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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2006

JUNE 2, 2005.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BONILLA, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2744]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2006.

★ 21–547

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2005 appropriation	$5,083,000
2006 budget estimate	5,127,000
Provided in the bill	5,127,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+44,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Secretary, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,127,000, an increase of $44,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

Explanatory Notes.—The Committee appreciates receiving the detailed information provided in the Explanatory Notes prepared by the Department and relies heavily on this information when considering budget proposals. These materials have traditionally been prepared for the sole use of the Appropriations Committee in a format consistent with the organization and operation of the programs and the structure of the Appropriations Act. At the direction of the Office of Management and Budget, the Department has changed the format and content of these materials to focus on broader goals and objectives rather than the major program structure followed in the Act and in the actual conduct of the programs. For fiscal year 2007 and future years, the Department is directed to present Explanatory Notes in a format consistent with the presentation used for the fiscal year 2002 Budget. Any deviations from that format are to be approved in advance by the Committee.

Web-Based Supply Chain Management System.—The Committee does not provide $10,000,000, as requested, for the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM). In fiscal year 2005, the Committee directed the USDA to use section 32 administrative funds to initiate the procurement of WBSCM. The Committee again urges the USDA to use section 32 administrative funds for WBSCM. USDA's budget justifications acknowledge that the current commodity purchase system has become obsolete and must be replaced. Unfortunately, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has rejected USDA's request to apportion section 32 funds for the system in fiscal year 2005.

When the Administration came to the Committee last year to pursue the use of section 32 funds to respond to hurricanes that occurred in Florida, the Committee supported the Administration. It is disconcerting then that the Committee directed a legitimate use of section 32 funds for WBSCM, and that OMB has refused to

apportion the funds. USDA is spending more than $12,000,000 annually to maintain a commodity procurement system that—according to USDA—is "inflexible, resource intensive, and costly to maintain." The implementation of WBSCM could save the USDA several million dollars annually in operational and maintenance costs, increase productivity, reduce purchase and shipping costs, and help reduce the deficit.

Since fiscal year 2002, the Committee has provided the authority for USDA to transfer unobligated balances to the Working Capital Fund to fund various administrative, financial, and corporate systems. Through the use of these funds, significant results have been achieved, including: financial data warehouse; enterprise architecture initiative; civil rights enterprise; integrated acquisition; corporate asset management; and e-travel. Unless the OMB apportions funds in fiscal year 2005 and in subsequent years out of section 32 for WBSCM, the Committee will be forced to limit the availability of unobligated balances to be used only for the implementation of WBSCM.

Counter-Terrorism Measures.—The Committee supports the efforts of USDA in implementing a national policy for defending the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks.

State Office Collocation.—The Committee continues to direct that any reallocation of resources related to the collocation of state offices scheduled for 2005 and subsequent years is subject to the Committee's reprogramming procedures. The Committee notes that no such reprogramming requests have been received to date.

Ralstonia.—The Committee notes that the Secretary of Agriculture initiated emergency actions during FY 2004 to ensure the eradication of the disease Ralstonia solanacearum, Race 3, Biovar 2, which is of great concern to U.S. agriculture, including ornamentals growers, the potato industry, and others. The Committee strongly urges the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to use existing authority including that provided under CCC, to fund this initiative, and to establish a compensation program for persons suffering from losses as a result of the eradication and control efforts related to this disease. The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations a report regarding the feasibility of establishing additional research and forward control programs in countries and/or regions that had been the point of origin for infected product.

Administrative Provision.—The Committee directs the Secretary to advise the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the status of all reports requested of the Department in this bill, at the time of submission of the FY 2007 budget and quarterly thereafter.

Cattle Exports.—The committee is concerned that USDA has not made reopening key export markets for U.S. breeding cattle a priority. The committee instructs USDA, specifically APHIS and FAS, to allocate the resources necessary to reopen export markets for U.S. breeding cattle and to effectively coordinate with other agencies to regain these markets. Increasing export opportunities for U.S. producers should be USDA's top priority.

Rice Reporting.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a report evaluating the benefits and issues associated with making price reporting mandatory for rice crops. Currently, only 75 percent

of the rice market reports rice prices to the Department of Agriculture, yet the Department uses this limited information to determine counter-cyclical payments for rice producers under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The Committee would like to know whether a benefit would result from making reporting mandatory, and what issues might arise as a result of mandatory price reporting, specifically regarding the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

2005 appropriation	$10,234,000
2006 budget estimate	10,539,000
Provided in the bill	10,539,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+305,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Chief Economist, the Committee provides an appropriation of $10,539,000, an increase of $305,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

2005 appropriation	$14,216,000
2006 budget estimate	14,524,000
Provided in the bill	14,524,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+308,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the National Appeals Division, the Committee provides an appropriation of $14,524,000, an increase of $308,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

2005 appropriation	$8,162,000
2006 budget estimate	8,298,000
Provided in the bill	8,298,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+136,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, the Committee provides an appropriation of $8,298,000, an increase of $136,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

HOMELAND SECURITY STAFF

2005 appropriation	$769,000
2006 budget estimate	1,466,000
Provided in the bill	934,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+165,000
2006 budget estimate	−532,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Homeland Security staff, the Committee provides an appropriation of $934,000, an increase of $165,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $532,000 below the budget request. While the Committee has provided additional funding for this account, the budget justification does not support an increase of $697,000, or 91 percent for the Homeland Security Staff. According to the Explanatory Notes, the only requested increase is for one additional Senior Executive Service (SES) staff year. The Committee has concerns about the need for an additional SES position for a staff of six that already has an SES position filled. The Committee recommendation does not include funds for a second Senior Executive Service position for the Homeland Security Staff.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

2005 appropriation	$16,462,000
2006 budget estimate	16,726,000
Provided in the bill	16,462,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	−264,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Committee provides an appropriation of $16,462,000, the same amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $264,000 below the budget request.

As a result of OCIO's progress towards completion of two of its highest priorities within fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the establishment of the Information Technology Services organization and key eGovernment initiatives, the Committee believes that the fiscal year 2005 funding level is sufficient to maintain advancement in these two areas as well as other priorities within the Office's purview.

COMMON COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

2005 appropriation	$124,580,000
2006 budget estimate	142,465,000
Provided in the bill	124,580,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	−17,885,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Common Computing Environment, the Committee provides an appropriation of $124,580,000, the same as the amount

available in fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $17,885,000 below the budget request.

Since fiscal year 2000, Congress has appropriated over $500,000,000 for the modernization and integration of information systems in USDA's county field offices. The Committee has fully supported this effort, but will expect to see reduced or level funding levels for this account in future budget submissions as a result of anticipated efficiencies and economies of scale.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation:

[Dollars in thousands]

CCE base infrastructure	$ 23,735
FSA specific	82,645
NRCS specific	13,000
RD specific	4,000
Interagency e-Gov	1,200
	$124,580

The Committee directs the Department to continue reporting to the Committee on Appropriations on a quarterly basis on the implementation of the Common Computing Environment.

The Committee is aware that the acquisition of geospatial data and Geographic Information System technologies is critical to the Department of Agriculture's plans to modernize its County Service Centers and install a common computing environment that optimizes information sharing, customer service, and staff efficiencies, and improves the Department's ability to track and react to natural and/or man-made disasters. Within the funds provided in this Act, the Committee encourages the Department to provide the appropriate level of support for the acquisition of geospatial data and Geographic Information System technologies.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

2005 appropriation	$5,696,000
2006 budget estimate	5,874,000
Provided in the bill	5,874,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+178,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,874,000, an increase of $178,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee has included bill language that directs the Chief Financial Officer to actively market and expand the cross-servicing activities of the National Finance Center.

The Committee is aware that the National Finance Center's (NFC) proposal for e-payroll consolidation was rated the highest in the competition held by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management. The Committee believes that the NFC's demonstrated ability to provide a high level of service while operating on a fee-for-service basis provides a significant opportunity to utilize a public/private partnership to provide private investment and share risk in the modernization of systems and in-

frastructure creation for e-payroll. The Committee encourages the USDA to utilize the NFC to create a public/private partnership, such as the one that the State of Louisiana, private industry, and a consortium of academic institutions has developed, to help leverage scarce Federal resources to continue the modernization and development of Federal government wide e-payroll functions.

The Committee directs the Department to submit a report concurrent with the Department's annual budget submission for the following fiscal year, updating the Committee on its contracting out policies, including agency budgets for contracting out, for fiscal year 2005. The Committee is continuing bill language requiring the submission of the report on contracting out policies and agency budgets, prior to use of any funds appropriated to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for FAIR Act or Circular A–76 activities.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

2005 appropriation	$12,747,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -
Provided in the bill	- - -
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– 12,747,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The President's budget does not request and the Committee does not provide an appropriation to the Working Capital Fund.

The Committee again includes a General Provision, which provides authority for the Secretary to transfer unobligated balances of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund. This authority should be sufficient to meet fiscal year 2006 needs.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

2005 appropriation	$811,000
2006 budget estimate	821,000
Provided in the bill	811,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	– 10,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, the Committee provides an appropriation of $811,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $10,000 below the budget request.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

2005 appropriation	$19,730,000
2006 budget estimate	20,109,000
Provided in the bill	20,109,000
Comparison	
2005 appropriation	+379,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Civil Rights, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $20,109,000, an increase of $379,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

2005 appropriation	$664,000
2006 budget estimate	676,000
Provided in the bill	676,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+12,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, the Committee provides an appropriation of $676,000, an increase of $12,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS

2005 appropriation	$162,559,000
2006 budget estimate	221,924,000
Provided in the bill	183,133,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+20,574,000
2006 budget estimate	−38,791,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments, the Committee provides an appropriation of $183,133,000, an increase of $20,574,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $38,791,000 below the budget request.

Included in this amount is $147,734,000 for payments to GSA for rent and the Department of Homeland Security for building security.

The following table represents the Committee's specific recommendations for this account:

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES AND RENTAL PAYMENTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	2005 estimate	*2006 budget request*	*Committee recommendation*
Rental Payments	$127,292	$147,734	$147,734
Building Operations	35,267	74,190	35,399
Total	162,559	221,924	183,133

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

2005 appropriation	$15,408,000
2006 budget estimate	15,644,000
Provided in the bill	15,644,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+236,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Hazardous Materials Management, the Committee provides an appropriation of $15,644,000, an increase of $236,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

2005 appropriation	$22,445,000
2006 budget estimate	23,103,000
Provided in the bill	23,103,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+658,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Departmental Administration, the Committee provides an appropriation of $23,103,000, an increase of $658,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $262,000, as requested, for providing the policies, technical guidance, and operating environment that enhances the safety and security of USDA personnel, information and facilities, and the continuity of its vital programs.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

2005 appropriation	$3,821,000
2006 budget estimate	3,846,000
Provided in the bill	3,821,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	−25,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $3,821,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $25,000 below the budget request.

Within 30 days from the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency, along with an explanation for the agency-by-agency distribution of the funds.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

2005 appropriation	$9,290,000
2006 budget estimate	9,509,000
Provided in the bill	9,509,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+219,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Communications, the Committee provides an appropriation of $9,509,000, an increase of $219,000 above the

amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee directs the Office of Communications to continue to provide them with copies of open source news material made available to USDA officials through the use of appropriated funds.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2005 appropriation	$77,663,000
2006 budget estimate	81,045,000
Provided in the bill	79,626,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+1,963,000
2006 budget estimate	−1,419,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of Inspector General, the Committee provides an appropriation of $79,626,000, an increase of $1,963,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005, and a decrease of $1,419,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes the requested increases for pay costs and improvements to the Computer Forensics Unit.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

2005 appropriation	$35,574,000
2006 budget estimate	40,263,000
Provided in the bill	38,439,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+2,865,000
2006 budget estimate	−1,824,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the General Counsel, the Committee provides an appropriation of $38,439,000, an increase of $2,865,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $1,824,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,996,000 of the amount requested, of which: $1,041,000 is for maintaining and supporting staff; $475,000 is for 5 staff years for additional legal services, of which 2 staff years are for the Marketing and Regulatory Programs; and $480,000 is for information technology requirements.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

2005 appropriation	$587,000
2006 budget estimate	598,000
Provided in the bill	598,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+11,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, the Committee provides an appropriation of

$598,000, an increase of $11,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

Proposed project terminations.—Research budgets submitted by the Department reflect a continuing disregard for Congressional program priorities. The Committee has made it clear on a number of occasions that the role of Congress in identifying essential agricultural needs of this Nation will be maintained. Agricultural research projects of regional and national priority will be funded. There has been no adequate justification presented to the Committee to support proposed project terminations. The Committee urges the Under Secretary to end the recycling of proposed terminations which have already been rejected by the Congress. Should similar proposals be submitted again in the budget for fiscal year 2007, the Committee will expect the Under Secretary to explain and defend each proposed termination in detail during the fiscal year 2007 hearings.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

2005 appropriation	$74,170,000
2006 budget estimate	80,749,000
Provided in the bill	75,931,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+1,761,000
2006 budget estimate	−4,818,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Economic Research Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $75,931,000, an increase of $1,761,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $4,818,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an increase of $1,000,000 of the amount requested to continue the development of the Consumer Data and Information System to develop an integrated and comprehensive data and analysis framework of the food system beyond the farm-gate that will provide a basis for understanding, monitoring, tracking, and identifying changes in the food supply and consumption patterns.

The Committee provides $500,000, the same as the fiscal year 2005 level, for the continuation of their organic data surveys, the compilation of non-survey data on organic production and marketing, its merger and reconciliation with any new survey information, analysis that reveal patterns, similarities and differences from comparisons among organic, other differentiated markets, and bulk or homogeneous product markets, and the development of policy-relevant findings from a full portfolio of data and information.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

2005 appropriation	$128,444,000
2006 budget estimate	145,159,000
Provided in the bill	136,241,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+7,797,000
2006 budget estimate	−8,918,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $136,241,000, an increase of $7,797,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $8,918,000 below the budget request.

Included in this amount is $29,115,000, for the Census of Agriculture, an increase of $6,889,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request. The Census of Agriculture collects and provides comprehensive data on all aspects of the agricultural economy. Also, included in this amount is $107,126,000 for the Agricultural Estimates, an increase of $908,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $8,918,000 below the budget request.

The Committee encourages the National Agricultural Statistics Service to develop an organic data survey process based on the 2002 Census of Agriculture and to expand organic data collection in the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

2005 appropriation	$1,102,000,000
2006 budget estimate	996,107,000
Provided in the bill	1,035,475,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−66,525,000
2006 budget estimate	+39,368,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

Salaries and expenses.—For salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,035,475,000, a decrease of $66,525,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $39,368,000 above the budget request.

Air quality research.—The Committee supports the fiscal year 2006 budget request for $300,000 to reduce particulate matter emissions from beef cattle feedlots and feeding operations. This work will be carried out at the ARS research station in Bushland, Texas.

Asian longhorned beetle/emerald ash borer.—The Committee continues to be alarmed about the devastation caused by these invasive pests. The Asian longhorned beetle is perhaps the most economically harmful invasive pest to enter this country and capable of causing tens of billions of dollars in damages to forests, parks and residential areas. The Committee provides an increase of $775,000 for expanded research to control Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer at Newark, Delaware, $275,000; Ithaca, New York, $300,000, and Peoria, Illinois $200,000.

Avian pneumovirus.—The Committee notes the losses to the turkey and poultry producers due to the spread of avian pneumovirus. The eradication of this disease is vital to national and international competitiveness and is a limiting factor to the expansion of U.S. exports. The Committee directs the continuation of this research in fiscal year 2006.

Bee research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of honeybee research carried out by ARS and provides an increase of

$500,000 in fiscal year 2006 to conduct research on varroa mites and marker-assisted breeding of honey bees at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Bioenergy research.—Soaring energy prices, instability of petroleum exporting countries and environmental concerns highlight the need to develop alternative domestic sources of energy from industrial feedstocks. A significant, sustained, and coordinated research and development effort is needed to produce and enhance feedstocks, improve processes for converting them into fuels and coproducts, and reduce production costs in order to penetrate markets that are currently petroleum-based. The Committee provides an increase of $1,100,000 over fiscal year 2005 for expanded research to improve the quality and quantity of agricultural biomass feedstocks and develop technologies to produce biofuels and coproducts from agricultural commodities at the following locations: Peoria, Illinois, $500,000; Beltsville, Maryland, $300,000; and Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, $300,000.

Bovine genetics.—The Committee provides an increase of $300,000 over fiscal year 2005 for the ongoing research on biotechnology and genetics in cattle jointly carried out by ARS, the University of Connecticut and the University of Illinois to improve efficiencies of clones and establish cell lines from elite cows and bulls for cloning.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) research.—The Committee considers research on BSE as essential if regulatory agencies are to develop policies and control programs based on the best available science. ARS is directed to implement an integrated BSE program in pathogenesis, diagnostics, and intervention. The Committee provides an increase of $3,300,000 for this research at Ames, Iowa, $1,800,000; Pullman, Washington, $1,000,000; and Albany, California, $500,000.

Broomweed biological controls.—The Committee recognizes that increased infestations of exotic brooms and gorse weeds are causing serious economic and environmental losses to agriculture and rangelands in the Western United States. The Committee directs that this research be continued at the fiscal year 2005 funding level.

Cereal crops research.—The Committee recognizes the research accomplishments of the Cereal Crops Research Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin on the quality and improved production and marketing practices for small grains, particularly barley and oats. An increase of $250,000 is provided in fiscal year 2006 for expanded research on these important commodities.

Citrus plant pathogens.—Exotic and emerging plant diseases may be attributable to genetic shifts in the pathogen population and other processes. The Committee provides an increase of $300,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory at Ft. Pierce, Florida for expanded research on threatening plant pathogens of citrus. This research involves the development of molecular diagnostics and characterization and pathogenosity studies to determine spread and dispersal patterns. The research will focus on citrus canker and citrus greening.

Coffee and cocoa research.—World supply of coffee and cocoa continues to be threatened by severe crop diseases. Disease resistance

and alternative research program for coffee and cocoa has important economic benefits and implications for U.S. foreign policy in the coffee and cocoa producing nations of South Central America and West Africa. The Committee provides an increase of $75,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the ARS research laboratories at Beltsville, Maryland for expanded research on disease resistance and alternative crop research development for coffee and cocoa.

Conservation tillage.—Better management and conservation of natural resources is essential for sustainable crop production in the Columbia River Plateau and regional areas. The ARS Soil Conservation Laboratory at Pendleton, Oregon conducts non-irrigated dryland research important to this region. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2005 funding level for this necessary research.

Continuing programs.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ongoing research projects in addressing problems faced by the Nation's food and fiber producers. In this regard, the Committee directs the Agricultural Research Service to continue to fund the following areas of research at the fiscal year 2005 funding level: Advanced Animal Vaccines (Univ of CT/Univ of MO), Greenport, NY; Aerial Application, College Station, TX; Aflatoxin in Cotton, Phoenix, AZ; Agricultural Law, Drake University, NAL; Animal Health Consortium, Peoria, IL; Animal Waste Treatment, Florence, SC; Appalachian Horticulture Research (Univ of TN/TN State), Poplarville, MS; Aquaculture Fisheries Center, Pine Bluff, AR; Aquaculture Initiative, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Stuttgart, AR; Aquaculture Research, Aberdeen, ID; Aquaculture Initiatives for Mid-Atlantic Highlands (WV); Arid Lands Research, Las Cruces, NM; Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center, Little Rock, AR; Asian Bird Influenza, Athens, GA; Avian Pneumovirus, Athens, GA; Barley Food Health Benefits, Beltsville, MD; Bee Research, Weslaco, TX; Binational Agricultural Research and Development Program; Biological Controls and Agricultural Research (FL A&M Univ), Gainesville, FL; Biomineral Soil Amendments for Control of Nematodes (N-VIRO Intl), Beltsville, MD; Biotechnology Research and Development Corp, Peoria, IL; Bovine Genetics (Univ of CT/Univ of IL), Beltsville, MD; Broomweed Biological Controls (Yellow Starthistle) (Univ of ID), Albany, CA; Catfish Genome (Auburn Univ), Auburn, AL; Cereal Crops, Fargo, ND; Cereal Crops Research, Madison, WI; Cereal Disease, St. Paul, MN; Chronic Diseases of Children (Baylor Univ Peanut Institute), Houston, TX; Citrus and Horticulture Research, Ft. Pierce, FL; Citrus Waste Utilization (Citrus Research Center), Winter Haven, FL; Coffee and Cocoa Research (Milwaukee Museum), Beltsville, MD; Miami, FL; Conservation Research/Tillage, Pendleton, OR; Corn Germplasm, Ames, IA; Corn Rootworm, Ames, IA; Cotton Genetics Research, Florence, SC; Cotton Ginning (Long Staple Cotton) (NM State), Las Cruces, NM; Cotton Pathology Research, Shafter, CA; Cotton Quality Research, Clemson, SC; Crop Production and Food Processing (Purdue/Univ of IL), Peoria, IL; Cropping Systems Research (TN Ag Experiment Station/ Univ of TN), Stoneville, MS; Dairy Genetics, Beltsville, MD; Diet and Immune Function, Little Rock, AR; Diet, Nutrition, and Obesity (Pennington), New Orleans, LA; Emissions from Livestock Wastewater, Florence, SC; Flood/ Control Acoustic Technology, Oxford, MS; Floriculture and Nursery

Crops; Food Fermentation Research, Raleigh, NC; Food Safety for Listeria and E coli, Albany, CA; Beltsville, MD; Clay Center, NE; Wyndmoor, PA; College Station, TX; Formosan Subterranean Termites, New Orleans, LA; Fort Pierce Horticultural Research Laboratory, Ft. Pierce, FL; Foundry Sand By-Products (Penn State/Ohio State/FIRST), Beltsville, MD; Golden Nematode (Cornell Univ), Ithaca, NY; Grain Legume Plant Pathologist Position, Pullman, WA; Grape Genetics, Geneva, NY; Grape Rootstock, Geneva, NY; Grapefruit Juice/Drug Interaction (Citrus Research Center), Winter Haven, FL; Great Basins Rangeland, Burns, OR; Greenhouse and Hydroponics (Univ of Toledo), Wooster, OH; Greenhouse Lettuce Germplasm, Salinas, CA; Harry Dupree National Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart, AR; Honey Bee Research, Baton Rouge, LA; Hops Research (WSU), Corvallis, OR; Improved Animal Waste Management, Florence, SC; Invasive Aquatic Weed (CT Ag Experiment Station), Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Jornada Experimental Range Research Station, Las Cruces, NM; Livestock Genome Mapping (Univ of IL), Clay Center, NE; Lyme Disease (Yale); Manure Management Research, Ames, IA; Microbial Genomics (WSU/Institute for Genomic Research), Kerrville, TX; Pullman, WA; Mid-West/Mid-South Irrigation (MO Ag Experiment Station), Columbia, MO; Minor Use Pesticide (IR–4); Mosquito Trapping Research/West Nile Virus (CT Ag Experiment Station), Gainesville, FL; National Germplasm Resources Program; National Soil Dynamics Laboratory (Auburn, AL A&M, Tuskegee), Auburn, AL; Nematology Research, Tifton, GA; Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory (ND State), Mandan, ND; Noxious Weeds in the Desert Southwest, Las Cruces, NM; Nutritional Requirements, Houston, TX; NW Small Fruits, Corvallis, OR; Oat Virus (Univ of IL), West Lafayette, IN; Obesity Research, Houston, TX; Ogallala Aquifer, Bushland, TX; Olive Fruit Fly Research, Parlier, CA; Montpellier, FR; Organic Minor Crop Research, Salinas, CA; Peanut Research, Dawson, GA; Pecan Scab, Byron, GA; Phytoestrogen Research Tulane/Univ of Toledo), New Orleans, LA; Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Parlier, CA; Davis, CA; Ft. Pierce, FL; Plant Stress and Water Conservation Lab, Lubbock, TX; Potato Breeding (WSU/Univ of Idaho/OSU), Aberdeen, ID; Potato Research Enhancement, Prosser, WA; Poult Enterititis-Mortality Syndrome (PEMS), Athens, GA; Poultry Disease, Athens, GA; Beltsville, MD; Quantify Basin Water Budget Components in the Southwest (Univ of AZ), Tucson, AZ; Rainbow Trout (Univ of CT), Leetown, WV; Rangeland Resource Management, Las Cruces, NM; Regional Grain Genotyping Research, Raleigh, NC; Regional Molecular Genotyping (Club Wheat) (OSU), Manhattan, KS; Fargo, ND; Pullman, WA; Rice Research, Stuttgart, AR; Salmonella, Listeria, E. coli and Other Food Pathogens (Penn State), Wyndmoor, PA; Sedimentation Issues in Flood Control Dam Rehabilitations, Oxford, MS; Seismic and Acoustic Technologies in Soils Sed. Lab, Oxford, MS; Shellfish Genetics, Newport, OR; Small Farms (Univ of MO), Booneville, AR; Soil Tilth Research, Ames, IA; Sorghum Cold Tolerance, Lubbock, TX; Sorghum Research, Little Rock, AR; Manhattan, KS; Stillwater, OK; Bushland, TX, Lubbock, TX; Source Water Protection Initiatives, West Lafayette, IN; Columbus, OH; Southwest Pecan Research, College Station, TX; Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation, Ra-

leigh, NC; Sudden Oak Disease, Davis, CA; Ft. Detrick, MD; Sugarbeet Research, Kimberly, ID; Sugarcane Variety Research, Canal Point, FL; Sustainable Vineyards/Viticulture Practices, Davis, CA; Swine Lagoon Alternatives Research, Florence, SC; Temperate Fruit Flies, Wapato, WA; Tree Fruit Quality Research, Wenatchee, WA; Turfgrass Research, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC; Germplasm/Ornamental Horticulture, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC; Vaccines and Microbe Control for Fish Health/Fish Diseases, Auburn, AL; Vector-borne Diseases, Gainesville, FL; Verticillium Wilt Research, Salinas, CA; Virus-Free Fruit Tree Cultivars (WSU), Wapato, WA; Viticulture (Univ of ID/WSU/OSU), Corvallis, OR; Water Management Research Laboratory, Brawley, CA; Water Resource Management (Univ of GA), Tifton, GA; Water Use Management Technology, Tifton, GA; Water Use Reduction, Dawson, GA; Western Grazinglands, Burns, OR; Wheat and Barley Scab Init., Manhattan, KS; Raleigh, NC; Fargo, ND; Wheat Quality Research, Wooster, OH; Wild Rice (No. Central Ag Experiment Station), St. Paul, MN.

