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SENATE

{ REPORT
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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS BILL, 2015

MAY 22, 2014.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2389]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 2389) mak-
ing appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal
year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, reports fa-
vorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

New obligatory authority

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$142,654,142,000
Amount of 2014 appropriations	145,437,976,000
Amount of 2015 budget estimate	165,182,539,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2014 appropriations	– 2,783,834,000
2015 budget estimate	– 22,528,397,000

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BREAKDOWN BY TITLE

The amounts of obligational authority for each of the seven titles are shown in the following table. A detailed tabulation, showing comparisons, appears at the end of this report. Recommendations for individual appropriation items, projects and activities are carried in this report under the appropriate item headings.

[In thousands of dollars]

	2014	2015 Committee recommendation
Title I: Agricultural programs	29,938,096	25,627,270
Title II: Conservation programs	825,832	850,193
Title III: Rural economic and community development programs	2,397,709	2,448,923
Title IV: Domestic food programs	108,585,603	109,802,904
Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs	1,838,472	1,830,199
Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration	2,560,693	2,597,324
Title VII: General provisions	- 708,429	- 502,671
Total, new budget (obligational) authority	145,437,976	142,654,142

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides funding for a wide array of Federal programs, mostly in the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]. These programs include agricultural research, education, and extension activities; natural resources conservation programs; farm income and support programs; marketing and inspection activities; domestic food assistance programs; rural housing, economic and community development, and telecommunication and electrification assistance; and various export and international activities of the USDA.

The bill also provides funding for the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and allows the use of collected fees for administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration [FCA].

The discretionary programs and activities of USDA and FDA that are supported by this bill include high priority responsibilities entrusted to the Federal Government and its partners to protect human health and safety, contribute to economic recovery, and achieve policy objectives strongly supported by the American people. The ability to provide for these measures is made difficult by growing pressure on available levels of discretionary spending as a consequence of the overall public debate on Federal spending, revenues, and size of the Federal debt.

Too often, the USDA programs funded by this bill are confused with farm subsidies and other mandatory spending more properly associated with multi-year farm bills. In contrast, this bill provides annual funding for programs familiar to all Americans such as protecting food safety through the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration, which also plays a vital role in maintaining the safety of the Nation's blood supply and availability of safe and effective medical products and other components of our health system. This bill also provides funding to fight against the introduction and spread of noxious or infectious and often invasive pests and disease that threaten our plant and animal health environments, as well as funding for many other missions of dire importance to the American people.

In the context of overall pressures on spending and the competing priorities that the Committee faces, this bill as reported provides the proper amount of emphasis on agricultural, rural development, and other programs and activities funded by the bill. It is consistent with the subcommittee's allocation for fiscal year 2015.

All accounts in the bill have been closely examined to ensure that an appropriate level of funding is provided to carry out the programs of USDA, FDA, and FCA. Details on each of the accounts, the funding level, and the Committee's justifications for the funding levels are included in the report.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The Committee has, throughout this report, requested agencies to provide studies and reports on various issues. The Committee utilizes these reports to evaluate program performance and make decisions on future appropriations. The Committee directs that all studies and reports be provided to the Committee as electronic documents in an agreed upon format within 120 days after the date of enactment, unless an alternative submission schedule is specifically stated in the report request.

TITLE I
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Appropriations, 2014	\$43,778,000
Budget estimate, 2015	46,816,000
Committee recommendation	46,466,000

The Secretary of Agriculture, assisted by the Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and members of their immediate staffs, directs and coordinates the work of the Department. This includes developing policy, maintaining relationships with agricultural organizations and others in the development of farm programs, and maintaining liaison with the Executive Office of the President and Members of Congress on all matters pertaining to agricultural policy.

The general authority of the Secretary to supervise and control the work of the Department is contained in the Organic Act (7 U.S.C. 2201–2202). The delegation of regulatory functions to Department employees and authorization of appropriations to carry out these functions is contained in 7 U.S.C. 450c–450g.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$46,466,000 for the Office of the Secretary. The Committee recommendation includes the following accounts under the Office of the Secretary: Office of the Secretary; Office of Tribal Relations; Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination; Office of Advocacy and Outreach; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; Departmental Administration; Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations; and Office of Communications. The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee for each office and activity:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[In thousands of dollars]

	2014 enacted	2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary	5,051	5,086	5,086
Office of Tribal Relations	498	502	502
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination	1,496	1,507	1,507
Office of Advocacy and Outreach	1,209	1,217	1,217
Office of Assistance Secretary for Administration	804	809	809
Departmental Administration ¹	22,786	25,661	25,311
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,869	3,897	3,897

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

	2014 enacted	2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of Communications	8,065	8,137	8,137
Total	43,778	46,816	46,466

¹Included in the amount for the fiscal year 2015 budget request and Committee recommendation is \$2,877,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

Animal Fighting.—The Committee is very concerned about reports of illegal animal fighting activities and directs the Secretary to work with relevant agencies on the most effective and proper means for investigating and enforcing laws and regulations regarding these activities.

Forest Products.—The Committee supports the inclusion of forest products in the Biobased Markets Program and encourages the Department to expeditiously promulgate new regulations pursuant to changes in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Loan Servicing Center of Excellence.—In order to leverage existing capacity and expertise within the Department, the Secretary is directed to explore the creation of a Center of Excellence for loan servicing support functions in order to provide consolidated customer service, field office support, and centralized loan services to USDA agencies and other Federal agencies. The Secretary shall consult with employee representatives and management in the Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Information Technology, Accounting, and Finance Office loan servicing support functions; the Rural Development Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Information Officer functions; and the Rural Housing Centralized Servicing Center.

Military Veteran's Liaison.—The Agricultural Act of 2014 created a Military Veteran's Liaison to coordinate programs to assist veterans entering into agricultural occupations. USDA is encouraged to prioritize the creation of a full-time Military Veteran's Liaison in the Department staffing plan.

Resource Conservation and Development Councils.—Since 1964, the Resource Conservation and Development [RC&D] Councils have worked at the grassroots level with local leaders to plan, develop, and carry out programs for land and water conservation and management. The Committee encourages the Secretary to consider the maximum practical use of RC&D Councils, where such RC&D Councils meet agency performance requirements, in the delivery of USDA programs and services.

Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.—The Agricultural Act of 2014 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to propose a reorganization of the international trade functions at the Department of Agriculture, including the establishment of an Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and issue a report to Congress not later than 180 days after enactment, or August 6, 2014. One year after the report is submitted, or no later than August 6, 2015, the Secretary is required to implement this reorganization. The Committee af-

firms the importance of meeting the deadlines included in the Agricultural Act of 2014.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

Executive operations were established as a result of the reorganization of the Department to provide a support team for USDA policy officials and selected department-wide services. Activities under the executive operations include the Office of the Chief Economist, the National Appeals Division, and the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

Appropriations, 2014	\$16,777,000
Budget estimate, 2015	16,854,000
Committee recommendation	16,854,000

The Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of Department policies and programs. The Office serves as the single focal point for the Nation's economic intelligence and analysis, risk assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic and international food and agriculture issues, provides policy direction for renewable energy development, conducts analyses of climate change impacts on agriculture and forestry, and is responsible for coordination and review of all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$16,854,000 for the Office of the Chief Economist.

Policy Research.—The Committee recommendation includes \$4,000,000 for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155 for entities with existing institutional capacity to conduct complex economic and policy analysis and a lengthy and well-documented record of conducting policy analysis for the benefit of the Department of Agriculture, the Congressional Budget Office, or the Congress. To maximize resources, the Committee expects the Department to focus efforts on entities that have developed models, databases, and staff necessary to conduct in-depth analysis of impacts of agriculture or rural development policy proposals on rural communities, farmers, agribusiness, taxpayers, and consumers.

NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION

Appropriations, 2014	\$12,841,000
Budget estimate, 2015	13,430,000
Committee recommendation	13,430,000

The National Appeals Division conducts administrative hearings and reviews of adverse program decisions made by the Rural Development mission area, the Farm Service Agency, the Risk Management Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$13,430,000 for the National Appeals Division. Included in this amount is \$528,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Appropriations, 2014	\$9,064,000
Budget estimate, 2015	10,292,000
Committee recommendation	9,305,000

The Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department’s budgetary functions including development, presentation, and execution of the budget; reviews program and legislative proposals for program, budget, and related implications; analyzes program and resource issues and alternatives, and prepares summaries of pertinent data to aid the Secretary and departmental policy officials and agency program managers in the decisionmaking process; and provides department-wide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget-related matters to the committees of the Congress, the media, and interested public. The Office also provides department-wide coordination of the preparation and processing of regulations and legislative programs and reports.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,305,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis. The Committee does not recommend an appropriation to establish the position of Chief Evaluation Officer.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Appropriations, 2014	\$44,031,000
Budget estimate, 2015	45,199,000
Committee recommendation	45,199,000

The Office of the Chief Information Officer was established in August 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), pursuant to the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, which required the establishment of a Chief Information Officer for major Federal agencies. This Office provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination, and direction to the Department’s information management and information technology investment activities in support of USDA program delivery, and is the lead office in USDA e-gov efforts. The Office provides long-range planning guidance, implements measures to ensure that technology investments are economical and effective, coordinates interagency information resources management projects, and implements standards to promote information exchange and technical interoperability. In addition, the Office of the Chief Information Officer is responsible for certain activities financed under the Department’s Working Capital Fund (7 U.S.C. 2235). The Office also provides telecommunication and automated data processing [ADP] services to USDA agencies through the National Information Tech-

nology Center with locations in Fort Collins, Colorado, Kansas City, Missouri and Washington, DC. Direct ADP operational services are also provided to the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Communications, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Departmental Management.

On November 28, 2004, the information technology staffs of the Service Center Agencies [SCA] were converged into one IT organization within the office of the Chief Information Officer; this converged organization is named Information Technology Services and replaces a network of cross-agency teams used to coordinate IT infrastructure investment within the SCA and allows for unified management of the IT infrastructure.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$45,199,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Included in this amount is \$993,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. This amount also includes not less than \$28,000,000 to support cybersecurity requirements of the Department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Appropriations, 2014	\$6,213,000
Budget estimate, 2015	6,080,000
Committee recommendation	6,080,000

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the dual roles of Chief Financial Management Policy Officer and Chief Financial Management Advisor to the Secretary and mission area heads. The Office provides leadership for all financial management, accounting, travel, Federal assistance, and strategic planning performance measurement activities within the Department. The Office is also responsible for the management and operation of the National Finance Center and the Departmental Working Capital Fund.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,080,000 for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights provides oversight of civil rights and related functions. This includes coordination of the administration of civil rights laws and regulations for employees of the Department of Agriculture and participants in programs of the Department, and ensuring compliance with civil rights laws.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$21,400,000
Budget estimate, 2015	24,236,000
Committee recommendation	24,236,000

The Office of Civil Rights provides overall leadership responsibility for all department-wide civil rights activities. These activities include employment opportunity as well as program nondiscrimination policy development, analysis, coordination, and compliance. The Office is responsible for providing leadership in facilitating the fair and equitable treatment of USDA employees, and for monitoring program activities to ensure that all USDA programs are delivered in a nondiscriminatory manner. The Office’s outreach functions provide leadership, coordination, facilitation, and expertise to internal and external partners to ensure equal and timely access to USDA programs for all constituents, with emphasis on the underserved, through information sharing, technical assistance, and training.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$24,236,000 for the Office of Civil Rights. Included in this amount is \$2,471,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$233,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	64,825,000
Committee recommendation	64,844,000

Department headquarters presently operates in a two-building, Government-owned complex in downtown Washington, DC, the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland, and in leased buildings in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area. Under an arrangement with the General Services Administration, USDA operates, maintains, and repairs these facilities, in lieu of rental payments. For the last several years the Department has implemented a strategic space plan to locate staff more efficiently, renovate its buildings, and eliminate safety hazards, particularly in the Agriculture South Building.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$64,844,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities. The recommendation includes General Services Administration rental payments and Department of Homeland Security security payments within each respective agency, per the budget request.

