 productivity-enhancing, cost-cutting and quality-improving  
24 technology.

25 In addition, in order to sustain a high level of  
26 agricultural production into the twenty-first century and  
27 beyond, it is critical to determine the optimum methods for  
28 production agriculture which result in the best return for  
29 the farm and best preserves the environment and the farmland  
30 of Illinois.

31 The Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station's Office of

1 Research and researeh farm system are is essential to  
 2 conducting research that tests and compares promising new  
 3 agricultural practices and products, selecting those that are  
 4 most appropriate for Illinois, tailoring them to the specific  
 5 agricultural conditions of Illinois and generating  
 6 information that helps Illinois farmers assemble them into  
 7 effective farming systems, thus achieving competitive  
 8 advantages for Illinois.

9 Tremendous numbers of new practices and products are  
 10 becoming available because of increased public and private  
 11 research around the world, and this rate of development will  
 12 increase in the future, requiring a much stronger and more  
 13 sophisticated adaptive research program. Research conducted  
 14 in the research farm system permits Illinois to capture the  
 15 economic benefits of worldwide agricultural research and  
 16 product development.

17 The State's investment in utilization and marketing  
 18 research will have little benefit for the present and future  
 19 of Illinois unless Illinois farmers are the low-cost  
 20 producers of the raw materials for new food and non-food  
 21 uses, use production methods which preserve the farmland and  
 22 guarantee future productivity, and employ some of the  
 23 utilization and marketing technologies which can be  
 24 implemented on Illinois farms as efficient production  
 25 practices.

26 (Source: P.A. 86-1022.)

27 (505 ILCS 135/5) (from Ch. 5, par. 2655)

28 Sec. 5. There is hereby created the Sustainable  
 29 Agriculture Committee which shall consist of 7 members as  
 30 follows: one member representing and appointed by the  
 31 Governor; one member representing and appointed by the Board  
 32 of Higher Education; one member representing and appointed by  
 33 the Department of Agriculture; and 4 members appointed by the

1 Department of Agriculture who are farmers actively involved  
2 in production agriculture. Members of the Committee shall be  
3 appointed for a term of 5 years.

4 It is the duty of the Committee to seek sources of  
5 funding for projects described in Section 4. These sources  
6 may be private or public, or federal, State, or local, or  
7 designated for agricultural, environmental, or other related  
8 purposes. The Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to  
9 the Department of Agriculture in program administration and  
10 funding recommendations.

11 The Department of Agriculture may accept funds from any  
12 public or private source for the purposes specified in  
13 Section 3. Funds received shall be deposited into the State  
14 treasury into a State trust fund to be held by the Treasurer  
15 as ex-officio custodian and subject to the Comptroller --  
16 Treasurer, voucher -- warrant system. Such funds shall be  
17 used by the Department only for the purposes specified in  
18 Section 3.

19 (Source: P.A. 86-1022; 87-998.)

20 (505 ILCS 135/6 rep.) (from Ch. 5, par. 2656)

21 Section 10. The Sustainable Agriculture Act is amended  
22 by repealing Section 6.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.