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104TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 104–726

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES PROGRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 30, 1996.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SKEEN, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3603]

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104–726)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3603) "making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 5, 8, 17, 18, 19, 21, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 61, 71, 72, 73, 79, 87, 97, 102, 107, 109, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 129, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, and 143.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 27, 52, 54, 63, 65, 66, 68, 69, 78, 84, 85, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 113, 114, 115, 117, 120, 121, 122, 123, 127, 130, 138, 144, 146, 147, and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 1:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Restore the matter stricken, amended to read as follows: *: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to carry out section*

793(c)(1)(C) of Public Law 104–127; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 2:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$23,505,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 3:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$144,053,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 9:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 9, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$716,826,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 11:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 11, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$69,100,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 15:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 15, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$49,767,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 16:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 16, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$94,203,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 24:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 24, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$10,249,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 25:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 25, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$421,504,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 26:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 26, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$61,591,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 28:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 28, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$2,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 44:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 44, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$12,066,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 45:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 45, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$425,520,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 46:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 46, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$434,909,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 48:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 48, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$38,507,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 49:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 49, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$23,128,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 56:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 56, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$34,653,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 58:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 58, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$499,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 59:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 59, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Delete the matter proposed and restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended as follows:

In lieu of the first sum named in the matter restored, insert: *$64,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 60:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 60, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$619,742,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 62:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 62, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$12,381,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 64:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 64, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *130,433,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 67:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 67, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$60,743,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 70:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 70, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$7,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 74:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 74, and agree to the same with an amendment, a follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$9,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 75:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 75, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$566,935,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 76:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 76, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$5,200,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 77:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 77, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$8,750,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 80:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 80, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$8,653,297,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 81:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 81, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$3,219,544,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 82:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 82, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$1,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 83:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 83, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert: *: Provided further, That once the amount for fiscal year 1996 carryover funds has been determined by the Secretary, any funds in excess of $100,000,000 may be transferred by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Rural Utilities Assistance Program and/or to the Rural Housing Insurance Fund for the cost of direct section 502 loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 86:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 86, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$27,618,029,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 88:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 88, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum named in said amendment, insert: *$3,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 91:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 91, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$106,128,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 92:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 92, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$135,561,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 96:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 96, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$226,900,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 98:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 98, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$185,589,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 99:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 99, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment, insert: *$1,780,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 111:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 111, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Restore the matter stricken by said amendment, amended as follows:

After "2249" insert: *: Provided, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 125:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 125, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

Sec. 735. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 30 days unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 126:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 126, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert the following:

SEC. 736. Section 747 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting, "effective October 1, 1996," following "The Secretary shall make grants" in section

310B(e)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: Provided, That this section shall take effect upon enactment of this Act into law; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 131:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 131, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment, insert:

SEC. 741. RURAL HOUSING PROGRAM EXTENSIONS.

(a) EXTENSION OF MULTIFAMILY RURAL HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS.—Section 515(b)(4) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(b)(4)) is amended by striking "September 30, 1996" and inserting "September 30, 1997".

(2) SET-ASIDE FOR NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—The first sentence of section 515(w)(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(w)(1)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 1996" and inserting "fiscal year 1997".

(b) EXTENSION OF HOUSING IN UNDERSERVED AREAS PROGRAM.—The first sentence of section 509(f)(4)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1479(f)(4)(A)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 1996" and inserting "fiscal year 1997".

(c) REFORMS FOR MULTIFAMILY RURAL HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM.—

(1) LIMITATION ON PROJECT TRANSFERS.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) is amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

"(h) PROJECT TRANSFERS.—After the date of the enactment of the Act entitled 'An Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes', the ownership or control of a project for which a loan is made or insured under this section may be transferred only if the Secretary determines that such transfer would further the provision of housing and related facilities for low-income families or persons and would be in the best interests of residents and the Federal Government.".

(2) EQUITY LOANS.—Section 515(t) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(t)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively.

(3) EQUITY TAKEOUT LOANS TO EXTEND LOW-INCOME USE.—

(A) AUTHORITY AND LIMITATION.—Section 502(c)(4)(B)(iv) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(c)(4)(B)(iv)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "or under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 514(j), except that an equity loan referred to in this clause may not be made available after the date of the enactment of the Act entitled 'An Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes', unless the Secretary determines that the other incentives available under this subparagraph are not adequate to provide a fair return on the investment of the borrower,

to prevent prepayment of the loan insured under section 514 or 515, or to prevent the displacement of tenants of the housing for which the loan was made".

(B) APPROVAL OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 502(c)(4)(C) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(c)(4)(C)) is amended by striking "(C)" and all that follows through "provided—" and inserting the following:

"(C) APPROVAL OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may approve assistance under subparagraph (B) for assisted housing only if the restrictive period has expired for any loan for the housing made or insured under section 514 or 515 pursuant to a contract entered into after December 21, 1979, but before the date of the enactment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989, and the Secretary determines that the combination of assistance provided—".

(C) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 515(c)(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(c)(1)) is amended by striking "December 21, 1979" and inserting "December 15, 1989".

(d) REFORM OF SECTION 515.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (r) and inserting the following:

"(r)(1) The Secretary—

"(A) may require that the initial operating reserve under this section may be in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit; and

"(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), may require not more than a 3 percent contribution to equity, except that the Secretary shall require a 5 percent contribution in the case of a project that is allocated a low-income housing tax credit pursuant to section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(2) The Secretary may adjust the amount of equity contribution to ensure that assistance provided is not more than is necessary to provide affordable housing after taking account of assistance from all Federal, State, and local sources.

"(3) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act entitled 'An Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes', the Secretary shall issue regulations to implement subsection (r)(2) in accordance with the negotiated rulemaking procedures set forth in subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code: Provided, That if the negotiated rulemaking is not completed within the designated time, the Secretary shall proceed to promulgate regulations under the rulemaking authority contained in 5 U.S.C. 557."; and

(2) by striking subsection (z).

(e) EQUITY SKIMMING PENALTIES.—

(1) INSURANCE OF LOANS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR DOMESTIC FARM LABOR.—Section 514 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) EQUITY SKIMMING PENALTY.—Whoever, as an owner, agent, or manager, or who is otherwise in custody, control, or possession of property that is security for a loan made or insured under this section willfully uses, or authorizes the use, of any part of the rents,

assets, proceeds, income, or other funds derived from such property, for any purpose other than to meet actual or necessary expenses of the property, or for any other purpose not authorized by this title or the regulations adopted pursuant to this title, shall be fined not more than $250,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.".

(2) DIRECT AND INSURED LOANS TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS AND FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485), as amended by subsection (d)(2) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(z) EQUITY SKIMMING PENALTY.—Whoever, as an owner, agent, or manager, or who is otherwise in custody, control, or possession of property that is security for a loan made or insured under this section willfully uses, or authorizes the use, of any part of the rents, assets, proceeds, income, or other funds derived from such property, for any purpose other than to meet actual or necessary expenses of the property, or for any other purpose not authorized by this title or the regulations adopted pursuant to this title, shall be fined not more than $250,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.".

(f) PRIORITIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 532 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490l) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "The Secretary" and inserting "Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), the Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) PRIORITIZATION OF SECTION 515 HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make assistance under section 515 available pursuant to an objective procedure established by the Secretary, under which the Secretary shall identify counties and communities having the greatest need for such assistance and designate such counties and communities to receive such assistance.

"(2) OBJECTIVE MEASURES.—The Secretary shall use the following objective measures to determine the need for rental housing assistance under paragraph (1):

"(A) The incidence of poverty.

"(B) The lack of affordable housing and the existence of substandard housing.

"(C) The lack of mortgage credit.

"(D) The rural characteristics of the location.