Corn germplasm.—Corn is a key resource in this country and throughout the world, providing food, industrial uses, livestock feed, and export. The Committee understands the importance of the germplasm base of corn hybrids grown by American farmers to promote genetic diversity and stability in corn production. The Committee directs the continuation of this program in fiscal year 2006 at the ARS research laboratory at Ames, IA.

Corn rootworm.—This pest continues to create economic and environmental problems in the Corn Belt region of the U.S. The Committee provides an increase of $100,000 at Ames, Iowa to fund priority research into the biology of controlling the corn rootworm which poses a significant economic threat to the corn industry.

Cotton quality.—Since 1997, the U.S. textile industry has been in record decline, with over 196,000 jobs lost because of illegal transshipments of textile products into the U.S. With the growth of free trade and preferential trade agreements, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection requires a quick and effective method of determining whether textile and apparel products entering the U.S. meet the eligibility criteria. An effective, economical system to track U.S. yarn from the mill to the finished product has been a goal of the U.S. textile industry for years to restore profitability to the failing industry. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2005 funding level to the ARS Cotton Quality Research Laboratory at Clemson, SC for research and development of a tagging and identification system for the cotton textile industry.

Cropping systems research.—The Committee recognizes the need for regional research in the Mississippi River watershed to develop new varieties of soybean and cropping systems that will improve disease resistance, enhance value of the crop, and protect the region's natural resources. Crop management practices to limit erosion on the highly erodible soils of Tennessee and other southern states impact soybean diseases, both favorably and adversely. Research is needed to optimize disease control while maintaining these best crop management practices to protect soil and water quality. Molecular genetics technologies are being used to develop better soybeans and site-specific systems will be developed for im-

proving cropping systems in the region. The Committee directs the continuation of the ARS cooperative research program with the University of Tennessee Agriculture Experiment Station.

Emerging diseases of corn.—The Committee recognizes the increased threat to corn production in the Southeast due to emerging diseases. The Committee provides an increase of $300,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the ARS Plant Science Research Laboratory at Raleigh, North Carolina for increased research to identify and genetically characterize emerging diseases of corn as a means for enhancing the diversity of corn germplasm in the Southeast.

Emerging diseases of poultry.—The U.S. Poultry industry is increasingly susceptible to new disease agents and diseases such as Asian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle diseases which have been introduced from foreign countries. The Committee provides an increase of $350,000 to the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory at Athens, Georgia for the operation of an emerging diseases investigation program that can respond, identify, and evaluate new and emerging poultry pathogen threats.

Exotic vector borne zoonotic diseases.—The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory at Laramie, Wyoming for expanded research on surveillance systems that will maximize rapid detection and response to exotic vector borne zoonotic pathogens, such as Rift Valley Fever Virus; and mosquito borne viruses, such as West Nile Virus.

Expanded research projects.—The Committee provides additional funding in fiscal year 2006 for the following important research: Animal Vaccines, $31,000; Appalachian Horticulture, $100,000; Binational Agricultural Research and Development Program, $32,000; Greenhouse Lettuce Germplasm, $150,000; Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, $25,000; Regional Grains Genotyping Research, $78,000; Salmonella, Listeria, E.coli, and Other Food Pathogens, $100,000; Viticulture, $150,000.

Flood/Control acoustic technology.—The Committee provides funding to continue important research to develop a high resolution acoustic sub-bottom profiling system for use in flood-control dams. This research is to be conducted at the ARS Sedimentation Laboratory at Oxford, MS.

Floriculture and nursery research.—Floriculture and nursery crops represent more than 10% of the total U.S. cash crop receipts while environmental horticulture is the third largest value crop in the U.S. The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS research on floral and nursery crops and provides an increase of $250,000 for this research in fiscal year 2006.

Food pathogens.—The Committee directs the continuation of the cooperative research project at the fiscal year 2005 level for the development of capabilities for products for coating a wide variety of substrates. This research is coordinated at the ARS research center in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania.

Food safety research.—Consumption of contaminated foods, including those containing antibiotic resistant microorganisms can lead to serious illnesses and death, as well as threaten the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural products. Rapid and accurate methods of detection and quantitative measurement of pathogens are need-

ed to carry out risk assessment and identify appropriate interventions methodologies. The Committee provides an increase of $2,650,000 over fiscal year 2005 for expanded food safety research at the following locations: Beltsville, Maryland, $1,050,000; Athens, Georgia, $800,000; Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, $500,000; and Albany, California, $300,000.

Formosan Subterranean termite.—The exotic Formosan Subterranean termite costs the U.S. one billion dollars each year. It is particularly damaging in the greater New Orleans area, along the Gulf Coast, and Hawaii. The Committee continues the fiscal year 2005 funding level to the Southern Regional Research Center at New Orleans, LA to continue current efforts to encompass the entire 108-block area of the historically and economically important French Quarter.

Ft. Pierce Horticultural Research Laboratory.—This laboratory carries out critical research on citrus, fruits, vegetables and nursery crops. The Committee provides an increase of $250,000 in fiscal year 2006 for research at the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory at Ft. Pierce, FL.

Genetic resources.—The Committee recognizes the importance of acquisition, maintenance, characterization and enhancement of genetic resources as carried out by ARS. The Committee provides an increase of $1,500,000 over fiscal year 2005 for this program. The increase of $250,000 each is provided for the following locations for the purpose requested in the budget: Miami, Florida; Raleigh, North Carolina; Madison, Wisconsin; Stuttgart, Arkansas; Ft. Collins, Colorado; and Ithaca, New York.

Ginning technologies.—The Committee directs that the important research carried out by ARS in cotton ginning harvesting and the development of ginning technologies be maintained at fiscal year 2005 funding levels.

Grape genetics.—Grapes are the 6th largest crop in the United States and one of the most important cash crops worldwide. The U.S. is the 4th largest producer of wine, responsible for about 10 percent of all world wine. The Committee provides an increase of $100,000 in fiscal year 2006 to expand this important research program at the ARS facility in Geneva, NY.

Invasive aquatic weeds.—Recent introductions of exotic weeds including Eurasian, variable Milfoil, and Cabomba seriously threaten the health of Connecticut lakes. Traditional control methods focusing on whole lake treatments are prohibitively expensive. More effective and economical weed control methods focusing on localized spot treatments of weed beds in large bodies of water are needed. The Committee provides an increase of $100,000 in fiscal year 2006 to the Agricultural Research Service for increased research on invasive aquatic weeds in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Invasive species.—Invasive species have steadily increased with the growing movement of people and trade around the world. Currently, invasive weeds, insects, pathogens, and other pest species cost the U.S. in excess of $137 billion per year, causing agricultural losses, with severe impact to the environment and biological diversity. The Committee provides an increase of $1,150,000 over fiscal year 2005 for expanded research to develop IPM components and systems for invasive insect species and noxious and invasive weeds

in cropping systems, rangelands, and natural areas, and develop improved knowledge of invasive insect species at the following locations: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, $150,000; Montpellier, France, $200,000; Columbia, Missouri, $200,000; Beltsville, Maryland, $300,000; and Gainesville, Florida, $300,000.

Library and information services.—The Committee provides the National Agricultural Library an increase of $400,000 over fiscal year 2005 to support agricultural information and delivery services.

Livestock and crop genomics.—Characterizing plant and animal genes for traits of economic importance is essential to U.S. agriculture productivity. The Committee recommends additional appropriations for genomic research in fiscal year 2006 at ARS laboratories located at Miles City, Montana, $300,000; Salinas, California, $225,000; and Clay Center, Nebraska, $600,000.

Mid-West/Mid-South irrigation.—While irrigation is normally associated with the arid, western part of the U.S., the fastest growing irrigation states are found in the Mid-West and the Mid-South. The need for irrigation in these areas is critical in reducing production risks, increasing producer yields, promoting good land management practices, and reducing input costs. The Committee provides an increase of $68,000 in fiscal year 2006 to support cooperative research into irrigation methods and technologies with the Delta Center, University of Missouri at Portageville, Missouri.

Nutrition research.—The Committee continues to support the nutrition research carried out at the Department's nutrition research centers. The Committee provides an increase of $1,400,000 for expanded research in dietary intake, nutrient content and obesity issues at Beltsville, Maryland, $400,000; Houston, Texas, $400,000; Davis, California, $300,000; and Little Rock, Arkansas, $300,000.

Ogallala aquifer.—Surface water in the Central High Plains region of the U.S. is severely limited. The Ogallala Aquifer, which is a finite resource, has provided water resources in the development of a highly significant agricultural economy in this region. The Committee provides an increase of $1,075,000 in fiscal year 2006 for research into the complex nature of water availability, potential uses, and costs to determine future water policy in this region, which includes Texas, Kansas, and adjoining states.

Olive fruitfly research.—The olive fruitfly is the world's number one pest of olives, causing devastating effects on the olive industry in California. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2005 funding level for continued integrated pest management research program to control the olive fruitfly at ARS' European Biological Control Laboratory at Montpellier, France, and Parlier, CA.

Pay act costs.—The Committee provides funding for increased costs associated with Federal employee's salaries and benefits.

Plant pathogens.—The Committee is aware of the importance of developing accurate science-based forecasting systems for each pathogen for increased deterrence in plants. The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 over fiscal year 2005 for the ARS Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Laboratory at Ft. Detrick, Maryland for increased research on threatening plant pathogens to meet deterrence needs, including pathogen prioritization and development of detection technologies.

Plum Island Animal Disease Center.—The Committee is aware of research advances in exotic and foreign animal diseases conducted at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, New York. The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 over fiscal year 2005 for increased research to develop antigen delivery systems that target immune systems compartments (i.e. mucosal, peripheral, reproductive tracts, and other sites).

Quantify basin water budget components in the Southwest.—The Committee acknowledges the need to expand efforts to accurately quantify components of a basin's water budget to support local and community based watershed management. The Committee provides an increase of $200,000 above the fiscal year 2005 level for additional research at the ARS research laboratory at Maricopa, Arizona.

Soybean rust.—In fiscal year 2005, the Committee provided $800,000 in new appropriations for additional research on the devastating soybean rust disease. The Committee directs that these resources be continued in fiscal year 2006 at the ARS research stations located at Ames, Iowa and Beltsville, Maryland. As one of the Nation's prime agricultural commodities, the Committee recognizes the importance of developing integrated disease management strategies for soybeans. The Committee provides an increase of $600,000 over fiscal year 2005 for the ARS research laboratories at Urbana, Illinois and Ames, Iowa for expanded research to develop chemical treatments for emerging soybean diseases, and efficacy data required to register chemical controls.

Stripe rust and other rust diseases in wheat.—The development of resistant germplasm and more sustainable, environmentally friendly control strategies provide practical solutions for U.S. producers. The Committee provides an increase of $350,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the ARS Wheat Genetics, Quality Physiology, and Disease Research Laboratory at Pullman, Washington for increased research to identify potential sources of durable resistance to rust diseases of wheat especially stripe rust.

Sudden Oak disease.—Since 1995, oak trees have been dying in large numbers along the California and Oregon coasts. The disease has spread to other plants including rhododendron and huckleberry. There is a great potential for this disease to spread throughout the country. The Committee provides an increase of $600,000 for expanded research to control Sudden Oak Disease at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, $300,000, and Corvallis, Oregon, $300,000.

Sugarbeet and vegetable production.—The Committee recognizes the importance of sugarbeet and vegetable production in California for domestic consumption. Continued development of pathogen detection is important for keeping new diseases from becoming established in the U.S. and for producing crops and commodities for domestic consumption and foreign exports. The Committee provides an increase of $350,000 over fiscal year 2005 to the ARS Crop Improvement and Protection Research Laboratory at Salinas, California for increased research to address emerging viruses of sugarbeet and vegetable production, including vine mealy bug, in California.

United States National Arboretum (USNA).—The country's interest in gardening and environmental horticulture, along with in-

creased desire for urban green space continues to grow. The Arboretum maintains internationally acclaimed gardens for visitors and tourists seeking green space and solace in the middle of our Nation's capital. The Committee provides an increase of $250,000 over fiscal year 2005.

Vaccines for control and eradication of biological threat agents in cattle, swine, and relevant wildlife species.—The Committee provides an increase of $900,000 over fiscal year 2005 for increased research on immune responses to vaccination of natural infection in cattle, swine, and relevant wildlife species. This is important research that supports our nation's homeland security. The research will be conducted at the National Centers for Animal Health at Ames, Iowa.

Cereal Disease.—The Committee understands the importance of ongoing Cereal Disease Research in St. Paul, MN. The Committee is concerned that ARS has not yet hired a scientist to fill the vacant research position, and urges the Department to quickly fill this position to ensure research continues on schedule.

Reporting Requirement.—The Committee notes that the Agricultural Research Service has had the authority to construct certain buildings under 7 U.S.C. 2250 for several years. The Committee directs the Agricultural Research Service to notify the Committee on the use of this authority on a biannual basis.

Plum Island Animal Disease Center.—The Committee directs that none of the funds appropriated to the Agricultural Research Service for the Advanced Animal Vaccine Project at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center may be directed for any other use by the Department of Homeland Security.

Lyme disease research and prevention.—Lyme Disease is a major public health threat in the Northeast. Controlling the ticks that transmit Lyme Disease (and other diseases) is critical to public health, and is especially critical in rural areas. The amount provided for the Agricultural Research Service includes $760,000 for the further study of the Ecoepidemiology of emerging arthropod-borne pathogens in the Northeast and for further testing of new methods of preventing the transmission of Lyme Disease.

Dietary Approaches to Stopping Hypertension.—The Committee recognizes the effect of diet on hypertension and the role that the Dietary Approaches to Stopping Hypertension (DASH) eating plan research had on developing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Committee is concerned, however, that the DASH research did not treat all proteins equally. In preparation for the next round of dietary guidelines, the Committee instructs USDA, specifically ARS, to budget for, develop, conduct, and completes a DASH-like study that includes the effects of lean beef on hypertension and lipid levels.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2005 appropriation	$186,335,000
2006 budget estimate	64,800,000
Provided in the bill	87,300,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−99,035,000
2006 budget estimate	+22,500,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $87,300,000, a decrease of $99,035,000, below the amount available in fiscal year 2005, and an increase of $22,500,000 above the budget request.

The Committee acknowledges the importance of funding the construction of the National Centers for Animal Health located at Ames, Iowa and provides the final amount of $58,800,000 as requested in the President's budget. The research and diagnostic programs carried out at the Centers are critical to the Nation's homeland security and agricultural industry.

The Committee provides additional funds in support of the modernization and construction of Federal research facilities as follows: National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, IL; Grape Genomics Research Center, Davis, CA; U.S. Agricultural Research Station, Salinas, CA; ARS Sugar Research Laboratory, Houma, LA; Center for Grape Genetics, Geneva, NY; Center for Crop-based Health Genomics, Ithaca, NY; ARS Research Laboratory, Pullman, WA, and the ARS Nutrient Management Research Laboratory, Marshfield, WI. Due to budgetary constraints, the Committee is unable to provide the full amount required to complete construction of these projects.

The Committee has attempted to provide funds to construct Federal research facilities that are necessary to keep American agriculture competitive within severe funding constraints. While the Committee has approved the final funding level, as requested in the budget, to complete the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa, there are several other high priority construction projects that have already been planned and designed, and are waiting for full funding for construction. There is in excess of $500,000,000 committed to such projects. As a result, the Committee does not provide any funding for the planning and design of construction projects for which feasibility studies have been completed, until the Committee can complete a full assessment on how to prioritize and fund the projects that have already been designed.

The following table summarizes the Committee's provisions:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

	Committee provisions
California, Davis: Grape Genomics Research Center	$3,625
California, Salinas: U.S. Agricultural Research Station	3,625
Illinois, Peoria: National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research	3,625
Iowa, Ames: National Centers for Animal Health	58,800
Louisiana, Houma: ARS Sugarcane Research Laboratory	3,625
New York, Geneva: Center for Grape Genetics	3,625
New York, Ithaca: Center for Crop-based Health Genomics	3,625
Washington, Pullman: ARS Research Laboratory	3,625
Wisconsin, Marshfield: Nutrient Management Research Laboratory	3,125
Total, ARS Buildings and Facilities	87,300

The Committee expects the ARS to provide a feasibility prospectus, by March 1, 2006, for the Kerrville, Texas facility, and the Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research (CT).

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

2005 appropriation	$655,495,000
2006 budget estimate	545,500,000
Provided in the bill	661,691,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+6,196,000
2006 budget estimate	+116,191,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Research and Education Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $661,691,000, an increase of $6,196,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $116,191,000 above the budget request.

For payments under the Hatch Act, the Committee provides an appropriation of $178,807,000, an increase of $100,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $89,453,000 above the budget request.

For cooperative forestry research, the Committee provides an appropriation of $22,255,000, an increase of $50,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $11,152,000 above the budget request.

For the Evans-Allen Program (payments to the 1890 land-grant colleges, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University), the Committee provides an appropriation of $37,704,000, an increase of $1,000,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $546,000 above the budget request.

For the National Research Initiative, the Committee provides an appropriation of $214,634,000, an increase of $35,082,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $35,366,000 below the budget request. The Committee expects that the fiscal year 2005 funding levels for the following competitive grants will be maintained in fiscal year 2006: Water Quality; Food Safety; Regional Pest Management Centers; Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation; FQPA Risk Mitigation for Major Food Crop Systems; Methyl Bromide Transition Program; and the Organic Transition Program.

Alliance for Food Protection.—The Committee provides $413,000 for the Alliance for Food Protection. Of this amount, $256,000 is to continue integrated fruit and vegetable research at the University of Georgia.

Applied Agricultural and Environmental Research.—The Committee provides $550,000 for Applied Agricultural and Environmental Research. This research will provide for technology transfer and information dissemination directly to producers, processors, and consumers. These funds shall be equally divided between California State-Fresno, California State-San Luis Obispo, California State-Pomona, and California State-Chico.

Biodesign and Processing Research Center.—The Committee provides $950,000 for the Biodesign and Processing Center at Virginia Tech University. The Center's focus is on developing and promoting innovative technologies for use in commercial agriculture with an emphasis on waste management solutions. The Center will enhance the capabilities and economic viability of farmers, woodland owners, and wood processors by conducting cutting edge research for the design, production, and recovery of industrial enzymes and pharmaceuticals for transgenic corps and for conversion of agriculture wastes to value-added products.

Dietary Intervention.—Within funds provided for dietary intervention research, $750,000 is provided for Ohio State University, and $500,000 is provided for the University of Toledo.

Microbiological Safety of Food.—The Committee encourages the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension service to consider priority projects that enhance the microbiological safety of food through freezing.

Polymer-Based University Research.—The Committee recognizes the work currently being conducted at some of our nation's universities to further the development of products, methods and materials related to bio-based polymers for high-grade plastics. Replacement of petrochemicals with bio-based materials as well as reducing U.S. dependence of foreign oil are common goals of the country and the Committee recognizes the capability of polymer based research to help in accomplishing these goals. To this end, the Committee urges the Department to work with universities that specialize in vegetable oil-based polymer research in an effort to further utilize the capabilities this type of research and development represents.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 House
Hatch Act	$178,807
McIntire Stennis Cooperative Forestry	22,255
Evans-Allen Program	37,704
National Research Initiative	214,634
Regional, State and Local Applied Grants	0
Special Research Grants	107,102
Animal Health and Disease (Sec. 1433)	5,057
1994 Institutions Research Program	1,000
Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration (NM,TX,MT)	1,000
Graduate Fellowship Grants	4,500
Institution Challenge Grants	5,500
Multicultural Scholars Program	998
Hispanic Education Partnership Grants	5,645
Secondary/2-year Post-secondary	1,000
Capacity Building Grants (1890 Institutions)	12,312
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	2,250
Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Education Grants	2,997
Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas	500
Higher Education Agrosecurity Program	0
Subtotal	603,261
Federal Administration:	
Ag-based Industrial Lubricants (IA)	523
Agriculture Development in the American Pacific	486
Agriculture Waste Utilization (WV)	0
Agriculture Water Policy (GA)	891
Alternative Fuels Characterization Laboratory (ND)	0
Applied Agricultural and Environmental Research (CA)	550
Animal Waste Management (OK)	396
Aquaculture (OH)	900
Aquaculture (PA)	0
Biodesign and Processing Center (VA)	950
Biotechnology Research (MS)	0
Botanical Research (UT)	0
Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (IA)	0
Center for Food Industry Excellence (TX)	1,367
Center for Innovative Food Technology (OH)	1,145
Center for North American Studies (TX)	1,000
Climate Forcasting (FL)	3,602
Cotton Research (TX)	2,500
Council for Agriculture Science and Technology	0
Data Information System (REEIS)	2,750
Dietary Intervention (OH)	1,250
Electronic Grants Administration System	2,173
Feed Efficiency (WV)	0
Global Environmental Management	1,000
High Value Horticultural Crops (VA)	725
Hispanic Leadership in Agriculture (TX))	546
Greenhouse Nurseries (OH)	726
Income Enhancement Demonstration (OH) (moved to Ext. FA)	0
Information Technology (GA)	369
Livestock Marketing Information Center (CO)	0
Mariculture (NC)	0
Mississippi Valley State University, Curriculum Development	0
Monitoring Agricultural Sewage Sludge Application (OH)	1,287
NE Center for Invasive Plants (CT, VT, ME)	425
Office of Extramural Programs (Grants)	448
Pasteurization of Shell Eggs (MI)	1,350
Pay Costs and FERS	3,112
Peer Panels	310
Phytoremediation Plant Research (OH)	779
PM-10 Study (WA)	0
Precision Agriculture, Tennessee Valley Research Center (AL)	599
Produce Pricing (AZ)	100

	2006 House
Rural Systems (MS)	0
Salmon Quality Standards (AK)	0
Shrimp Aquaculture (AZ, HI, MS, MA, SC, LA, TX)	4,200
Sustainable Agricultural Development (OH)	0
Sustainable Agricultural Freshwater Conservation (TX)	1,850
Urban Silviculture (NY)	270
Vitis Gene Discovery (MO)	608
Water Pollutants (WV)	0
Water Quality (ND)	386
Wetland Plants (WV)	200
Total, Federal Administration	39,773
Other:	
Alternative Crops	1,187
Aquaculture Centers (Sec. 1475)	3,968
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	1,102
Sustainable Agriculture	12,400
Total, Other	18,657
Research and Education Activities	$661,691

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Research and Education Activities
Special Research Grants
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 House
Advanced Genetic Technologies (KY)	0
Advanced Spatial Technologies (MS)	0
Aegilops Cylindricum (Jointed Goatgrass) (WA)	355
Agricultural Diversification (HI)	112
Agricultural Diversity/Red River Corridor (MN, ND)	0
Agriculture Science (OH)	0
Agriculture Water Usage (GA)	0
Agroecology (MD)	387
Air Quality (TX)	1,574
Alliance for Food Protection (NE, GA)	413
Alternative Nutrient Management (VT)	0
Alternative Salmon Products (AK)	0
Alternative Uses for Tobacco (MD)	0
Animal Disease Research (WY)	333
Animal Science Food Safety Consortium (AR, KS, IA)	1,432
Apple Fireblight (MI, NY)	500
Aquaculture (AR)	205
Aquaculture (FL)	300
Aquaculture (WA, ID)	764
Aquaculture (LA)	329
Aquaculture (MS)	0
Aquaculture (NC)	325
Aquaculture (VA)	200
Aquaculture Product and Marketing Development (WV)	0
Armillaria Root Rot (MI)	150
Asparagus Technology and Production (WA)	248
Babcock Institute (WI)	600
Beef Technology Transfer (MO)	0
Berry Research (AK)	0
Biobased Nanocomposite Research (ND)	0
Biomass-based Energy Research (OK, MS)	1,015
Biotechnology (NC)	0
Biotechnology Test Production (IA)	465
Bovine Tuberculosis (MI)	0
Brucellosis Vaccine (MT)	440
Center for Public Lands and Rural Economies (UT)	0
Center for Rural Studies (VT)	0
Chesapeake Bay Agroecology (MD)	314
Childhood Obesity and Nutrition (VT)	0
Citrus Canker (FL)	500
Citrus Tristeza	691
Competitiveness of Agricultural Products (WA)	647
Computational Agriculture (NY)	239
Cool Season Legume Research (ID, WA)	564
Cotton Fiber Quality (GA)	0
Cranberry/Blueberry (MA)	152
Cranberry/Blueberry Disease and Breeding (NJ)	650
Crop Integration and Production (SD)	0
Crop Diversification Center (MO)	0
Crop Pathogens (NC)	325
Dairy and Meat Goat Research (TX)	150
Dairy Farm Profitability (PA)	500
Delta Rural Revitalization (MS)	0
Designing Foods for Health (TX)	2,000
Diaprepes/Root Weevil (FL)	500
Drought Mitigation (NE)	211
Drought Management (UT)	0
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	1,675
Environmental Biotechnology (RI)	612
Environmental Research (NY)	373
Environmental Risk Factors/Cancer (NY)	217
Environmentally Safe Products (VT)	0
Ethnobotany Research (AK)	0
Exotic Pest Diseases (CA)	1,929
Expanded Wheat Pasture (OK)	323
Farm Injuries and Illnesses (NC)	0