The following table reflects the Committee’s specific recommendations for this account as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

[In thousands of dollars]

	2014 enacted	2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Rental Payments	164,470	.....	.....
Building Operations	54,730	64,825	64,844
DHS Building Security	13,800	.....	.....

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2014	\$3,592,000
Budget estimate, 2015	3,600,000
Committee recommendation	3,600,000

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Department has the responsibility to meet the same standards regarding the storage and disposition of hazardous materials as private businesses. The Department is required to contain, cleanup, monitor, and inspect for hazardous materials in areas under the Department’s jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,600,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2014	\$89,902,000
Budget estimate, 2015	97,240,000
Committee recommendation	97,240,000

The Office of Inspector General [OIG] was established October 12, 1978, by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452). This act expanded and provided specific authorities for the activities of OIG which had previously been carried out under the general authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Office is administered by an inspector general who reports directly to the Secretary of Agriculture. Functions and responsibilities of this Office include direction and control of audit and investigative activities within the Department, formulation of audit and investigative policies and procedures regarding Department programs and operations, and analysis and coordination of program-related audit and investigation activities performed by other Department agencies.

The activities of this Office are designed to assure compliance with existing laws, policies, regulations, and programs of the Department’s agencies, and to provide appropriate officials with the means for prompt corrective action where deviations have occurred. The scope of audit and investigative activities is large and includes administrative, program, and criminal matters. These activities are coordinated, when appropriate, with various audit and investigative agencies of the executive and legislative branches of the Government.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$97,240,000 for the Office of Inspector General. Included in this amount is \$5,198,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. In addition, the recommendation includes funding for OIG to address violations of section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) and to coordinate with State and local law enforcement personnel in this effort.

MIDAS.—The Committee is concerned that, despite having invested more funding than was originally envisioned for MIDAS, the system is not meeting the original goals and objectives of streamlining business processes and developing an effective long-term information technology system capable of seamless delivery of farm bill programs. Therefore, the Committee directs OIG to review the management oversight of MIDAS, including issues such as its current status, timeline, funding, performance, and security. The Committee requests regular updates on the status of this review.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Appropriations, 2014	\$41,202,000
Budget estimate, 2015	47,567,000
Committee recommendation	47,567,000

The Office of the General Counsel provides all legal advice, counsel, and services to the Secretary and to all agencies, offices, and corporations of the Department. The Office represents the Department in administrative proceedings; nonlitigation debt collection proceedings; State water rights adjudications; proceedings before the Environmental Protection Agency, Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Maritime Administration, and International Trade Commission; and, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, in judicial proceedings and litigation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$47,567,000 for the Office of the General Counsel. Included in this amount is \$2,191,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

Appropriations, 2014	\$3,440,000
Budget estimate, 2015	3,867,000
Committee recommendation	3,867,000

The Office of Ethics is the centralized and consolidated office implementing USDA’s ethics program throughout the Department. The Office provides ethics services to all employees at the Department concerning advice, training, and guidance about compliance

with conflict of interest and impartiality rules. This includes complying with the requirements of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, Public Law 112–105 (the STOCK Act), and the Office of Government Ethics regulatory requirements (5 CFR parts 2634 through 2641).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,867,000 for the Office of Ethics.

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

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress for food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economic and statistical information. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Agricultural Research Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Economic Research Service; and National Agricultural Statistics Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Healthy Water Resources.—The Department is encouraged to explore technology that meets the requirements of the National Organic Program and that can control weeds and pests while maintaining healthy water resources.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Appropriations, 2014	\$78,058,000
Budget estimate, 2015	83,446,000
Committee recommendation	85,373,000

The Economic Research Service [ERS] provides economic and other social science research and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. The information that ERS produces is for use by the general public and to help the executive and legislative branches develop, administer, and evaluate agricultural and rural policies and programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$85,373,000 for the Economic Research Service. Included in this amount is \$7,727,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

Organic Data Analysis.—The Committee encourages ERS to continue all ongoing efforts relating to organic data analysis.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2014	\$161,206,000
Budget estimate, 2015	178,999,000
Committee recommendation	178,154,000

The National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS] administers the Department’s program of collecting and publishing current national, State, and county agricultural statistics. These statistics provide accurate and timely projections of current agricultural production and measures of the economic and environmental welfare of the agricultural sector which are essential for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions. NASS also furnishes statistical services to other USDA and Federal agencies in support of their missions, and provides consulting, technical assistance, and training to developing countries.

NASS is also responsible for administration of the Census of Agriculture, which is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy including: data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, farm product values, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$178,154,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Included in this amount is \$48,044,000 for the Census of Agriculture and \$9,202,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. The Committee recommendation includes requested funding for the pollinator health initiative, restoration of the fruit and vegetable in-season reports, restoration of the chemical use survey, and does not include the proposed suspension of reports proposed in the budget.

Chemical Use Data Series.—The Committee believes that the Chemical Use Data Series provides timely, valuable information on fertilizer and chemical use data and major field crops and selected specialty crops. The Committee encourages the National Agricultural Statistics Service to continue funding the collection and analysis of chemical use data as well as practices such as integrated pest management. The Committee also provides funding, as requested in the budget, for National Agricultural Statistics Service to resume collecting Fruit Chemical Use data and Vegetable Chemical Use data in alternating years.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2014	\$1,122,482,000
Budget estimate, 2015	1,104,403,000
Committee recommendation	1,139,673,000

The Agricultural Research Service [ARS] is responsible for conducting basic, applied, and developmental research through its major program areas of New Products/Product Quality/Value Added; Livestock/Crop Production; Food Safety; Livestock/Crop Protection; Human Nutrition; and Environmental Stewardship. The research applies to a wide range of goals; commodities; natural resources; fields of science; and geographic, climatic, and environmental conditions.

ARS is also responsible for the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Library which provides agricultural information and library services through traditional library functions and modern electronic dissemination to agencies of the USDA, public and private organizations, and individuals.

As the USDA's in-house agricultural research unit, ARS has major responsibilities for conducting and leading the national agricultural research effort. It provides initiative and leadership in five areas: research on broad regional and national problems, research to support Federal action and regulatory agencies, expertise to meet national emergencies, research support for international programs, and scientific resources to the executive branch and Congress.

The mission of ARS research is to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,139,673,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service. Included in this amount is \$4,671,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. The Committee does not concur with the President's budget request regarding the termination of research programs or closure of six research locations. The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2014 levels.

Aerial Application Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS Aerial Application Technology Program. The program conducts innovative research making aerial applications more efficient, effective and precise. Research for aerial application serves the public good as a vital tool for the future, as agriculture

strives to meet the food, fiber, and bio-energy demands of a growing population.

Agroforestry.—Agroforestry can provide on-farm financial and environmental benefits while also addressing the regional and national-scale issues of clean water, wildlife habitat, and hypoxia. Agroforesters manage trees with crops, livestock, and pasture to combine the best of both agriculture and forestry. Recognizing the importance of agroforestry to farm practices and the environment, the Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2014 level to develop integrated strategies to manage multifunctional agricultural landscapes that combine trees with agricultural and horticultural crops, forages and grazing livestock for optimal economic, environmental, and natural resources benefits.

Classical Plant Breeding.—The Committee is aware of the need to enhance classical plant breeding, and encourages ARS to invest in research to improve genetic resources and cultivars for the benefit of U.S. producers, seed companies, processors and consumers. This research should focus on breeding improved germplasm and varieties with higher yields, improved disease and pest resistance and resilience to weather extremes. Additionally, methods and tools should be developed to enable classical breeders to choose better breeding parents and speed up variety development.

Coffee Berry Borer.—The Committee is aware of the threat that the coffee berry borer poses to the existence of the coffee industry, and believes that ARS should focus research into methods to control and eradicate the pest.

Emerging Cereal Rust Diseases.—The Committee is aware that emerging cereal rust diseases are a threat to domestic and world food supplies. Therefore, the Department should continue to dedicate funding to speed efforts to combat cereal rust disease, including development of Ug99-resistant wheat varieties.

Forage Production Systems.—The Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2014 level to develop management practices that improve the production efficiency of grazing operations in temperate pastures.

Forest Products.—The Committee recognizes the important role of the forests products sector to the U.S. economy. The need to create new and improved value-added products and renewable energy from our Nation's wood supply is critical to the sustainability of the national economy. The Committee recommendation includes \$3,050,000 to support research on wood quality improvement and improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques. ARS shall conduct this research in consultation with the Forest Products Laboratory.

Human Nutrition Research.—The Committee remains concerned about the high rates of obesity in this country, and believes that research into human nutrition is important to help prevent childhood obesity and the medical issues obesity brings. The Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2014 level to expand research regarding the growth, health promotion, and disease prevention of the developing child.

Nutrition Research and Aging.—The Committee is aware that research into nutrition can benefit aging Americans by keeping them active longer, delaying or reducing the effects of chronic illnesses

and obesity, and reducing healthcare costs for such diseases. The Committee supports the investment in human nutrition research, especially as it affects the aging population, and encourages ARS to continue support for nutrition research and existing centers.

Organic Production Survey.—In 2008, NASS conducted the first ever comprehensive Organic Production Survey as a follow-on survey to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Published in February 2010, the survey has provided information vital to the organic sector's growth. The Committee believes the Organic Production Survey should be conducted on a regular basis to properly assess the characteristics, trends, and changes in the sector. The Committee provided \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2014 for this purpose and expects USDA to conduct the Organic Production Survey as a comprehensive follow-on survey to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Plant Science.—The Committee supports infrastructure investments in support of high priority research in plant science, particularly programs that would develop small grain varieties, such as wheat and barley, that have improved end use quality, higher disease and insect resistance, and increased abiotic stress tolerance.

Pollinator Research.—The Committee is aware that pollinators are responsible for the production of one-third of the Nation's food supply, but the number of managed honeybee colonies in the United States has dropped in half since 1940. Because of the importance of pollinators in the production of the Nation's food supply and their impact on the stability of our agricultural economy, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of \$4,000,000 for pollinator health, as requested in the budget.

Pulse Health Initiative.—The Committee continues to recognize the need to investigate the ability of pulse crops—dry beans, dry peas, lentils, and chickpeas—to provide solutions to critical health issues including but not limited to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer; and to increase the consumption of pulse crops by improving their functionality in baked goods and end use as a food and food ingredient through the study of milling, extrusion, extraction, and cooking properties. The Committee also recognizes the potential to improve the sustainability of agricultural rotations and reduce green house gas emissions by improving the nitrogen fixing abilities of pulse crops. The Committee recommends ARS provide adequate funding to establish the Pulse Health Initiative.