"(E) Other factors as determined by the Secretary, demonstrating the need for affordable housing.

"(3) INFORMATION.—In administering this subsection, the Secretary shall use information from the most recent decennial census of the United States, relevant comprehensive affordable housing strategies under section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and other reliable sources obtained by the Secretary which demonstrate the need for affordable housing in rural areas.

"(4) DESIGNATION.—A designation under this subsection shall not be effective for a period of more than 3 years, but may be renewed by the Secretary in accordance with the procedure set forth in this subsection. The Secretary shall take such other reasonable actions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to notify the public of such designations.".; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 133:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 133, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Retain the matter proposed by said amendment, amended as follows:

On page 38, line 14, of the Senate engrossed amendments, insert after "chapter 83": *or chapter 84*; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 145:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 145, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the first sum named in said amendment, insert the following: *$32,244,000*.

In lieu of the second sum named in said amendment, insert the following: *$110,000,000*; and the Senate agree to the same.

JOE SKEEN,
JOHN T. MYERS,
JAMES T. WALSH,
JAY DICKEY,
JACK KINGSTON,
FRANK RIGGS,
GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, Jr.,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
RICHARD J. DURBIN,
MARCY KAPTUR,
RAY THORNTON,
VIC FAZIO,
DAVID R. OBEY,
Managers on the Part of the House.

THAD COCHRAN,
CHRISTOPHER BOND,
SLADE GORTON,
MITCH MCCONNELL,
CONRAD BURNS,
MARK O. HATFIELD,
DALE BUMPERS,
TOM HARKIN,
J. ROBERT KERREY,
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON,
HERB KOHL,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

The conferees agree that executive branch wishes cannot substitute for Congress' own statements as to the best evidence of congressional intentions—that is, the official reports of the Congress. The conferees further point out that funds in this Act must be used for the purposes for which appropriated, as required by section 1301 of title 31 of the United States Code, which provides: "Appropriations shall be applied only to the objects for which the appropriations were made except as otherwise provided by law."

Report language included by the House which is not changed by the report of the Senate, and Senate report language which is not changed by the conference are approved by the committee of conference. The statement of the managers, while repeating some report language for emphasis, does not intend to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Amendment No. 1: Deletes House language limiting the detail or assignment of personnel to any Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary office to not more than 30 days. The Senate bill and the conference agreement address this issue in Amendment No. 125. The conference agreement also removes a restriction on the amount of funding for rural housing that may be made available from the Fund for Rural America.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS

Amendment No. 2: Provides $23,505,000 for repairs, renovations, and construction of USDA buildings and facilities instead of $5,000,000 as proposed by the House and $23,505,400 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 3: Appropriates $144,053,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments instead of $125,548,000 as proposed by the House and $144,053,400 as proposed by the Senate.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Amendment No. 4: Appropriates $30,529,000 for Departmental Administration as proposed by the Senate instead of $28,304,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 5: Deletes Senate language earmarking not less than $11,774,000 of the amount appropriated for Departmental Administration for civil rights enforcement. The conferees expect that not less than $11,774,000 of the amount appropriated will be directed to civil rights enforcement.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

Amendment No. 6: Appropriates $3,668,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations as proposed by the Senate instead of $3,728,000 as proposed by the House.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Amendment No. 7: Appropriates $53,109,000 for the Economic Research Service as proposed by the Senate instead of $54,176,000 as proposed by the House.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Amendment No. 8: Appropriates $100,221,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service as proposed by the House instead of $98,121,000 as proposed by the Senate.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Amendment No. 9: Appropriates $716,826,000 for the Agricultural Research Service instead of $702,831,000 as proposed by the House and $722,839,600 as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

[In thousands of dollars]

	1997 request	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
FY 1996 appropriation	710,000	710,000	710,000	710,000
Transfer: working capital fund	55	55	55	55
Adjusted fiscal year 1996 appropriation	709,945	709,945	709,945	709,945
Food safety research	7,500	4,000	7,500	5,500
Genetic resources & biodiversity	2,400	500	500	500
Integrated pest management, biocontrol of pests	6,932	3,000	[1] 3,000	[2] 3,000
Alternatives to methyl bromide	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Integrated farming systems	3,500	500	1,000	1,000
Waste management	2,000	.....	500	.....
South Florida everglades ecosystem	2,000	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Biomass (electricity generation)	2,000	.....	2,000	.....
Binational agricultural research and development (BARD)	2,500	.....	.....	.....
Operational requirements (pay costs, retirement, adm. O/H reduction)	6,576	.....	.....	.....
Termination/reduction of ongoing projects	(−14,353)	(−10,224)	(−7,864.8)	(−3,646.8)

[In thousands of dollars]

	1997 request	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
General reduction	(−5,647)	(−7,140)	(−1,265.6)	(−5,647.2)
Budget amendment (program support of aquaculture facilities at Stuttgart, AR and Marion, AL)	2,500			
Alfalfa, Manhattan, KS			300	250
Aquaculture, Pine Bluff, AR			250	150
Arkansas Children's Hospital, Little Rock, AR		100	425	500
Club Wheat, Pullman, OR			450	350
Emerging infectious diseases		300		300
Fish farming experiment lab, Stuttgart, AR			250	150
Floriculture/horticulture		200		200
Lower MS delta nutrition initiative			2,000	750
NW small fruits research, Corvallis, OR		200	450	325
Peanuts, Stillwater, OK			250	150
Phytoestrogens, New Orleans, LA		450		350
Plant stress, Lubbock, TX			150	
Poultry disease (PEMS) research			200	100
Sugarcane (biotechnology), Houma, LA			500	400
Warmwater aquaculture, MS			1,300	1,200
Total fiscal year 1997 appropriation	728,853	702,831	722,839.6	716,826

[1] 400 for tamarisks–NV.
[2] No earmarks.

The conferees provide continued funding at the fiscal year 1996 level for the following areas of research; management systems to emeliorate soils stress, Auburn, AL ($406,000); yellow star thistle integrated pest management, Albany, CA ($93,900); sugar beet research, Ft. Collins, CO ($626,700); global change research, Ft. Collins, CO ($1,000,000); management of termites as urban pests in the American Pacific, Gainesville, FL ($145,500); manage diseases in forage and turf ecosystems, Tifton, GA ($141,000); aquaculture productivity reassert, Hilo, HI ($1,628,900); nontoxic control methods of fruit fly, Hilo, HI ($316,500); development and use of molecular techniques in oat enhancement, Aberdeen, ID ($162,300); animal health consortium, Peoria, IL ($929,300); forage research, Ames, IA ($172,800); genetic characterization of soybean germplasm, Ames, IA ($180,700); genetic engineering of fungal phytase to reduce groundwater contamination, New Orleans, LA ($597,000); lyme disease research, Beltsville, MD ($172,900); apple research, Beltsville, MD ($841,200); remote sensing and associated technologies for production, Beltsville, MD ($206,000); production and evaluation of tissue-cultured fruit crops, Beltsville, MD ($240,400); National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, Beltsville, MD ($55,800); wild rice research, St. Paul, MN ($150,300); herbicide research to improve weed control and crop productivity, St. Paul, MN ($196,600); optimization of bacterial fibrolytic activity in meat animals, Clay Center, NE ($236,800); influence of gastrointestinal neuroendocrine peptides on food intake and growth of swine, Clay Center, NE ($210,600); genetic improvement of perennial grass germplasm, Lincoln, NE ($270,100); biocontrol agents of pest insects of agricultural crops, Ithaca, NY ($50,100); texture control of sweet potato products, Raleigh, NC ($219,400); role of molybdenum-independent nitrogenases in nature, Raleigh, NC ($235,000); development of soybean germplasm and production systems for high yield and drought-prone environments, Wooster, OH ($212,300); development of efficient kenaf production systems,

Lane, OK ($152,300); partitioning of photosynthate, Corvallis, OR ($177,600); characterization of environment and nutritional induced cytokinin changes in wheat, Corvallis, OR ($217,000); biology, ecology, and control of plant parasitic nematodes in field and range plants, Logan, UT ($149,800); and processing of forages to increase value, Madison, WI ($311,500).