	2006 House
Feed Barley for Rangeland Cattle (MT)	0
Feed Efficiency in Cattle (FL)	400
Feedstock Conversion (SD)	0
Fish and Shellfish Technologies (VA)	453
Food Chain Economic Analysis (IA)	416
Floriculture (HI)	352
Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IA, MO)	1,537
Food Marketing Policy Center (CT)	579
Food Quality (AK)	0
Food Safety (AL)	0
Food Safety (OK, ME)	552
Food Safety (TX)	200
Food Safety Research Consortium	1,000
Food Safety Risk Assessment (ND)	1,366
Food Security (WA)	0
Food Systems Research Group (WI)	550
Forages for Advancing Livestock Production (KY)	0
Forestry (AR)	0
Fruit/Vegetable Market Analysis (AZ/MO)	350
Functional Genomics (UT)	0
Future Foods (IL)	545
Generic Commodity Promotions, Research and Evaluation (NY)	191
Genomics (MS)	0
Geographic Information System	1,802
Global Change	2,184
Grain Sorghum (KS/TX)	736
Grapefruit Juice/Drug Interaction (FL)	344
Grass Seed Cropping for Sustainable Agriculture (WA, OR, ID)	450
Grazing Research (WI)	0
Greenhouse Crop Production (AK)	0
Horn Fly Research (AL)	200
Human Nutrition (IA)	0
Human Nutrition (LA)	0
Human Nutrition (NY)	580
Hydroponic Tomato Production (OH)	179
Illinois-Missouri Alliance for Biotechnology	1,170
Improved Dairy Management Practices (PA)	352
Improved Fruit Practices (MI)	0
Increasing Shelf Life of Agricultural Commodities (ID)	822
Infectious Disease Research (CO)	778
Institute for Biobased Products and Food Science (MT)	0
Institute for Food Science and Engineering (AR)	1,110
Integrated Production Systems (OK)	255
International Arid Lands Consortium (AZ)	579
Iowa Biotechnology Consortium	0
Leopold Center Hypoxia Project (IA)	0
Livestock and Dairy Policy (NY, TX)	1,000
Livestock Genome Sequencing (IL)	815
Livestock Waste (IA)	0
Lowbush Blueberry Research (ME)	234
Maple Research (VT)	0
Meadow Foam (OR)	0
Michigan Biotechnology Consortium	555
Midwest Advanced Food Manufacturing Alliance (NE)	0
Midwest Agricultural Products (IA)	612
Midwest Poultry Consortium (IA)	682
Milk Safety (PA)	750
Minor Use Animal Drugs	588
Molluscan Shellfish (OR)	348
Montana Sheep Institute	569
Multi-commodity Research (OR)	353
Multi-cropping Strategies for Aquaculture (HI)	0
National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium (NY)	880
National Biological Impact Assessment Program (VA)	253
National Center for Soybean Technology (MO)	0
Nematode Resistance Genetic Engineering (NM)	139
Nevada Arid Rangelands Initiative (NV)	0
New Crop Opportunities (AK)	0
New Crop Opportunities (KY)	0
Nursery, Greenhouse, Turf Specialties (AL)	0
Oil Resources from Desert Plants (NM)	211
Organic Cropping (WA)	359

	2006 House
Organic Waste Utilization (NM)	93
Oyster Post Harvest Treatment (FL)	446
Ozone Air Quality (CA)	401
Pasture and Forage Research (UT)	0
Peach Tree Short Life (SC)	265
Perrenial Wheat (WA)	141
Pest Control Alternatives (SC)	269
Phytophthora Root Rot (NM)	182
Pierce's Disease (CA)	2,211
Plant, Drought, and Disease Resistance Gene Cataloging (NM)	233
Potato Research	1,497
Precision Agriculture (KY)	0
Preharvest Food Safety (KS)	0
Preservation and Processing Research (OK)	250
Protein Utilization (IA)	805
Rangeland Ecosystems (NM)	282
Regional Barley Gene Mapping Project (OR)	682
Regionalized Implications of Farm Programs (MO, TX)	860
Rice Agronomy (MO)	250
Ruminant Nutrition (MT, ND, SD, WY)	0
Rural Development Centers (LA, ND)	230
Rural Obesity (NY)	187
Rural Policies Institute (NE, IA, MO)	1,205
Russian Wheat Aphid (CO)	291
Seafood Harvesting, Processing and Marketing (AK)	0
Seafood and Aquaculture Harvesting, Processing and Marketing (MS)	0
Seafood Safety (MA)	436
Seed Research (AK)	0
Seed Technology (SD)	0
Small Fruit Research (OR, WA, ID)	422
Soil and Environmental Quality (DE)	0
Southwest Consortium for Plant Genetics and Water Resources	373
Soybean Cyst Nematode (MO)	802
Soybean Research (IL)	955
STEEP III -- Water Quality in Northwest	640
Sudden Oak Death (CA)	93
Sustainable Agriculture (CA)	515
Sustainable Agriculture (MI)	384
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources (PA)	190
Sustainable Beef Supply (MT)	937
Sustainable Engineered Materials from Renewable Sources (VA)	700
Swine and Other Animal Waste Management (NC)	466
Tick Borne Disease Prevention (RI)	143
Tillage, Silviculture, Waste Management (LA)	500
Tri-state Joint Peanut Research (AL)	563
Tropical Aquaculture (FL)	211
Tropical and Subtropical Research/T-Star	9,548
Uniform Farm Management Program (MN)	281
Value-added Product Development from Agricultural Resources (MT)	405
Virtual Plant Database Enhancement Project (MO)	705
Viticulture Consortium (NY, CA, PA)	2,100
Water Conservation, (KS)	0
Water Use Efficiency and Water Quality Enhancements (GA)	470
Weed Control (ND)	384
West Nile Virus (IL)	0
Wetland Plants (LA)	563
Wheat Genetic Research (KS)	344
Wheat Sawfly Research (MT)	0
Wine Grape Foundation Block (WA)	322
Wood Utilization (OR, MS, NC, MN, ME, MI, ID, TN, AK,WV)	6,435
Wool Research (TX, MT, WY)	298
Subtotal, Special Research Grants	92,064
Improved Pest Control:	
Expert IPM Decision Support System	157
Integrated Pest Management	2,570
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	10,785
Pest Management Alternatives	1,526
Total, Improved Pest Control	15,038
Total, Special Research Grants	$107,102

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

2005 appropriation	$12,000,000
2006 budget estimate	12,000,000
Provided in the bill	12,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, the Committee provides $12,000,000, the same as the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

2005 appropriation	$445,631,000
2006 budget estimate	431,743,000
Provided in the bill	444,871,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−760,000
2006 budget estimate	+13,128,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Extension Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $444,871,000, a decrease of $760,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $13,128,000 above the budget request.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Extension Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 House
Smith-Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	$275,940
Smith-Lever Section 3(d):	
Farm Safety	4,563
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	62,409
Indian Reservation Agents	1,996
New Technologies for Ag Extension	1,000
Pest Management	10,000
Sustainable Agriculture	4,067
Youth at Risk	7,978
Youth Farm Safety Education and Certification	444
Total Section 3(d) Programs	92,457
1890 Colleges and Tuskegee	33,868
1890 Facilities Grants (Sec. 1447)	16,777
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education	1,965
Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions	3,273
Grants to Youth Organizations	0
Subtotal	428,340
Federal Administration and Special Grants:	
Ag in the Classroom	740
Agricultural and Entrepreneurship Education (WI)	0
Alabama Beef Connection	390
Beef Producers Improvement (AR)	0
Conservation Technology Transfer (WI)	0
Dairy Education (IA)	229
Dairy Industry Revitalization (WI)	0
Diabetes Detection, Prevention (WA,PA)	1,093
E-commerce (MS)	0
Efficient Irrigation (NM, TX)	2,325
Entrepreneurial Alternatives (PA)	0
Extension Specialist (MS)	0
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (FARAD)	806
Food Preparation and Marketing (AK)	0
Food Product Development (AK)	0
General Administration	6,922
Health Education Leadership (KY)	0
Income Enhancement Demonstration (OH)	1,247
Iowa Vitality Center	0
National Center for Agriculture Safety (IA)	0
National Wild Turkey Federation	225
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration (WI)	500
Nursery Production (RI)	295
Nutrition Enhancement (WI)	0
Ohio-Israel Agriculture Initiative	0
Oquirrh Institute	0
Pilot Technology Transfer (OK, MS)	300
Pilot Technology Transfer (WI)	250
Potato Pest Management (WI)	400
Range Improvement (NM)	0
Resilient Communities (NY)	0
Rural Business Enhancement (WI)	0
Rural Development (AK)	0
Rural Development (NM)	348
Rural Technologies (HI, WI)	0
Urban Horticulture (WI)	0
Urban Market-Bronx (NY)	273
Web-based Agriculture Classes (MO)	0
Wood Biomass as an Alternative Farm Product (NY)	188
Total, Federal Administration	16,531
Total, Extension Activities	$444,871

Farm Safety: AgrAbility.—Within the funds provided for Smith-Lever 3(d) for Farm Safety, the Committee recommends $4,563,000 for the AgrAbility program, which helps people with disabilities to be able to farm safely, efficiently, and profitably through on-the-farm education and assistance.

Northern Aquaculture Demonstration.—This project, located on the Red Cliff Indian Reservation (WI), will deliver a coordinated and focused applied research and demonstration program, combined with an aggressive direct-to-farm extension outreach program, to address the needs of fish farms and state, federal and tribal hatcheries and help overcome the unique development and operational challenges of aquaculture in the cold climates of northern states such as Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

2005 appropriation	$54,712,000
2006 budget estimates	35,013,000
Provided in the bill	15,513,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−39,199,000
2006 budget estimate	−19,500,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Integrated Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $15,513,000, a decrease of $39,199,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $19,500,000 below the budget request.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Integrated Activities
(Dollars in Thousands)

	2006 House Recommendation
Integrated Activities:	
Water Quality	1./
Food Safety	1./
Regional Pest Management Centers	1./
Crops at Risk from FQPA Implementation	1./
FQPA Risk Mitigation Program for Major Food Crop Systems	1./
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	1./
Organic Transition Program	1./
International Science and Education Grants Program	$1,000
Critical Issues Program	1,000
Regional Rural Development Centers Program	1,513
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	12,000
Total, Integrated Activities	$15,513

1./ Funding for this competitive grant has been merged with the National Research Initiative.

OUTREACH FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

2005 appropriation	$5,888,000
2006 budget estimate	5,935,000
Provided in the bill	5,935,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+47,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,935,000, an increase of $47,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

2005 appropriation	$715,000
2006 budget estimate	724,000
Provided in the bill	724,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+9,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, the Committee provides an appropriation of $724,000, an increase of $9,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

2005 appropriation	$808,106,000
2006 budget estimate [1]	855,162,000
Provided in the bill	823,635,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+15,529,000
2006 budget estimate	−31,527,000

[1] The budget estimate does not include proposed user fees in the amount $10,857,000.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $823,635,000, an increase of $15,529,000 above the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2005, and a decrease of $31,527,000 below the budget request.

The recommendation does not include $10,858,000 in Animal Welfare Act user fees, as proposed in the President's budget. The Administration has not yet submitted a legislative proposal to Congress for these fees, which are not currently authorized in law. The Committee does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts, but will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The following table reflects the amounts provided by the Committee:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
[In Thousands of Dollars]

Program	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 request	Committee Provision
Pest and Disease Exclusion:			
Agricultural quarantine inspection	25,090	25,472	25,472
Cattle ticks	6,666	6,877	7,877
Foreign animal diseases/FMD	8,670	15,167	9,167
Fruit fly exclusion and detection	57,876	59,976	59,976
Import-export inspection	12,771	11,989	11,989
Screwworm	27,155	30,876	30,206
Trade issues resolution management	12,477	18,325	12,583
Tropical bont tick	422	426	426
Total, Pest and Disease Exclusion	151,127	169,108	157,696
Plant and Animal Health Monitoring:			
Animal health monitoring & surveillance	143,921	151,692	149,014
Animal and plant health regulatory enforcement	9,307	10,399	10,399
Bio Surveillance	1,984	2,523	2,007
Emergency management systems	12,864	22,671	14,372
Pest detection	26,915	44,048	29,217
Select Agents	-	5,289	4,338
Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Surveillance	-	1,950	-
Total, Plant & Animal Health Monitoring	194,991	238,572	209,347
Pest and Disease Management:			
Aquaculture	1,245	1,262	1,262
Biological control	9,354	9,579	9,579
Boll weevil*	45,620	14,334	38,634
Brucellosis	10,273	8,941	10,353
Chronic wasting disease	18,688	16,880	16,880
Emerging plant pests	100,754	126,700	100,695
Golden nematode	795	808	808
Grasshopper and Mormon cricket	5,484	4,405	4,405
Gypsy moth	4,730	4,818	4,818
Imported fire ant	2,131	2,154	2,154
Johnes disease	18,590	3,191	7,752
Low pathogen avian influenza	22,816	22,837	22,837
Noxious weeds	1,975	1,149	1,149
Pink bollworm*	3,633	4,780	6,280

Plum pox	3,443	2,216	2,216
Pseudorabies	4,315	4,391	4,391
Scrapie	17,626	19,302	19,302
Tuberculosis	14,818	16,738	15,001
Wildlife services operations	73,166	76,129	78,890
Witchweed	1,511	1,527	1,527
Total, Pest and Disease Management	360,967	342,141	348,933
Animal Care:			
Animal welfare	16,485	17,478	17,478
Horse protection	493	497	497
Total, Animal Care	16,978	17,975	17,975
Scientific and Technical Services:			
Biosecurity	1,972	1,972	1,972
Information technology infrastructure	4,552	5,080	4,552
Biotechnology regulatory services	9,428	13,894	11,574
Environmental Compliance	2,603	2,653	2,653
Plant methods development labs	8,314	8,535	8,535
Veterinary biologics	15,389	18,311	18,311
Veterinary diagnostics	20,410	26,605	22,515
Wildlife services methods development	17,289	14,032	14,432
Total, Scientific and Technical Services	79,957	91,082	84,544
Contingency fund	4,086	4,140	4,140
Physical security	-	3,001	1,000
Total, Salaries and Expenses	808,106	866,019	823,635

*Reflected in totals is FY 2005 reprogramming of $1.5 million from boll weevil to pink bollworm program.

To maintain agency functions the Committee provides the requested amount for cost of living requirements.

The Committee is concerned that the agency, while well intentioned, may be focusing more human resources on facilitating agricultural imports than on the export of American agricultural products. The Committee directs the agency to provide a report on staffing levels for sanitary and phytosanitary import certificates and export certificates. In addition, the report should include the number and value of approved import certificates versus the number and value of approved export certificates for plant and animal products.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.—The Committee includes an appropriation of $3,262,000 for the National Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory to cover costs associated with the biosecurity level 3 greenhouse and for additional diagnostic and test validation activities at the laboratory, as requested.

Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection.—The Committee recommendation includes the full amount requested for fruit fly exclusion and detection, within which is $2,758,000 for Mexican fruitfly control in Texas, as requested.

Animal health monitoring and surveillance.—The Committee provides $149,014,000 for animal health monitoring and surveillance, an increase of $5,093,000 over the fiscal year 2005 amount. Included in the funding is $33,340,000 for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), as requested. The Committee is carefully following the development of the NAIS, including issues of data use and confidentiality, applicability to different species, links to current systems used by state veterinarians, and costs. The Committee requires that APHIS provide quarterly progress reports on NAIS, including the status of the preceding issues and an accounting of funds.

The Committee directs that not less than $2,000,000 be provided for a cooperative agreement with the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium. This project supports the national plan to establish an animal and livestock 48–hour traceback system.

The Committee provides not less than $600,000 for the Farm Animal Identification and Records (FAIR) program. Both the Wisconsin consortium and the FAIR project should also be eligible to apply for cooperative agreement funding for animal identification, which is funded within the NAIS total.

The Committee provides $300,000 to assist in creating a database of North Carolina's agriculture industry for rapid response capabilities.

The Committee provides the full amount requested, $17,184,000, for activities related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The Committee notes that the intense BSE surveillance testing program is scheduled to be completed shortly. As of May 8, 2005, 347,491 cattle have been tested (with no positive results), which far exceeds the original goal to test 268,000 animals. Given the knowledge gained from the 2004–2005 testing program, the Committee requests a report within 30 days of enactment on the design, implementation and cost of an updated BSE surveillance system.

The Committee continues funding for the New Mexico Rapid Syndrome Validation Program at $450,000 to support early detection of pathogens in animals and prevent its spread.

The Committee provides $300,000 for Iowa State University's work regarding risk assessments of genetically modified agricultural products.

Emergency management systems.—The Committee provides $5,000,000 for Field emergency coordinators and $3,009,000 for the vaccine bank.

Pest detection.—The Committee provides an increase of $1,546,000 for surveys through the state-based Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys system.

The Committee continues funding of $200,000 to evaluate the utility of remote sensing (hyperspectral imaging and Light Detection And Ranging) for the identification of ash trees, the early identification of emerald ash borer infestation, and the tracking and mapping of the diseased trees.

The Committee provides funding for a cooperative agreement with the California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program at the fiscal year 2005 level.

Select Agents.—Funding for the select agents function is included as a separate item, as requested. The total provided is an increase of $1,858,000 over the comparable fiscal year 2005 amounts, which were part of the Import/Export and Pest Detection line items.

Brucellosis.—The Committee continues to provide the fiscal year 2005 funding level for the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee to eliminate brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone area.

Chronic wasting disease.—For chronic wasting disease, the Committee provides $16,880,000 for fiscal year 2006. The Committee directs that of this amount $1,750,000 shall go to the State of Wisconsin.

Emerging plant pests.—The Committee expects the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to use the authority provided in this bill to transfer funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation for the arrest and eradication of animal and plant pests and diseases that threaten American agriculture. By providing funds in this account, the Committee is enhancing, but not replacing, the use of Commodity Credit Corporation funding for emergency outbreaks.

For emerging plant pests, the Committee includes $100,695,000. The Committee provides the following amounts for eradication and control activities: $36,629,000 for citrus canker, $24,000,000 for Glassy-winged sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease, $14,000,000 for Emerald Ash borer, $3,000,000 for Sudden Oak Death, and $2,753,000 for Karnal bunt.

The Committee continues funding for olive fruit fly trapping at the fiscal year 2005 level.

The Committee provides $800,000 for hydrilla eradication around Lake Gaston in Virginia and North Carolina, and expects APHIS to monitor the effectiveness of hydrilla eradication around Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia regularly.

The Committee provides $15,251,000 for the Asian long-horned beetle, as requested. The Committee is concerned about the damage that this pest can do, and requests that APHIS provide the analysis that supports the decision to control the beetle infestation rather than eradicate it, and includes an estimate of costs to eradicate the beetle. Further, the Committee expects the Secretary to

use his emergency authority to provide funds to combat the infestation when warranted.

Imported fire ant.—The Committee provides $2,154,000 for imported fire ant of which $45,000 is for New Mexico.

Johne's Disease.—The Committee provides $7,752,000 for Johne's disease, which is $4,561,000 above the budget request.

Avian Influenza.—The Committee provides $22,837,000, the same as the request, for activities relating to the prevention, control, and eradication of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI). Within the total amount, $8,000,000 is for indemnities, $3,000,000 is for surveillance activities, and $5,000,000 is for cooperative agreements with states. Funding is provided for live bird market closure for disinfection, as needed. The Committee is concerned that LPAI, which appears to be endemic in certain live bird markets in urban areas, could mutate into highly pathogenic forms. To prevent this from happening, a robust surveillance and control system in both commercial poultry industries and live bird markets is important. The Committee believes that industry cooperation and program fairness will be maximized through the indemnification of losses.

The Committee notes that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has combated Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) through both depopulation and vaccination, depending on individual circumstances. An emergency vaccination protocol was used most successfully after an outbreak on a farm in Connecticut. The Committee strongly encourages APHIS to utilize funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation or to utilize other authority to compensate producers for vaccination costs and related flock losses previously incurred due to the outbreak in Connecticut and the resulting sequential depopulation and restricted use of a USDA approved and authorized avian influenza vaccine.

Wildlife services.—The Committee continues the fiscal year 2005 funding levels for wildlife surveillance, Wildlife Services state operations, and aviation safety. The recommendation assumes the continuation of current cost share levels for cooperators. The Committee directs that, other than funding for the specific items noted in this report, the funds provided in the Wildlife Services line item are available for general operations needs.

The Committee continues to provide $1,200,000 for wolf predation management, of which $1,050,000 is for Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, and $150,000 is for New Mexico and Arizona.

The Committee continues funding for the following projects: $300,000 for Beaver management in North Carolina; $250,000 for crop and aquaculture losses in southeast Missouri; $625,000 for game bird predation work with the University of Georgia; $200,000 for predation wildlife services in western and southside Virginia; $150,000 for blackbird control in Louisiana; $1,300,000 for predator control programs in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; $1,000,000 for wildlife services in Texas; $200,000 for beaver management and damage in Wisconsin; $1,255,000 for brown tree snake management in Guam; $310,000 for Hawaii and Guam operations; $50,000 for control of feral hogs in Missouri; $1,000,000 for cormorant control in New York; and $175,000 for cormorant control in Michigan.

The Committee provides a $4,000,000 increase above the fiscal year 2005 level for a cooperative rabies oral rabies vaccination program, for a total of $25,580,000.

Wildlife services methods development.—The Committee continues to provide $400,000 in funding for the National Wildlife Research Station in Kingsville, Texas, to address emerging infectious disease issues associated with wildlife populations.

The Committee provides funding to continue the cooperative agreement between the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center and the National Wildlife Research Center in Hilo at the fiscal year 2005 level.

Microchip identification of pets.—The Committee supports the microchipping of pets for identification under the universal 134 kHz International Standards Organization (ISO) system of open microchip technology in which all scanners can read all chips. The Committee directs APHIS to develop the appropriate regulations to implement the universal 134 kHz ISO system, and to report to Congress within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act on progress toward that end.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2005 appropriation	$4,927,000
2006 budget estimate	4,996,000
Provided in the bill	4,996,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+69,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Buildings and Facilities, the Committee provides an appropriation of $4,996,000, an increase of $69,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

2005 appropriation	$75,092,000
2006 budget estimate [1]	84,114,000
Provided in the bill	78,032,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+2,940,000
2006 budget estimate	−6,082,000

[1] The budget estimate does not include proposed user fees in the amount of $2,918,000.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $78,032,000, an increase of $2,940,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $6,082,000 below the budget request.

Included in the appropriated amount are increases of $584,000 for the Pesticide Data Program and $305,000 for Pesticide Recordkeeping, as requested. The Committee recommendation includes the proposed termination of the Biotechnology Program.

The Committee does not provide the increase requested for a new commodity purchasing computer system in this account. The Committee addresses the issue under the Section 32 Account.

The Committee provides not less than $2,026,000 for activities relating to Organic Standards.