Research Facilities.—The Committee encourages ARS to work cooperatively with universities to better utilize available state-of-the-art laboratory space to effectively address important agricultural research issues. The Committee directs ARS to study ways in which the Federal labs could be better utilized, in cooperation with universities, to explore new scientific opportunities that benefit the Nation's food and agriculture system, and to submit a report with recommendations to the Committee by January 30, 2015. The report should include information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and other cooperators, as well as the extent in which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.

Research Priorities and Objectives.—The Committee believes that ARS university partners play a major role in achieving ARS research priorities and objectives. The Committee further believes that ARS must ensure limited research dollars are maximized and

administrative costs are reduced to the fullest extent possible, and expects ARS to operate within historical administrative cost parameters.

Sclerotinia.—The Committee is aware of the economic importance of controlling sclerotinia, which affects sunflowers, soybeans, canola, edible beans, peas, and lentils and encourages ARS to continue both core research and cooperative projects of the National Sclerotinia Initiative.

Shellfish Research.—The Committee directs the Agricultural Research Service to continue to partner with research institutions on research to improve shellfish survival and growth rates and to classify and preserve natural genetic variation.

Sustainable Water Use Research.—The Committee recognizes the ongoing regional groundwater problems in the Lower Mississippi River Basin. The Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2014 level for ARS to continue research on conservation practices and the incorporation of technology in farm management in order to quantify management impacts on water quality and quantity.

Technology Transfer and Innovation.—The Committee encourages the Agricultural Research Service to utilize existing Agricultural Technology Innovation Partnerships to establish a pilot program to provide regional collaborations, technology transfer and commercialization, and innovative venture development training.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amends the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) by establishing an agency to be known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture [NIFA]. The Secretary transferred to the Director of NIFA, effective October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service. The mission is to work with university partners and customers to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$772,559,000
Budget estimate, 2015	837,747,000
Committee recommendation	787,545,000

Research and Education programs administered by NIFA are USDA’s principal entrée to the university system of the United States for the purpose of conducting agricultural research and education programs as authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a–361i); the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962, as amended (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.); the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i); the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.); the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note); the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform

Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–185), as amended; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624); the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171); and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246). Through these authorities, USDA participates with State and other cooperators to encourage and assist the State institutions in the conduct of agricultural research and education through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States and the territories; by approved Schools of Forestry; the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University; 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; by Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and other eligible institutions. The appropriated funds provide Federal support for research and education programs at these institutions.

The research and education programs participate in a nationwide system of agricultural research program planning and coordination among the State institutions, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the agricultural industry of America.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$787,545,000 for research and education activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Included in this amount is \$5,960,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

The following table summarizes the Committee’s recommendations for research and education activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Hatch Act	7 U.S.C. 361a-i	\$243,701
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7	33,961
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	7 U.S.C. 3222	52,485
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	534(a)(1) of Public Law 103–382 ..	3,439
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	19,336
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3241	9,219
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156	3,194
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 301 note	1,801
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	7 U.S.C. 3319i	4,500
Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas.	7 U.S.C. 3222b-2, 3362, and 3363	1,800
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	7 U.S.C. 450i(b)	325,000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	7 U.S.C. 3151a	4,790
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	7 U.S.C. 3195	4,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	7 U.S.C. 3319d	825
Critical Agricultural Materials Act	7 U.S.C. 178 et seq.	1,081
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institutions Challenge Grants.	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	9,000
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	7 U.S.C. 3152(j)	900
Aquaculture Centers	7 U.S.C. 3322	4,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832.	22,667
Farm Business Management	7 U.S.C. 5925f	1,450

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES—
Continued
[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Sun Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 8114	2,500
Improved Pest Control:		
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	11,913
Alfalfa Forage and Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	1,350
Special Research Grants:	7 U.S.C. 450i(c).	
Global Change/UV Monitoring .....	.....	1,405
Potato Research .....	.....	1,350
Aquaculture Research .....	.....	1,350
Total, Special Research Grants .....	.....	4,105
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System .....	.....	7,830
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.	.....	12,698
Total, Necessary Expenses .....	.....	20,528
Total, Research and Education Activities .....	.....	787,545

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.—The Committee recommendation includes \$325,000,000 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI].

Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 specifies priority areas within the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI], including an emphasis on conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding. The Committee strongly concurs with the intent of this section, and requests a report from the agency as to its plans for implementing this important conventional/classical plant and animal breeding requirement. The Committee also encourages the agency to specifically focus on the development of public cultivars and breeds as part of the general classical breeding research program.

Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards.—The Committee remains determined to see that quality research and enhanced human resources development in the agricultural and related sciences be a nationwide commitment. Therefore, the Committee directs that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA’s agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA–EPSCoR. The Committee recognizes that funding for EPSCoR has increased as a result of the growth in AFRI funding over the past several years.

Agricultural Research Priorities.—The Committee recognizes that there are many research priorities that competitive funding may be used to address, including addressing challenges related to the commercialization of biological conversion of biomass to fish and animal feed; improving the digestibility, nutritional value, and efficiency of the use of corn, soybean meal, cereal grains and grain by-products for the poultry and food animal production industries; addressing pollinator health and colony collapse disorder research; and, controlling the *Macadamia Felted Coccid*. The Committee encourages NIFA to support research into these priorities.

Alfalfa and Forage Research.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,350,000 to support research into the improvement of yields, water conservation, creation of new uses, and the development of new storage and harvest systems.

Aquaculture Disease Research.—The Committee encourages USDA to support aquaculture disease and vaccine research, including research on coldwater aquaculture vaccines. There is currently no national facility for pathogen testing. Research into finfish vaccines and pathogens has the potential to accelerate the growth of sustainable U.S. aquaculture, reduce the trade deficit attributable to imported seafood, and reduce the pressure on overfished species.

Aquaculture Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the domestic aquaculture industry to the U.S. economy. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,350,000 for aquaculture research to address issues related to genetics, disease, systems, and economics.

Cereal Crop Research.—Research on cereal crops has historically been conducted by USDA and public universities, and the Committee recognizes the importance of continuing investment in cereal crop research. The Committee strongly encourages USDA to provide funding for cereal crop research in the areas of genetic and genomic research, plant pest research, and improved production systems.

Cranberry and Blueberry Research.—The Committee encourages the NIFA to continue working with research institutions to develop resilient cranberry and blueberry breeds and establish effective and environmentally sound pest management technologies.

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of programs that will teach students about basic nutrition while providing them with a variety of experiences and learning opportunities through working in school gardens. The Committee encourages NIFA to work with FNS and build on the efforts of the farm to school programs and the Committee supports expanded national service opportunities.

Herbicide Resistance.—Herbicide resistant weeds are a major threat to food, feed, and fiber production in the United States and the problem is expected to continue to increase in size and scope. Current funding for research and extension is woefully inadequate. The Committee is concerned that the lack of research based information significantly delays developing effective management strategies to address the herbicide resistance problem. The Committee encourages NIFA, in conjunction with ARS and land-grant institutions, to conduct research that will more comprehensively address herbicide resistance. Research may include: identification of herbicide resistant weed populations or those most likely to develop resistance, characterization of mechanisms of resistance, and development of innovative weed management strategies to overcome current resistance problems and delay or prevent future ones. In addition, effective and widespread dissemination of results to farmers, foresters, and rights of way land managers through extension and outreach will be critical to the success of this endeavor.

Lowbush Blueberries.—The Committee directs NIFA to work with research institutions to develop and refine predictive models and monitoring technologies for native and invasive pests for incorporation into integrated pest management programs for naturally seeded, native berry crops to increase the margin of food safety and product quality.

Nanotechnology in Plants for Drought Resistance.—The Committee believes that research in developing drought resistance crops is an essential safeguard against wide-spread droughts domestically and internationally. The Committee encourages the Department to partner with organizations and academic institutions, particularly using nanotechnology, to develop research options and studies that will help foster drought resistance discoveries.

Regional Research Priorities.—The Committee encourages NIFA to consider providing funding within AFRI to assist with State and regional research priorities, with USDA oversight and review.

Seafood.—The Committee encourages USDA, in partnership with universities with established domestic shrimp farming programs, to support the development of a domestic industry that will help ensure the safety and quality of the Nation's seafood supply, promote environmentally sustainable aquaculture, create new opportunities for U.S. agriculture, and forge new markets for U.S. grain and oilseed products and technology services.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative.—The Committee emphasizes the important role of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative in addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry through research and extension activities, and encourages NIFA to prioritize proposals for and enhance its overall commitment to identifying and addressing threats to pollinators from pests and diseases.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.—As proposed in the budget request, the Committee recommendation includes the consolidation of research, education and extension activities in the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [SARE] program. All three activities authorized in Subtitle B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 are vital to the success of the SARE program, and the Committee directs the Department to ensure that each activity remain intact in the future.

Zoonotic Disease Research.—Federal and State animal health officials have made eradicating livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs a national animal health priority. This need is reflected in the Agricultural Act of 2014 which made the research and development of surveillance methods, vaccines, vaccination delivery systems or diagnostic tests a priority research area under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act particularly for bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages the agency to make competitive grants available to study improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs.

HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
 ENDOWMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2014	
Budget estimate, 2015	\$10,000,000
Committee recommendation	10,000,000

Section 7129 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, provides for the establishment of an endowment fund for the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities [HSACU]. The Hispanic/Latino community is the fastest-growing sector of the American population. This investment in the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities is needed to ensure institutions can effectively compete for NIFA competitive grants.

On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall withdraw the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year, and after making adjustments for the cost of administering the endowment fund, shall distribute the adjusted income as follows: 60 percent of the adjusted income shall be distributed among the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities on a pro rata basis based on the Hispanic enrollment count of each institution; and 40 percent shall be distributed in equal shares to the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2014	\$11,880,000
Budget estimate, 2015	11,880,000
Committee recommendation	11,880,000

The Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103–382, the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act, provides an endowment for the 1994 land-grant institutions (34 tribally controlled colleges). This program will enhance educational opportunity for Native Americans by building educational capacity at these institutions in the areas of student recruitment and retention, curricula development, faculty preparation, instruction delivery systems, and scientific instrumentation for teaching. Income funds are also available for facility renovation, repair, construction, and maintenance. On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall withdraw the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year, and after making adjustments for the cost of administering the endowment fund, distribute the adjusted income as follows: 60 percent of the adjusted income from these funds shall be distributed among the 1994 land-grant institutions on a pro rata basis, the proportionate share being based on the Indian student count; and 40 percent of the adjusted income shall be distributed in equal shares to the 1994 land-grant institutions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$11,880,000 for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$469,191,000
Budget estimate, 2015	468,968,000
Committee recommendation	472,686,000

Cooperative extension work was established by the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to provide, through the land-grant colleges, cooperative extension work that consists of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture and related subjects, and to encourage the application of such information by demonstrations, publications, through 4-H clubs, and other means to persons not in attendance or resident at the colleges.

To fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act, State and county extension offices in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and Micronesia conduct educational programs to improve American agriculture and strengthen the Nation's families and communities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$472,686,000 for extension activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for extension activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c) and Cooperative Extension ...	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of Public Law 93-471.	\$300,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3221	43,920
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	4,446
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222b	19,730
Renewable Resources Extension Act.	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 2662(i)	1,500
Food and Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program	7 U.S.C. 7642	1,250
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	7 U.S.C. 5925	400
Food Safety Outreach Program	7 U.S.C. 7625	2,500
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):		
Food and Nutrition Education	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	67,934
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	4,610
New Technologies for Agricultural Extension	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	1,550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	8,395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	3,039
Total, Section 3(d)		85,528
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom		552

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES—Continued

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.	8,800
Total, Necessary Expenses	9,352
Total, Extension Activities	472,686

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$35,317,000
Budget estimate, 2015	28,821,000
Committee recommendation	32,217,000

Section 406, as amended, of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 authorizes an integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$32,217,000 for integrated activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for integrated activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Water Quality Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	\$4,500
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	1,996
Organic Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	4,000
Regional Rural Development Centers	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	998
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative ¹	7 U.S.C. 3351	3,580
Crop Protection/Pest Management	7 U.S.C. 7626, 7 U.S.C. 450i(c), and 7 U.S.C. 343(d).	17,143
Total, Integrated Activities .....	.....	32,217

¹ Funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network within this line item is transferred to APHIS.

Potato Research.—To minimize the application of pesticides and to maximize the yield and quality of harvested potatoes, the Committee directs the Secretary to support pest management programs in potato growing States. Such programs help scientists track potential pest outbreaks and provide growers and industry professionals with current information on specific and timely treatments. Additionally, the programs help identify serious diseases, such as late blight disease, in their early stages, allowing for preventive measure to be put into place quickly to avoid crop losses.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department’s marketing, grading, and standardization activities related to grain; competitive marketing practices of livestock, marketing orders, and various programs; veterinary services; and plant protection and quarantine. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Agricultural Marketing Service; and Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2014	\$821,721,000
Budget estimate, 2015	834,341,000
Committee recommendation	872,414,000

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] on April 2, 1972, under the authority of reorganization plan No. 2 of 1953, and other authorities. The major objectives of APHIS are to protect the animal and plant resources of the Nation from diseases and pests. These objectives are carried out under the major areas of activity, as follows:

Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response.—The agency monitors plant and animal health worldwide, and sets import polices to prevent the introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases. Domestically, the agency works cooperatively to conduct plant and animal health monitoring programs, pursue eradication, or limit the spread of the threat. The agency also conducts diagnostic laboratory activities that support disease prevention, detection, control, and eradication programs. In addition, the agency protects agriculture from detrimental animal predators, and through its regulatory structure helps advance genetic research while protecting against the release of harmful organisms.

Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance.—The agency helps resolve technical trade issues to ensure the smooth and safe movement of agricultural commodities into and out of the United States. The agency negotiates animal and plant health certification requirements and assists U.S. exporters meet foreign regulatory demands. In addition, the agency assists developing countries in improving their safeguarding systems, to protect the United States from emerging plant and animal pests and diseases.

Animal Care.—The agency conducts regulatory activities that ensure the humane care and treatment of animals and horses as the

Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts require. These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibition, and as pets, and monitoring certain horse shows.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$872,414,000 for salaries and expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Included in this amount is \$42,567,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

The following table reflects the Committee's specific recommendations for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance:			
Animal Health Technical Services	35,339	37,889	35,401
Aquatic Animal Health	2,253	2,253	2,274
Avian Health	52,340	50,223	52,529
Cattle Health	92,500	92,500	93,032
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	19,500	19,500	19,617
National Veterinary Stockpile	3,722	3,722	3,723
Swine Health	22,250	22,250	24,353
Veterinary Biologics	16,417	16,417	16,523
Veterinary Diagnostics	31,540	31,540	25,025
National Animal Health Laboratory Network ¹			10,000
Zoonotic Disease Management	9,523	9,523	9,567
Subtotal, Animal Health	285,384	285,817	292,044
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)			
Cotton Pests	26,900	26,900	27,234
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	12,720	9,055	11,575
Pest Detection	8,826	8,826	8,883
Plant Protection Methods Development	27,446	27,446	27,587
Specialty Crop Pests	24,549	20,549	20,686
Tree & Wood Pests	151,500	137,393	152,667
Subtotal, Plant Health	54,000	45,392	54,304
Subtotal, Plant Health	305,941	275,561	302,936
Wildlife Damage Management			
Wildlife Services Methods Development	87,428	87,428	90,027
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	18,856	18,856	19,014
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	106,284	106,284	109,041
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement			
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	16,224	16,224	16,362
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	18,135	18,135	19,223
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	34,359	34,359	35,585
Contingency Fund			
Emergency Preparedness & Response	470	470	485
Subtotal, Emergency Management	16,966	16,966	17,055
Subtotal, Emergency Management	17,436	17,436	17,540

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response	749,404	719,457	757,146
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export	14,099	14,099	14,189
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	20,114	20,114	20,188
Subtotal, Safe Trade	34,213	34,213	34,377
Animal Welfare:			
Animal Welfare	28,010	28,010	28,222
Horse Protection	697	697	705
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	28,707	28,707	28,927
Agency Management:			
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	4,251	4,251	4,251
Physical/Operational Security	5,146	5,146	5,146
GSA rent and DHS security payments		42,567	42,567
Subtotal, Agency Management	9,397	51,964	51,964
Total, Direct Appropriation	821,721	834,341	872,414

¹This incorporates funding previously provided separately to NIFA and APHIS.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.—The Committee recognizes that prevention of infestations of pests and diseases is much more cost effective than subsequent control or eradication. This is an important Federal responsibility and the Committee provides \$27,234,000 for the agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) function, including pre-departure and interline inspections.

In April 2014, the Department proposed new user fee regulations and overtime reimbursements for certain AQI services provided at U.S. ports. The current fee structure has been in place since fiscal year 2010 and does not fully reflect the cost of providing AQI services. The Committee supports the Department's intent to update user fees to comply with the requirements set forth in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. Furthermore, the Committee notes that imported fruits and vegetables comprise a growing percentage of the produce available to consumers. Timely inspection at U.S. Ports is critical given the highly perishable nature of these commodities. Upon implementation of the new fee structure, the Committee encourages the Department to work closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that resources are made available to facilitate the timely processing of fruits and vegetable shipments.

Animal Disease Traceability.—The Committee provides \$13,000,000 to continue support for implementation of the new animal disease traceability system.

APHIS Cargo Release.—The Committee recommends that APHIS continue to work with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection [CBP] in order to facilitate the release of cargo at commercial import facilities by ensuring that CBP officials earn Cargo Release Authority certification for those species

and groups of organisms listed in the Cargo Release Authority Plan. Such coordination will allow CBP officials to release cargo authorized by the Cargo Release Authority Plan while allowing APHIS entomologists, plant pathologists, and botanists to make release decisions upon discovery of those reportable organisms that may pose a threat to the Nation's agricultural security. APHIS is directed to report to the Committee regarding ongoing interagency coordination efforts, as well as specific steps planned for the fiscal year to improve release decisionmaking processes for import agriculture cargo.

Asian Long-Horned Beetle.—The Committee recognizes that the forest products industry and family forest owners are under great threat from a variety of invasive forest pests. It is essential that APHIS carry out a comprehensive program to counter the spread of invasive species and completely eradicate the Asian long-horned beetle, which was detected in a new location in Long Island, New York, in 2013. The Secretary is directed to report to the Committee on Appropriations regarding the steps being taken to eradicate Asian long-horned beetles in northeast forests.

Chronic Wasting Disease.—The national deer farming industry is adapting to a 2012 interim final rule that established a national, voluntary herd certification program [HCP] that provides uniform herd certification standards and will support the domestic and international marketability of U.S. cervid herds. The Committee believes the industry requires funding support to ensure that the newly implemented chronic wasting disease HCP is successful. Therefore, APHIS should spend no less than \$3,000,000 for cervid health activities. Within the funds provided, APHIS should give consideration to indemnity payments if warranted.

Committee Directives.—In complying with the Committee's directives, the Committee expects APHIS not to redirect support for programs and activities without prior notification to and approval by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures specified in the act. Unless otherwise directed, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service shall implement appropriations by programs, projects, and activities as specified by the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress. Unspecified reductions necessary to carry out the provisions of this act are to be implemented in accordance with the definitions contained in the program, project, and activity section of this report.

Eradication of Invasive Pests.—The Committee expects APHIS, through its Tree and Wood Pests, Specialty Crop Pests, Animal Health, and Wildlife Services programs to continue to work to support solutions to control and eradicate destructive invasive species affecting U.S. agriculture and the environment.

Honey Bee Pests.—The Committee remains concerned with declining bee populations and the tragic implications for pollination of U.S. agriculture. The Committee directs the agency to continue priority work with other Federal and State agencies and the public to manage, suppress, and eradicate varroa mites, small hive beetles, and other pests and diseases contributing to colony collapse disorder.

Invasive Annual Grasses.—The Secretary is encouraged to consider targeted herbicide treatments of invasive annual grasses and restoration efforts to compliment juniper control efforts on greater sage-grouse habitat on private rangelands.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network [NAHLN].—Funding for the NAHLN shall be administered through APHIS in consultation with the NAHLN Coordinating Council. NAHLN funding was previously administered through the Veterinary Diagnostics program.

PED Virus.—Since the first positive test case in April 2013, farms in 30 States have tested positive for the porcine epidemic diarrhea [PED] virus and millions of small pigs have died as a result. The Committee provides additional funding for the Swine Health program in support of increased biosecurity and herd management efforts and encourages the Department to continue development of a coordinated response strategy with industry stakeholders. The Committee also encourages the Secretary to utilize contingency funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation for surveillance of the PED virus.

Peer-Reviewed Accreditation.—The Committee recognizes the diversity of individuals and establishments regulated under APHIS' animal welfare programs and the commensurate diversity of violations of the animal protection statutes which APHIS is charged with enforcing. The Committee expects APHIS to continue to prioritize its inspection resources and frequency of inspections to better address higher risk individuals and institutions. The Committee also encourages APHIS to recognize the merits of zoos and aquariums receiving peer-reviewed accreditation from a commissioned organization that heeds rigorous publicly available standards, utilizes notable experts in the field to conduct comprehensive inspection and review, and provides opportunity for public input. The Committee encourages APHIS to continue its collaborations with these peer-reviewed accredited zoos and aquariums on critical initiatives such as: foreign animal disease surveillance; all-hazards preparedness and response; and animal welfare symposia.

Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.—The Committee remains interested in efforts to manage *P. ramorum* while minimizing regulatory burden on nurseries and at the same time preventing disruption to the interstate movement of plant materials and commercial trade. The Committee expects APHIS to use an appropriate portion of the funding for specialty crop pests to expeditiously implement the revised Federal order governing the de-regulation of lower risk nurseries and the shipment of plant materials from quarantined and regulated counties and also minimize the number of nurseries required to pre-notify officials in States receiving shipments of higher-risk nursery stock. The Committee further expects APHIS to continue efforts to partner with the regulated states and the nursery industry to develop and implement Best Management Practices [BMPs] for mitigating *P. ramorum* during the effective period of the order.

Wildlife Damage Management.—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides \$90,027,000 for wildlife damage control to

maintain priority initiatives, including preventing the transport of invasive snakes and other harmful species.