Amendment No. 10: Retains language proposed by the Senate transferring the property known as the National Agricultural Water Quality Laboratory in Durant, Oklahoma, to Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The House bill contained no similar provision.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Amendment No. 11: Appropriates $69,100,000 for Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities instead of $59,600,000 as proposed by the House and $59,200,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

[In thousands of dollars]

	1997 request	House	Senate	Conference
California:				
U.S. Horticultural Crop and Water Management Research Laboratory, Parlier	22,000	.....	11,000	.....
Western Regional Research Center, Albany	4,600	4,000	.....	4,000
Florida:				
Horticultural Research Laboratory, Fort Pierce	29,800	27,000	14,900	27,000
Melaleuca Research and Quarantine Facility, Fort Lauderdale	4,000	.....	.....	.....
Illinois:				
National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Ethanol Pilot Plant	.....	1,500	.....	1,500
Kansas:				
U.S. Grain Marketing Research Laboratory, Manhattan	.....	.....	500	500
Maryland:				
Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
New York:				
Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Pennsylvania:				
Eastern Regional Research Center, Philadelphia	4,700	4,000	4,700	4,000
South Carolina:				
U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston	.....	.....	3,000	3,000
Texas:				
Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory, Lubbock	.....	8,100	8,100	8,100
Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory, Weslaco	4,000	4,000	.....	4,000
West Virginia:				
National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture, Leetown	.....	.....	6,000	6,000
Total, ARS, B&F	80,100	59,600	59,200	69,100

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Amendment No. 12: Provides $168,734,000 for payments under the Hatch Act as proposed by the State instead of $163,671,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 13: Provides $20,497,000 for cooperative forestry research as proposed by the Senate instead of $19,882,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 14: Provides $27,735,000 for payments to 1890 land-grant colleges and Tuskegee University as proposed by the Senate instead of $26,902,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 15: Provides $49,767,000 for special research grants instead of $44,235,000 as proposed by the House and $47,080,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 16: Provides $94,203,000 for competitive research grants instead of $96,735,000 as proposed by the House and $93,935,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 17: Provides $4,775,000 for animal and health disease programs as proposed by the House instead of $5,051,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 18: Provides $650,000 for supplemental and alternative crops as proposed by the House instead of $500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes $500,000 for canola research and $150,000 for hesperaloe research.

Amendment No. 19: Provides $500,000 for the Critical Agricultural Materials Act as proposed by the House instead of $700,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 20: Provides $1,500,000 for education grants for Hispanic-serving Institutions as proposed by the Senate instead of $2,000,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 21: Provides $8,000,000 for the sustainable agriculture research and education as proposed by the House instead of $8,100,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendments No. 22 and 23: Insert and delete a U.S. Code citation for capacity building grants for 1890 land-grant colleges as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 24: Provides $10,249,000 for Federal administration instead of $9,605,000 as proposed the House and $10,644,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 25: Appropriates $421,504,000 for Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Research and Education Activities instead of $411,849,000 as proposed by the House and $419,370,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH SERVICE			
Payments Under Hatch Act	163,671	168,734	168,734
Cooperative forestry research (McIntire-Stennis)	19,882	20,497	20,497
Payments to 1890 colleges and Tuskegee	26,902	27,735	27,735
Special Research Grants (P.L. 89–106):			
Aflatoxin (IL)	113	.....	113
Agricultural diversification (HI)	131	131	131
Alliance for food protection (NE, GA)	300	300	300
Alternative cropping systems (Southeast)	.....	232	.....

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Alternative crops (ND)	550	550	550
Alternative crops for arid lands (TX)	85	.....	85
Alternative Marine and Fresh Water Species (MS)	308	308	308
Apple fire blight (NY, MI)	325	350	325
Aquaculture (IL)	169	169	169
Aquaculture (LA)	330	330	330
Aquaculture (MS)	592	592	592
Aquaculture (NC)	150	.....	150
Aquaculture marketing (RI, AR)	.....	250	.....
Asian Products lab (OR)	212	.....	.....
Babcock Institute (WI)	.....	312	312
Barley feed for rangeland cattle (MT)	250	500	500
Binational agriculture research and development	2,500	2,500	2,000
Biodiesel research (MO)	150	152	152
Biotechnology (OR)	217	250	250
Broom snakeweed (NM)	175	169	175
Canola (KS)	85	85	85
Center for animal health and productivity (PA)	113	.....	113
Center for innovative food technology (OH)	181	.....	181
Center for rural studies (VT)	.....	32	32
Chesapeake Bay aquaculture	370	370	370
Coastal cultivars	200	.....	200
Competitiveness of agricultural products (WA)	677	677	677
Cool season legume research (ID, WA)	329	329	329
Cranberry/blueberry disease and breeding (NJ)	220	220	220
Dairy and meat goat research (TX)	.....	63	63
Delta rural revitalization (MS)	148	148	148
Drought mitigation (NE)	200	200	200
Environmental research (NY)	486	.....	486
Environmental risk factors/cancer (NY)	100	.....	100
Expanded wheat pasture (OK)	285	285	285
Farm and rural business finance (IL, AR)	106	106	106
Floriculture (HI)	.....	250	250
Food and Agriculture Policy Institute (IA, MO)	800	850	800
Food irradiation (IA)	.....	201	201
Food marketing policy center (CT)	332	332	332
Food processing center (NE)	.....	42	42
Food safety consortium (AR, KS, IA)	1,690	1,743	1,690
Food systems research group (WI)	221	221	221
Forestry (AR)	523	723	523
Fruit and vegetable market analysis (AZ, MO)	296	.....	296
Generic commodity promotion research and evaluation (NY)	212	.....	212
Global change	1,567	1,615	1,567
Global marketing support service (AR)	.....	92	92
Grain sorghum (KA)	.....	106	106
Grass seed cropping systems for a sustainable agriculture (WA, OR, ID)	.....	423	423
Human nutrition (AR)	425	.....	.....
Human nutrition (IA)	473	473	473
Human nutrition (LA)	752	752	752
Human nutrition (NY)	622	.....	622
Illinois-Missouri Alliance for Biotechnology	1,316	1,357	1,316
Improved dairy management practices (PA)	296	.....	296
Improved fruit practices (MI)	445	445	445
Institute for Food Science and Engineering (AR)	750	750	750
Integrated production systems (OK)	161	161	161
International arid lands consortium	329	.....	329
Iowa biotechnology consortium	.....	1,792	1,738
Jointed goatgrass (WA)	296	296	296
Landscaping for water quality (GA)	300	300	300
Livestock and dairy policy (NY, TX)	445	445	445