The recommendation does not include $2,918,000 in standardization user fees, as proposed in the President's budget. The Administration has not yet submitted a legislative proposal to Congress for these fees, which are not currently authorized in law. The Committee does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts, but will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The Committee provides $1,000,000 in this account for the Farmers' Market Promotion Program to make grants to eligible entities for projects to establish, expand, and promote farmers' markets.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2005 limitation	($64,459,000)
2006 budget limitation	(65,667,000)
Provided in the bill	(65,667,000)
Comparison:	
2005 limitation	+1,208,000
2006 budget limitation	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For a Limitation on Administrative Expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Committee provides $65,667,000, an increase of $1,208,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY

(SECTION 32)

MARKETING AGREEMENT AND ORDERS

2005 appropriation	($15,800,000)
2006 budget estimate	(16,055,000)
Provided in the bill	(16,055,000)
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+255,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2004 through 2006:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2004-2006

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Estimate	Revised FY 2006 Estimate
Appropriation (30% of Customs Receipts)	$5,927,395,463	$6,052,035,538	$6,481,777,400
Rescission		-163,000,000	
Supplemental Appropriation		90,000,000	
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service	-4,699,661,000	-5,152,962,000	-5,187,621,000
Commerce Department	-79,724,463	-77,538,934	-79,284,400
Total, Transfers	-4,779,385,463	-5,230,500,934	-5,266,905,400
Budget Authority	1,148,010,000	748,534,604	1,214,872,000
Unobligated Balance Available, Start of Year	134,321,602	408,050,706	0
Recoveries of Prior Year Obligations	5,517,862	0	0
Available for Obligation	1,287,849,464	1,156,585,310	1,214,872,000
Less Obligations:			
Commodity Procurement:			
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commodities)	400,000,000	400,000,000	465,000,000
State Option Contract	2,525	5,000,000	5,000,000
Removal of Defective Commodities	67,171	1,000,000	1,000,000
Livestock Compensation Program			
Emergency Surplus Removal	226,474,661	112,265,287	
Diversion Payments			
Direct Payments	218,750,000	422,202,000	
Lamb Grading and Certification Support	100,000		
Disaster Relief	9,200,000		
Estimated Future Needs	0	189,086,023	416,325,000
Total, Commodity Procurement	854,594,357	1,129,553,310	887,325,000
Administrative Funds:			
Commodity Purchase Support	10,266,096	11,232,000	21,492,000
Marketing Agreements and Orders	14,938,305	15,800,000	16,055,000
Total, Administrative Funds	25,204,401	27,032,000	37,547,000
Total Obligations	879,798,758	1,156,585,310	924,872,000
Unobligated Balance Available, End of Year	408,050,706	0	290,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Marketing Agreements and Orders Program, the Committee provides a transfer from section 32 funds of $16,055,000, an increase of $255,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

The Committee directs that $10,000,000 in funding be provided for the Web-based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM) in this account, as shown in the preceding table in the Commodity Purchase Support line. While the business case for WBSCM has merit, and the Committee supports replacement of the existing system, the Committee will not appropriate funding for WBSCM.

The Committee reiterates its position that administrative expenses to support section 32 purposes are expressly allowed, and that purchase and maintenance of a computer system supporting commodity purchases is an authorized administrative expense. All previous computer systems to support commodity purchase, including the existing Processed Commodity Inventory Management System (PCIMS), have been funded through section 32. Given the business case for WBSCM, the obsolescence of PCIMS, and the projected savings the new system will bring, the Administration's refusal to fund WBSCM is unsupportable.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

2005 appropriation	$3,816,000
2006 budget estimate	1,347,000
Provided in the bill	1,347,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−2,469,000
2006 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Payments to States and Possessions, the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,347,000, a decrease of $2,469,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005, and the same as the budget request.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

2005 appropriation	$37,001,000
2006 budget estimate [1]	15,717,000
Provided in the bill	38,400,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+1,399,000
2006 budget estimate	+22,683,000

[1] The budget estimate does not include proposed user fees in the amount of $24,701,000.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, the Committee provides $38,400,000, an increase of $1,399,000 over the amount available for fiscal year 2005, and an increase of $22,683,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation does not include $24,701,000 in grain standardization and Packers and Stockyards licensing fees, as proposed in the President's budget. The Administration has not yet

submitted a legislative proposal to Congress for these fees, which are not currently authorized in law. The Committee does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts, but will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The Committee continues its interest in the study on marketing arrangements that GIPSA has undertaken with $4,500,000 provided in fiscal year 2003 for that purpose. The Committee has been informed that the study, which was directed to be completed within two years, is now scheduled for completion in mid-2006. Although the study is significantly delayed, the Department has confirmed that the study will be completed with no additional funding. The Committee directs GIPSA to provide regular reports on the progress of the study and the collection of the transaction data. The Committee has concerns about maintaining the confidentiality of the transaction data being collected, future use of the data, and the potentially high costs of providing data; reports to the Committee should specifically address these issues.

Product Verification Protocols Pilot.—The Committee understands that the Secretary has undertaken a product verification protocols pilot, in conjunction with the Missouri and Illinois Corn Growers Associations, to establish controls for regulated seed varieties and to augment grain marketing. The Committee provides $500,000 to continue this pilot program with the growers associations for development of production protocols.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

2005 limitation	($42,463,000)
2006 budget limitation	(42,463,000)
Provided in the bill	(42,463,000)
Comparison:	
2005 limitation	– – –
2006 budget limitation	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee includes a limitation on inspection and weighing services expenses of $42,463,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request. The bill includes authority to exceed by 10 percent the limitation on inspection and weighing services with notification to the Committees on Appropriations. This allows for flexibility if export activities require additional supervision and oversight or other uncontrollable factors occur.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

2005 appropriation	$590,000
2006 budget estimate	602,000
Provided in the bill	590,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	– 12,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, the Committee provides an appropriation of $590,000, the same as the

amount provided for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $12,000 below the budget request.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

2005 appropriation	$817,170,000
2006 budget estimate [1]	710,717,000
Provided in the bill	837,264,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+20,094,000
2006 budget estimate	+126,547,000

[1] The budget estimate does not include proposed user fees in the amount of $139,000,000.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $837,264,000, an increase of $20,094,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $126,547,000 above the budget request.

The recommendation does not include $139,000,000 in meat inspection user fees, as proposed in the President's budget. The Administration has not yet submitted a legislative proposal to Congress for these fees, which are not currently authorized in law. The Committee does not recommend establishing such fees in annual appropriations acts, but will consider such fees should they achieve authorization.

The Committee provides the full amounts requested to cover pay costs, an increase of $13,858,000, and to support frontline inspection, an increase of $2,236,000. The Committee provides an increase of $6,745,000 for food defense activities, including $417,000 for biosurveillance, $2,820,000 for the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), $2,500,000 for laboratory capacity and equipment, and $1,008,000 for related training. Within the base resources provided is $5,000,000 for enforcement of The Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Committee recommendation includes a cut of $3,000,000 in information technology savings as requested in the budget

The Committee provides $2,000,000, the same as fiscal year 2005, for outsourcing of microbiological testing, which supports the goal of establishing a continuous baseline for risk assessment. The Committee expects the Department to outsource the testing to private American Association for Laboratory Accreditation International Standards Organization-approved laboratories. The Committee directs FSIS to report on the status of this project within 60 days of enactment.

The Committee recommendation includes the requested increase for an initiative to support frontline inspection. FSIS has stated that with the funding, it will hire 22 Consumer Safety Officers to support Veterinary Public Health Officers. FSIS will then be able to better use the expertise of the veterinarians, who will complete at least three public health assessments in addition to other activities. The Committee requests periodic updates on the performance of this initiative, including: the location and number of the new hires; the number of assessments completed in fiscal year 2006, versus the number in prior years; and the public health outcome from the increased staffing.

The Committee provides $3,002,000, for Codex Alimentarius activities, which are critical for maintaining food safety worldwide and facilitating international trade.

Regulation development.—The Committee understands that FDA and FSIS are working on rules related to sausage casings and the small intestine of cattle. The Committee is concerned about the availability of this material, which has not been categorized a specified risk material. The Committee directs the agency to proceed on rulemaking in a timely manner, and to report to the Committee within 30 days of enactment on the regulatory status of sausage casings/small intestines, and on related guidance for the Field force.

FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

2005 appropriation	$626,000
2006 budget estimate	635,000
Provided in the bill	635,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+9,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Committee provides an appropriation of $635,000, an increase of $9,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

	Appropriation	*Transfer from program accts.*	*Total, FSA, S&E*
2005 appropriation	$999,536,000	($295,322,000)	($1,294,858,000)
2006 budget estimate	1,050,875,000	(314,193,000)	(1,365,068,000)
Provided in the bill	1,023,738,000	(302,183,000)	(1,325,921,000)
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	+24,202,000	+6,861,000	+31,063,000
2006 budget estimate	–27,137,000	–12,010,000	–39,147,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Salaries and Expenses of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,023,738,000 and transfers from other accounts of $302,183,000, for a total program level of $1,325,921,000. This is an increase of $31,063,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $39,147,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes an additional $21,719,000 for pay cost; an increase of $15,018,000 to maintain staffing levels being funded from carryover balances in fiscal year 2005; and, an additional $2,900,000 for the National Agricultural Imagery Program, of which $300,000 is for a pilot Automated Crop Cultivation Assessment Tool, and $1,000,000 is for the implementa-

tion of storage, security, and dissemination technologies for NAIP. The funding level includes a decrease of $15,435,000 for reduced operating expenses and reduced Federal/non-Federal staff years, as requested in the budget.

The Committee is concerned about any Departmental plans to close FSA county offices at a time when the FSA office network is essential to helping farmers address critical economic and environmental issues. The Committee reiterates its strong view that no county office closure or consolidation should occur except in those locations for which closures and relocations are supported by rigorous analysis to ensure actions are cost effective, and that services available to the public will not be reduced.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$3,968,000
2006 budget estimate	4,500,000
Provided in the bill	4,250,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+282,000
2006 budget estimate	−250,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For State Mediation Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $4,250,000, an increase of $282,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $250,000 below the budget request.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$100,000
2006 budget estimate	100,000
Provided in the bill	100,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Dairy Indemnity Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $100,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVELS

2005 loan level	$3,717,840,000
2006 budget estimate	3,803,253,000
Provided in the bill	3,818,276,000
Comparison:	
2005 loan level	+100,436,000
2006 budget estimate	+15,023,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

Approximate loan levels provided by the Committee for fiscal year 2006 for the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Programs are: $1,600,000,000 for farm ownership loans, of which $200,000,000 is for direct loans and $1,400,000,000 is for guaranteed loans; $2,116,256,000 for farm operating loans, of which

$650,000,000 is for direct loans, $266,256,000 is for guaranteed subsidized loans, and $1,200,000,000 is for guaranteed unsubsidized loans; $2,020,000 for Indian tribe land acquisition loans; and $100,000,000 for boll weevil eradication loans.

AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Farm loan programs:			
Farm ownership:			
Direct	$208,320	200,000	$200,000
Guaranteed	1,388,800	1,400,000	1,400,000
Farm operating:			
Direct	644,800	650,000	650,000
Unsubsidized guaranteed	1,091,200	1,200,000	1,200,000
Subsidized guaranteed	282,720	266,253	266,256
Indian tribe land acquisition	2,000	2,000	2,020
Natural disasters emergency	0	25,000	0
Boll Weevil Eradication	100,000	60,000	100,000
Total, farm loans	$3,717,840	$3,803,253	$3,818,276

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Direct loan subsidy	*Guaranteed loan subsidy*	*Administrative expenses*
2005 appropriation	$76,310	$80,238	$7,936
2006 budget estimate	77,730	76,362	8,000
Provided in the bill	74,996	76,362	8,000
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	−1,314	−3,876	+64
2006 budget estimate	−2,734	.....	.....

The following table reflects the costs of loan programs under credit reform:

AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROGRAMS—Subsidies

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 estimate	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Loan subsidies:			
Farm ownership:			
Direct	$11,145	$10,240	$10,240
Guaranteed	7,361	6,720	6,720
Subtotal	18,506	16,960	16,960
Farm operating:			
Direct	65,060	64,675	64,675
Guaranteed unsubsidized	35,246	36,360	36,360
Guaranteed subsidized	37,631	33,282	33,282
Subtotal	137,937	134,317	134,317
Indian tribe land acquisition	105	80	81
Natural disasters emergency	0	2,735	0
Total, Loan subsidies	$156,548	$154,092	$151,358

AGRICULTURE CREDIT PROGRAMS—Subsidies—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 estimate	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
ACIF expenses:			
Salaries and expenses	291,414	309,137	297,127
Administrative expenses	7,936	8,000	8,000
Total, ACIF expenses	$299,350	$317,137	$305,127

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2005 appropriation	$71,468,000
2006 budget estimate	87,806,000
Provided in the bill	77,806,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+6,338,000
2006 budget estimate	−10,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Risk Management Agency, the Committee provides an appropriation of $77,806,000, an increase of $6,338,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $10,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes $3,600,000 to carry out data mining and data warehousing activities. The Risk Management Agency has indicated the effectiveness of these activities to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in the crop insurance program. The funding for this program was initiated in the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 from within funds available in the insurance fund of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The crop insurance program is a multi-billion dollar program, and that program should continue to bear the cost of this management tool. While the Committee provides the budget authority to extend this program through the end of fiscal year 2006, the Committee will not fund this program in the future.

The amount provided includes an increase of $1,275,000 to fully fund the request for pay costs, and $1,463,000 of the amount requested for the blueprint to develop the Risk Management Agency's Emerging Information Technology Architecture.

Risk Management Pilot.—The committee supports a lamb price insurance, risk management pilot for the U.S. sheep industry and understands that a lamb Livestock Risk Protection program would be benefical for producers. The Committee urges the Risk Management Agency to implement an LRP-Lamb pilot project of sufficient size and pilot length to properly test the viability of lamb price insurance for sheep producers of all size operations and geography.

CORPORATIONS

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

2005 appropriation	[1] $4,095,128,000
2006 budget estimate	[1] 3,159,379,000
Provided in the bill	[1] 3,159,379,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−935,749,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

[1] Current indefinite appropriation.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund, the Committee provides an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary (estimated to be $3,159,379,000 in the President's fiscal year 2006 Budget Request), a decrease of $935,749,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

2005 appropriation	[1] $16,452,377,000
2006 budget estimate	[1] 25,690,000,000
Provided in the bill	[1] 25,690,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+9,237,623,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

[1] Current indefinite appropriation.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Committee provides such sums as may be necessary to reimburse for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed (estimated to be $25,690,000,000 in the President's fiscal year 2006 Budget Request), an increase of $9,237,623,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

2004 limitation	$5,000,000
2006 budget estimate	5,000,000
Provided in the bill	5,000,000
Comparison:	
2004 limitation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For CCC Hazardous Waste Management, the Committee provides a limitation of $5,000,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

2005 appropriation	$735,000
2006 budget estimate	744,000
Provided in the bill	744,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+9,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, the Committee provides an appropriation of $744,000, an increase of $9,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

2005 appropriation	$830,661,000
2006 budget estimate	767,783,000
Provided in the bill	793,640,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	–37,021,000
2006 budget estimate	+25,857,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Conservation Operations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $793,640,000, a decrease of $37,021,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $25,857,000 above the budget request. The Committee recommendation includes not more than $90,731,800 for National Headquarters salaries and expenses, as requested.

The Committee provides $27,312,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, $10,457,000 for the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting program, as requested, $10,547,000 for Plant Materials Centers, as requested, $88,149,000 for the Soil Surveys Program, as requested, and $657,175,000 for Conservation Technical Assistance. The recommendation for each program includes pay costs, as requested. The amount provided for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative includes an increase of $4,000,000 for enhanced prevention, management, and restoration activities for invasive species. For Conservation Operations, the Committee provides an increase of $14,280,000 for the requested initiative to provide assistance to producers in meeting environmental regulations, including AFO/CAFO requirements. The Committee recommendation includes funding for one American Heritage River navigator position on the Hudson River.

State funding allocations.—The Committee is concerned that funding allocations to the States are being reduced in proportion to Congressional earmarks funded in the Conservation Operations account. The Committee directs the Chief of the NRCS, in making the fiscal year 2006 Conservation Operations funding allocations to the States, to treat Congressional earmarks as additions to the States' funding allocation. The Committee directs the NRCS to provide a report to the Committee on Appropriations, not later than 45 days after the enactment of this Act, including the following: fiscal year 2005 Conservation Operations allocation by State, fiscal year 2006 Conservation Operations allocation by State, the fiscal year 2006 Congressional earmarks by State, and the total conservation operations allocation by State. In addition, the Chief of the NRCS is directed to inform the Committee immediately about any changes to the formula or process by which the base state allocations are made.

Animal Feeding Operations Pilot Projects.—The Committee provides $6,000,000 for the continued implementation of pilot projects for innovative technology systems resulting in a 75 percent reduction in nutrients of wastewater discharged by animal feeding operations to be managed by Farm Pilot Project Coordination, Inc. The Secretary is directed to release these funds after submitting a report to the Committees on Appropriations that a satisfactory cooperative agreement between the NRCS and Farm Pilot Project Coordination, Inc. has been consummated.

Conservation Technical Assistance Projects.—Funding for fiscal year 2005 projects is not continued in fiscal year 2006 unless specifically mentioned in this report. The following funds are directed to be used in cooperative agreements, continued with the same cooperator entities as in the fiscal year 2005 agreements, except as noted: National Water Management Center (AR)—$2,750,000; Study to determine logistics of transportation/coordination of excess nutrients (AR)—$225,000; East Valley Conservation District/Santa Ana Watershed Authority (CA) non-native plant removal—$1,000,000; Monterey Bay Sanctuary—$600,000; Cooperative Agreement with Tufts University to improve conservation practices (CT)—$480,000; Manatee Agriculture Reuse System (FL)—$2,000,000; Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cooperative Agreement—$3,700,000; Community Nutrient Management Facilities (GA)—$350,000; Idaho One Plan—$200,000; Trees Forever Program (IL)—$100,000; cooperative agreement with Kane County, Illinois, for Smart Growth Floodplain Mapping Project (IL)—$600,000; Illinois River Basin—$600,000 through EQIP; Hungry Canyon/Loess Hills Erosion Control/Western Iowa—$1,200,000; Trees Forever Program (IA)—$100,000; CEMSA w/Iowa Soybean Association—$431,500; Technical assistance to providing grants to Soil Conservation Districts in Kentucky—$1,000,000; cooperative agreement with Louisiana State University on effectiveness of agriculture and forestry (LA)—$400,000; False River sedimentation/Bayou Grosse (LA)—$200,000; Chesapeake Bay activities—$6,000,000; Weed It Now-Taconic Mountains (MA/NY/CT)—$200,000; Choctaw County (MS) feasibility study for surface impoundment—$250,000; Upper White River Water Quality Project Office in southern Missouri—$430,500; State conservation cost

share program (NJ)—$1,000,000; Pastureland Management/Rotational Grazing (NY)—$600,000; Best management practices/Skaneateles and Owasco Watersheds (NY)—$325,000; Address nonpoint pollution in Onondaga and Oneida Lake Watersheds (NY)—$500,000; Watershed Agriculture Council in Walton (NY)—$720,000, of which $80,000 is for monitoring the easements purchased by the Council's Whole Farm Easement Program; Technical assistance to livestock/poultry industry (NC)—$450,000; Maumee Watershed Hydrological Study and Flood Mitigation Plan (OH)—$1,000,000; cooperative agreement with South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (OH)—$250,000; Oregon Garden Silverton (OR)—$325,000; Study to characterize land use change while preserving natural resources in cooperation with Clemson University (SC)—$900,000; Bexar, Medina, Uvalde Counties irrigation in Edwards Aquifer (TX)—$500,000; Field office telecommunications pilot program/advanced soil survey methods (TX)—$2,400,000; Range vegetation pilot project, Ft. Hood (TX)—$500,000; a cooperative agreement with the Texas Water Resources Institute to implement a watershed protection plan for Tarrant County (TX)—$500,000; Walla Walla (WA) watershed alliance—$500,000; Design/implement natural stream restoration initiatives (WV)—$800,000; Soil survey geographic database in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands (WV)—$200,000; Grazing Lands Initiative/Wisconsin Department of Agriculture—$950,000; Audubon at Home Pilot Program—$500,000; Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil and Erosion Sediment—$2,500,000; Source water protection project to states showing greatest need—$3,350,000; New York State Agriculture and Environment Management Program—$800,000; Operation Oak Program to restore hardwoods—$400,000; Dairy and poultry waste treatment in Suwannee, Dixie, and Lafayette Counties (FL)—$1,000,000; Long Island (NY) Sound watershed initiative—$200,000; Pace University Land Use Law center (NY)—$200,000; Erosion Control and Stabilization for Hudson River shoreline at Village of Tarrytown (NY)—$250,000; cooperative agreement with the Green Institute (FL)—$400,000; Lake Okeechobee (FL) Watershed project planning—$310,000; cooperative agreement with Sand County Foundation (WI)—$900,000; Soil survey mapping project (WY)—$300,000; and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Partnerships—$3,000,000.

The Committee provides $2,400,000 to continue a field office telecommunication and field technology program and to implement advanced soil survey methods and GIS visualization tools in West Texas.

The Committee directs that the funding included in this account for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cooperative Agreement be provided to the Commission through the state NRCS office in a timely manner and in total, not in part, so that vital water projects in Georgia are not delayed.

Plant Materials Centers.—The Committee provides full funding for the Plant Materials Centers, as requested. Included in the total is funding for the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center at no less than the fiscal year 2005 level.

Assistance to Producers.—The Committee is concerned that producers' applications for assistance under the Environmental Qual-

ity Incentives Program (EQIP) and other programs be prioritized fairly and that there not be any producer group that is systematically disadvantaged by the process and ranking system. In particular, the Committee is concerned that hog producers in Virginia are considered under the EQIP program on an equal basis with other producer types, and that program applicants are not disadvantaged because of the number of practices in their applications. The Committee requests a report from NRCS by February 1, 2006, on the participation of hog producers in NRCS programs in Virginia versus other producer types, if that participation rate is considered low or adequate, and for any plans to raise the participation rate for that segment.

Feasibility Study.—The Committee directs NRCS to provide a report on the feasibility, requirements, and scope for the relocation of the National Water Management Center to Lonoke, Arkansas. The report should detail building size, cost, associated facilities, scientific capacity, and other requirements for collaboration with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The report should also detail existing and planned program and resource requirements for this location, and should be submitted to the Committee by March 1, 2006.

WATERSHED SURVEYS AND PLANNING

2005 appropriation	$7,026,000
2006 budget estimate	5,141,000
Provided in the bill	7,026,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	+1,885,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Watershed Surveys and Planning, the Committee provides an appropriation of $7,026,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $1,885,000 above the budget request.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

2005 appropriation	$74,971,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –
Provided in the bill	60,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– 14,971,000
2006 budget estimate	+60,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, the Committee provides an appropriation of $60,000,000, a decrease of $14,971,000 below fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $60,000,000 above the budget request. Language is included which limits the amount spent on technical assistance to not more than $25,000,000.

The Committee is aware of and expects progress to continue and/or to provide financial/technical assistance for the next phase for the following projects: Big Slough Watershed (AR); Little Red River (AR); Four pilot projects in North Florida related to dairy and poultry cleanup efforts (FL); Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed (HI);

Upcountry Maui Watershed (HI); Indian Creek Watershed (IL); Hickory Creek Special Drainage District (IL); Madison County Water Supply Project (IA); Lyon's Creek Watershed No. 41 (KS); Lower Elk River and Upper Walnut North Watersheds (KS); Pigeon Roost Creek project, Jackson County (KY); Swan Quarter Dike (NC); Papillon Creek Watershed S–30 Structure (NE); Neshaminy Creek Watershed Project, Bucks County (PA); Christina Basin, Brandywine and RedWhite Clay (PA); Lower Colorado River water conservation project (TX); Fannin County Caney Creek Watershed, Site 3A (TX); Attoyac Bayou site 23A, Nacogdoches County (TX); Martinez 6 flood detention dam (TX); Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation project (FL) as part of Everglades restoration; and Buena Vista Watershed (VA).

It is the understanding of the Committee that the project for Marrowbone Creek Dam, in Henry County, Virginia, will be completed in fiscal year 2005 and that no fiscal year 2006 funds are required. The Committee requires immediate notification if the project will be delayed due to technical or funding issues.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$27,280,000
2006 budget estimate	15,125,000
Provided in the bill	27,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−280,000
2006 budget estimate	+11,875,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $27,000,000, a decrease of $280,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $11,875,000 above the budget request.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2005 appropriation	$51,228,000
2006 budget estimate	25,600,000
Provided in the bill	51,360,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+132,000
2006 budget estimate	+25,760,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Resource Conservation and Development, the Committee provides an appropriation of $51,360,000, an increase of $132,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $25,760,000 above the budget request.

The Committee has restored this account, rather than accepting the proposal to defund the 189 Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils that have been in existence for twenty years or more. The Committee would except such a budget proposal to be based on the effectiveness and performance of the Councils rather than on Council age. The Committee requests that NRCS work with the Councils to develop appropriate measures of effectiveness for both conservation and economic development.

The Committee expects the NRCS to promptly fill RC&D coordinator vacancies. The Committee expects support provided under this act to be allocated equitably among the 375 existing councils and that priority be given to providing every council a full-time coordinator.

The Committee has included bill language related to a cooperative agreement with a national association.

The Committee has included bill language limiting the amount that can be spent at national headquarters from this account.

TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2005 appropriation	$627,000
2006 budget estimate	635,000
Provided in the bill	627,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	–8,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the Committee provides an appropriation of $627,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $8,000 below the budget request.