The Committee maintains support for assistance to aquaculture producers to help mitigate wildlife depredation, particularly as it pertains to fish-eating birds. The Committee encourages USDA to continue providing tools and resources to cooperators and assisting aquaculture producers in the removal of cormorant roosts if applicable.

The Committee is concerned with the persistent rabies threat to humans, livestock, and domesticated animals. Approximately 6,000 to 8,000 rabid animals are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention annually, with more than 90 percent of cases occurring in wildlife. Oral rabies vaccinations have helped establish barriers to isolate impacted areas, increase rabies immunity in wildlife, and prevent spreading to new areas of the United States. The Committee provides \$26,000,000 for the National Rabies Management Program to fortify existing barriers and advance prevention and eradication efforts.

Wildlife Services Education and Training.—The Committee is aware of the wide range of hazardous procedures and materials utilized by APHIS personnel in the conduct of daily duties. In addition, a recent comprehensive study noted the critical need to provide standardized safety training, certification, and database management for tracking, to ensure the safest working environment possible. As such, the Committee directs APHIS to deliver a training program focused on those areas of greatest concern such as pyrotechnics, firearms, hazardous materials, immobilization and euthanasia drugs, pesticides, animal care and handling, land vehicles, watercraft, and zoonotic diseases.

Wildlife Services Methods Development.—The Committee appreciates the important work done by the National Wildlife Research Center and its affiliated field locations to resolve problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society. The Committee provides \$19,014,000 to ensure continued development of technical and scientific information on wildlife damage management.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$3,175,000
Budget estimate, 2015	3,175,000
Committee recommendation	3,175,000

The APHIS appropriation for “Buildings and Facilities” funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific program activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes an appropriation of \$3,175,000 for buildings and facilities of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This funding is necessary to allow APHIS to maintain existing facilities, and perform critically needed repairs to and replacements of building components, such as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning on a prioritized basis at APHIS facilities. The Committee notes that due to the environmentally sensitive nature of many APHIS facilities, closure of a fa-

cility could result if APHIS is unable to complete the required repairs.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

Appropriations, 2014	\$79,914,000
Budget estimate, 2015	82,963,000
Committee recommendation	81,634,000

The Agricultural Marketing Service [AMS] was established by the Secretary of Agriculture on April 2, 1972. AMS carries out programs authorized by more than 50 different statutory authorities, the primary ones being the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638); the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51–65); the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 471–476); the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511–511q); the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t); the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056); and section 32 of the Act of 1935 (Public Law 74–320, 7 U.S.C. 612c).

Programs administered by this agency include the market news services, standardization, grading, classing, shell egg surveillance services, transportation services, wholesale farmers and alternative market development, grant payments to States for marketing activities, the Federal administration of marketing agreements and orders, commodity purchases, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.), and market protection and promotion activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$81,634,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Included in this amount is \$1,277,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

Organic Data Collection.—The Committee encourages the Department to collect price data on organic commodities and other data relevant to the marketing of organic agricultural products.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2014	\$60,435,000
Budget limitation, 2015	60,709,000
Committee recommendation	60,709,000

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–35) initiated a system of user fees for the cost of grading and classing cotton, and tobacco. These activities, authorized under the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51 et seq.), the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 et seq.), and other provisions of law are designed to facilitate commerce and protect participants in the industry.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$60,709,000 on administrative expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY

(SECTION 32)

Appropriations, 2014	\$20,056,000
Budget estimate, 2015	20,317,000
Committee recommendation	20,317,000

Under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, (7 U.S.C. 612c), an amount equal to 30 percent of customs receipts collected during each preceding calendar year and unused balances are available for encouraging the domestic consumption and exportation of agricultural commodities. An amount equal to 30 percent of receipts collected on fishery products is transferred to the Department of Commerce. Additional transfers to the child nutrition programs of the Food and Nutrition Service have been provided in recent appropriations Acts.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2014–2015:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—FISCAL YEARS 2014–2015

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget	Fiscal year 2015 estimate
Appropriation (30 percent of Customs Receipts)	\$9,211,182,712	\$9,714,922,892	\$9,714,922,892
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service	– 8,011,568,806	– 8,299,922,892	– 8,299,922,892
Commerce Department	– 130,144,436	– 131,000,000	– 131,000,000
Total, Transfers	– 8,141,713,242	– 8,430,922,892	– 8,430,922,892
Prior Year Appropriation Available, Start of Year	313,530,530	119,000,000	119,000,000
Prior Year Collections and Recoveries			
Unavailable for Obligations (recoveries and offsetting collections)			
Transfer of Prior Year Funds to FNS (F&V)	– 117,000,000	– 119,000,000	– 119,000,000
Budget Authority, Farm Bill	1,266,000,000	1,284,000,000	1,284,000,000
Rescission of Current Year Funds	– 189,000,000	– 203,000,000	– 121,000,000
Appropriations Temporarily Reduced—Sequestration ¹	– 79,703,000		– 81,906,000
Unavailable for Obligations (Fruit and Veg transfer to FNS)	– 119,000,000	– 122,000,000	– 122,000,000
Budget Authority, Appropriations Act	878,297,000	959,000,000	959,000,000
Less Obligations:			
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commodities)	465,000,000	465,000,000	465,000,000
State Option Contract	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Removal of Defective Commodities	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Emergency Surplus Removal	196,900,000		
Small Business Support		500,000	500,000
Disaster Relief	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Additional Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Purchases	29,100,000	206,000,000	206,000,000
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	41,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000
Estimated Future Needs	79,119,000	179,973,000	179,973,000
Total, Commodity Procurement	823,619,000	903,973,000	903,973,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—FISCAL YEARS 2014–2015—Continued

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget	Fiscal year 2015 estimate
Administrative Funds:			
Commodity Purchase Support	34,622,000	34,710,000	34,710,000
Marketing Agreements and Orders	20,056,000	20,317,000	20,317,000
Total, Administrative Funds	54,678,000	55,027,000	55,027,000
Total Obligations	878,297,000	959,000,000	959,000,000
Unobligated Balance, End of Year			
Unavailable for Obligations (Fruit and Veg transfer to FNS)	119,000,000	122,000,000	122,000,000
Balances, Collections and Recoveries Not Available			
Total End of Year Balances	119,000,000	122,000,000	122,000,000

¹ The Budget Control Act of 2011 as amended by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 reduced all non-defense mandatory accounts by 7.2 percent in 2014 and 7.3 percent in 2015.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a transfer from section 32 funds of \$20,317,000 for the formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders.

Section 32 Authorities.—Under the authority described in clause 3 of 7 U.S.C. 612c, the Secretary is able to direct funds from the section 32 account to increase the purchasing power of producers. This practice has been used on various occasions to provide direct assistance to producers when market forces or natural conditions adversely affect the financial condition of farmers and ranchers. The Committee notes the importance of the ability of the Secretary to utilize this authority, but believes that communication between the Department and the Congress should be improved when this practice is used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide notification to the Appropriations Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds under the specific authorities cited above.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

Appropriations, 2014	\$1,363,000
Budget estimate, 2015	1,235,000
Committee recommendation	1,363,000

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program [FSMIP] is authorized by section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 and is also funded from appropriations. Matching grants are awarded on a competitive basis to State marketing agencies to identify and test market alternative farm commodities, determine methods of providing more reliable market information, and develop better commodity grading standards. This program has made possible many types of projects, such as electronic marketing and agricultural product diversification. Current projects are focused on the improvement of marketing efficiency and effectiveness, and seeking new outlets for existing farm produced commodities. The legislation grants the U.S. Department of Agriculture authority to establish cooperative agreements with State departments of agriculture or similar State agencies to improve the efficiency of the

agricultural marketing chain. The States perform the work or contract it to others, and must contribute at least one-half of the cost of the projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,363,000 for Payments to States and Possessions for Federal-State marketing projects and activities.

GRAIN INSPECTION, PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2014	\$40,261,000
Budget estimate, 2015	44,017,000
Committee recommendation	44,017,000

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration [GIPSA] was established pursuant to the Secretary's 1994 reorganization. Grain inspection and weighing programs are carried out under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) and other programs under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, including the inspection and grading of rice and grain-related products; conducting official weighing and grain inspection activities; and grading dry beans and peas, and processed grain products. Under the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), assurance of the financial integrity of the livestock, meat, and poultry markets is provided. The Administration monitors competition in order to protect producers, consumers, and industry from deceptive and fraudulent practices which affect meat and poultry prices.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$44,017,000 for salaries and expenses of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Included in this amount is \$2,787,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Limitation, 2014	\$50,000,000
Budget limitation, 2015	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	50,000,000

The agency provides an official grain inspection and weighing system under the U.S. Grain Standards Act [USGSA], and official inspection of rice and grain-related products under the Agricultural Marketing Act [AMA] of 1946. The USGSA was amended in 1981 to require the collection of user fees to fund the costs associated with the operation, supervision, and administration of Federal grain inspection and weighing activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$50,000,000 on inspection and weighing services expenses.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

Appropriations, 2014	\$811,000
Budget estimate, 2015	816,000
Committee recommendation	816,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's inspection of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$816,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Appropriations, 2014	\$1,010,689,000
Budget estimate, 2015	1,001,402,000
Committee recommendation	1,022,770,000

The major objectives of the Food Safety and Inspection Service are to assure that meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged, as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.); and to provide continuous in-plant inspection to egg processing plants under the Egg Products Inspection Act.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service was established on June 17, 1981, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1000-1, issued pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953.

The inspection program of the Food Safety and Inspection Service provides in-plant inspection of all domestic plants preparing meat, poultry or egg products for sale or distribution; reviews foreign inspection systems and establishments that prepare meat or poultry products for export to the United States; and provides technical and financial assistance to States which maintain meat and poultry inspection programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,022,770,000 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS]. Included in this amount is \$10,913,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. The Committee finds the implementation schedule set forth by FSIS for revised inspections processes unrealistically rapid and provides additional funds to accomplish this transition in a more feasible manner.

Humane Slaughter.—The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods

of Slaughter Act enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas.

Inspections.—The Committee is disappointed in the Department’s failure to issue a final rule within the timeframe set forth in section 12106 of Public Law 113–79. The Committee directs the Department to meet its statutory obligation by promulgating final regulations expeditiously and meeting the implementation deadline for all domestic and imported inspection no later than 1 year after the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Water Conservation.—The Committee supports the Agency’s efforts to encourage innovation by poultry slaughter establishments, particularly with regard to hand rinsing facilities. Allowing wash stations the capability of being immediately activated and deactivated in a hands-free manner substantially reduces a facility’s water consumption. In order to encourage water conservation, energy savings and a reduction in cross-contamination, the Committee directs the Agency to pursue implementation of this innovation.

The following table represents the Committee’s specific recommendations for the Food Safety and Inspection Service as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Food safety inspection:			
Federal	893,740	885,569	905,037
State	62,734	60,905	62,805
International	15,883	16,589	16,589
Codex Alimentarius	3,752	3,759	3,759
PHDCIS	34,580	34,580	34,580
Total	1,010,689	1,001,402	1,022,770

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department’s international affairs (except for foreign economic development), commodity programs, farm loans, disaster assistance, crop insurance, and some conservation and energy programs. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Farm Service Agency (including the Commodity Credit Corporation), Risk Management Agency, and the Foreign Agricultural Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency [FSA] was established October 3, 1994, pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354. The FSA administers a variety of activities, such as the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation; the Conservation Reserve Program [CRP]; the Emergency Conservation Program; the Commodity Operation Programs including the warehouse examination function; farm ownership, farm operating, emergency disaster, and other loan programs; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP], which provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which crop insurance is not available. In addition, FSA currently provides certain administrative support services to the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS] and to the Risk Management Agency [RMA].