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Lowbush blueberry research (ME)	220	220	220
Maple research (VT)	.....	84	84
Michigan biotechnology consortium	750	750	750
Midwest advanced food manufacturing alliance	423	423	423
Midwest agricultural products (IA)	592	592	592
Milk safety (PA)	.....	268	268
Minor use animal drug	550	550	550
Molluscan shellfish (OR)	300	400	400
Multi-commodity research (OR)	.....	364	364
Multi-cropping strategies for aquaculture (HI)	.....	127	127
National biological impact assessment	254	254	254
Nematode resistance genetic engineering (NM)	127	127	127
Non-food agricultural products (NE)	.....	64	64
North central biotechnology initiative	1,940	.....	1,940
Oil resources from desert plants (NM)	175	169	175
Organic waste utilization (NM)	100	.....	100
Pasture and forage research (UT)	.....	200	200
Peach tree short life (SC)	.....	162	162
Pest control alternatives (SC)	.....	106	106
Phytophthora root rot (NM)	127	127	127
Postharvest rice straws (CA)	100	.....	100
Potato cultivars (AK)	.....	120	120
Potato research	1,214	1,214	1,214
Preharvest food safety (KS)	212	212	212
Preservation and processing research (OK)	226	.....	226
Red River Corridor (NM, ND)	.....	169	169
Regional barley gene mapping project	348	348	348
Regionalized implications of farm programs (MO, TX)	294	294	294
Rice Modeling (AR)	395	395	395
Rural development centers (PA, IA (ND), MS, OR)	423	423	423
Rural policies institute (NE, MO)	644	644	644
Russian wheat aphid (WA, OR, CO, CA, ID)	.....	455	.....
Seafood and aquaculture harvesting, processing, and marketing (MS)	305	305	305
Small fruit research (OR, WA, ID)	212	212	212
Southwest consortium for plant genetics and water resources	338	338	338
Soybean cyst nematode (MO)	303	303	303
Spatial technologies for agriculture (MS)	.....	500	350
STEEP II—water quality in Northwest	500	500	500
Sunflower insects (ND)	.....	127	.....
Sustainable agriculture (MI)	445	445	445
Sustainable agriculture and natural resources (PA)	.....	94	94
Sustainable agriculture systems (NE)	.....	59	59
Sustainable pest management for dryland wheat (MT)	.....	350	200
Swine waste management (NC)	150	280	215
Tillage, silviculture, waste management (LA)	212	212	212
Tropical and subtropical	2,724	2,809	2,724
Urban pests (GA)	64	64	64
Viticulture consortium (NY, CA)	500	500	500
Water conservation (KS)	79	79	79
Water management (AL)	.....	337	170
Water quality	2,757	2,757	2,757
Weed control (ND)	.....	423	423
Wheat genetic research (KS)	176	176	176
Wood utilization research (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI)	3,536	3,758	3,536
Wool research (TX, MT, WY)	212	212	212
Total, Special Research Grants.	44,235	47,080	49,767
Improved pest control:			
Critical issues	200	200	200

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Emerging pest and disease issues	1,623	1,623	1,623
Expert IPM and decision support issues	177	177	177
Integrated pest management	2,731	2,731	2,731
Pesticide clearance (IR–4)	5,711	5,711	5,711
Pesticide impact assessment	1,327	1,327	1,327
Total, Improved pest control	11,769	11,769	11,769
Competitive research grants:			
Plant systems	37,000	35,744	36,044
Animal systems	23,750	23,136	23,104
Nutrition, food quality and health	7,400	7,209	7,209
Natural resources and the environment	17,650	17,194	17,194
Processes and new products	6,935	6,755	6,755
Markets, trade and policy	4,000	3,897	3,897
Total, Competitive research grants	96,735	93,935	94,203
Animal Health and Disease (Sec. 1433)	4,775	5,051	4,775
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	500	700	500
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	4,000	4,000	4,000
Rangeland Research Grants (Sec. 1480)	475	475	475
Alternative Crops	650	500	650
Low-input agriculture	8,000	8,100	8,000
Capacity building grants	9,200	9,200	9,200
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	1,450	1,450	1,450
Graduate fellowship grants	3,000	3,000	3,000
Institution challenge grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Multicultural scholars program	1,000	1,000	1,000
Hispanic-serving institutions	2,000	1,500	1,500
Federal Administration:			
Agriculture development in American Pacific	564	564	564
Alternative fuels characterization lab (ND)	218	218	218
Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (IA)	655	655	355
Center for North American Studies (TX)	87	87	87
Data information system	400	400	400
Geographic information system	750	939	844
Mississippi Valley State University	583	583	583
Nat'l Education Ctr for Agricultural Safety (IA)	.....	300	300
Office of grants and program systems	310	310	310
Pay costs and FERS (prior)	833	833	833
Peer panels	350	350	350
PM–10 study (CA, WA)	873	873	873
Rural partnership (NE)	.....	250	250
Shrimp aquaculture (AZ, HI, MS, MA, SC)	3,054	3,354	3,354
Water quality (IL)	492	492	492
Water quality (ND)	436	436	436
Total, Federal Administration	9,605	10,644	10,249

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Potato research.—The conferees expect the Department to ensure that funds provided to CSREES for potato research are utilized for varietal development/testing. Further, these funds are to be awarded competitively after review by the USDA Potato Industry Working Group.

Corn genome mapping.—The conference agreement provides no specific earmark for corn genome mapping but the conferees urge the Department to provide increased attention to this effort and develop a long-term approach for corn genome mapping.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Amendment No. 26: Appropriates $61,591,000 for Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, Buildings and Facilities instead of $30,449,000 as proposed by the House and $55,668,000 as proposed by the Senate.

As stated in the fiscal year 1996 conference report, the conferees, within available resources, would provide for completion of as many university facilities as possible during fiscal year 1997. Fourteen facilities are completed by this appropriation. The conferees expect any unfinished university project to obtain additional funding from other than Federal sources. The Department should not release additional funds to incomplete projects until all funding for completion is in place. The conferees expect universities to obtain funding within three years. It is anticipated that all unused funds would be rescinded. The conferees also agree with the reprogramming of funds as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES			
Alabama:			
Poultry science facility, Auburn University	.....	4,140	4,140
California:			
Alternative Pest Control Containment and Quarantine Facility, University of California	5,000	.....	3,500
Colorado:			
Animal Reproduction and Biotechnology Laboratory, Colorado State University	1,100	1,100	1,100
Connecticut:			
Agricultural biotechnology building, University of Connecticut	.....	4,000	2,000
Idaho:			
Biotechnology facility, University of Idaho	.....	3,544	3,544
Illinois:			
Biotechnology Center, Northwestern University	1,000	5,464	2,000
Science facility, DePaul University	2,000	.....	4,565
Maryland:			
Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Maryland	2,288	2,288	2,288
Massachusetts:			
Center for Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, Tuffs University	.....	1,641	820
Missouri:			
Center for Plant Biodiversity, St. Louis	500	3,161	3,161
New Jersey:			
Plant Bioscience Facility, Rutgers University	3,850	1,000	1,000
New Mexico:			
Center for Arid Land Studies, New Mexico State University	7,318	5,044	5,044
North Carolina:			
Bowman-Gray Center, Wake Forest	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ohio:			
Lake Erie Soil and Water Research and Education Center	2,308	.....	2,308
Oregon:			
Forest Ecosystem Research Lab, Oregon State University	.....	5,000	5,000

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
South Dakota:			
Animal Resource Wing, South Dakota State University	.....	2,700	2,700
Tennessee:			
Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Research Complex, University of Tennessee in Knoxville	.....	3,500	2,750
Horse Science and Teaching Center, Middle Tennessee State University	2,585	.....	2,585
Texas:			
Southern crop improvement, Texas A&M	.....	4,508	4,508
Washington:			
Animal Disease Biotechnology Facility, Washington State University	1,500	7,578	7,578
Total, buildings and facilities	30,449	55,668	61,591

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Amendment No. 27: Provides $268,493,000 for section 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act as proposed by the Senate instead of $260,438,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 28: Provides $2,000,000 for extension work at the 1994 Institutions instead of $2,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 29: Provides $58,695,000 for the expanded food and nutrition education program (EFNEP) as proposed by the House instead of $60,510,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 30: Provides $2,855,000 for farm safety as proposed by the House instead of $2,943,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement earmarks $1,910,000 of the total for the AgrAbility project.