The Committee directs the Under Secretary to give consideration to the following projects or organizations requesting financial and/or technical assistance, and grants and/or loans made available under the Rural Development mission area: Biomass Power Generation Project, Haskell County (KS); Biomass Power Generation Project, Deaf Smith County (TX); Rainsville Agricenter (AL); Construction of a new library, Cordova (AL); Sewer infrastructure improvements, Eva (AL); Sewer infrastructure improvements, Oneonta (AL); Water system improvements, Kennedy (AL); Agricultural Center for West Ouachita H.S. (LA); Town Hall, Village of Collinston (LA); Union-Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative (LA); Rural Economic Development Center (ME); Rural Heritage Site, Ridgefield (WA); Carriage Museum, Raymond (WA); Louisiana State University, Sustainable Economic Development Institute (LA); eCenter for Rural Health and Research Services (LA); Ascension Parish Agriculture Community Center (LA); Minority Manufacturers and Supply Chain Diversity (SC); Food Industry, Agribusiness Development Program (SC); Agriculture Demonstration and Outreach Center (AR); Family Farmer and Rural Development Training (GA); Plains Rural Agricultural Museum (GA); Enhancing Rural Economies through Wireless Technology, University of Georgia (GA); Mobile Infirmary, Telemedicine Plan (AL); Ozone Water Project, Johnson County (AR); Dickenson County Kitchen Incubator (VA); Russell County Incubator (VA); Alleghany County Incubator (VA); Critical Rural Services Initiative, Alachua County (FL); NGWA, Well Inspector Training Program (IN); Riley Hospital for Children, Riley Connections (IN); Downtown renovation of the City of Henderson (NC); Water and wastewater system upgrades for Luray (VA); Water and wastewater system upgrades for Madison (VA); Water and wastewater system upgrades, Shenandoah (VA); Water and wastewater system upgrades, Stanley (VA); Community and Economic Assistance for Rappahannock County (VA); Braxton County Senior Center (WV); Handley Volunteer Fire Department

(WV); Kauai Bagasse to Ethanol Project (HI); Maui Cattle Industry Development (HI); Maui Community College SkyBridge (HI); Hawaiian Anti-Oxidant Extract from Fruit Wastes (HI); Anderson County Community Recreational Complex (KY); University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park (VI); Sewer System Repair (VI); Town of Coward (SC), Elevated Water Well Project; City of Orangeburg (SC), SCSU Water Tower; Town of Turbeville (SC), water and Wastewater Treatment System; Town of Andrews (SC), Water Project; City of Orangeburg Railroad Corner Project (SC); Backhoe for Healdton (OK); Construct Technology Transfer Center, Ardmore (OK); Construct Community Center Building, Lone Grove (OK); Construction of a Water Tower, Elgin (OK); Farm Research Center Outreach Program (IL); Rainsville AgriCenter (AL); Madison County Agricultural Facility (FL); Upgrade Water System, Raceland (KY); Upgrade Water System, Cynthiana (KY); Farmers' Market, Bath County (KY); City of Coburg Wastewater System (OR); Freer WCID Water Improvement Project (TX); Duval County C&R District Water Improvements (TX); Jim Hogg County WCID Water Improvement Program (TX); Butte County (CA) Interoperable Radio/Data System; Rural Manufacturing Initiative (PA); Storm Drainage Improvements, Northampton Co. (VA); Community and Economic Development in East Tennessee (TN); St. John's/New Madrid Floodway project in Southeast Missouri (MO); Rural Telecardiology, Erie (PA); Calexico Telemedicine Center (CA); Imperial Valley Sugarcane, Renewable Energy, Ethanol (CA); Environmental Technology Business Park (CA); Desert Farming Institute (CA); Neighborhood House of Calexico Youth Center (CA); Villalba's Water Improvement Project (PR); Wilkesboro/Kerr Scott Reservoir Intake Project (NC); Historic and Rural Development Initiative (NJ); Chesapeake Fields, Kent County (MD); Maryland Agriculture and Rural Development (MD); Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (VA); Algoma Marina Dredging Project (WI); Federal Forest Landfill Closure, Town of Blackwell (WI); Federal Forest Landfill Closure, Town of Laona (WI); Avondale Waste Water Treatment Facility Expansion (AZ); Energy Surety Development for Nogales (AZ); Hardee County, (FL) Fire Houses; North Port, (FL) Master Plan for Stormwater Quality; Desoto County, City of Arcadia, (FL) Wastewater Project; Hardee County, (FL) Potable Water System; Midland Keyston Opportunity zone sewage infrastructure (PA); Bloomington Township Fire Department to construct a burn building in McLean County (IL); (SD) Value Added Center, Beef Processing Facility; Ohio State University's 4–H Center (OH); (PA) Rural Manufacturing Initiative; Center for Dairy Excellence (PA); East Valley Water District (OR); Independence Telecommunications Enhancements (OR); City of Turner Reservoir Project (OR); Opal Creek Wilderness Area (OR); Vincennes University Agriculture Center Applied Technology (IN); (MD) Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative; Plant Bio-security in Urban environments (LA); Renovations to St. Helena Parish Courthouse (LA); community facilities in Dunmore Borough (PA); community development in Nanticoke City (PA); Town of Windermere (FL), Sewer Infrastructure; UW, River Falls Rural Urban Stewardship Initiative (WI); Statewide Rural Water Map (IL); Rural Partners, develop an Internet Web Portal (IL); Skagit

County's Fiber Optics Expansion (WA); Chariton Valley Biomass Project (IA); Redlands Community College (OK); City of Perkins Water Distribution System (OK); City of Perkins Storm Water System (OK); Virtual Learning Community, Classroom Project (CA); San Juan County Fire, EMS, and Rescue Building (UT); URDC's Woody Biomass Project (UT); Springhill (LA), Water System Improvement; Village of Simpson (LA), Water System Improvement; NSU (LA), Bridging the Gap in Education; Plattsburgh drinking water filtration plant (NY); Adirondack Champlain Fiber Network (NY); Village of Ellisburg, water storage project; Southeastern (NC) Agricultural Center; Red Hills Coop, Mobile Poultry Processing Unit (GA); New Iberia Recreational Community Center Complex (LA); Lafourche Regional Agriculture Center (LA); Grand Isle Multiplex Center (LA); Old Hastings Civic Center Upgrade Project; Wastewater Plant Rehabilitation and Maintenance (FL); (ME) Rural Economic Development Center; Universal Public Information Access Project (ME); Western Maine (ME) Entrepreneur Fund; Vandalia Heritage Foundation (WV); Canaan Valley Institute (WV); Marymount Distance Learning, Mentoring for Nurses (VA); Diabetes detection, prevention (WA/PA); Joslin Diabetes Center (WA); Northampton (MA) Fairgrounds; Springfield (MA) Public Market; Relocation of Holmes County (OH) fairgrounds; Kosair Hospital Telemedicine Rural Outreach Program (KY); International Agr-Center Education Facility (CA); Lindsay Wellness Center (CA); Tulare County Farm to Market Roads (CA); Breakwater Small Employer Healthcare Alliance (MN); Health Care Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (WI); Hospice Care of the Berkshires (MA); Avondale Waste Water Treatment Facility Expansion (AZ); Community Facility for Reserve (NM); Rural Community Development for Hurley (NM); Village of Columbus (NM); New Water Well, Town of Seminary (MS); Gas and Waterline extensions, Kemper County (MS); Water Plant Repair, City of Magnolia (MS); Agricultural Service Center, San Joaquin County (CA); Higginsport Sanitary Sewer Project (OH); St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington (WV); Little Colorado River Clean Up (AZ); White Mountain Apache North Fork Drinking Water (AZ); Holbrook Wastewater Sewer Interceptor (AZ); Canutillo Agricultural Science and Research Center (TX); Mill Creek of Arkansas (AR); NE Organic Fanning Association of Vermont (VT) Fanners' Market; Rural Manufacturing Initiative (PA); Bedford County Emergency Communications System (PA); City of Bald Knob (AR), Downtown Improvements; Petersburg Water Project in Mahoning County (OH); State Route 45 Waterline in Columbiana County (OH); Gallipolis (OH) Spruce St Waterline Improvement; Township of L'Anse Water and Sewer Project (MI); Spies Field, Menominee Recreational Facilities (MI); Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (MI); City of Munising Water and Sewer Improvement (MI); Intermediary Relending Program funds for Northern Initiatives, Marquette (MI); Adirondack Community Information Centers (NY); Buncombe County Emergency Operations Center (NC); Industrial Opportunities, Inc., Facility Expansion (NC); Graham County Emergency Services Facility (NC); Foothills Industries Blow Molding Operations (NC); Winters Library (CA); Laytonville Wastewater Treatment (CA); Water Storage Tank for Trinidad (CA); Aullwood Farm Rooted in the Future Initiative

(OH); Port of Morrow Roof Rehabilitation (OR); EOU High School Outreach (OR); Eastern Oregon Center for Regional Economic Study (OR); Highland View Project in Oak Ridge (TN); Cumberland Gap (TN) Wastewater Improvement; Dandridge (TN) wastewater improvements; Bradley County (TN) Hiw'assee Utility Commission Water; Dayton (TN) Phase II wastewater treatment expansion; Sandoval Health Commons (NM); and Alpha Pump Station Photovoltaic Retrofit (CA).

The Committee expects the Under Secretary to approve these projects only when such applications are judged to be meritorious when subject to established review procedures.

It has come to the Committee's attention that the Hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) in 2004 and tornadoes in 2005 have combined to cause significant damage and loss throughout the South, and in particular Southern Georgia. Families and businesses have been displaced and local rural communities are increasingly unable to address the housing and related losses of those affected. The Committee directs the Department to assess the cumulative effects of these storms, and give these communities priority consideration in the funding of housing reclamation projects, including Seminole County, Miller County, and Wayne County, Georgia ravaged by recent catastrophic weather events.

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$710,321,000
2006 budget estimate	521,689,000
Provided in the bill	657,389,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−52,932,000
2006 budget estimate	+135,700,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Community Advancement Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $657,389,000, a decrease of $52,932,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $135,700,000 above the budget request.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations as compared to the budget request:

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

[Budget authority in thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimated	Committee provisions
Community facilities:			
Community facility direct loans	$12,150	$10,050	$10,050
Community facility guaranteed loans	189	756	756
Community facility grants	$19,678	17,000	17,000
Rural community development initiative	6,299	0	6,200
Other	50,151	0	4,000
Rescission	713	0	0
Subtotal, Community facilities	89,180	27,806	38,006
Business:			
Business and industry loans:			
Guaranteed	29,939	44,221	44,221
Rural business enterprise grants	39,680	0	40,000

RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM—Continued

[Budget authority in thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimated	Committee provisions
Rural business opportunity grants	2,976	0	3,000
Other	992	0	1,000
Rescission	593	0	0
Subtotal, business	74,180	44,221	88,221
Utilities:			
Water and waste disposal loans:			
Direct	89,280	69,100	69,100
Water and waste disposal grants	431,078	377,062	457,062
Solid waste management grants	3,472	3,500	3,500
Emergency community water assistance grants	22,949	0	0
Other	1,488	0	1,500
Rescission	4,422	0	0
Subtotal, utilities	552,689	449,662	531,162
Rescission	5,728	0	0
Total, loans and grants	$710,321	$521,689	$657,389

The following earmarks are included in bill language for the Rural Community Advancement Program: $1,000,000 is for grants to nonprofit organizations to finance construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually-owned household water well systems in rural areas; $500,000 is for revolving funds for financing water and wastewater projects; $24,000,000 for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, of which $4,000,000 is for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, and of which $250,000 is for transportation technical assistance; $6,200,000 is for the Rural Community Development Initiative; $500,000 for rural transportation technical assistance; $1,000,000 is for grants to Mississippi Delta Region counties; $25,000,000 is for water and waste disposal systems in the Colonias; $17,500,000 is for technical assistance for rural water and waste systems; $14,000,000 is for a circuit rider program; and $21,367,000 for empowerment zones and enterprise communities (EZ/EC) and communities designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, of which $1,067,000 is for community facilities, of which $12,000,000 shall be for rural utilities programs, and of which $8,300,000 shall be for the rural business and cooperative development programs.

Rural Community Assistance Programs.—The Committee directs that, of the funds provided for rural waste systems, $5,600,000 is designated for the Rural Community Assistance Programs.

The Committee expects the Department to coordinate with the Foundation for Affordable Drinking Water to carry out the provisions of section 7 U.S.C. 1926e of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

The Committee expects the Department to carry out the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B) to coordinate with groups who have expertise in operating revolving funds similar to that authorized under 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2), including Rural Community Assistance Programs.

The Committee encourages the Rural Business-Cooperative Service to promulgate regulations to implement an annual guarantee fee for business and industry loans guaranteed under section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. This annual fee will allow this guarantee loan program to more effectively use its budget authority.

The Committee is concerned that a final rule and implementation of the Household Water Well System Grant Program has not been completed. Funding for this program was made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–199), and became effective on January 23, 2004. Additional funding for this program was made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 (Public Law 108–447). The Committee directs the Department to promptly publish a final rule and implement the Household Water Well System Grant Program. The Committee also directs the Department to provide a report to the Committee regarding the status and publication of a final rule by July 15, 2005.

The committee encourages the Department to provide a rural business opportunity grant for the Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone to coordinate and facilitate local community development projects in Tioga County, New York.

The committee expects the Department to continue Rural Community Advancement Program predevelopment planning grants.

The Committee encourages the Rural Utilities Service to continue a partnership with the Kentucky PRIDE program in providing technical expertise and program guidelines.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 estimate	*FY 2006 estimate*	*Committee provisions*
Appropriations	$147,264	$167,849	$152,623
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account	444,755	465,886	455,242
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	37,971	39,933	38,907
Rural Telephone Bank Program Account	3,127	2,500	2,500
Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account	4,281	6,656	4,719
Total, RD Salaries and Expenses	$637,398	$682,824	653,991

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Salaries and Expenses of the Rural Development mission areas, the Committee provides an appropriation of $152,623,000, an increase of $5,359,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $15,226,000 below the budget request.

The Committee is concerned by the delay in receiving requested information on the consolidation of St. Louis Rural Development activities at the Goodfellow facility. The Committee directs the De-

partment to provide a report on the total cost of the consolidation and what expenses the General Services Administration and Rural Development will be funding prior to July 15, 2005.

The Committee includes $200,000 for the National Groundwater Association to fund a pilot program involving inspector training and certification relative to proper well construction, maintenance, sampling and ensuring the overall safety of private wells in rural areas.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVELS

2005 loan levels	$4,683,277,000
2006 budget estimate	4,965,577,000
Provided in the bill	5,079,349,000
Comparison:	
2005 loan level	+396,072,000
2006 budget estimate	+113,772,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account, the Committee provides a loan level of $5,079,349,000, an increase of $396,072,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $113,772,000 above the budget request.

The following table reflects the loan levels for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account:

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loans and Grant:			
Single family housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	$1,140,800	$1,000,000	$1,140,799
Unsubsidized guaranteed	3,282,823	3,681,033	3,681,033
Rental housing (sec. 515)	99,200	27,027	100,000
Multi-family guaranteed (sec. 538)	99,200	200,000	100,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	34,720	35,969	35,969
Credit sales of acquired property	11,489	11,500	11,500
Housing site development (sec. 524)	5,045	5,000	5,000
Self-help housing land development fund	10,000	5,048	5,048
Total, Loan authorization	$4,683,277	$4,965,577	$5,079,349

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account (loan subsidies):			
Single family housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	$132,105	$113,900	$129,937
Unsubsidized guaranteed	33,339	40,900	40,900
Rental housing (sec. 515)	46,713	12,400	45,880
Multi-family guaranteed (sec. 538)	3,462	10,840	5,420
Housing repair (sec. 504)	10,090	10,521	10,521
Credit sales of acquired property	721	681	681
Housing site development (sec. 524)			
Self-help housing land development fund		52	52

[In thousands of dollars]

	FY 2005 level	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Total, Loan subsidies	$226,430	$189,294	$233,391
RHIF expenses:			
Administrative expenses	$444,755	$465,886	455,242

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$587,264,000
2006 budget estimate	650,026,000
Provided in the bill	650,026,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+62,762,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rental Assistance Program, the Committee provides a program level of $650,026,000, an increase of $62,762,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	$214,000,000
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	– – –
2006 budget estimate	–214,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The recommendation does not include $214,000,000 for the Rural Housing Voucher Program, as proposed in the President's budget. The Administration has not yet submitted a legislative proposal to Congress for this program. The Committee does not recommend establishing such program in annual appropriations acts, but will consider such program should they achieve authorization.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$33,728,000
2006 budget estimate	34,000,000
Provided in the bill	34,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+272,000
2006 budget estimate	– – –

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $34,000,000, an increase of $272,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$43,640,000
2006 budget estimate	41,000,000
Provided in the bill	41,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−2,640,000
2006 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Housing Assistance Grants program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $41,000,000, a decrease of $2,640,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request. The appropriated amount includes $1,000,000 for supervisory and technical assistance.

FARM LABOR PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Loan level	Subsidy level	Grants
2005 appropriation	$38,192	17,973	15,872
2006 budget estimate	42,000	18,728	14,000
Provided in the bill	42,000	18,728	14,000
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	+3,808	+755	−1,872
2006 budget estimate	− − −	− − −	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Farm Labor program account, the Committee provides a loan subsidy of $18,728,000, which supports a loan level of $42,000,000, an increase of $755,000 in loan subsidy and an increase of $3,808,000 in loan level above the amount available in fiscal year 2005, and the same amount in loan subsidy and loan level as the budget request.

The Committee also provides $14,000,000 in grants, a decrease of $1,872,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVEL

2004 loan level	$33,939,000
2006 budget estimate	34,212,000
Provided in the bill	34,212,000
Comparison:	
2004 loan level	+273,000
2006 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Committee provides for a loan level of $34,212,000, an increase of $273,000 above the amount provided for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

	Direct loan subsidy	*Administrative expenses*
2005 appropriation	$15,741,000	$4,281,000
2006 budget estimate	14,718,000	6,656,000
Provided in the bill	14,718,000	4,719,000
Comparison:		
2005 appropriation	−1,023,000	+438,000
2006 budget estimates	− − −	−1,937,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the estimated loan subsidy, the Committee provides an appropriation of $14,718,000, a decrease of $1,023,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee also provides $4,719,000 in administrative expenses, an increase of $438,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $1,937,000 below the budget request.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVEL

2004 loan level	$24,803,000
2006 budget estimate	25,003,000
Provided in the bill	25,003,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+200,000
2006 budget estimate	− − −

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Economic Development Loans program account, the Committee provides for a loan level of $25,003,000, an increase of $200,000 above the amount provided for fiscal year 2005, and the same as the budget request.

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY

2005 appropriation	[1] $4,660,000
2006 budget estimate	[1] 4,993,000
Provided in the bill	[1] 4,993,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+333,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

[1] Offset by a rescission from interest on the cushion of credit payments, as authorized by section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the estimated loan subsidy, the Committee provides an appropriation of $4,993,000, an increase of $333,000 above the amount provided for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$23,808,000
2006 budget estimate	21,000,000
Provided in the bill	24,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+192,000
2006 budget estimate	+3,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Rural Cooperative Development Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $24,000,000, an increase of $192,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $3,000,000 above the budget request.

Of the funds provided, not to exceed $2,500,000 is provided for a cooperative agreement for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program through a cooperative agreement with the National Center for Appropriate Technology, and $15,500,000 is for value-added market development grants.

The Committee encourages the Department to continue the Agriculture Innovations Center Program in the Rural Business-Cooperative Service. The program has provided assistance to farmers in value-added agriculture production and marketing.

RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$12,400,000
2006 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	10,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	−2,400,000
2006 budget estimate	+10,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Grants, the Committee provides an appropriation of $10,000,000, a decrease of $2,400,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $10,000,000 above the budget request.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$22,816,000
2006 budget estimate	10,000,000
Provided in the bill	23,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+184,000
2006 budget estimate	+13,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Renewable Energy Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $23,000,000, an increase of $184,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $13,000,000 above the budget request.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVEL

2005 loan level	$4,835,440,000
2006 budget estimate	3,190,000,000
Provided in the bill	4,994,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+158,560,000
2006 budget estimate	+1,804,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The following table reflects the loan levels for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program account:

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Loan authorizations:			
Electric:			
Direct, 5%	$119,040	$100,000	$100,000
Direct, Municipal rate	99,200	100,000	100,000
Direct, FFB	2,000,000	1,620,000	2,000,000
Direct, Treasury Rate	1,000,000	700,000	1,000,000
Guaranteed electric	99,200	- - -	100,000
Guaranteed underwriting	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Subtotal	4,317,440	2,520,000	4,300,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, 5%	145,000	145,000	145,000
Direct, Treasury rate	248,000	425,000	424,000
Direct, FFB	125,000	100,000	125,000
Subtotal	518,000	670,000	694,000
Total, Loan authorizations	$4,835,440	$3,190,000	$4,994,000

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Loan subsidies:			
Electric:			
Direct, 5%	$3,619	$920	$920
Direct, Municipal rate	1,339	5,050	5,050
Direct, Treasury rate	0	70	100
Guaranteed Electric	60	0	90
Subtotal	5,018	6,040	6,160
Telecommunications:			
Direct, Treasury rate	99	212	212
Subtotal	99	212	212
Total, Loan subsidies	$5,117	$6,252	$6,372

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
E & T expenses:			
Administrative expenses	$37,971	$39,933	$38,907

The Committee recommendation includes a general provision to limit RUS from drafting or implementing any regulation or rule insofar as it would require recertification of rural status for each electric and telecommunications borrower for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program. The Committee is concerned by the Departments proposal to change the long-standing practice of the "Once Rural, Always Rural" principle.

RURAL TELEPHONE BANK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ESTIMATED LOAN LEVEL

2005 loan level	$175,000,000
2006 budget estimate	0
Provided in the bill	0
Comparison:	
2005 loan level	−175,000,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Rural Telephone Bank Program, the Committee does not provide for a loan level, which is a decrease of $175,000,000 below the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee does not include the provision from the fiscal year 2005 bill which limits the retirement of the Class A stock of the Rural Telephone Bank.

ESTIMATED LOAN SUBSIDY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LEVELS

	Direct loan subsidy	*Administrative expenses*
2005 appropriation		$3,127,000
2006 budget estimate		[1] 2,500,000
Provided in the bill		[2] 2,500,000
Comparison:		
2005 appropriation		−627,000
2006 budget estimate		- - -

[1] Offset by a transfer of unobligated balances from the RTB Liquidating account.
[2] Offset by a rescission of unobligated balances from the RTB Liquidating account.

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee provides $2,500,000 in administrative expenses, a decrease of $627,000 below the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

	Loan level	*Subsidy level*	*Grants*
2005 appropriation	$595,600,000	$12,325,000	$43,648,000
2006 budget estimate	358,875,000	9,973,000	25,000,000
Provided in the bill	513,860,000	10,723,000	34,000,000
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	−81,740,000	−1,602,000	−9,648,000
2006 budget estimates	+154,985,000	+750,000	+9,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, the Committee provides an appropriation of $44,723,000, a decrease of $11,250,000 below the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $9,750,000 above the budget request, including $750,000 for Distance Learning and Telemedicine loan subsidy, which supports a loan level of $50,000,000; $25,000,000 for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants; $9,973,000 for Broadband Telecommunications loan subsidy, which supports a loan level of $463,860,000; and $9,000,000 for Broadband Grants.

TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

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

2005 appropriation	$590,000
2006 budget estimate	599,000
Provided in the bill	599,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+9,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, the Committee provides an appropriation of $599,000, an increase of $9,000 above the amount provided in fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

Buy American.—The Committee is concerned that foreign agricultural products are being purchased at the local level for use in the National School Lunch Program. The Committee urges the Department to implement a Buy American procurement-training program for state and local administrators.

Pilot Study.—The Committee encourages the Food and Nutrition Service to conduct a pilot study, in all or part of 5 States, as authorized by section 124 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

	Direct appropriation	*Transfer from section 32*	*Total program level*
2005 appropriation	$6,629,038,000	$5,152,962,000	$11,782,000,000
2006 budget estimate	7,304,207,000	5,111,820,000	12,416,027,000
Provided in the bill	7,224,406,000	5,187,621,000	12,412,027,000
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	+595,368,000	+34,659,000	+630,027,000
2006 budget estimate	−79,801,000	+75,801,000	−4,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Child Nutrition Programs, the Committee provides a total of $12,412,027,000, an increase of $630,027,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $4,000,000 below the budget request. Of the total amount provided, $7,224,406,000 is by direct appropriation and $5,187,621,000 is by transfer from Section 32.

Child Nutrition Programs:

[Dollars in thousands]

School lunch program	$7,194,237
School breakfast program	2,030,357
Child and adult care food program	2,174,293
Summer food service program	298,364
Special milk program	14,819
State administrative expenses	156,061
Commodity procurement	518,206
School meals initiative	10,025
Food safety education	1,000
Coordinated review effort	5,235
Computer support and processing	9,373
Program pay cost	57
Total	12,412,027

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

2005 appropriation	$5,235,032,000
2006 budget estimate	5,510,000,000
Provided in the bill	5,257,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+21,968,000
2006 budget estimate	−253,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,257,000,000, an increase of $21,968,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $253,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is $5,257,000,000. The Committee notes that since the budget request was submitted last February, estimates for participation and food costs in the WIC program have declined for fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006. In fiscal year 2006, there are estimated to be 300,000 fewer participants a month and the average food cost per person per month has decreased by twenty-one cents. The Office of Management and Budget has notified the Committee that the budget request is higher than estimated program needs. Therefore, the recommended funding level, although below the budget request, is currently estimated to be sufficient to meet program needs. However, the Committee will continue to monitor WIC food costs and participation, and take additional action as necessary to ensure that the funding provided in fiscal year 2006 is sufficient to serve all eligible applicants.