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from program accounts	Total, FSA salaries and expenses
Appropriations, 2014	1,777,926	310,087	1,488,013
Budget estimate, 2015	1,139,323	309,880	1,449,203
Committee recommendation	1,182,544	309,880	1,492,424

The account Salaries and Expenses, Farm Service Agency, funds the administrative expenses of program administration and other functions assigned to FSA. The funds consist of appropriations and transfers from the CCC export credit guarantees, Food for Peace loans, and Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program accounts, and miscellaneous advances from other sources. All administrative funds used by FSA are consolidated into one account. The consolidation provides clarity and better management and control of funds, and facilitates accounting, fiscal, and budgetary work by eliminating the necessity for making individual allocations and allotments and maintaining and recording obligations and expenditures under numerous separate accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,492,424,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of \$1,182,544,000. Included in this amount is \$27,142,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.—The Secretary is strongly encouraged to, within the total acreage made available for enrollment in the conservation reserve program and without reducing the periodic availability of general signup, enroll, to the maximum extent practicable, acreage for activities included in the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement practice or other similar administratively established wetland and habitat practices that benefit priority fish and wildlife species identified in State, regional, and national conservation initiatives with a priority for initiatives that provide large blocks of cover ideal for wildlife nesting.

County Staff.—The Committee does not agree with the budget proposal to reduce 815 non-Federal staff and provides sufficient funding to maintain acceptable staffing levels.

Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program.—The Committee directs the Department to expeditiously carry out its contractual obligations on all contracts and agreements entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 1231A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a). The Committee expects the authorized review process for outstanding 2013 EFCRP payments to remain consistent with the review process for 2012 and prior year CRP payments.

Farm to Fleet.—The Committee is concerned that the Department has given inconsistent indications of whether algae-derived fuel qualifies for Commodity Credit Corporation support under the Farm to Fleet initiative. The Committee is aware that USDA is in the process of clarifying algae's eligibility for this program and believes defining algae as an eligible commodity would be consistent with the Department's treatment of algae under other programs. The Committee encourages the Department to make this determination expeditiously and apply it consistently across each agency that has a role in implementing the Farm to Fleet initiative.

MIDAS.—The Committee recommendation includes \$32,500,000 for Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems [MIDAS]. Since fiscal year 2009, the Committee has provided over \$360,000,000 for MIDAS and has supported the overall goal of stabilizing and updating the agency's outdated information technology [IT] systems. The Committee is concerned that despite this investment, MIDAS is not meeting the original goals and objectives of streamlining business processes and developing an effective long-term IT system that will ensure seamless delivery of new farm bill programs. The Committee is also concerned that implementation of the new farm bill will not be done through MIDAS but through outdated systems that have proven unreliable. In addition, in 2008, 2011, and 2013 GAO raised major concerns about the viability of MIDAS citing unrealistic schedules as well as poor management practices.

While the Committee remains dedicated to ensuring FSA has reliable and functioning IT systems, without a clear path forward, the Committee cannot justify providing the full budget request for this project.

The Committee understands that USDA is currently engaged in a comprehensive assessment of MIDAS and plans to rebase funding requirements, scope, and schedule. The Committee finds an overall lack of communication unacceptable and directs the Secretary, by

June 20, 2014, to provide detailed information on future funding requirements and a schedule for full implementation of a system capable of implementing all farm programs.

National Agriculture Imagery Program.—The Committee recommends that funding shall be allocated to purchase imagery products to meet programmatic requirements.

Office Closures.—The Committee does not agree with the budget proposal to close 250 Farm Service Agency county offices. The Committee cannot be expected to agree to close offices when the location of those offices are unknown. The Committee is concerned that in light of the recently passed farm bill, the Department does not have a clear understanding of where or how the county office workload will be impacted. The Department is directed to conduct a thorough workload analysis to assess how new farm bill programs will impact current and future work in county offices. The Department is further directed to work with a third-party entity, such as the National Academy of Public Administration, to determine a clear path forward to ensure the agency continues to provide the highest level of customer service. The Committee directs the Department to provide quarterly reports on the status of the workload analysis.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$3,782,000
Budget estimate, 2015	3,404,000
Committee recommendation	3,404,000

This program is authorized under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.). Originally designed to address agricultural credit disputes, the program was expanded by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) to include other agricultural issues such as wetland determinations, conservation compliance, rural water loan programs, grazing on National Forest System lands, and pesticides. Grants are made to States whose mediation programs have been certified by the FSA. Grants will be solely for operation and administration of the State’s agricultural mediation program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,404,000 for State Mediation Grants.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$5,526,000
Budget estimate, 2015	6,500,000
Committee recommendation	6,500,000

This program is intended to assist in the protection of groundwater through State rural water associations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,500,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2015	500,000
Committee recommendation	500,000

Under the program, the Department makes indemnification payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products who, through no fault of their own, suffer income losses because they are directed to remove their milk from commercial markets due to contamination of their products by registered pesticides. The program also authorizes indemnity payments to dairy farmers for losses resulting from the removal of cows or dairy products from the market due to nuclear radiation or fallout.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2015 to be \$500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account is used to provide direct and guaranteed farm ownership, farm operating, conservation, Indian highly fractioned land, and emergency loans to individuals, as well as the following types of loans to associations: irrigation and drainage, grazing, Indian tribe land acquisition, and boll weevil eradication.

FSA is also authorized to provide financial assistance to borrowers by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders having a contract of guarantee from FSA as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and to establish Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development grant accounts.

The following programs are financed through this fund:

Boll Weevil Eradication Loans.—Made to assist foundations in financing the operations of the boll weevil eradication programs provided to farmers.

Credit Sales of Acquired Property.—Property is sold out of inventory and is made available to an eligible buyer by providing FSA loans.

Emergency Loans.—Made to producers to aid recovery from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. The loans may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Farm Operating Loans.—Provide short-to-intermediate term production or chattel credit to farmers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere, to improve their farm and home operations, and to develop or maintain a reasonable standard of living. The term of the loan varies from 1 to 7 years.

Farm Ownership Loans.—Made to borrowers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere to restructure their debts, improve or purchase farms, refinance nonfarm enterprises which supplement but do not supplant farm income, or make additions to farms. Loans are made for 40 years or less.

Indian Tribe Land Acquisition Loans.—Made to any Indian tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior or tribal corporation established pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–638) which does not have adequate uncommitted funds to acquire lands or interest in lands within the tribe’s reservation or Alaskan Indian community, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, for use of the tribe or the corporation or the members thereof.

Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans.—Made to Indian tribal members to purchase highly fractionated lands, as authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a total loan level of \$6,402,114,000 for programs within the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table reflects the program levels for farm credit programs administered by the Farm Service Agency recommended by the Committee, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and the budget request levels:

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 enacted	Fiscal year 2015 budget	Committee recommendation
Farm ownership:			
Direct	575,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Guaranteed	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Farm Operating:			
Direct	1,195,620	1,252,004	1,252,004
Guaranteed unsubsidized	1,500,000	1,393,443	1,393,443
Emergency Loans	34,658	34,667	34,667
Indian Tribe Land Acquisition	2,000	2,000	2,000
Conservation Loans:			
Guaranteed	150,000	150,000	150,000
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	10,000	10,000	10,000
Boll Weevil Eradication	60,000	60,000	60,000

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 established the program account. Appropriations to this account are used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed, as well as for administrative expenses.

The following table reflects the cost of programs under credit reform:

[In thousands of dollars]

	2014 enacted	2015 budget	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct	4,428	.....	.....
Farm Operating:			
Direct	65,520	63,101	63,101
Guaranteed unsubsidized	18,300	14,770	14,770
Emergency Loans	1,698	856	856
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	68	.....	.....
Individual Development Account Grants .....	.....	2,500	2,500

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Appropriations, 2014	\$71,496,000
Budget estimate, 2015	76,779,000
Committee recommendation	76,779,000

The Risk Management Agency performs administrative functions relative to the Federal crop insurance program that is authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508), as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 [ARPA], Public Law 106–224, and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

ARPA authorized significant changes in the crop insurance program. This act provides higher government subsidies for producer premiums to make coverage more affordable; expands research and development for new insurance products and under-served areas through contracts with the private sector; and tightens compliance. Functional areas of risk management are: research and development; insurance services; and compliance, whose functions include policy formulation and procedures and regulations development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$76,779,000 for the Risk Management Agency. Included in this amount is \$3,333,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

The Committee recognizes that there are many research priorities that competitive funding may be used to address, including the feasibility of insurance programs to cover business interruption due to integrator bankruptcy and catastrophic loss in the poultry industry. The Committee encourages RMA to support research into these priorities.

Price Elections.—The Committee encourages RMA to pool data from as many sources as possible, including guaranteed contracts as well as data from industry and extension agents, to demonstrate compliance with the Agriculture Act of 2014. In addition, RMA is encouraged to make use of the data from the NASS 2014 Organic Production and Price Survey to publish remaining organic price elections as quickly as possible.

CORPORATIONS

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

Appropriations, 2014	\$9,502,944,000
Budget estimate, 2015	8,668,000,000
Committee recommendation	8,668,000,000

The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994, authorizes the payment of expenses which may include indemnity payments, loss adjustment, delivery expenses, program-related research and development, startup costs for implementing this legislation such as studies, pilot projects, data processing improvements, public outreach, and related tasks and functions.

All program costs, except for Federal salaries and expenses, are mandatory expenditures subject to appropriation.

Producers of insurable crops are eligible to receive a basic level of protection against catastrophic losses, which cover 50 percent of the normal yield at 55 percent of the expected price. The only cost to the producer is an administrative fee of \$300 per crop per county.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated to be \$8,668,000,000 in fiscal year 2015 for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

The Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC] is a wholly owned Government corporation created in 1933 to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; to help maintain balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities, including products, foods, feeds, and fibers; and to help in the orderly distribution of these commodities. CCC was originally incorporated under a Delaware charter and was reincorporated June 30, 1948, as a Federal corporation within the Department of Agriculture by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, approved June 29, 1948 (15 U.S.C. 714).

The Commodity Credit Corporation engages in buying, selling, lending, and other activities with respect to agricultural commodities, their products, food, feed, and fibers. Its purposes include stabilizing, supporting, and protecting farm income and prices; maintaining the balance and adequate supplies of selected commodities; and facilitating the orderly distribution of such commodities. In addition, the Corporation makes available materials and facilities required in connection with the storage and distribution of such commodities. The Corporation also disburses funds for sharing of costs with producers for the establishment of approved conservation practices on environmentally sensitive land and subsequent rental payments for such land for the duration of Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

Corporation activities are primarily governed by the following statutes: the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80-806), as amended; the Agricultural Act of 1949 (Public Law 81-439), as amended (1949 Act); the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Public Law 75-430), as amended (the 1938 Act); the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-198), as amended (1985 Act); the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246); and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

Management of the Corporation is vested in a board of directors, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is an ex officio director and chairman of the board. The board consists of seven members, in addition to the Secretary, who are appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. Officers of the Corporation are designated according to their positions in the Department of Agriculture.