Amendment No. 31: Provides $3,214,000 for pesticide impact assessment as proposed by the House instead of $3,313,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 32: Provides $7,549,000 for 1890 facilities grants as proposed by the House instead of $7,782,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 33: Deletes Senate language providing $1,700,000 for 1994 Institutions facilities grants. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 34: Provides $908,000 for rural development centers as proposed by the House instead of $936,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 35: Provides $10,733,000 for water quality as proposed by the House instead of $11,065,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 36: Provides $1,167,000 for agricultural telecommunications as proposed by the House instead of $1,203,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 37: Provides $9,554,000 for youth-at-risk programs as proposed by the House instead of $9,850,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 38: Provides $2,365,000 for food safety as proposed by the House instead of $2,438,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 39: Provides $3,192,000 for the Renewable Resources Extension Act as proposed by the House instead of $3,291,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 40: Provides $1,672,000 for Indian reservation agents as proposed by the House instead of $1,724,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 41: Provides $3,309,000 for sustainable agriculture programs as proposed by the House instead of $3,411,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 42: Provides $2,628,000 for rural health and safety education as proposed by the House instead of $2,709,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement earmarks $2,150,000 of the total for the rural health program in Mississippi and $478,000 for the rural health and outreach initiative in Louisiana.

Amendment No. 43: Provides $24,337,000 for the 1890 colleges and Tuskegee University as proposed by the House instead of $25,090,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 44: Provides $12,066,000 for Federal administration of Extension Activities instead of $6,271,000 as proposed by the House and $11,381,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 45: Appropriates $425,520,000 for Extension Activities instead of $409,670,000 as proposed by the House and $431,122,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES			
Smith Lever 3(b) & 3(c)	260,438	268,493	268,493
Smith Lever: 3(d):			
Pest management	10,783	10,783	10,783
Water quality	10,733	11,065	10,733
Farm safety	2,855	2,943	2,855
Food and nutrition education (EFNEP)	58,695	60,510	58,695
Pesticide impact assessment	3,214	3,313	3,214
Rural development centers	908	936	908
Sustainable agriculture	3,309	3,411	3,309
Food safety	2,365	2,438	2,365
Youth at risk	9,554	9,850	9,554
Indian reservation agents	1,672	1,724	1,672
1890's Colleges and Tuskegee	24,337	25,090	24,337
1890's facilities grants	7,549	7,782	7,549
1994 institutions facilities grants	.....	1,700	.....
Renewable Resources Extension Act	3,192	3,291	3,192
Agricultural telecommunications	1,167	1,203	1,167
Rural health and safety education	2,628	2,709	2,628
Extension services at the 1994 institutions	.....	2,500	2,000
Subtotal	403,399	419,741	413,454

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Federal Administration and special grants:			
General administration	4,995	5,162	4,995
Pilot tech. transfer (OK, MS)	.....	326	326
Pilot tech. transfer (WI)	163	.....	163
Rural rehabilitation (GA)	.....	246	246
Income enhancement demonstration (OH)	246	.....	246
Rural development (NM)	227	227	227
Rural development (NE)	.....	386	386
Rural development (OK)	.....	296	296
Beef producers' improvement (AR)	.....	197	197
Integrated cow/calf resources management (IA)	.....	345	345
Extension specialist (AR)	.....	99	99
Extension specialist (MS)	.....	50	50
Rural center for the study and promotion of HIV/STD prevention (IN)	246	.....	246
Delta teachers academy	.....	3,850	3,850
Wood biomass as an alternative farm product (NY)	197	.....	197
Range improvement (NM)	197	197	197
Total, Federal Administration	6,271	11,381	12,066
Total, Extension Activities	409,670	431,122	425,520

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 46: Appropriates $434,909,000 for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses instead of $435,428,000 as proposed by the House and $432,103,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes $500,000 for increased domestic agricultural quarantine inspection services in Hawaii instead of $700,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes $455,000 to maintain pesticide data program personnel at the Gulfport, Mississippi, Laboratory.

The conference agreement includes $200,000, the same as the fiscal year 1996 level, for ongoing work at the University of Arkansas at Monticello for fire ant control methods and dissemination of information to the public.

The conference agreement also includes increases of $100,000 for the wolf reintroduction program; $100,000 for ADC activities in the Western region; $125,000 for beaver damage control in Mississippi; and $100,000 for goatsrue eradication in Utah.

Amendment No. 47: Provides $4,500,000 for the contingency fund of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as proposed by the House instead of $5,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 1996 enacted	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
PEST AND DISEASE EXCLUSION				
Agricultural quarantine inspection	24,914	26,047	26,747	26,547
User fees	100,254	98,000	98,000	98,000
Subtotal, Agricultural quarantine inspection	125,168	124,047	124,747	124,547
Cattle ticks	4,537	4,537	4,537	4,537
Foot-and-mouth disease	3,991	3,991	3,991	3,991
Import-export inspection	6,528	6,847	6,847	6,847
International programs	6,100	6,643	6,643	6,643
Fruit fly exclusion and detection	16,151	21,161	21,161	21,161
Screwworm	33,969	31,713	31,713	31,713
Tropical bont tick	452	452	452	452
Total, Pest and disease exclusion	196,896	199,391	200,091	199,891
PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING				
Animal health monitoring and surveillance	59,276	60,831	60,831	60,831
Animal and plant health regulatory enforcement	5,855	5,855	5,855	5,855
Pest detection	4,202	4,202	4,202	4,202
Total, Plant and animal health monitoring	69,333	70,888	70,888	70,888
PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS				
Animal damage control—operations	26,642	26,842	26,842	26,967
Aquaculture	470	571	571	571
Biocontrol	6,290	6,290	6,290	6,290
Boll weevil	18,084	16,209	16,209	16,209
Brucellosis eradication	23,360	23,360	19,962	21,661
Golden nematode	435	444	444	444
Grasshopper and Mormon cricket	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gypsy moth	4,367	4,367	4,367	4,367
Imported fire ant	1,000	1,000	800	1,000
Miscellaneous plant diseases	1,516	1,516	1,516	1,516
Noxious weeds	338	304	404	404
Pink bollworm	1,069	1,069	1,069	1,069
Pseudorabies	4,543	4,518	4,518	4,518
Scrapie	2,967	2,967	2,967	2,967
Sweet potato whitefly	2,398	1,888	1,888	1,888
Tuberculosis	4,609	4,948	4,609	4,948
Witchweed	1,663	1,662	1,662	1,662
Total, Pest and disease management programs	99,751	97,955	94,118	96,481
ANIMAL CARE				
Animal welfare	9,185	9,185	9,185	9,185
Horse protection	362	360	360	360
Total, Animal care	9,547	9,545	9,545	9,545
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES				
ADC methods development	9,665	10,591	10,591	10,591
Biotechnology/environmental protection	7,677	7,677	7,677	8,132
Integrated systems acquisition project	4,055	4,000	4,000	4,000
Plant methods development laboratories	5,053	5,048	5,048	5,048
Veterinary biologics	10,360	10,360	10,360	10,360
Veterinary diagnostics	14,785	15,473	14,785	15,473
Total, Scientific and technical services	51,595	53,149	52,461	53,604
Contingency fund	4,799	4,500	5,000	4,500

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 1996 enacted	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Total, Salaries and expenses	431,921	435,428	432,103	434,909

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

Amendment No. 48: Appropriates $38,507,000 for Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing Services instead of $37,592,000 as proposed by the House and $46,767,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement does not include funds to continue the Pesticide Data program. Funds have been included to provide an orderly shutdown of the program.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION

Amendment No. 49: Appropriates $23,128,000 for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration instead of $22,728,000 as proposed by the House and $23,928,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes $400,000 to carryout recommendations of the Agricultural Concentration Committee.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Amendment No. 50: Appropriates $574,000,000 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service as proposed by the House instead of $557,697,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees have recently become aware that, in planning for the location of field offices for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, a decision on the location of offices in Pennsylvania was reversed based on criteria other than the implementation of food safety standards and economies of operation. The conferees expect the Department to reconsider this decision.