In addition, the Committee notes that $125,000,000 is available in the contingency fund in fiscal year 2006.

The recommended funding level includes $15,000,000 for continuation of the breastfeeding peer counselor program.

The Committee has concerns about the need for the Department's request of $3,000,000 for the evaluation and research of program cost containment strategies. In May 2003, the Economic Research Service published an Assessment of WIC Cost-Containment Practices. The Committee encourages FNS and ERS to explore po-

tential research needs in support of vendor cost-containment policies. The Committee recommendation does not include funds for an evaluation of cost containment strategies.

The Committee does not include the provision, as requested, that requires funding for nutrition services and administration grants to States be capped at 25 percent of the total amount provided.

The Committee includes language, as requested by the Administration, that provides guidance that funds under this heading shall not be used for WIC benefits for individuals who receive medical assistance or whose family member is a pregnant woman or infant who receives assistance, unless it falls below 250 percent of the applicable poverty guidelines.

Electronic Benefit Transfer.—The Committee recommendation includes language to allow funds to be used for WIC electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems and sets the authorized level of infrastructure funding at $13,600,000, which includes funding to develop EBT systems.

WIC Services and Referrals.—While the Committee supports State and local agency efforts to utilize WIC as a means of participation referral to other health care services, it also recognizes the constraints that WIC programs experience as a result of expanding health care priorities and continuing demand for core WIC program activities. The Committee wishes to clarify that while WIC plays an important role in screening and referral to other health care services, it is not the Committee's intention that WIC should perform aggressive screening, referral and assessment functions in a manner that supplants the responsibilities of other programs, nor should WIC State and local agencies assume the burden of entering into and negotiating appropriate cost sharing agreements. The committee again includes language in the bill to preserve WIC funding for WIC services authorized by law to ensure that WIC funds are not used to pay the expenses or to coordinate operations or activities other than those allowable pursuant to section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, unless fully reimbursed by the appropriate Federal agency.

Food Prescription Package.—The Committee directs the Department to move expeditiously in consultation with WIC agencies to develop for public comment a food prescription rule responding to the needs of the WIC population and to provide a report to the Committee regarding the status and publication of a final rule prior to February 1, 2006.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$35,154,554,000
2006 budget estimate	40,711,395,000
Provided in the bill	40,711,395,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+5,556,841,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Food Stamp Program, the Committee provides $40,711,395,000, an increase of $5,556,841,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request. The total amount includes $3,000,000,000 for a contin-

gency reserve in fiscal year 2006; $1,535,796,000 for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and American Samoa; and $140,000,000 for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2005 appropriation	$177,367,000
2006 budget estimate	177,935,000
Provided in the bill	178,797,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+1,430,000
2006 budget estimate	+862,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee provides an appropriation of $178,797,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program, an increase of $1,430,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $862,000 above the budget request.

The recommended funding level for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is $107,716,000, an increase of $862,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and above the budget request. The Committee notes that approximately $6,020,000 in commodity inventory is expected to be available to the CSFP in fiscal year 2006, making the total available for the program approximately $113,736,000.

The Committee has included $50,000,000 for administration of TEFAP, an increase of $400,000 above the amount available in fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request. These funds may be used for administration purposes or for food costs at the discretion of the States. In addition, the Committee recommendation includes a general provision that allows the Secretary to transfer up to $10,000,000 of TEFAP commodity funding to processing, storage, and distribution costs.

For the Food Donations Programs the Committee provides an appropriation of $1,081,000 for Pacific Island Assistance, an increase of $9,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.—The Committee recommendation includes $20,000,000 for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, an increase of $160,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same as the budget request.

Seniors Farmers' Market Program.—Public Law 107–171, Section 4402, directs mandatory funding for this program from funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation. The funding level is $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

2005 appropriation	$138,818,000
2006 budget estimate	140,761,000
Provided in the bill	140,761,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+1,943,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Nutrition Programs Administration, the Committee has provided $140,761,000, an increase of $1,943,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

The Committee directs the Department to promptly publish interim final regulations regarding WIC vendor cost containment, as described in the legislative history of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act. In the event the Department should fail to publish such regulations before the enactment of this Act, the Committee has provided an extension of the moratorium on authorization of new "WIC-only" stores until the issuance of vendor cost containment regulations. This moratorium is not intended to restrict the transfer or relocation of existing "WIC-only" stores or prevent authorization of stores that are not expected to increase program cost.

TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

[Dollars in thousands]

	Appropriation	*Transfer from loan accounts*	*Total, FAS*
2005 appropriation	$136,719	($4,482)	($141,201)
2006 budget estimate	148,792	(3,608)	(152,400)
Provided in the bill	148,224	(3,608)	(151,832)
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	+11,505	−874	+10,631
2006 budget estimate	−568	- - -	−568

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Committee provides an appropriation of $148,224,000 and transfers of $3,608,000, for a total salaries and expenses level of $151,832,000, an increase of $10,631,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $568,000 below the budget request.

The Committee recommendation includes: $2,311,000 for pay cost; $1,200,000 for ICASS; $4,000,000 to offset the increased costs in overseas currency rates; $300,000 for FAS to promote American agricultural products in Baghdad; $951,000 for Title I administration; and $2,743,000 for the capital surcharge being levied on the Foreign Agricultural Service by the State Department.

The Committee recommendation includes $600,000, the same as fiscal year 2005, for technical assistance for the promotion of specialty crop exports.

The Committee has included language that allows for the use of not more than $5,000,000 of funds transferred to the Foreign Agricultural Service from the Commodity Credit Corporation for Information Resource Management requirements.

The Trade Assistance Act for Farmers requires that technical assistance be provided to farmers negatively impacted by imports. This technical assistance is an education program that helps farmers develop marketing opportunities, increase production efficiency and seek alternatives to offset losses created by imports. The Committee directs that from the funds made available by the Trade Adjustment Act that $3,000,000 be available to the Digital Center for Risk Management Education to coordinate an intensive technical assistance program for farmers.

PUBLIC LAW 480

PROGRAM AND GRANT ACCOUNTS

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 envisioned the use of USDA commodity monetization programs to support rural electrification development in developing countries carried out with the help of the international assistance program of U.S. rural electric cooperatives. The Committee considers it an important and necessary step to integrate the successful U.S. rural electrification experience as a component of on-going USDA assistance to food-aid recipient countries in order to help them overcome chronic conditions of hunger and poverty and, over the long term, to reduce their dependency on feeding assistance programs from the U.S. and other donor nations.

The following table reflects the loan levels, subsidy levels, and administrative costs for all Public Law 480 programs:

[Dollars in thousands]

	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 estimate	Committee provisions
Public Law 480 Program Account:			
Title I—Credit sales:			
Direct loans	($109,000)	($74,032)	($74,032)
Loan subsidies	93,444	65,040	65,040
Ocean freight differential	22,541	11,940	11,940
Title II—Commodities for disposition abroad:			
Program level	(1,173,041)	(885,000)	(1,107,094)
Appropriation	1,173,041	885,000	1,107,094
Salaries and expenses:			
FAS	1,088	168	168
FSA	2,914	3,217	3,217
Total, P.L. 480–S&E	4,002	3,385	3,385

Funds interchange.—The Committee has included bill language providing that funds made available for the cost of title I agreements and for title I ocean freight differential may be used interchangeably.

CCC EXPORT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2005 appropriation	$4,388,000
2006 budget estimate	5,279,000
Provided in the bill	5,279,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+891,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For administrative expenses of the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account, the Committee provides an appropriation of $5,279,000, an increase of $891,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and the same amount as the budget request.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

2005 appropriation	$86,800,000
2006 budget estimate	100,000,000
Provided in the bill	100,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+13,200,000
2006 budget estimate	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants, as authorized by Section 3107 of P.L. 107–171 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1), the Committee provides an appropriation of $100,000,000, an increase of $13,200,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005, and the same amount as the budget request.

TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

	Appropriation	*Drug, device and animal drug user fees*	*Total, FDA, S&E*
2005 appropriation	$1,450,098,000	$326,686,000	$1,776,784,000
2006 budget estimate	1,492,726,000	356,950,000	1,849,676,000
Provided in the bill	1,480,978,000	356,950,000	1,837,928,000
Comparison:			
2005 appropriation	+30,880,000	+30,264,000	+61,144,000
2006 budget estimate	−11,748,000	- - -	−11,748,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

The Committee recommendation includes $1,837,928,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration. Of the total, $1,480,978,000 is provided in budget authority, and the Committee makes available $305,332,000 in prescription drug user fees, $40,300,000 in medical device user fees and $11,318,000 in animal drug user fees. The budget authority provided is $30,880,000 over the fiscal year 2005 level, and $11,748,000 under the budget request.

Included in this funding level are increases of $5,000,000 for the Office of Drug Safety and $5,996,000 for medical device review, as requested; and an increase of $12,442,000 for food safety and counter-terrorism activities. Within the total amount for the agency, not less than $486,511,000 in budget authority and $9,869,000 in user fees are made available for field activities conducted by the Office of Regulatory Affairs. The Committee assumes a cut of $6,670,000 from FDA's base resources, as proposed in the President's budget.

The Committee directs that within the amount provided for food safety and counter-terrorism activities, priority should be given to maintaining existing personnel and operations that are critical to ensuring the safety of domestic and imported food, rather than funding new functions, grants, or agreements.

Within the amount provided for Other Activities in the Act, $36,330,000 is for the Office of the Commissioner, $51,172,000 is for the Office of Management, $11,014,000 is for the Office of External Relations, $11,720,000 is for the Office of Policy and Planning, and $6,823,000 is for central services for the Offices in this account. The Committee notes that funds for these Offices, as well as for the other activities, programs, or projects named in this Act, are subject to the requirements of Section 718 of this Act.

Drug Safety.—The Committee provides all budget authority requested, $22,900,000 for the Office of Drug Safety, as well as full funding for the patient safety function within the agency, which totals nearly $70,000,000. In addition, $13,100,000 in user fees is made available for patient safety, of which $10,500,000 is for the Office of Drug Safety. The Committee is extremely concerned about this issue, and expects to receive, at a minimum, quarterly reports from the agency on the situation, including, but not limited to: the status and results of the Institute of Medicine study regarding drug safety issues and FDA effectiveness; planned changes within FDA related to drug safety, including review processes or reprogrammings; plans for external review; and new initiatives, including education efforts or labeling changes.

The Committee provides an additional $5,000,000 for the Drugs Program, and directs FDA to use these funds for the highest priority drug safety needs. For these funds and those provided for the Office of Drug Safety, the Committee requires a detailed spending plan within 30 days of enactment.

Generic Drugs.—The base funding includes not less than $56,228,000 in funding for the Generic Drugs Program. This is a vital program and the Committee is concerned that its potential as part of the solution to high quality and affordable health care is not realized.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalophathy (BSE).—The Committee provides the total amount requested, $29,566,000 for BSE prevention activities, primarily to continue enforcement of the 1997 feed ban.

Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring.—The Committee believes that the National Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) program is critical to public health surveillance and encourages FDA to provide funding to USDA (the animal arm) at a level equal to the total for FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the human arm). The Committee expects that the agencies will coordinate their activities and directs that an Executive Summary of 2004 NARMS data and a preliminary report on 2005 data be sent to the Committee by March 1, 2006. The summary should present findings of all three components in a format that is accessible to users of the data. The Committee directs that FDA perform a review of all components of the NARMS program to analyze whether the arms of the program remain scientifically sound and relevant to public health, the criteria utilized to evaluate the program, and what is needed to make the NARMS program complete.

Pediatric Use of HIV Vaccines.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that promising HIV/AIDS vaccines are tested in infants and youth as early as is medically and ethically appropriate. The Committee requests that the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, in consultation with appropriate public and private entities, consider the logistical, regulatory, medical and ethical issues presented by pediatric testing of these vaccines so that children can share in the benefit of any advances in vaccines research. The Committee urges FDA to issue guidance not later than six months after enactment of this Act on the minimum requirements for obtaining approval of the Food and Drug Administration to test an HIV vaccine in pediatric populations and the

minimum requirements for obtaining Food and Drug Administration approval of a pediatric indication of an HIV vaccine.

Abuse of Prescription Drugs.—The Committee is interested in the potential benefit from FDA's development of procedures for the processing and review of applications for approval for abuse-resistant formulations of schedule II painkillers and other prescription drugs currently on the market.

The Committee notes that FDA priority review can be granted in cases in which the drug product "would be a significant improvement compared to marketed products . . . in the treatment, diagnosis, or prevention of a disease" including "elimination or substantial reduction of a treatment-limiting drug reaction". The Committee requests FDA to report on whether a drug less prone to abuse would be considered under that provision, and if so, how many drugs were considered under the provision due to less potential for abuse, and granted priority status.

Additionally, FDA should take all appropriate steps to ensure that health care providers and patients are given all relevant information concerning the abuse-resistant qualities of safer drugs. Providers and patients alike will benefit from the expedited review of safer drugs, as well as the provision of information that accurately differentiates abuse-resistant formulations.

Women's health.—The Committee recommendation includes not less than $4,000,000 for the Office of Women's Health. The Committee continues to be committed to this function, and in particular activities related to cardiovascular disease in women and the hormone therapy education program.

Orphan products.—The Committee directs that no less than $15,000,000 be available for grants and contracts awarded under section 5 of the Orphan Drug Act, the same amount as fiscal year 2005.

Rent and related activities.—The Committee provides $21,974,000 in budget authority, an increase of $4,128,000, for relocation costs to the White Oak, Maryland, facility as requested.

Financial management.—In the fiscal year 2005 appropriations Act, Congress directed that the funding level for the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) was at the same level as in fiscal year 2004. In response to the Questions for Record submitted to the Committee in April 2005, FDA reports that spending for the UFMS was $9,389,000 in fiscal year 2004 and is expected to be $13,582,000 in fiscal year 2005, a 45 percent increase. The Committee has not received the required notification of this increase. For fiscal year 2006, the Committee directs that no more than $9,389,000 is available for UFMS, and requires a quarterly report on the expenditures. The Committee reiterates that any additional costs for this purpose, either direct or by transfer, are subject to approval by the Committee.

Human resources.—The Committee requests a report within 60 days of enactment regarding the DHHS human resource consolidation including: total FDA obligations; an update on the performance metrics specified in the service level agreement between FDA and DHHS; a description of any cases in which the performance measures were not met during fiscal year 2005, and the resolution

of those cases; and a list of the DHHS operating divisions that are participating in the consolidation.

Consolidation.—The Committee directs DHHS to include all future consolidations that impact FDA in the President's budget request submitted to Congress.

Fees.—The Committee directs that none of the funds made available to FDA in this bill be for any assessments, fees, or charges by DHHS or any other Department or Office unless such assessments, fees, or charges are identified in the FDA budget justification and expressly provided by Congress, or approved by Congress in the official reprogramming process as required in the General Provisions of this bill.

Shellfish safety.—The Committee expects that FDA will continue its work with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission (ISSC) to promote educational and research activities related to shellfish safety in general, and Vibrio vulnificus in particular. The Committee directs the use of not less than $250,000 for this effort. In addition, the Committee expects that FDA will continue its work with ISSC through a memorandum of understanding, and that FDA will devote not less than $200,000 to that work. The Committee expects the FDA to require all states to work cooperatively in conformity with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program implemented by the ISSC.

Food safety.—The Committee recognizes the contributions which the National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST) is making toward ensuring the security of the nation's food supply. The Committee directs that FDA continue to provide $3,000,000 to NCFST through the cooperative agreement. The $3,000,000 in funding shall be exclusive of any additional initiative funds that FDA may award to NCFST.

Test method evaluation.—The Committee directs that the agency continue its contract to conduct method evaluation of rapid test methods of fresh fruits and vegetables for microbiological pathogens with New Mexico State University's Physical Science Laboratory at the fiscal year 2005 level.

WERC.—The Committee expects the FDA to continue its support for the Waste Management Education and Research Consortium (WERC) and its work in food safety technology verification and education at the fiscal year 2005 level.

Antibiotics in shrimp imports.—The Committee continues to have serious concerns regarding seafood safety issues posed by banned antibiotic contamination in farm-raised shrimp imports. It is the Committee's understanding that FDA is now using testing methods that detect chloramphenicol at 0.3 parts per billion, rather than 1 part per billion. The Committee recommends that the FDA, in cooperation with any state testing programs, continue testing of farm-raised shrimp imports for chloramphenicol and other related harmful antibiotics used in the aquaculture industry and ensure that any adulterated shrimp that tests positive for chloramphenicol or other banned antibiotics will be destroyed or exported from the United States. The Committee requests a report by March 1, 2006, on the number of shrimp samples tested for antibiotics, and the number of positive tests for chloramphenicol in fiscal years 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006.

Food Labels.—The Committee is interested in ensuring that the public can be certain that the Nutrition Facts panel on food products reflects accurate, lawful and factual nutritional information, particularly as it relates to the New Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005. Given the important nature of the information provided on the food label, the Committee is concerned that consumers may be faced with illegal low calorie claims, healthy claims and heart health claims. Additionally, there may be product names that violate the standards of identity for particular products. Consumers need to know that they can trust the accuracy of food labels. The Committee, therefore, directs the Agency to systematically examine Nutrition Facts labels, and report to the Committee by February 1, 2006, with a summary of the types of labeling violations discovered, and the actions taken to address such violations.

Regulation development.—The Committee understands that FDA and FSIS are working on rules related to sausage casings and the small intestine of cattle. The Committee is concerned about the availability of this material, which has not been categorized as a specified risk material. The Committee directs the agency to proceed on rulemaking in a timely manner, and to report to the Committee within 30 days of enactment on the regulatory status of sausage casings/small intestines and on related guidance for the Field force.

Hearing on budget request.—The Committee has taken the step of withholding five percent of the funds provided to the central offices at FDA until there is a public hearing with the head of the agency on the fiscal year 2006 budget request. The Committee appreciates the willingness of the agency's head to present the budget request in March 2005, and regrets that the administration insisted on postponing his scheduled appearance. The Committee wants to make it clear to the administration that it will insist on a hearing with the agency's head before providing it the funds requested in the budget.

Direct to consumer advertising.—The Committee provides an increase of $884,000 for the review of direct-to-consumer drug ads. Because staff levels for these activities, under the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising and Communication in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research in FDA, have remained flat for some time, despite the growth of direct to consumer ads, the Committee believes this increase is needed.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

2005 appropriation	- - -
2006 budget estimate	$7,000,000
Provided in the bill	5,000,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+5,000,000
2006 budget estimate	−2,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Buildings and Facilities of the Food and Drug Administration, the Committee provides $5,000,000.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

2005 appropriation	$93,572,000
2006 budget estimate	99,386,000
Provided in the bill	98,386,000
Comparison:	
2005 appropriation	+4,814,000
2006 budget estimate	−1,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Committee provides an appropriation of $98,386,000, an increase of $4,814,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and a decrease of $1,000,000 below the budget request.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

2004 limitation	($42,350,000)
2006 budget estimate	- - -
Provided in the bill	(44,250,000)
Comparison:	
2004 limitation	+1,900,000
2006 budget estimate	+44,250,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For a limitation on the expenses of the Farm Credit Administration, the Committee provides $44,250,000, an increase of $1,900,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2005 and an increase of $44,250,000 above the budget request.

TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS

The General Provisions contained in the accompanying bill for fiscal year 2005 are fundamentally the same as those included in last year's appropriations bill.

Section 719: Language is included to prohibit funds from being used to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.

Section 722: Language is included that provides $2,500,000 for a hunger fellowship program.

Section 723: Language is included that provides that any balances available to carry out Title III of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, and any recoveries and reimbursements that become available, may be used to carry out Title II of such Act. Funds were last appropriated for Title III programming in FY 2000. However, there are Title III balances remaining of less than $500,000. This provision allows remaining Title III account balances to be used for Title II programming since no new Title III programming is anticipated. This provision will allow the use of remaining Title III balances for Title II even though Section 412 of P.L. 480 provides that only 50 percent of the funds available for Title III may be used to carry out Title II.

Section 724: Language is included that amends Section 375(e)(6)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act regarding the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center revolving fund.

Section 725: Language is included that allows the use of section 416(b) commodities to be used in mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Section 726: Language is included that provides that the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall provide assistance to certain locations under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program.

Section 727: Language is included that provides that no funds may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

Section 728: Language is included that allows funds to be used to carry out a competitive grants program.

Section 729: Language is included that limits the dam rehabilitation program.

Section 730: Language is included that limits the rural strategic investment program.

Section 731: Language is included that allows for unobligated funds to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel for certain expenses.

Section 732: Language is included that limits the rural firefighters and emergency personnel grant program.

Section 733: Language is included regarding costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

Section 734: Language is included that limits the wetlands reserve program.

Section 735: Language is included that limits the environmental quality incentives program.

Section 736: Language is included that limits the renewable energy program.

Section 737: Language is included that limits the broadband program.

Section 738: Language is included that allows for reimbursement of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Section 739: Language is included that limits the value-added market development grant program.

Section 740: Language is included that ensures that sufficient funds are available to pay the subsidy costs for note guarantees for certain rural electric programs.

Section 741: Language is included that limits the conservation security program.

Section 742: Language is included that limits the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

Section 743: Language is included that limits the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

Section 744: Language is included that limits the Rural Business Investment Program.

Section 745: Language is included that provides that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to violate P.L. 105–264.

Section 746: Language is included that limits the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program.

Section 747: Language is included related to final rulemaking on cost-sharing for APHIS animal and plant health emergency programs.

Section 748: Language is included related to competitive sourcing related to rural development and farm loan programs.

Section 749: Language is included related to the leasing of aircraft to carry out certain APHIS activities.

Section 750: Language is included that limits the Bioenergy Program.

Section 751: Language is included allowing the use of funds for certain purposes.

Section 752: Language is included regarding the availability of funds for certain conservation programs.

Section 753: Language is included regarding WIC-only vendors.

Section 754: Language is included regarding a grant.

Section 755: Language is included that limits the Agricultural Management Assistance Program.

Section 756: Language is included that limits the Biomass Research and Development Program.

Section 757: Language is included regarding the disposal of certain federal facilities in Phoenix, AZ.

Section 758: Language is included regarding the recertification of rural status.

Section 759: Language is included regarding country of origin labeling for meat or meat products.

Section 760: Language is included regarding the rural designation of certain communities.

Section 761: Language is included regarding citrus canker compensation.

Section 762: Language is included extending eligibility for certain counties for the rural community advancement program.

Section 763: Language is included regarding a rescission in the WIC contingency reserve.

Section 764: The purpose of Section 508(e)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act is to allow insurance providers to compete with premium discounts, while maintaining the financial soundness of approved insurance providers and the integrity of the Federal crop insurance program. Preliminary information from the initial experience with the program creates doubt about maintaining the integrity of the Federal crop insurance program. This Amendment would provide time for an independent analysis of the program and the regulatory resources required by USDA to satisfy the statutory requirements. It would give the authorizing committees time to evaluate the premium discounting program and make proper adjustments in the law before it is expanded. Existing 2005 policies would continue in force for the farmers who have purchased such policies and could be serviced by the company who sold such policies. Thus, no existing policyholder or existing approved insurance provider would be jeopardized for policies in place in the 2005 crop insurance year.

Section 765: Language is included regarding the prohibition of funds for certain FDA activities.

Section 766: Language is included that relates to government sponsored news stories.

Section 767: The Committee includes $7,000,000 for a specialty crops competitiveness program.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The following items are included in accordance with various requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives states that:

> Each report of a committee on a bill or joint resolution of a public character, shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.

The Committee on Appropriations bases its authority to report this legislation from Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States of America which states:

> No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of Appropriations made by law * * *

Appropriations contained in this Act are made pursuant to this specific power granted by the Constitution.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted describing the transfer of funds provided in the accompanying bill.

1. Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments.—The bill allows funds to be transferred to cover the costs of new or replacement space.

2. Hazardous Materials Management.—The bill allows the funds appropriated to the Department for hazardous materials management to be transferred to agencies of the Department as required.

3. Departmental Administration.—The bill requires reimbursement for expenses related to certain hearings.

4. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.—The bill allows a portion of the funds appropriated to the Office of the Assistant Secretary to be transferred to agencies.

5. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.—Authority is included to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer from other appropriations or funds of the Department such sums as may be necessary to combat emergency outbreaks of certain diseases of animals, plants, and poultry.

6. Agricultural Marketing Service.—The bill limits the transfer of section 32 funds to purposes specified in the bill.

7. Farm Service Agency.—The bill provides that funds provided to other accounts in the agency may be merged with the salaries and expenses account of the Farm Service Agency.

8. Dairy Indemnity Program.—The bill authorizes the transfer of funds to the Commodity Credit Corporation, by reference.

9. Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund.—The bill provides that funds from the account shall be transferred to the Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses account, and that funds may be transferred among lending programs.

10. Rural Community Advancement Program.—The bill provides that prior year balances for high cost energy grants shall be transferred to and merged with the High Energy Costs Grants Account.