The activities of the Corporation are carried out mainly by the personnel and through the facilities of the Farm Service Agency [FSA] and the Farm Service Agency State and county committees. The Foreign Agricultural Service, the General Sales Manager, other agencies and offices of the Department, and commercial agents are also used to carry out certain aspects of the Corporation's activities.

Under Public Law 87-155 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11, 713a-12), annual appropriations are authorized for each fiscal year, commencing with fiscal year 1961. These appropriations are to reimburse the Corporation for net realized losses.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

Appropriations, 2014	\$12,538,880,000
Budget estimate, 2015	9,067,281,000
Committee recommendation	9,067,281,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2015 to be \$9,067,281,000, for the payment to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Limitation, 2014	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	5,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,000,000

The Commodity Credit Corporation's [CCC] hazardous waste management program is intended to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.). The CCC funds operations and maintenance costs as well as site investigation and cleanup expenses. Investigative and cleanup costs associated with the management of CCC hazardous waste are also paid from USDA's hazardous waste management appropriation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$5,000,000 for the Commodity Credit Corporation's hazardous waste management program.

TITLE II
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to natural resources and the environment. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] was established pursuant to Public Law 103-354, the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6962). The NRCS works with conservation districts, watershed groups, and Federal and State agencies to bring about physical adjustments in land use that will conserve soil and water resources, provide for agricultural production on a sustained basis, and reduce flood damage and sedimentation.

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2014	\$812,939,000
Budget estimate, 2015	814,772,000
Committee recommendation	849,295,000

Conservation operations are authorized by Public Law 74-46 (16 U.S.C. 590a-590f). Activities include:

Conservation Technical Assistance provides assistance to district cooperators and other land users in the planning and application of conservation treatments to control erosion and improve the quantity and quality of soil resources, improve and conserve water, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, conserve energy, improve woodland, pasture and range conditions, and reduce upstream flooding; all to protect and enhance the natural resource base.

Resource appraisal and program development ensures that programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture for the con-

servation of soil, water, and related resources shall respond to the Nation's long-term needs.

Plant Materials Centers assemble, test, and encourage increased use of plant species which show promise for use in the treatment of conservation problem areas.

Snow Survey and Water Forecasting provides estimates of annual water availability from high mountain snow packs and relates to summer stream flow in the Western States and Alaska. Information is used by agriculture, industry, and cities in estimating future water supplies.

Soil Surveys inventory the Nation's basic soil resources and determine land capabilities and conservation treatment needs. Soil survey publications include interpretations useful to cooperators, other Federal agencies, State, and local organizations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$849,295,000 for Conservation Operations. Included in this amount is \$28,614,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

Acre-for-acre Wetlands Mitigation.—The Secretary is encouraged to use mitigation with the conversion of a natural wetland and equivalent wetlands functions at a ratio not to exceed a ratio of 1-to-1 acreage.

Cover Crops.—The Committee recognizes the importance of conservation technical assistance and encourages NRCS to maximize the staff available to provide land users direct assistance in planning and implantation techniques to promote soil health including the adoption of cover crops.

Herbicide Resistance.—The Committee is concerned that pigweed has seriously endangered conservation tillage and has increased herbicide costs by more than 70 percent for some crops. In an effort to address herbicide-resistant weeds and associated environmental concerns, agricultural advisors and producers have become increasingly more aggressive with conservation planning and practice implementation to solve this issue. The Committee directs NRCS to ensure agency staff, partners, and producers are aware of new and interim conservation practice standards and conservation activity plans to address herbicide-resistant weeds, such as pigweed, and that financial assistance through certain conservation programs is available to assist producers in their efforts to control these weeds.

Honey Bee Health.—The Committee understands that NRCS through the EQIP, provided \$3,000,000 in technical and financial assistance for farmers and ranchers to help improve honey bee health through better conservation practices. Access to good forage is an ongoing challenge for commercial beekeepers, and the Committee supports continuing and expanding this technical and financial assistance program, and recommends that a significant portion of the funds should be devoted to facilitating training by expert researchers and beekeepers of NRCS officials and agents in pollinator conservation practices.

Invasive Species.—The Committee reiterates its concern for the need to address threats posed by invasive plant species and the need to protect, restore and enhance native plants, including those that are endangered or threatened. The Committee encourages the Secretary to increase support for native plant conservation efforts throughout the Department and urges the Secretary to work closely with the Department of the Interior to better integrate and coordinate the plant conservation efforts of both Departments.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$12,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	
Committee recommendation	

The watershed rehabilitation program account provides for technical and financial assistance to carry out rehabilitation of structural measures, in accordance with section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, approved August 4, 1954 (16 U.S.C. 1012, U.S.C. 1001, et seq.), as amended by section 313 of Public Law 106–472, November 9, 2000, and by section 2803 of Public Law 110–246.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee does not recommend an appropriation for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) abolished the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration and replaced those agencies with the Rural Housing and Community Development Service, (currently, the Rural Housing Service), Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service (currently, the Rural Business—Cooperative Service), and Rural Utilities Service and placed them under the oversight of the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development, (currently, Rural Development). These agencies deliver a variety of programs through a network of State and field offices.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2014	\$893,000
Budget estimate, 2015	898,000
Committee recommendation	898,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department’s rural economic and community development activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, and the Rural Utilities Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$898,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Broadband.—High speed broadband and high-bandwidth telecommunications capabilities are essential for economic competitiveness and quality of life for rural America. The Secretary is encouraged to promote development and demonstrate innovative connectivity solutions such as providing high-speed Internet via optical laser beams in free space, which help connect rural America without broadband infrastructure costs and where wireless coverage does not exist.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	
Appropriation	203,424	225,101	228,898

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account	415,100	397,296	415,100
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program Account	34,478	33,000	34,478
Rural Development Loan Program Account	4,439	4,249	4,439
Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses	662,441	659,646	682,915

These funds are used to administer the loan and grant programs of the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Business—Cooperative Service, including reviewing applications, making and collecting loans and providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers; and to assist in extending other Federal programs to people in rural areas.

Under credit reform, administrative costs associated with loan programs are appropriated to the program accounts. Appropriations to the salaries and expenses account will be for costs associated with grant programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$682,915,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development. Included in this amount is \$20,777,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

New Hires.—The Committee notes the abundance of staffing vacancies at Rural Development and remains concerned about its impacts on program delivery and the integrity of the Agency's portfolio. The Secretary is directed to focus any new hiring efforts on staffing to support portfolio management and to redress imbalances that might have developed among States' workforce needs. The Committee does not include funding for the Rural Corps pilot.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

The Rural Housing Service [RHS] was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, dated October 13, 1994.

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014 (budget authority)	\$462,404,000
Budget estimate, 2015 (budget authority)	453,380,000
Committee recommendation (budget authority)	511,036,000

This fund was established in 1965 (Public Law 89–117) pursuant to section 517 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 517(d)), as amended. This fund may be used to insure or guarantee rural housing loans for single-family homes, rental and cooperative housing, farm labor housing, and rural housing sites. Rural hous-

ing loans are made to construct, improve, alter, repair, or replace dwellings and essential farm service buildings that are modest in size, design, and cost. Rental housing insured loans are made to individuals, corporations, associations, trusts, or partnerships to provide low-cost rental housing and related facilities in rural areas. These loans are repayable in terms up to 30 years. Loan programs are limited to rural areas, which include towns, villages, and other places of not more than 10,000 population, which are not part of an urban area. Loans may also be made in areas with a population in excess of 10,000, but less than 20,000, if the area is not included in a standard metropolitan statistical area and has a serious lack of mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income borrowers.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$511,036,000 for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account [RHIF].

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508) established the RHIF program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in 2014, as well as for administrative expenses. The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2014 levels and the 2015 budget request:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	900,000	360,000	900,000
Guaranteed	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	26,280	26,279	26,279
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	28,432	28,432	28,432
Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538)	150,000	150,000	150,000
Site development loans (sec. 524)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Credit sales of acquired property	10,000	10,000	10,000
Self help land development loans (sec. 523)	5,000	.....	5,000
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	23,855	23,854	23,854
Total, loan levels	25,156,903	24,611,902	25,148,565
Loan Subsidies and Grants:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	24,480	26,568	66,420
Housing repair (sec. 504)	2,176	3,687	3,687
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	6,656	9,812	9,812
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	5,656	7,681	7,681
Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516)	8,336	8,336	8,336
Total, loan subsidies and grants	47,304	56,084	95,936
Administrative expenses	415,100	397,296	415,100
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	462,404	453,380	511,036

Coordinated Environmental Reviews in Indian Country.—Tribes face challenges with differing environmental review requirements when resources are leveraged from a variety of Federal housing

and infrastructure programs. The Committee believes substantial efficiencies and cost-savings could be achieved by creating a coordinated project environmental review process. The Committee directs the Secretary to work with HUD, who is leading the initiative, and other agencies to investigate opportunities to design a coordinated environmental review process for tribal housing and related infrastructure development.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$1,110,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	1,088,500,000
Committee recommendation	1,093,500,000

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1490a). The objective of the program is to reduce rents paid by low-income families living in Rural Housing Service financed rental projects and farm labor housing projects. Under this program, low-income tenants will contribute the higher of: (1) 30 percent of monthly adjusted income; (2) 10 percent of monthly income; or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency.

Payments from the fund are made to the project owner for the difference between the tenant's payment and the approved rental rate established for the unit.

The program is administered in tandem with the Rural Housing Service section 515 rural rental housing program and the farm labor loan and grant programs. Priority is given to existing projects for units occupied by rent over-burdened low-income families and projects experiencing financial difficulties beyond the control of the owner.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,093,500,000 for the Rental Assistance Program.

Rental Assistance.—The Committee includes statutory language requiring rental assistance to be held in 514/516 projects for a minimum period of time. Rental assistance contracts are funded for 1-year durations and shall not be renewed within a 12-month period. The Committee is concerned with the potential impacts on very low-income tenants with the proposed minimum rent requirement, particularly as it pertains to the absence of criteria for hardship exemptions as noted in the budget request. Furthermore, proposals for selective renewal authority and partial year funding lack sufficient justification in meeting the goal of setting the rental assistance program on a more fiscally sustainable path. While the Committee is encouraged by the Department's efforts to reform the rental assistance program, the Secretary shall continue to pursue options that increase program efficiency while maintaining protection for very low-income rural households.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014	\$32,575,000
Budget estimate, 2015	28,000,000
Committee recommendation	28,000,000

The Rural Housing Voucher Program was authorized under the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1940r) to assist very low income families and individuals who reside in rental housing in rural areas. Housing vouchers may be provided to residents of rental housing projects financed by section 515 loans that have been pre-paid after September 30, 2005. Voucher amounts reflect the difference between comparable market rents and tenant-paid rent prior to loan prepayment. Vouchers allow tenants to remain in existing projects or move to other rental housing.

The Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program includes funding for housing vouchers and a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of affordable multi-family housing projects. Rural Development’s multi-family housing portfolio faces dual pressures for loan prepayments and repair/rehabilitation stemming from inadequate reserves resulting in deferred property maintenance.