The following table reflects the conference agreement:

	Budget request	Senate	House	Conference
Slaughter Inspection	$325,283,000	$322,218,000		$325,283,000
Processing Inspection	135,771,000	134,400,000		135,771,000
Egg Products Inspection	11,272,000	11,272,000		11,272,000
Import/Export Inspection	12,674,000	12,674,000		12,674,000
Laboratory Services	19,845,000	19,845,000		19,845,000
Pathogen Reduction Program	18,902,000	15,560,000		18,902,000
Field Automation and Info. Management Project	8,525,000			8,525,000
Grants to States	41,728,000	41,728,000		41,728,000
	$574,000,000	$557,697,000	$574,000,000	$574,000,000

Amendment No. 51: Deletes Senate language earmarking up to $1,500,000 to establish a National Farm Identification Pilot Program for dairy cows to be conducted jointly by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-

tion Service (APHIS). The conferees expect such a pilot program to be established with not to exceed $1,500,000 of the funds appropriated to the FSIS account.

The conferees have provided the full budget request for FSIS and expect the agency to manage its resources in such a way as to eliminate the need for supplemental funding.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Amendment No. 52: Makes a technical correction as proposed by the Senate to correct the official name of the Farm Service Agency. The conferees concur with the Senate report language relating to the criteria to be used for acreage bids and rebids into the Conservation Reserve Program.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 53: Appropriates $746,440,000 for Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses as proposed by the House instead of $725,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

Amendment No. 54: Appropriates $2,000,000 for State Mediation Grants as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Amendment No. 55: Provides a total of $25,000,000 for emergency insured loans as proposed by the House instead of $75,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 56: Provides a loan level of $34,653,000 for a pilot program for boll weevil eradication instead of $15,384,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conferees believe this program has merit and provides potential to reduce long-term costs associated with the boll weevil eradication efforts. The conference agreement provides a small amount of startup funding and will evaluate the effectiveness of the loan program during fiscal year 1997. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 57: Appropriates $6,365,000 for the subsidy cost of emergency insured loans as proposed by the House instead of $19,095,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 58: Appropriates $499,000 for the subsidy cost of boll weevil eradication loans instead of $2,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT

Amendment No. 59: Restores and amends House language for the Office of Risk Management appropriating $64,000,000 instead of $62,198,000 as proposed by the House and $70,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The Senate proposed language making the funds available subject to an official budget request.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Amendment No. 60: Appropriates $619,742,000 for Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations instead of $619,392,000 as proposed by the House and $638,954,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes a total funding level of $350,000 for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil and Erosion Sediment Control; $550,000 for design and technical assistance in Franklin County, Mississippi; $125,000 for Golden Meadows, Louisiana, Plant Materials Center; and $350,000 for technical assistance to the Embarras River watershed project.

The conferees expect the Department to construct the plant materials center in Monroe County, West Virginia, from funds earmarked for this purpose in previous appropriations.

The conferees expect progress to continue to complete the Upper Trinity River Basin cooperative study from funds available in the Watershed Surveys and Planning account.

The conference agreement includes $200,000 under Conservation Operations, the same as the fiscal year 1996 amount, for technical assistance of the Multi-year Rural Recycling and Water Resources Protection Initiative in the Mississippi Delta. Funding for the water quality incentives program is now included under the environmental quality incentives program. The conferees direct that $2,800,000 of this program, the same as the fiscal year 1996 amount, be provided for financial assistance of the Multi-year Rural Recycling and Water Resources Protection Initiative in the Mississippi Delta.

The conferees agree that funds provided for Conservation Operations are not to supplant use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the full implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. Both the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Program were previously funded through appropriated accounts, but the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act provides that these programs now be administered through funds provided directly from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Amendment No. 61: Deletes Senate language earmarking up to $250,000 for the National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation. The House bill contained no similar provision.

WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING

Amendment No. 62: Appropriates $12,381,000 for Watershed Surveys and Planning instead of $10,762,000 as proposed by the House and $14,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The conferees expect NRCS to complete innovative community-based comprehensive resource management plans for communities devastated by the 1996 historical floods in West Virginia.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

The conferees encourage the Department to give consideration to the outstanding watershed needs of 26 Mississippi counties when allocating funds to the states.

TITLE III.—RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Amendment No. 63: Deletes House language providing that no funds for new construction for section 515 rental housing be available in fiscal year 1997 as proposed by the Senate.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Amendment No. 64: Appropriates $130,433,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Program instead of $73,190,000 as proposed by the House and $136,435,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 65: Adds Senate language including new construction of section 515 rental housing as eligible for program funds. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 66: Deletes House language providing that no funds for new construction of section 515 rental housing be available in fiscal year 1997 as proposed by the Senate.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 67: Appropriates $60,743,000 for Rural Housing Service, Salaries and Expenses instead of $53,889,000 as proposed by the House and $66,354,000 as proposed by the Senate.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Amendment No. 68: Appropriates a subsidy cost of $17,270,000 for the Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account as proposed by the Senate instead of $18,400,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 69: Provides for a loan level of $37,544,000 for Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account as proposed by the Senate instead of $40,000,000 as proposed by the House.

ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION REVOLVING FUND

Amendment No. 70: Appropriates $7,000,000 for the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Revolving Fund instead of $6,000,000 as proposed by the House and $10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Amendment No. 71: Appropriates a subsidy cost of $51,400,000 for the Rural Business-Cooperative Assistance program as proposed by the House instead of $53,750,000 as proposed by the Senate. Of

the total amount appropriated, the conference agreement provides not to exceed $1,300,000 through a cooperative agreement for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program; not to exceed $3,000,000 for cooperative development, as authorized under section 747 of Public Law 104–127; $250,000 through a cooperative agreement for an agribusiness and cooperative development program at Mississippi State University; and not less than $2,000,000 for grants in accordance with section 310B(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) authorizes a demonstration using Federal business and industry loan guarantees to attract venture funds to rural areas. The Conferees urge the Secretary to allocate the necessary resources to implement this demonstration and to designate at least 10 percent of the funds to venture projects which already receive support from the Department's venture capital entity.

Amendment No. 72: Deletes Senate language making funds available for cooperative development subject to provisions of Public Law 104–127. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 73: Deletes Senate language earmarking $1,300,000 for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program and $2,000,000 for grants in accordance with section 310B(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The House bill contained no similar provision.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

DISTANCE LEARNING AND MEDICAL LINK PROGRAM

Amendment No. 74: Appropriates $9,000,000 for the Distance Learning and Medical Link Program instead of $7,500,000 as proposed by the House and $10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

RURAL UTILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Amendment No. 75: Appropriates a subsidy cost of $566,935,000 for the Rural Utilities Assistance Program instead of $496,868,000 as proposed by the House and $656,742,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 76: Provides $5,200,000 of the total amount appropriated for the Rural Utilities Assistance Program for a circuit rider program instead of $5,000,000 as proposed by the House and $5,400,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 77: Provides $8,750,000 of the total amount appropriated for the Rural Utilities Assistance Program for water and waste disposal systems pursuant to section 757 of Public Law 104–127 instead of $10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 78: Inserts Senate language providing that Berlin, New Hampshire, is eligible for Rural Utilities Assistance Program grants.

TITLE IV.—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Amendment No. 79: Appropriates $454,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services as proposed by the House instead of $554,000 as proposed by the Senate.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Amendment No. 80: Provides a total of $8,653,297,000 for Child Nutrition Programs instead of $8,652,597,000 as proposed by the House and $8,654,797,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 81: Provides that $3,219,544,000 for Child Nutrition Programs is hereby appropriated instead of $3,218,844,000 as proposed by the House and $3,221,044,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 82: Provides that not to exceed $1,000,000 of the Child Nutrition Program funds shall be used for studies and evaluations instead of $2,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill provided no funds for new studies and evaluations.