11. Rural Development Salaries and Expenses.—The bill provides that prior year balances from certain accounts shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

12. Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account; Rural Development Loan Fund program account; Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans program account; and Rural Telephone Bank program account.—The bill provides that administrative funds shall be transferred to the Rural Development Salaries and Expenses Account.

13. Child Nutrition Programs.—The bill includes authority to transfer section 32 funds to these programs.

14. Foreign Agricultural Service.—The bill allows for the transfer of funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loan Program Account and from the Public Law 480 Program Account.

15. Public Law 480 Title I Program Account.—The bill allows funds to be transferred to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses account.

16. Public Law 480 Title I Ocean Freight Differential Grants.—The bill provides that funds made available for the cost of title I agreements and for title I ocean freight differential may be used interchangeably.

17. Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program.—The bill provides for transfer of funds to the Foreign Agricultural Service and to the Farm Service Agency for overhead expenses associated with credit reform.

18. Food and Drug Administration, Salaries and Expenses.—The bill allows funds to be transferred among activities.

CHANGES IN THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(A) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted describing the effect of provisions in the accompanying bill which directly or indirectly change the application of existing law. In most instances, these provisions have been included in prior appropriations bills, often at the request of or with the knowledge and consent of the responsible legislative committees.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to continue ongoing activities of those Federal agencies which require annual authorization or additional legislation which to date has not been enacted.

Language is included in the bill in several accounts that earmarks funds for empowerment zones and enterprise communities as authorized by title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995.

The bill includes a number of provisions which place limitations on the use of funds in the bill or change existing limitations and

which might, under some circumstances, be construed as changing the application of existing law:

1. *Office of the Secretary*.—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses, as determined by the Secretary.

2. *Common Computing Environment.*—Language is included to provide that obligation of funds shall be consistent with the Service Center Modernization Plan, and with the concurrence of the Chief Information Officer.

3. *Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments*.—Language is included that allows for the reconfiguration and release of space back into the General Services Administration inventory in order to reduce space rental cost for space not needed for USDA programs.

4. *Departmental Administration.*—Language is included to reimburse the agency for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings.

5. *Agricultural Research Service*.—Language is included that allows the Agricultural Research Service to grant easements at the Beltsville, MD agricultural research center.

6. *Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service*.—The bill includes language that prohibits funds from being used to carry out research related to the production, processing or marketing of tobacco or tobacco products.

7. *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service*.—A provision carried in the bill since fiscal year 1973 regarding state matching funds has been continued to assure more effective operation of the brucellosis control program through state cost sharing, with resulting savings to the Federal budget.

Language is included to allow APHIS to recoup expenses incurred from providing technical assistance goods, or services to non-APHIS personnel, and to allow transfers of funds for Agricultural emergencies.

8. *Agricultural Marketing Service*.—The bill includes language that allows the Secretary to charge user fees for AMS activity related to preparation of standards.

9. *Agricultural Marketing Service, Limitation on Administrative Expenses*.—The bill includes language to allow AMS to exceed the limitation on administrative expenses by 10 percent with notification to the Appropriations Committees. This allows flexibility in case crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur.

10. *Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Inspection and Weighing Services*.—The bill includes authority to exceed the limitation on inspection and weighing services by 10 percent with notification to the Appropriations Committees. This allows for flexibility if export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur.

11. *Dairy Indemnity Program.*—Language is included by reference that allows the Secretary to utilize the services of the Commodity Credit Corporation for the purpose of making dairy indemnity payments.

12. *Risk Management Agency.*—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses.

13. *Commodity Credit Corporation Fund.*—Language is included to provide for the reimbursement appropriation. Language is also included which limits the amount of funds that can be spent on operation and maintenance costs of CCC hazardous waste sites.

14. *Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations*.—Language which has been included in the bill since 1938 prohibits construction of buildings on land not owned by the government, although construction on land owned by states and counties is authorized by basic law.

15. *Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.*—Language which was included in the Emergency Jobs Bill of 1983 (P.L. 98–8) and all bills since 1984 provides that funds may be used for rehabilitation of existing works.

16. *Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program*.—Language is included which provides that agreements entered into during the current fiscal year be funded for a four-year period.

17. *Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loan program account.*—Language is included to allow borrowers' interest rates for loans to exceed seven percent.

18. *Child Nutrition Programs.*—Language is included to prohibit funds from being used for studies and evaluations.

19. *Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*.—Language is included to: provide funds for a breastfeeding support initiative; prohibit funds from being used for studies and evaluations; pay administrative expenses of clinics except those that have an announced policy prohibiting smoking within the space used to carry out the program; purchase infant formula except in accordance with law; or pay for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other departments or agencies unless authorized by law.

20. *Food Stamp Program.*—Language is included to prohibit funds from being used for studies and evaluations.

21. *Foreign Agricultural Service*.—Language carried since 1979 enables this agency to use funds received by an advance or by reimbursement to carry out its activities involving international development and technical cooperation. Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses. Language is included to allow certain funds transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation to be used for information resource management.

22. *Commodity Futures Trading Commission*.—Language is included to limit the amount of funds for official reception and representation expenses.

23. *General Provisions*.—

Section 704: This provision, carried since 1976, is again included which provides that certain appropriations in this Act shall remain available until expended where the programs or projects involved are continuing in nature under the provisions of authorizing legislation, but for which such legislation may not specifically provide for extended availability. This authority tends to result in savings by preventing the wasteful practice often found in government of rushing to commit funds at the end of the fiscal year without due regard to the value of the purpose for which the funds are used. Such extended avail-

ability is also essential in view of the long lead time frequently required to negotiate agreements or contracts which normally extend over a period of more than one year. Under these conditions such authority is commonly provided in Appropriations Acts where omitted from basic law. These provisions have been carried through the years in this Act to facilitate efficient and effective program execution and to assure maximum savings. They involve the following items: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the contingency fund to meet emergency conditions, information technology infrastructure, the boll weevil program, up to 25 percent of the screwworm program, up to $33,340,000 for an animal identification program, up to $8,000,000 for avian influenza-related indemnities, up to $1,500,000 for scrapie-related indemnities, fruit fly program, emerging plant pests, up to $1,000,000 for Wildlife Services aviation safety, and up to $3,009,000 for a vaccine bank; Food Safety and Inspection Service, field automation and information management project; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, funds for competitive research grants; Farm Service Agency, salaries and expenses to county committees; Foreign Agricultural Service, middle-income country training program and up to $1,565,000 for foreign currency fluctuations.

Section 707: This provision limits, to $50,000, the level of funds that are available to provide appropriate orientation and language.

Section 709: This provision, added in 1987, provides that none of the funds in this Act may be used to restrict the authority of CCC to lease space. This provision allows CCC to continue to lease space at a lower cost than space leased by GSA.

Section 710: This provision provides that none of the funds in this Act may be made available to pay indirect costs charged against competitive agricultural research, education, or extension grants awarded by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in excess of 20 percent of total direct costs, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act.

Section 711: This provision clarifies that loan levels provided in the Act are to be considered estimates and not limitations. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 provides that the appropriated subsidy is the controlling factor for the amount of loans made and that as lifetime costs and interest rates change, the amount of loan authority will fluctuate.

Section 712: This provision allows funds made available in the current fiscal year for the Rural Development Loan Fund program account; Rural Telephone Bank program account; the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans program account; and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account to remain available until expended. The Credit Reform Act requires that the lifetime costs of loans be appropriated. Current law requires that funds unexpended after five years expire. The life of some loans extends well beyond the five-year

period and this provision allows funds appropriated to remain available until the loans are closed out.

Section 713: Provides that of the funds made available, not more than $1,800,000 shall be used to cover expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

Section 714: Provides that none of the funds may be used to carry out certain provisions of meat and poultry inspection acts.

Section 715: This provision prohibits any employee of the Department of Agriculture from being detailed or assigned 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.

Section 716: This provision prohibits the Department of Agriculture from transmitting or making available to any non-Department of Agriculture or the Food and Drug Administration employee questions or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process.

Section 717: Language is included that requires approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board for acquisition of new information technology systems or significant upgrades, and that prohibits the transfer of funds to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without the notification of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Section 718: Language is included that requires certain reprogramming procedures of funds provided in Appropriations Acts.

Section 719: Language is included to prohibit funds from being used to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.

Section 720: Language is included that prohibits funds from being used to prepare a budget submission to Congress that assumes reductions from the previous year's budget due to user fee proposals unless the submission also identifies spending reductions which should occur if the user fees are not enacted.

Section 721: Language is included that provides that no funds may be used to close or relocate a state Rural Development office unless or until cost effectiveness and enhancement of program delivery have been determined.

Section 722: Language is included that provides $2,500,000 for a hunger fellowship program.

Section 723: Language is included that provides that any balances available to carry out Title III of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, and any recoveries and reimbursements that become available, may be used to carry out Title II of such Act. Funds were last appropriated for Title III programming in FY 2000. However, there are Title III balances remaining of less than $500,000. This provision al-

lows remaining Title III account balances to be used for Title II programming since no new Title III programming is anticipated. This provision will allow the use of remaining Title III balances for Title II even though Section 412 of P.L. 480 provides that only 50 percent of the funds available for Title III may be used to carry out Title II.

Section 724: Language is included that amends Section 375(e)(6)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act regarding the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center revolving fund.

Section 725: Language is included that allows the use of section 416(b) commodities to be used in mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Section 726: Language is included that Natural Resources Conservation Service shall provide certain assistance to certain locations under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program.

Section 727: Language is included that provides that no funds may be transferred to any other entity except pursuant to authority provided in an appropriation Act.

Section 728: Language is included that allows funds to be used to carry out a competitive grants program.

Section 729: Language is included that limits the dam rehabilitation program.

Section 730: Language is included that limits the rural strategic investment program.

Section 731: Language is included that allows for unobligated funds to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel for certain expenses.

Section 732: Language is included that limits the rural firefighters and emergency personnel grant program.

Section 733: Language is included regarding costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

Section 734: Language is included that limits the wetlands reserve program.

Section 735: Language is included that limits the environmental quality incentives program.

Section 736: Language is included that limits the renewable energy program.

Section 737: Language is included that limits the broadband program.

Section 738: Language is included that allows for reimbursement of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Section 739: Language is included that limits the value-added market development grant program.

Section 740: Language is included that ensures that sufficient funds are available to pay the subsidy costs for note guarantees for certain rural electric programs.

Section 741: Language is included that limits the conservation security program.

Section 742: Language is included that limits the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

Section 743: Language is included that limits the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

Section 744: Language is included that limits the Rural Business Investment Program.

Section 745: Language is included that provides that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used to violate P.L. 105–264.

Section 746. Language is included that limits the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program.

Section 747: Language is included related to final rulemaking on cost-sharing for APHIS animal and plant health emergency programs.

Section 748: Language is included related to competitive sourcing related to rural development or farm loan programs.

Section 749: Language is included related to the leasing of aircraft to carry out certain APHIS activities.

Section 750: Language is included that limits the Bioenergy Program.

Section 751: Language is included allowing the use of funds for certain purposes.

Section 752: Language is included regarding the availability of funds for certain conservation programs.

Section 753: Language is included regarding WIC-only vendors.

Section 754: Language is included regarding a grant.

Section 755: Language is included that limits the Agricultural Management Assistance Program.

Section 756: Language is included that limits the Biomass Research and Development Program.

Section 757: Language is included regarding the disposal of certain federal facilities in Phoenix, AZ.

Section 758: Language is included regarding the recertification of rural status.

Section 759: Language is included regarding country of origin labeling for meat or meat products.

Section 760: Language is included regarding the rural designation of certain communities.

Section 761: Language is included regarding citrus canker compensation.

Section 762: Language is included extending eligiblity for certain counties for the rural community advancement program.

Section 763: Language is included regarding a rescission in the WIC contingency reserve.

Section 764: The purpose of Section 508(e)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act is to allow insurance providers to compete with premium discounts, while maintaining the financial soundness of approved insurance providers and the integrity of the Federal crop insurance program. Preliminary information from the initial experience with the program creates doubt about maintaining the integrity of the Federal crop insurance program. This Amendment would provide time for an independent analysis of the program and the regulatory resources required by USDA to satisfy the statutory requirements. It would give the authorizing committees time to evaluate the premium discounting program and make proper adjustments

in the law before it is expanded. Existing 2005 policies would continue in force for the farmers who have purchased such policies and could be serviced by the company who sold such policies. Thus, no existing policyholder or existing approved insurance provider would be jeopardized for policies in place in the 2005 crop insurance year.

Section 765: Language is included regarding the prohibition of funds for certain FDA activities.

Section 766: Language is included that relates to government sponsored news stories.

Section 767: The Committee includes $7,000,000 for a specialty crops competitiveness program.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a statement of general performance goals and objectives for which this measure authorizes funding:

The Committee on Appropriations considers program performance, including a program's success in developing and attaining outcome-related goals and objectives, in developing funding recommendations.

COMPLIANCE WITH CLAUSE 3(e) OF RULE XIII (RAMSEYER RULE)

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 375 OF THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

SEC. 375. NATIONAL SHEEP INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT CENTER.

(a) * * *

* * * * * * *

(e) REVOLVING FUND.—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

(6) FUNDING.—

(A) * * *

(B) MANDATORY FUNDS.—Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the Center not to exceed [$27,998,000] *$28,498,000* to carry out this section.

* * * * * * *

SECTION 723 OF THE AGRICULTURE, RURAL, DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

(Division A of Public Law 108–7)

SEC. 721. In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated or made available by this Act, $2,500,000 is appropriated for the purpose of providing Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships**[**, as authorized by section 4404 of Public Law 107–171 (2 U.S.C. 1161)**]** *through the Congressional Hunger Center*.

* * * * * * *

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(B) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the appropriations in the accompanying bill which are not authorized by law:

[In thousands of dollars]

Program and last year of authorization	Authorization level	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement Act of 2000; P.L. 106–472, Sec. 306			
Farm Service Agency:			
State Agricultural Mediation Program:			
FY 2005	$7,500	3,968	4,250
Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvement Act of 2000; P.L. 106–472, Sec. 108			
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration:			
United States Grain Standards Act:			
FY 2005	Such sums as necessary	42,000	42,000
Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000; P.L. 106–224, Sec. 121			
Risk Management Agency:			
Program Compliance and Integrity:			
FY 2005	From amounts available from the FCIC fund, no more than $23,000	1,800	3,600
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	Indefinite	$93,572	$98,386

RESCISSIONS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following information is submitted describing the rescissions recommended in the accompanying bill:

The bill proposes rescissions of $18,877,000 of funds derived from interest on the cushion of credit payments in fiscal year 2006 under the Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account, which is an annual technical adjustment contained in the budget estimates; $2,500,000 from the Rural Telephone Bank Liquidating Account; and $32,000,000 from the WIC Contingency reserve.

COMPARISON WITH BUDGET RESOLUTION

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an explanation of compliance with section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), as amended, which requires that the report accompanying a bill providing new budget authority contain a statement detailing how that authority compares with the reports submitted under section 302 of the Act for the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year from the Committee's section 302(a) allocation. This information follows:

[In millions of dollars]

Full committee data	302(b) allocation		This bill	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Comparison with Budget Resolution:				
Discretionary	$16,832	$18,691	$16,832	$18,552
Mandatory	69,535	50,456	69,535	50,456

FIVE-YEAR OUTLAY PROJECTIONS

In compliance with section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), as amended, the following table contains five-year projections associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

[Five year projections, in millions of dollars]

Outlays:	
2006	57,096
2007	14,801
2008	884
2009	563
2010 and beyond	732

ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In accordance with section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), as amended, the financial assistance to state and local governments is as follows:

[In millions of dollars]

New budget authority	24,250
Fiscal year 2006 outlays resulting therefrom	20,406

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2006 for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177), the following information provides the definition of the term "program, project, and activity" for departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The term "program, project, and activity" shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropria-

tions Act of 2006, the House and Senate Committee reports, and the conference report and accompanying joint explanatory statement of the managers of the committee of conference.

If a Sequestration Order is necessary, in implementing the required Presidential Order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction for fiscal year 2006 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 to all items specified in the explanatory notes submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in support of the fiscal year 2006 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition:

For the Agricultural Research Service the definition shall include specific research locations as identified in the explanatory notes and lines of research specifically identified in the reports of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

For the Natural Resources Conservation Service the definition shall include individual flood prevention projects as identified in the explanatory notes and individual operational watershed projects as summarized in the notes.

For the Farm Service Agency the definition shall include individual state, district, and county offices.

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

ROLLCALL NO. 1

Date: May 25, 2005.

Measure: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2006.

Motion by: Mr. Hinchey.

Description of Motion: To allow the Food and Drug Administration to require companies to conduct post-marketing studies of FDA-approved drugs, and to allow the Food and Drug Administration to require changes to the labels of FDA-approved drugs.

Results: Rejected 25 yeas to 31 nays.

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Berry	Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Alexander
Mr. Clyburn	Mr. Bonilla
Mr. Cramer	Mr. Carter
Ms. DeLauro	Mr. Crenshaw
Mr. Dicks	Mr. Culberson
Mr. Edwards	Mr. Doolittle
Mr. Farr	Mr. Frelinghuysen
Mr. Fattah	Mr. Goode
Mr. Hinchey	Ms. Granger
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hobson
Ms. Kaptur	Mr. Istook
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Kingston
Ms. Kilpatrick	Mr. Kirk
Mrs. Lowey	Mr. Knollenberg
Mr. Moran	Mr. Kolbe
Mr. Obey	Mr. LaHood
Mr. Olver	Mr. Latham
Mr. Pastor	Mr. Lewis
Mr. Price	Mr. Peterson
Ms. Roybal-Allard	Mr. Regula
Mr. Sabo	Mr. Rehberg
Mr. Serrano	Mr. Sherwood
Mr. Visclosky	Mr. Simpson
Mr. Wolf	Mr. Sweeney
	Mr. Tiahrt
	Mr. Walsh
	Mr. Wamp
	Dr. Weldon
	Mr. Wicker
	Mr. Young

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

ROLLCALL NO. 2

Date: May 25, 2005.

Measure: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2006.

Motion by: Mr. Jackson.

Description of Motion: To provide an additional $392,906,000, provided that such amount is designated as an emergency requirement, for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of the Agricultural Trade and Development and Assistance Act of 1954.

Results: Rejected 24 yeas to 29 nays.

Members Voting Yea	*Members Voting Nay*
Mr. Berry	Mr. Aderholt
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Alexander
Mr. Clyburn	Mr. Bonilla
Mr. Cramer	Mr. Carter
Ms. DeLauro	Mr. Crenshaw
Mr. Dicks	Mr. Culberson
Mr. Edwards	Mr. Doolittle
Mr. Fattah	Mr. Frelinghuysen
Mr. Hinchey	Ms. Granger
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hobson
Ms. Kaptur	Mr. Istook
Mr. Kennedy	Mr. Kingston
Ms. Kilpatrick	Mr. Kirk
Mrs. Lowey	Mr. Knollenberg
Mr. Mollohan	Mr. Kolbe
Mr. Moran	Mr. LaHood
Mr. Obey	Mr. Latham
Mr. Olver	Mr. Lewis
Mr. Pastor	Mr. Peterson
Mr. Rothman	Mr. Regula
Ms. Roybal-Allard	Mr. Rehberg
Mr. Sabo	Mr. Rogers
Mr. Serrano	Mr. Sherwood
Mr. Visclosky	Mr. Simpson
	Mr. Sweeney
	Mr. Walsh
	Mr. Wamp
	Mr. Wicker
	Mr. Young

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Production, Processing, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary	5,083	5,127	5,127	+44	---
Executive Operations:					
Chief Economist	10,234	10,539	10,539	+305	---
National Appeals Division	14,216	14,524	14,524	+308	---
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	8,162	8,298	8,298	+136	---
Homeland Security staff	769	1,466	934	+165	-532
Office of the Chief Information Officer	16,462	16,726	16,462	---	-264
Common computing environment	124,580	142,465	124,580	---	-17,885
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	5,696	5,874	5,874	+178	---
Working capital fund	12,747	---	---	-12,747	---
Total, Executive Operations	192,866	199,892	181,211	-11,655	-18,681
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	811	821	811	---	-10
Office of Civil Rights	19,730	20,109	20,109	+379	---
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	664	676	676	+12	---
Agriculture buildings and facilities and rental payments	(162,559)	(221,924)	(183,133)	(+20,574)	(-38,791)
Payments to GSA	127,292	147,734	147,734	+20,442	---
Building operations and maintenance	35,267	74,190	35,399	+132	-38,791
Hazardous materials management	15,408	15,644	15,644	+236	---
Departmental administration	22,445	23,103	23,103	+658	---
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,821	3,846	3,821	---	-25

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Communications	9,290	9,509	9,509	+219	---
Office of the Inspector General	77,663	81,045	79,626	+1,963	-1,419
Office of the General Counsel	35,574	40,263	38,439	+2,865	-1,824
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	587	598	598	+11	---
Economic Research Service	74,170	80,749	75,931	+1,761	-4,818
National Agricultural Statistics Service	128,444	145,159	136,241	+7,797	-8,918
Census of Agriculture	(22,226)	(29,115)	(29,115)	(+6,889)	---
Agricultural Research Service:					
Salaries and expenses	1,102,000	996,107	1,035,475	-66,525	+39,368
Buildings and facilities	186,335	64,800	87,300	-99,035	+22,500
Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,288,335	1,060,907	1,122,775	-165,560	+61,868
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service:					
Research and education activities	655,495	545,500	661,691	+6,196	+116,191
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund	(12,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)	---	---
Extension activities	445,631	431,743	444,871	-760	+13,128
Integrated activities	54,712	35,013	15,513	-39,199	-19,500
Outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers	5,888	5,935	5,935	+47	---
Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service	1,161,726	1,018,191	1,128,010	-33,716	+109,819

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	715	724	724	+9	---
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:					
Salaries and expenses	808,106	855,162	823,635	+15,529	-31,527
Animal welfare (user fees) (leg. proposal) NA.	---	(10,858)	---	---	(-10,858)
Buildings and facilities	4,927	4,996	4,996	+69	---
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	813,033	860,158	828,631	+15,598	-31,527
Agricultural Marketing Service:					
Marketing Services	75,092	84,114	78,032	+2,940	-6,082
Agriculture marketing service standardization (user fees) (leg. proposal) NA	---	(2,918)	---	---	(-2,918)
Standardization user fees	(5,000)	---	---	(-5,000)	---
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(64,459)	(65,667)	(65,667)	(+1,208)	---
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (transfer from section 32)	15,800	16,055	16,055	+255	---
Payments to states and possessions	3,816	1,347	1,347	-2,469	---
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service	94,708	101,516	95,434	+726	-6,082

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration:					
Salaries and expenses	37,001	15,717	38,400	+1,399	+22,683
Grain inspection, packers and stockyards administration (user fees) (leg. proposal)	NA ---	(24,701)	---	---	(-24,701)
Limitation on inspection and weighing services	(42,463)	(42,463)	(42,463)	---	---
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	590	602	590	---	-12
Food Safety and Inspection Service	817,170	710,717	837,264	+20,094	+126,547
Food safety inspection (user fees) (leg. prop)	NA ---	(139,000)	---	---	(-139,000)
Lab accreditation fees	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	---	---
Total, Production, Processing, and Marketing	4,962,393	4,616,997	4,825,807	-136,586	+208,810
Farm Assistance Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	626	635	635	+9	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Farm Service Agency:					
Salaries and expenses	999,536	1,050,875	1,023,738	+24,202	-27,137
(Transfer from export loans)	(994)	(1,839)	(1,839)	(+845)	---
(Transfer from P.L. 480)	(2,914)	(3,217)	(3,217)	(+303)	---
(Transfer from ACIF)	(291,414)	(309,137)	(297,127)	(+5,713)	(-12,010)
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts	(295,322)	(314,193)	(302,183)	(+6,861)	(-12,010)
Total, Salaries and expenses	(1,294,858)	(1,365,068)	(1,325,921)	(+31,063)	(-39,147)
State mediation grants	3,968	4,500	4,250	+282	-250
Dairy indemnity program	100	100	100	---	---
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency	1,003,604	1,055,475	1,028,088	+24,484	-27,387
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	(208,320)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(-8,320)	---
Guaranteed	(1,388,800)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(+11,200)	---
Subtotal	(1,597,120)	(1,600,000)	(1,600,000)	(+2,880)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	(644,800)	(650,000)	(650,000)	(+5,200)	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,091,200)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(+108,800)	---
Subsidized guaranteed	(282,720)	(266,253)	(266,256)	(-16,464)	(+3)
Subtotal	(2,018,720)	(2,116,253)	(2,116,256)	(+97,536)	(+3)
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,020)	(+20)	(+20)
Natural disasters emergency insured loans	---	(25,000)	---	---	(-25,000)
Boll weevil eradication loans	(100,000)	(60,000)	(100,000)	---	(+40,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(3,717,840)	(3,803,253)	(3,818,276)	(+100,436)	(+15,023)
Loan subsidies:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	11,145	10,240	10,240	-905	---
Guaranteed	7,361	6,720	6,720	-641	---
Subtotal	18,506	16,960	16,960	-1,546	---
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	65,060	64,675	64,675	-385	---
Unsubsidized guaranteed	35,246	36,360	36,360	+1,114	---
Subsidized guaranteed	37,631	33,282	33,282	-4,349	---
Subtotal	137,937	134,317	134,317	-3,620	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Indian tribe land acquisition.....	105	80	81	-24	+1
Natural disasters emergency insured loans.	---	2,735	---	---	-2,735
Total, Loan subsidies.....	156,548	154,092	151,358	-5,190	-2,734
ACIF expenses:					
Salaries and expense (transfer to FSA)....	291,414	309,137	297,127	+5,713	-12,010
Administrative expenses.....	7,936	8,000	8,000	+64	---
Total, ACIF expenses.....	299,350	317,137	305,127	+5,777	-12,010
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund...	455,898	471,229	456,485	+587	-14,744
(Loan authorization).....	(3,717,840)	(3,803,253)	(3,818,276)	(+100,436)	(+15,023)
Total, Farm Service Agency.....	1,459,502	1,526,704	1,484,573	+25,071	-42,131
Risk Management Agency.....	71,468	87,806	77,806	+6,338	-10,000
Total, Farm Assistance Programs.....	1,531,596	1,615,145	1,563,014	+31,418	-52,131