The conference agreement provides for the Child Nutrition Programs at the following annual rates:

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 1996 enacted	House bill	Senate bill	Conference agreement
Child Nutrition Programs:				
School lunch program	$4,547,201	$4,922,926	$4,922,926	$4,922,926
School breakfast program	1,160,218	1,264,949	1,264,949	1,264,949
State administrative expenses	98,468	108,874	108,874	108,874
Summer food service program	264,558	288,920	288,920	288,920
Child and adult care food program	1,578,112	1,739,767	1,739,767	1,739,767
Commodity procurement, processing, and computer support	278,841	312,830	312,830	312,830
Nutrition studies and surveys	4,162	.....	2,000	1,000
Coordinated review system	3,964	4,031	4,031	4,031
School meals initiative	10,500	10,300	10,500	10,000

The conference agreement provides $10,000,000 for the school meals initiative. Included in this amount is $4,000,000 for food service training grants to states; $2,500,000 for in-school education materials; $2,300,000 for technical assistance materials; $800,000 for NFSMI cooperative agreements for food service; and $400,000 for print and electronic food service resource systems.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Amendment No. 83: Inserts language to allow any fiscal year 1996 carryover funds in excess of $100,000,000 to be transferred to the Rural Housing Service section 502 program and/or the Rural Utilities Assistance Program. The House bill allowed fiscal year 1996 carryover funds in excess of $100,000,000 to be transferred to any program in the Department, excluding the Forest Service, with

prior notification to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The Senate bill allowed for fiscal year 1996 carryover funds in excess of $100,000,000 to be used for any loan program of the Department and/or to make available up to $10,000,000 for the WIC farmers' market nutrition program.

Amendment No. 84: Adds Senate language requiring state agencies to award infant formula purchase contracts to the company offering the lowest net price, unless the state agency demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the weighted average retail price for different brands of infant formula in the state does not vary by more than five percent. The House bill contained no similar provision.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Amendment No. 85: Makes a technical change to the U.S. code citation as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 86: Appropriates $27,618,029,000 for the Food Stamp Program instead of $27,615,029,000 as proposed by the House and $28,521,029,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 87: Provides $100,000,000 for a food stamp contingency reserve as proposed by the House instead of $1,000,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 88: Provides that not to exceed $3,000,000 of the Food Stamp Program funds shall be used for studies and evacuations instead of $6,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The House bill provided no funds for new studies and evaluations.

FOOD DONATIONS PROGRAMS FOR SELECTED GROUPS

Amendment No. 89: Deletes the statutory citation for the food distribution program on Indian reservations as proposed by the Senate. The conferees note that authority for the program exists under the Food Stamp Program authorization.

Amendment No. 90: Appropriates $141,250,000 for the Food Donations Programs for Selected Groups as proposed by the Senate instead of $205,000,000 as proposed by the House.

FOOD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Amendment No. 91: Appropriates $106,128,000 for Food Program Administration instead of $104,487,000 as proposed by the House and $107,769,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes not more than $2,218,000 for the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

The conference agreement provides a reduction from the budget request for studies and evaluations under the Child Nutrition Programs and the Food Stamp Program. The conferees direct the Department to devote additional staff time to working directly with states to reduce error rates in the Food Stamp Program and, thereby, reduce the amount budgeted for erroneous benefits.

TITLE V.—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE AND GENERAL SALES MANAGER

Amendment No. 92: Appropriates $135,561,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service and General Sales Manager instead of $128,005,000 as proposed by the House and $138,561,000 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement includes $27,500,000 for the cooperator program; the full request for international cooperation and development; $2,428,000 for the Cochran Fellowship Program; and $1,500,000 for expansion of offices overseas. The conferees direct the Department to give priority to posts serving expanding markets in Asia and Latin America in budgeting for overseas expansion. The conference agreement does not provide funding for the proposed Distributor Development Program.

Amendment No. 93: Provides for a transfer of $3,231,000 from the Export Loan Program Account as proposed by the Senate instead of $2,792,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 94: Provides for a transfer of $1,035,000 from the Public Law 480 Program Account as proposed by the Senate instead of $1,005,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 95: Deletes House language establishing competitive bidding in the award of cooperator/foreign market development program funds. The conferees expect the Department to develop procedures and criteria for a competitive bidding process for consideration by appropriate committees of the Congress.

PUBLIC LAW 480 PROGRAM AND GRANT ACCOUNTS

Amendment No. 96: Provides $226,900,000 for Public Law 480 title I programs instead of $216,400,000 as proposed by the House and $218,944,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 97: Appropriates $29,500,000 for Public Law 480 title III programs as proposed by the House instead of $40,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 98: Appropriates $185,589,000 for credit modification costs of Public Law 480 programs instead of $177,000,000 as proposed by the House and $179,082,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 99: Appropriates $1,780,000 for administrative expenses of Public Law 480 programs instead of $1,750,000 as proposed by the House and $1,818,000 as proposed by the Senate.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Amendment No. 100: Appropriates $3,820,000 for administrative expenses of the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account as proposed by the Senate instead of $3,381,000 as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 101: Provides for a transfer of $3,231,000 of the total amount appropriated for the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account to the Foreign Agricultural Service as proposed by the Senate instead of $2,792,000 as proposed by the House.

TITLE VI.—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Amendment No. 102: Deletes Senate language providing that funds be used to ensure compliance with statutory deadlines set forth in section 505(j)(4)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The FDA is directed to use available funds to ensure compliance with its 180 day statutory review period for generic drug applications. The conferees agree with the Senate proposals for reprogramming and allocations for FDA offices and activities as set forth in the Senate report.

Amendment No. 103: Deletes House language restricting a proposed rule entitled: "The Prescription Drug Product Labeling; Medication Guide Requirements," as proposed by the Senate. The Senate bill addressed this same issue in Amendment No. 105.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 104: Adds the heading "General Provisions" as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 105: Inserts Senate language providing that all relevant parties in industry and government develop a set of effective medication guides for prescription drug use.

Amendments No. 106 and 107: Add a new section number as proposed by the Senate and provide for an extension on a moratorium related to the use of saccharin until May 1, 2002, as proposed by the House instead of May 1, 1998, as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 108: Makes technical changes to the Imports for Exports Program of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 109: Deletes Senate language directing the Food and Drug Administration to do a feasibility study related to crab meat. The conferees expect the Commissioner to report to the appropriate committees of the Congress on the feasibility of applying DNA or other suitable testing procedures to determine both the wholesomeness of crab meat and the need to differentiate between types of crab meat offered for sale in the United States. The conferees also expect the Commissioner to report on the feasibility of developing a database of imported crab in order to better aid enforcement and public health.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Amendment No. 110: Appropriates $55,101,000 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as proposed by the House instead of $56,601,000 as proposed by the Senate.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Amendment No. 111: Restores and amends House language limiting expenses of the Farm Credit Administration not to exceed $37,478,000, with an exemption for expenses for receiverships.

TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 112: Restores House language making obligational authority for the Food Safety and Inspection Service field automation and information management project available until expended.

Amendment No. 113: Retains Senate language prohibiting the use of funds to transfer from the Rural Telephone Bank to the Treasury or to the Federal Financing Bank any unobligated balance of the liquidating account in excess of current requirements and requiring that such balance received interest.

Amendment No. 114: Inserts a provision limiting acreage in excess of 130,000 acres to be enrolled in the wetlands reserve program, but allowing additional acreage to be enrolled in the program to the extent that non-Federal funds available to the Secretary are used to compensate these additional enrollments as proposed by the Senate and limits the number of acres to be enrolled through temporary easements to at least 31,667 acres before permanent easement agreements can be entered into. The conference agreement deletes House language that just limited enrollment to 130,000 acres.