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:					
Federal crop insurance corporation fund.....	4,095,128	3,159,379	3,159,379	-935,749	---
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:					
Reimbursement for net realized losses.....	16,452,377	25,690,000	25,690,000	+9,237,623	---
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses).....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	---	---
Total, Corporations.....	20,547,505	28,849,379	28,849,379	+8,301,874	---
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs.....	27,041,494	35,081,521	35,238,200	+8,196,706	+156,679
(By transfer).....	(295,322)	(314,193)	(302,183)	(+6,861)	(-12,010)
(Loan authorization).....	(3,717,840)	(3,803,253)	(3,818,276)	(+100,436)	(+15,023)
(Limitation on administrative expenses).....	(111,922)	(113,130)	(113,130)	(+1,208)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - CONSERVATION PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment	735	744	744	+9	---
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation operations	830,661	767,783	793,640	-37,021	+25,857
Watershed surveys and planning	7,026	5,141	7,026	---	+1,885
Watershed and flood prevention operations	74,971	---	60,000	-14,971	+60,000
Watershed rehabilitation program	27,280	15,125	27,000	-280	+11,875
Resource conservation and development	51,228	25,600	51,360	+132	+25,760
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	991,166	813,649	939,026	-52,140	+125,377
Total, title II, Conservation Programs	991,901	814,393	939,770	-52,131	+125,377
TITLE III - RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	627	635	627	---	-8
Rural Development:					
Rural community advancement program	710,321	521,689	657,389	-52,932	+135,700
(Transfer out)	(-27,776)	---	---	(+27,776)	---
Total, Rural community advancement program	710,321	521,689	657,389	-52,932	+135,700

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
RD expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	147,264	167,849	152,623	+5,359	-15,226
(Transfer from RHIF)	(444,755)	(465,886)	(455,242)	(+10,487)	(-10,644)
(Transfer from RDLFP)	(4,281)	(6,656)	(4,719)	(+438)	(-1,937)
(Transfer from RETLP)	(37,971)	(39,933)	(38,907)	(+936)	(-1,026)
(Transfer from RTB)	(3,127)	(2,500)	(2,500)	(-627)	---
Subtotal, Transfers from program accounts	(490,134)	(514,975)	(501,368)	(+11,234)	(-13,607)
Total, RD expenses	(637,398)	(682,824)	(653,991)	(+16,593)	(-28,833)
Total, Rural Development	857,585	689,538	810,012	-47,573	+120,474
Rural Housing Service:					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (sec. 502)	(1,140,800)	(1,000,000)	(1,140,799)	(-1)	(+140,799)
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(3,282,823)	(3,681,033)	(3,681,033)	(+398,210)	---
Subtotal, Single family	(4,423,623)	(4,681,033)	(4,821,832)	(+398,209)	(+140,799)
Housing repair (sec. 504)	(34,720)	(35,969)	(35,969)	(+1,249)	---
Rental housing (sec. 515)	(99,200)	(27,027)	(100,000)	(+800)	(+72,973)
Site loans (sec. 524)	(5,045)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(-45)	---
Multi-family housing guarantees (sec. 538)	(99,200)	(200,000)	(100,000)	(+800)	(-100,000)
Multi-family housing credit sales	(1,489)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(+11)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Single family housing credit sales.....	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	---	---
Self-help housing land develop. (sec. 523)	(10,000)	(5,048)	(5,048)	(-4,952)	---
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(4,683,277)	(4,965,577)	(5,079,349)	(+396,072)	(+113,772)
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (sec. 502).....	132,105	113,900	129,937	-2,168	+16,037
Unsubsidized guaranteed.....	33,339	40,900	40,900	+7,561	---
Subtotal, Single family.....	165,444	154,800	170,837	+5,393	+16,037
Housing repair (sec. 504).....	10,090	10,521	10,521	+431	---
Rental housing (sec. 515).....	46,713	12,400	45,880	-833	+33,480
Multi-family housing guarantees (sec. 538)	3,462	10,840	5,420	+1,958	-5,420
Multi-family housing credit sales.....	721	681	681	-40	---
Self-help housing land develop. (sec. 523)	---	52	52	+52	---
Total, Loan subsidies.....	226,430	189,294	233,391	+6,961	+44,097
RHIF administrative expenses (transfer to RD).	444,755	465,886	455,242	+10,487	-10,644

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rental assistance program:					
(Sec. 521)	581,411	644,126	644,126	+62,715	---
(Sec. 502(c)(5)(D))	5,853	5,900	5,900	+47	---
Total, Rental assistance program	587,264	650,026	650,026	+62,762	---
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund	1,258,449	1,305,206	1,338,659	+80,210	+33,453
(Loan authorization)	(4,683,277)	(4,965,577)	(5,079,349)	(+396,072)	(+113,772)
Rural housing voucher program	---	214,000	---	---	-214,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants	33,728	34,000	34,000	+272	---
Rural housing assistance grants	43,640	41,000	41,000	-2,640	---
Farm labor program account	33,845	32,728	32,728	-1,117	---
Subtotal, grants and payments	111,213	107,728	107,728	-3,485	---
Total, Rural Housing Service	1,369,662	1,626,934	1,446,387	+76,725	-180,547
(Loan authorization)	(4,683,277)	(4,965,577)	(5,079,349)	(+396,072)	(+113,772)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:					
Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	(33,939)	(34,212)	(34,212)	(+273)	---
Loan subsidy.....	15,741	14,718	14,718	-1,023	---
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD).....	4,281	6,656	4,719	+438	-1,937
Total, Rural Development Loan Fund.....	20,022	21,374	19,437	-585	-1,937
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	(24,803)	(25,003)	(25,003)	(+200)	---
Direct subsidy.....	4,660	4,993	4,993	+333	---
Rural cooperative development grants.....	23,808	21,000	24,000	+192	+3,000
Rural empowerment zones and enterprise communities grants.....	12,400	---	10,000	-2,400	+10,000
Renewable energy program.....	22,816	10,000	23,000	+184	+13,000
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	83,706	57,367	81,430	-2,276	+24,063
(Loan authorization).....	(58,742)	(59,215)	(59,215)	(+473)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, 5%	(119,040)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(-19,040)	---
Direct, Municipal rate	(99,200)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(+800)	---
Direct, FFB	(2,000,000)	(1,620,000)	(2,000,000)	---	(+380,000)
Direct, Treasury rate	(1,000,000)	(700,000)	(1,000,000)	---	(+300,000)
Guaranteed electric	(99,200)	---	(100,000)	(+800)	(+100,000)
Guaranteed underwriting	(1,000,000)	---	(1,000,000)	---	(+1,000,000)
Subtotal, Electric	(4,317,440)	(2,520,000)	(4,300,000)	(-17,440)	(+1,780,000)
Telecommunications:					
Direct, 5%	(145,000)	(145,000)	(145,000)	---	---
Direct, Treasury rate	(248,000)	(425,000)	(424,000)	(+176,000)	(-1,000)
Direct, FFB	(125,000)	(100,000)	(125,000)	---	(+25,000)
Subtotal, Telecommunications	(518,000)	(670,000)	(694,000)	(+176,000)	(+24,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(4,835,440)	(3,190,000)	(4,994,000)	(+158,560)	(+1,804,000)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Loan subsidies:					
Electric:					
Direct, 5%.....	3,619	920	920	-2,699	---
Direct, Municipal rate.....	1,339	5,050	5,050	+3,711	---
Guaranteed electric.....	60	---	90	+30	+90
Direct, Treasury rate.....	---	70	100	+100	+30
Subtotal, Electric.....	5,018	6,040	6,160	+1,142	+120
Telecommunications:					
Direct, Treasury rate.....	99	212	212	+113	---
Subtotal, Telecommunications.....	99	212	212	+113	---
Total, Loan subsidies.....	5,117	6,252	6,372	+1,255	+120
RETLP administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	37,971	39,933	38,907	+936	-1,026
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account..	43,088	46,185	45,279	+2,191	-906
(Loan authorization).....	(4,835,440)	(3,190,000)	(4,994,000)	(+158,560)	(+1,804,000)
Rural Telephone Bank Program Account:					
(Loan authorization).....	(175,000)	---	---	(-175,000)	---
RTB administrative expenses (transfer to RD)..	3,127	2,500	2,500	-627	---
Total, Rural Telephone Bank Program Account.	3,127	2,500	2,500	-627	---
High energy costs grants (by transfer).....	(27,776)	---	---	(-27,776)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband program:					
Loan authorizations:					
Distance learning and telemedicine.....	(50,000)	---	(50,000)	---	(+50,000)
Broadband telecommunications.....	(545,600)	(358,875)	(463,860)	(-81,740)	(+104,985)
Total, Loan authorizations.....	(595,600)	(358,875)	(513,860)	(-81,740)	(+154,985)
Loan subsidies:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Direct.....	704	---	750	+46	+750
Grants.....	34,720	25,000	25,000	-9,720	---
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct.....	11,621	9,973	9,973	-1,648	---
Grants.....	8,928	---	9,000	+72	+9,000
Total, Loan subsidies and grants.....	55,973	34,973	44,723	-11,250	+9,750
Total, Rural Utilities Service.....	102,188	83,658	92,502	-9,686	+8,844
(Loan authorization).....	(5,606,040)	(3,548,875)	(5,507,860)	(-98,180)	(+1,958,985)
Total, title III, Rural Economic and Community Development Programs.....	2,413,768	2,458,132	2,430,958	+17,190	-27,174
(By transfer).....	(517,910)	(514,975)	(501,368)	(-16,542)	(-13,607)
(Loan authorization).....	(10,348,059)	(8,573,667)	(10,646,424)	(+298,365)	(+2,072,757)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	590	599	599	+9	---
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	6,629,038	7,304,207	7,224,406	+595,368	-79,801
Transfer from section 32	5,152,962	5,111,820	5,187,621	+34,659	+75,801
Total, Child nutrition programs	11,782,000	12,416,027	12,412,027	+630,027	-4,000
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	5,235,032	5,510,000	5,257,000	+21,968	-253,000
Food stamp program:					
Expenses	30,499,527	36,034,599	36,034,599	+5,535,072	---
Armed forces provision	---	1,000	1,000	+1,000	---
Reserve	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	---	---
Nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and Samoa	1,515,027	1,535,796	1,535,796	+20,769	---
The emergency food assistance program	140,000	140,000	140,000	---	---
Total, Food stamp program	35,154,554	40,711,395	40,711,395	+5,556,841	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Commodity assistance program	177,367	177,935	178,797	+1,430	+862
Nutrition programs administration	138,818	140,761	140,761	+1,943	---
Total, Food and Nutrition Service	52,487,771	58,956,118	58,699,980	+6,212,209	-256,138
Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs	52,488,361	58,956,717	58,700,579	+6,212,218	-256,138
TITLE V - FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Foreign Agricultural Service:					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation	136,719	148,792	148,224	+11,505	-568
(Transfer from export loans)	(3,394)	(3,440)	(3,440)	(+46)	---
(Transfer from P.L. 480)	(1,088)	(168)	(168)	(-920)	---
Total, Salaries and expenses program level	(141,201)	(152,400)	(151,832)	(+10,631)	(-568)
Public Law 480 Program and Grant Accounts:					
Program account:					
Loan authorization, direct	(109,000)	(74,032)	(74,032)	(-34,968)	---
Loan subsidies	93,444	65,040	65,040	-28,404	---
Ocean freight differential grants	22,541	11,940	11,940	-10,601	---
Title II - Commodities for disposition abroad:					
Program level	(1,173,041)	(885,000)	(1,107,094)	(-65,947)	(+222,094)
Appropriation	1,173,041	885,000	1,107,094	-65,947	+222,094

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Salaries and expenses:					
Foreign Agricultural Service (transfer to FAS)	1,088	168	168	-920	---
Farm Service Agency (transfer to FSA).....	2,914	3,217	3,217	+303	---
Subtotal.....	4,002	3,385	3,385	-617	---
Total, Public Law 480:					
Program level.....	(1,173,041)	(885,000)	(1,107,094)	(-65,947)	(+222,094)
Appropriation.....	1,293,028	965,365	1,187,459	-105,569	+222,094
CCC Export Loans Program Account (administrative expenses):					
Salaries and expenses (Export Loans):					
General Sales Manager (transfer to FAS).....	3,394	3,440	3,440	+46	---
Farm Service Agency (transfer to FSA).....	994	1,839	1,839	+845	---
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account.....	4,388	5,279	5,279	+891	---
McGovern-Dole international food for education and child nutrition program grants.....	86,800	100,000	100,000	+13,200	---
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs.....	1,520,935	1,219,436	1,440,962	-79,973	+221,526
(By transfer).....	(4,482)	(3,608)	(3,608)	(-874)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE VI - RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation.....	1,450,098	1,492,726	1,480,978	+30,880	-11,748
Prescription drug user fee act.....	(284,394)	(305,332)	(305,332)	(+20,938)	---
Medical device user fee act.....	(33,938)	(40,300)	(40,300)	(+6,362)	---
Animal drug user fee act.....	(8,354)	(11,318)	(11,318)	(+2,964)	---
Subtotal.....	(1,776,784)	(1,849,676)	(1,837,928)	(+61,144)	(-11,748)
Mammography clinics user fee (outlay savings).....	(16,919)	(17,173)	(17,173)	(+254)	---
Export and color certification.....	(6,838)	(7,640)	(7,640)	(+802)	---
Payments to GSA.....	(129,815)	(134,853)	(134,853)	(+5,038)	---
Buildings and facilities.....	---	7,000	5,000	+5,000	-2,000
Total, Food and Drug Administration.....	1,450,098	1,499,726	1,485,978	+35,880	-13,748

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	93,572	99,386	98,386	+4,814	-1,000
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(42,350)	---	(44,250)	(+1,900)	(+44,250)
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	1,543,670	1,599,112	1,584,364	+40,694	-14,748
TITLE VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Hunger fellowships (sec. 722)	2,480	---	2,500	+20	+2,500
National Sheep Industry Improvement Center revolving fund (sec. 724)	992	---	500	-492	+500
Citrus canker compensation (sec. 761)	29,760	---	10,000	-19,760	+10,000
Northern Great Plains Regional Authority	1,479	---	---	-1,479	---
Rural housing assistance grants (rescission)	-1,000	---	---	+1,000	---
Rural housing insurance fund (rescission)	-3,000	---	---	+3,000	---
Denali Commission	1,488	---	---	-1,488	---
Local TV loan guarantee (rescission)	-88,000	---	---	+88,000	---
Agricultural conservation prog. (rescission)	-3,500	---	---	+3,500	---
Section 32 (rescission)	-163,000	---	---	+163,000	---
P.L. 480 Title I (rescission)	-191,108	---	---	+191,108	---
Milk processing and packaging facilities	992	---	---	-992	---
Alaska private lands wildlife management	496	---	---	-496	---
Livestock Expo Center (sec. 754)	992	---	1,000	+8	+1,000
Virginia Horse Center	992	---	---	-992	---

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Great Plains conservation program, unobligated balances (rescissions)	-8,000	---	---	+8,000	---
Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives	2,232	---	---	-2,232	---
Florida citrus promotion	5,952	---	---	-5,952	---
Data mining and data warehousing activities	---	3,600	---	---	-3,600
WIC contingency reserve (rescission) (sec. 763)	---	---	-32,000	-32,000	-32,000
Specialty crop grants (sec. 767)	---	---	7,000	+7,000	+7,000
Total, title VII, General provisions	-409,753	3,600	-11,000	+398,753	-14,600
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
Hurricane Disaster Assistance Act, 2005 (P.L.108-324)					
Farm Assistance Programs: Farm Service Agency:					
Emergency conservation program (emergency)	100,000	---	---	-100,000	---
Conservation Programs: Natural Resources Conservation Service: Emerg watershed protection program (emerg)	250,000	---	---	-250,000	---
Rural Development Programs:					
Rural community advancement proram (emergency)	68,000	---	---	-68,000	---
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Housing repairs (sec. 504):					
Loan authorization (emergency)	(17,000)	---	---	(-17,000)	---
Loan subsidies (emergency)	5,000	---	---	-5,000	---
Rural housing assistance grants (emergency)	13,000	---	---	-13,000	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2005
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2006
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Emergency watershed protection program/emergency conservation program (emergency)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Section 32 transfer (emergency)	90,000	---	---	-90,000	---
Producer assistance (emergency)	2,928,500	---	---	-2,928,500	---
Total, Public Law 108-324 (emergency)	3,504,500	---	---	-3,504,500	---
Emerg. Supplemental Approps. for Defense, The Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L.109-13)					
Foreign Agricultural Service:					
Public Law 480 Title II Grants (emergency)	240,000	---	---	-240,000	---
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Emergency watershed protection program (emergency)	104,500	---	---	-104,500	---
Total, Public Law 109-13 (emergency)	344,500	---	---	-344,500	---
Total, Other appropriations (emergency)	3,849,000	---	---	-3,849,000	---
Grand total:					
New budget (obligational) authority	89,439,376	100,132,911	100,323,833	+10,884,457	+190,922
Appropriations	(86,047,984)	(100,132,911)	(100,355,833)	(+14,307,849)	(+222,922)
Emergency Appropriations	3,849,000	---	---	-3,849,000	---
Contingent emergency Appropriations	---	---	---	---	---
(By transfer)	(817,714)	(832,776)	(807,159)	(-10,555)	(-25,617)
(Loan authorization)	(14,191,899)	(12,450,952)	(14,538,732)	(+346,833)	(+2,087,780)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(154,272)	(113,130)	(157,380)	(+3,108)	(+44,250)

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

The funding allocation for this bill provided only $93 million more than the 2006 budget request. This brings the funding level up just to last year's level.

While this bill is an improvement over the President's budget request, there are a number of key funding shortfalls in the bill and important policy issues that should be brought to the attention of our colleagues and the public

Food and Drug Administration. While there are numerous important questions about FDA that need answers, the subcommittee was hampered in getting answers this year by the administration's decision to stop Acting Commissioner Crawford from testifying on the budget, purportedly because of his pending nomination to become the Commissioner.

It is essential that the subcommittee hear from the head of this agency. To make this absolutely clear to the administration, Rep. DeLauro proposed an amendment to hold back five percent of the funding for the leadership offices at FDA until a hearing with the Commissioner or Acting Commissioner is held. We applaud the subcommittee's unanimous adoption of this amendment and urge the administration to take notice.

But important issues involving FDA cannot be ignored while we wait for a hearing. One basic issue is whether FDA has the authorities it needs to protect public health. The public was shocked to learn that FDA lacks any real authority to make a company change a label or to order a company to conduct a safety study of a drug already on the market when concerns are raised.

To address these problems, Rep. Hinchey offered an amendment in committee to give FDA labeling and post-market study authorities.

Although the amendment was supported by all the Democratic Members present and by one Republican, it was defeated, 25–31.

Two funding amendments adopted in Committee at the request of Rep. DeLauro will help FDA's drug safety work:

- The Committee agreed to double the funding for the small office at FDA that reviews direct-to-consumer drug advertisements. While drug companies now spend billions of dollars a year on drug ads, staffing for the office has remained flat for years, and an increase was long overdue.
- The Committee agreed to include an additional $5 million for drug safety activities at FDA. These funds, too, are badly needed, and this is a step in the right direction.

Because of our concerns about other problems with the FDA budget, we looked closely at how FDA is handling its existing resources. This brought troublesome questions about its priorities and management to light. Here are some examples:

- FDA has spent $19,674,855 on employee bonuses since January 2003. This is twice the increase proposed this year for the Office of Drug Safety.
- FDA's most senior staff spent more than $442,000 on travel since January 2003—equal to 50 percent of what FDA spends in one year to review consumer drug ads.
- The FDA general counsel's office has spent 15,041 hours reviewing draft warning letters to drug companies about illegal drug ads since March 2002. This is equal to more than seven people working full-time for a year. The result has been a drop in the number of letters issued and delays in issuing them, but no indication whatsoever that company compliance has improved.

While FDA fritters away precious funds in these areas, it is falling behind in some of its most basic responsibilities to protect the public. Comparing 2006 to 2004, we find, for example, a serious drop in the percentage of imported food and drug lines inspected; fewer foreign drug facilities being inspected; and a large drop in the percentage of imported biologics products inspected. Making sure that our food, drug and vaccine supplies are safe should be the agency's highest priority. We believe the agency should examine its spending from top to bottom and redirect resources to this goal.

Rural development. Funding for several key programs at USDA that help rural communities provide basic clean water, affordable housing and essential community facilities does not keep pace with demand.

- *Water and waste disposal funding:* funding for water and waste grants in this bill is $87 million below 2004, but demand for grants at the end of fiscal year 2004 far exceeded funding in 2005 or in this bill. While direct loan funding is held at the 2005 level, USDA had nearly $1.3 billion in applications for the loans on hand at the end of fiscal year 2004, much more than it could fund under the final 2005 level or the level in this bill.
- *Single family housing direct loans:* this bill funds single family direct loans at the 2005 level, but that still leaves the program $211 million below 2004. Such a cut is a matter of serious concern because these loans are extremely popular: at the end of 2004, USDA had 30,458 applications on hand for $2.6 billion in single family direct loans, far over the level in this bill.
- *Community facility grants:* funding in this bill for this program, which funds essential community facilities in rural areas such as fire and medical facilities, is $17 million, under the final 2005 level of $19.7 million. Yet there is high demand for these grants—as of March 2005, USDA had $90.7 million in funding requests for these grants on hand—far in excess of the amount available in 2005 or in this bill.

Nutrition programs. Two nutrition funding issues should be noted:

- *CSFP:* this bill does not provide enough funding to maintain current participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. At least 45,000 participants—*the overwhelming majority of them elderly*—would have to be dropped from the program unless more funds are provided, and the figure could

turn out to be much higher. We are deeply concerned about the impact this would have on the vulnerable population served by CSFP.

• *WIC:* the bill reduces the WIC program by $253 million below the request and rescinds $32 million from the WIC reserve fund. While current estimates suggest this reduction can be made without reducing participation, language included in the report affirms the Committee's intent to continue to monitor program costs and to provide sufficient funding to serve all eligible applicants in the final bill.

International food aid. We are pleased that the Committee rejected an ill-advised administration proposal to move $300 million of international food aid to USAID, rather than continuing to fund it through the PL 480 program. The USAID funds would be used to buy food abroad, instead of American commodities, thus undermining the historically broad support for international food aid in this country.

This bill restores to PL 480 $222 million of the $300 million that would have gone to USAID, leaving total funding about $78 million short of the total budget request level. Rep. Jackson offered two amendments in committee to increase funding that were, unfortunately, defeated.

Conservation programs. The administration budget for the discretionary conservation programs in this bill proposed severe cuts in each of the major accounts. This bill improves upon the request, but total funding for these programs is still $52 million lower than last year's level.

This bill cuts mandatory conservation programs more deeply than the Bush budget. While the administration cut in the EQIP program is reduced slightly, the bill limits the Wetland Reserve Program, takes a deeper cut from the Conservation Security Program than the budget and cuts the ground and surface water conservation program, which the budget left untouched.

General provisions. We would like to express our views on several measures included in the bill as general provisions:

• *WIC-only stores.* We are also concerned about language in this bill that undoes an agreement reached last year between Congress and the administration on limiting so-called "WIC-only stores." We hope that our concerns will be addressed in conference.

• *Propaganda.* We are pleased that the subcommittee unanimously accepted an amendment by Rep. DeLauro to prohibit the use of funds in this bill to produce a pre-packaged news story without including a clear notification that the story was prepared or funded by a federal agency. Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent, and who is the source of the messages they see in print or on television, so they can make an informed decision based on the information before them.

• *Drug reimportation.* As in the past two years, this bill includes language to allow prescription drug importation. Soaring prices for life-saving drugs are a reality—and a public health issue—that millions of Americans confront daily. But while the Agriculture appropriations bills included this lan-

guage the last two years, the provisions were mysteriously dropped in conference without any public consideration. This must not happen again. This issue merits direct, open and full consideration this year.

We look forward to a vigorous debate on these and other issues when the House considers this bill. We will work hard there and in conference with the Senate to address the concerns we have identified.

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