Amendment No. 115: Inserts Senate language adding "and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants" to exceed the limitation on necessary expenses for advisory committees. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 116: Restores House language limiting funds available in fiscal year 1997 to not more than $2,000,000 for a farmland protection program.

Amendment No. 117: Deletes House language prohibiting funds in this Act to pay personnel who carry out a wildlife habitat incentives program as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 118: Restores House language limiting funds available in fiscal year 1997 to not more than $2,000,000 for a conservation farm option program.

Amendment No. 119: Restores House language regarding the use of agricultural lands and production flexibility contract payments. The conference agreement prohibits the use of funds provided by this Act to pay the salaries and expenses of employees of the Department of Agriculture who make payments pursuant to a production flexibility contract under section 111 of Public Law 104–127 if the land covered by that production flexibility contract is not being used for the production of an agricultural commodity or is not devoted to a conserving use, unless it is determined that the lack of agricultural production or the lack of a conserving use is a consequence of drought, flood, or other natural disaster. It is not intended for this provision to be interpreted in a way which would require additional regulations to USDA regulations amending 7

CFR part 2 et al., as published on July 18, 1996. It also is not intended for this provision to require amendments to the procedures for implementing the Agricultural Market Transition Program contained in FSA Handbook 1–PF, as published on May 21, 1996. Further, this provision is not to be interpreted in a way which results in additional reporting or certification procedures for owners, producers, or the Secretary.

Amendment No. 120: Deletes House language providing a cap on the price of raw cane sugar. The Secretary shall report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees biannually during fiscal year 1997 as to whether the prices of raw cane and beet sugar are sufficient to prevent forfeitures, and that the stock/use ratio is sufficient to ensure stable and adequate supplies to consumers and refiners with consideration of its impact on growers, producers, processors, and users.

Amendment No. 121: Deletes House language extending the patent for a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 122: Inserts Senate language providing that the use of appropriated funds for incidental expenses for USDA volunteers is permanent law.

Amendment No. 123: Deletes House language providing a sense of the Congress for a detailed plan for compensating wheat farmers and handlers affected by the karnal bunt quarantine in certain California counties as proposed by the Senate. The conferees agree that the Department should develop a consistent compensation plan for karnal bunt-infected areas of the country.

Amendment No. 124: Deletes Senate language providing for the transfer of not to exceed 10 percent of amounts made available among rural assistance programs. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 125: Provides language restricting the use of assignments of Department of Agriculture personnel beyond 30 days without reimbursement to the employee's agency or office. The House bill addressed this issue in Amendment No. 1.

Amendment No. 126: Inserts and amends language proposed by the Senate to delay the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to make rural cooperative development grants until October 1, 1996, effective upon the date of enactment of this Act into law. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 127: Inserts a provision prohibiting the use of funds to implement or enforce the final rule on the labeling of raw poultry products promulgated by the Food Safety and Inspection Service on August 25, 1995, and prohibiting the final rule from being in effect during fiscal year 1997 as proposed by the Senate. The conference agreement also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a revised final rule regarding the labeling of raw poultry products not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 128: Deletes Senate language regarding the replacement of lost benefits related to the Food Stamp Program electronic benefit transfer program.

Amendment No. 129: Deletes Senate language amending the United States Warehouse Act.

Amendment No. 130: Inserts Senate language which makes permanent a provision to provide that the inspection of fish products should be in compliance with the Food and Drug Administration standards as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 131: Inserts and amends Senate language extending authority to make multifamily rural housing loans until September 30, 1997. The conference agreement provides a set-aside for nonprofit entities; extends the authorization for housing in underserved areas through fiscal year 1997; makes certain reforms in the multifamily rural housing loan program; and provides for penalties for misuse of funds related to the program. The conference agreement includes language which gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority regarding operating reserves and prioritization of assistance. The conference agreement also requires the Secretary to issue regulations, subject to negotiated rulemaking procedures, on certain of these provisions within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Amendment No. 132: Deletes Senate language which reauthorized the National Aquaculture Act of 1980. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 133: Inserts a provision providing the Department of Agriculture the authority to make voluntary separation incentive payments as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 134: Deletes Senate language regarding the seasonal base plan for milk marketing orders expiration. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 135: Deletes Senate language providing a sense of the Senate requiring the Comptroller General to review the effectiveness of the H–2A nonimmigrant worker program. The House bill contained no similar provision. The Conferees agree that the Comptroller General should review the H–2A nonimmigrant worker program to ensure that the program provides a workable safety valve in the event of future shortages of domestic workers after enactment of this Act.

Amendment No. 136: Deletes Senate language which authorized a Northern Forest Stewardship Program. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 137: Deletes Senate language providing additional funds for barley payments. The conferees encourage the House and Senate authorizing committees to revisit the barley payment discrepancy and instruct the Secretary to use means within the USDA to address the current inequity. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 138: Provides Senate language for a two-month extension of an interim moratorium on bypass flows. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 139: Deletes Senate language prohibiting the use of funds to establish certain easements on inventoried property. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 140: Deletes Senate language providing that grants for precision agricultural technologies be eligible for funding under provisions of Public Law 104–127. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 141: Deletes the Senate language providing a sense of the Congress that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) should monitor the export of wheat and barley from western Canada to the United States. The House bill contained no similar provision. The conferees agree that the USTR should monitor Canadian grain policy changes and be prepared to enforce appropriate trade laws if action by the Canadian government, acting through the Canadian Wheat Board, leads to unfair and injurious exports of Canadian grain to the United States.

Amendment No. 142: Deletes Senate language regarding the planting of fruits and vegetables on contract acreage. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 143: Deletes Senate language regarding the payment of funds related to wild rice crops. The House bill contained no similar provision.

TITLE VIII—SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

Amendment No. 144: Inserts a new heading for supplemental appropriations as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 145: Amends language proposed by the Senate providing a loan level of $110,000,000 and a subsidy level of $32,244,000 for emergency disaster loans. The Senate bill proposed $85,208,000 in loans and $25,000,000 in subsidy. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 146: Inserts a provision appropriating an additional $12,011,000 for Salaries and Expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and rescinding $16,500,000 from the Internal Revenue, Information Systems account as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

Amendment No. 147: Inserts a provision that this Act may be cited as the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997" as proposed by the Senate. The House bill contained no similar provision.

CONFERENCE TOTAL.—WITH COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for the fiscal year 1996 recommended by the Committee of Conference, with comparisons to the fiscal year 1995 amount, the 1996 budget estimates, and the House and Senate bills for 1996 follow:

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	$63,323,678,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	58,317,314,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996	53,052,037,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	54,296,303,000
Conference agreement, fiscal year 1996	53,279,873,000
Conference agreement compared with:	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1995	−10,043,805,000
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996	−5,037,441,000
House bill, fiscal year 1996	+227,836,000
Senate bill, fiscal year 1996	−1,016,430,000

JOE SKEEN,
JOHN T. MYERS,
JAMES T. WALSH,
JAY DICKEY,
JACK KINGSTON,
FRANK RIGGS,
GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.,
BOB LIVINGSTON,
RICHARD J. DURBIN,
MARCY KAPTUR,
RAY THORNTON,
VIC FAZIO,
DAVID R. OBEY,
Managers on the Part of the House.

THAD COCHRAN,
CHRISTOPHER BOND,
SLADE GORTON,
MITCH MCCONNELL,
CONRAD BURNS,
MARK O. HATFIELD,
DALE BUMPERS,
TOM HARKIN,
J. ROBERT KERREY,
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON,
HERB KOHL,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

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