Provision of affordable rental housing can be accomplished more economically by revitalizing existing housing stock rather than funding new construction. The Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program includes revitalization tools for maintenance of existing units and vouchers to protect tenants in those projects that prepay. Flexibility is provided to allow Rural Development to utilize funding to meet the most urgent local needs for tenant protection and project revitalization.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$28,000,000 for the Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program, including \$8,000,000 for vouchers and \$20,000,000 for a housing preservation demonstration program.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$25,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	10,000,000
Committee recommendation	25,000,000

The Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants Program is authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949. Grants are made to local organizations to promote the development of mutual or self-help programs under which groups of usually 6 to 10 families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor. Funds may be used to pay the cost of construction supervisors who work with families in the construction of their homes and for administrative expenses of the organizations providing the self-help assistance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$25,000,000 for Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$32,239,000
Budget estimate, 2015	25,000,000
Committee recommendation	32,239,000

The Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program consolidates funding for rural housing grant programs. This consolidation of housing grant funding provides greater flexibility to tailor financial assistance to applicant needs.

Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants.—The Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants Program is authorized under section 504 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949. The rural housing repair grant program is carried out by making grants to very low-income families to make necessary repairs to their homes in order to make such dwellings safe and sanitary, and remove hazards to the health of the occupants, their families, or the community.

These grants may be made to cover the cost of improvements or additions, such as repairing roofs, providing toilet facilities, providing a convenient and sanitary water supply, supplying screens, repairing or providing structural supports or making similar repairs, additions, or improvements, including all preliminary and installation costs in obtaining central water and sewer service. A grant can be made in combination with a section 504 very low-income housing repair loan.

No assistance can be extended to any one individual in the form of a loan, grant, or combined loans and grants in excess of \$27,500, and grant assistance is limited to persons, or families headed by persons who are 62 years of age or older.

Supervisory and Technical Assistance Grants.—Supervisory and technical assistance grants are made to public and private non-profit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing assistance under sections 502, 504, 514/516, 515, and 533 of the Housing Act of 1949. The assistance is directed to very low-income families in underserved areas where at least 20 percent of the population is below the poverty level and at least 10 percent or more of the population resides in substandard housing. In fiscal year 1994 a Homebuyer Education Program was implemented under this authority. This program provides low-income individuals and families education and counseling on obtaining and/or maintaining occupancy of adequate housing and supervised credit assistance to become successful homeowners.

Compensation for Construction Defects.—Compensation for construction defects provides funds for grants to eligible section 502 borrowers to correct structural defects, or to pay claims of owners arising from such defects on a newly constructed dwelling purchased with RHS financial assistance. Claims are not paid until provisions under the builder's warranty have been fully pursued. Requests for compensation for construction defects must be made by the owner of the property within 18 months after the date financial assistance was granted.

Rural Housing Preservation Grants.—Rural housing preservation grants (section 533) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1490m) authorizes the Rural Housing Service to administer a program of home repair directed at low- and very low-income people.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$32,239,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program.

The following table compares the grant program levels recommended by the Committee to the fiscal year 2014 levels and the budget request:

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 level	2015 request	
Very low-income housing repair grants	28,701	25,000	28,701
Housing preservation grants	3,538	.....	3,538
Total	32,239	25,000	32,239

The Committee recommends that the Rural Housing Service prioritize funding for communities with unique weather patterns in need of replacing antiquated heating systems with more efficient technologies.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014	\$32,520,000
Budget estimate, 2015	21,000,000
Committee recommendation	32,330,000

Community facility loans were created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) to finance a variety of rural community facilities. Loans are made to organizations, including certain Indian tribes and corporations not operated for profit and public and quasi-public agencies, to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. Such facilities include those providing or supporting overall community development, such as fire and rescue services, healthcare, transportation, traffic control, and community, social, cultural, and recreational benefits. Loans are made for facilities which primarily serve rural residents of open country and rural towns and villages of not more than 20,000 people. Healthcare and fire and rescue facilities are the priorities of the program and receive the majority of available funds.

The Community Facility Grant Program authorized in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127), is used in conjunction with the existing direct and guaranteed loan programs for the development of community facilities, such as hospitals, fire stations, and community centers. Grants are targeted to the lowest income communities. Communities that have lower population and income levels receive a higher cost-share contribution through these grants, to a maximum contribution of 75 percent of the cost of developing the facility.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$32,330,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[Loan levels and budget authority in thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	Committee recommendations
Loan levels:			
Community facilities direct loans	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
Community facilities guaranteed loans	59,543	.....	75,000
Total loan levels	2,259,543	2,200,000	2,275,000
Budget authority:			
Community facilities guaranteed loans	3,775	.....	3,585
Community facilities grants	13,000	17,000	13,000
Economic initiative grants	5,778	.....	5,778
Rural community development initiative	5,967	.....	5,967
Tribal college grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total budget authority	32,520	21,000	32,330

Day Care Facilities.—The Committee directs the Secretary to increase efforts to provide assistance for day care facilities through the Community Facilities program. Availability of proper day care facilities is limited in rural areas, making it difficult for many parents to work and sometimes resulting in children receiving sub-standard care.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

The Rural Business—Cooperative Service [RBS] was established by Public Law 103–354, Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, dated October 13, 1994. Its programs were previously administered by the Rural Development Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Agricultural Cooperative Service.

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014	\$96,539,000
Budget estimate, 2015	30,190,000
Committee recommendation	78,527,000

The Rural Business and Industry Loan Program was created by the Rural Development Act of 1972, and finances a variety of rural industrial development loans. Loans are made for rural industrialization and rural community facilities under Rural Development Act amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932 et seq.) authorities. Business and industrial loans are made to public, private, or cooperative organizations organized for profit, to certain Indian tribes, or to individuals for the purpose of improving, developing or financing business, industry, and employment or improving the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. Such purposes include financing business and industrial acquisition, construction, enlargement, repair or modernization, financing the purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, payment of startup costs, and supplying working capital.

Rural business development grants were authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 and can be made to governmental and non-profit entities, and Indian tribes. Up to 10 percent of appropriated

funds may be used to: identify and analyze business opportunities; identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; assist in the establishment of new rural businesses and the maintenance of existing businesses; conduct economic development planning, coordination and leadership development; and establish centers for training, technology, and trade. The balance of appropriated funding may be used for projects that support the development of business enterprises that finance or facilitate: the development of small and emerging private business enterprise; the establishment, expansion, and operation of rural distance learning networks; the development of rural learning programs; and the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$78,527,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[Loan levels and budget authority in thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	Committee recommendations
Loan levels:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels	958,097	590,802	958,102
Budget authority:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	66,971	30,190	48,959
Business enterprise grants	24,318	.....	.....
Business opportunity grants	2,250	.....	.....
Rural business development grants .....	.....	.....	26,568
Delta Regional Authority grants	3,000	.....	3,000
Total budget authority	96,539	30,190	78,527

Rural Business Program Account.—The Committee recommends \$500,000 for transportation technical assistance.

The Committee directs that of the \$4,000,000 recommended for grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, \$250,000 shall be used to implement an American Indian and Alaska Native passenger transportation development and assistance initiative.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 level	2015 request	
Estimated loan level	18,889	10,013	18,889
Direct loan subsidy	4,082	3,084	5,818
Administrative expenses	4,439	4,249	4,439
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	8,521	7,333	10,257

The rural development (intermediary relending) loan program was originally authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–452). The making of rural development loans by the Department of Agriculture was reauthorized by Public Law 113–79, the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Loans are made to intermediary borrowers (small investment groups) who in turn will reloan the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, private nonprofit organizations, public agencies, et cetera, for the purpose of improving business, industry, community facilities, and employment opportunities and diversification of the economy in rural areas.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 established the program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated in 2015, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$10,257,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(In thousands of dollars)

	Estimated loan level
Fiscal year 2014 level	33,077
Fiscal year 2015 request	59,456
Committee recommendation	33,077

The Rural Economic Development Loans program was established by the Reconciliation Act of December 1987 (Public Law 100–203), which amended the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (Act of May 20, 1936), by establishing a new section 313. This section of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 901) established a cushion of credits payment program and created the rural economic development subaccount. The Administrator of RUS is authorized under the act to utilize funds in this program to provide zero interest loans to electric and telecommunications borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, including funding for feasibility studies, startup costs, and other reasonable expenses for the purpose of fostering rural economic development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a loan program level of \$33,077,000, to be funded from earnings on the Cushion of Credit and fees on guaranteed underwriting loans made pursuant to section 313A of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$26,050,000
Budget estimate, 2015	16,087,000
Committee recommendation	26,050,000

Rural cooperative development grants are authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act,

as amended. Grants are made to fund the establishment and operation of centers for rural cooperative development with their primary purpose being the improvement of economic conditions in rural areas. Grants may be made to nonprofit institutions or institutions of higher education. Grants may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of the project and associated administrative costs. The applicant must contribute at least 25 percent from non-Federal sources, except 1994 institutions, which only need to provide 5 percent. Grants are competitive and are awarded based on specific selection criteria.

Cooperative research agreements are authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2204b. The funds are used for cooperative research agreements, primarily with colleges and universities, on critical operational, organizational, and structural issues facing cooperatives.

Cooperative agreements are authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2201 to any qualified State departments of agriculture, university, and other State entity to conduct research that will strengthen and enhance the operations of agricultural marketing cooperatives in rural areas.

The Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas [ATTRA] program was first authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985. The program provides information and technical assistance to agricultural producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly and lower production costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$26,050,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Of the funds recommended, \$2,250,000 is for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program.

The Committee has included language in the bill that not more than \$3,000,000 shall be made available to cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority producers.

Value Added.—The Committee recommends \$15,000,000 for value-added agricultural product market development grants.

RURAL MICROENTERPRISE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	
Budget estimate, 2015	\$3,290,000
Committee recommendation	

This program, authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.), provides loans and grants to intermediaries that assist micro-entrepreneurs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation does not include funding for the Rural Microenterprise Investment Program.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$3,500,000
Budget estimate, 2015	10,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,350,000

The Rural Energy for America Program is authorized under section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107). This program may fund energy audits, direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses for the purchase of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvements.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,350,000 for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM
[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 level	2015 request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	12,760	47,259	12,760
Guaranteed loan subsidy	3,500	5,000	1,350
Grants .....	.....	5,000	.....

Biogas System Deployment.—The Committee encourages Rural Development to support biogas system deployment with financial and technical assistance from existing energy programs, including the Rural Energy for America Program [REAP], the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, and the Biorefinery Assistance Program.

REAP.—The Committee recognizes the opportunity for agricultural operations to conserve energy and pioneer the next generation of American energy. To the greatest extent possible, the Department shall prioritize projects proposed by agricultural producers.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

The Rural Utilities Service [RUS] was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), October 13, 1994. RUS administers the electric and telephone programs of the former Rural Electrification Administration and the water and waste programs of the former Rural Development Administration.

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014	\$462,371,000
Budget estimate, 2015	304,000,000
Committee recommendation	463,230,000

The water and waste disposal program is authorized by sections 306, 306A, 309A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq., as amended). This program makes loans for water and waste development costs. Development loans are made to associations, including corporations operating on a nonprofit basis, municipalities and similar organizations, generally designated as public or quasi-public agencies, that propose projects for the development, storage, treatment,

purification, and distribution of domestic water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas. Such grants may not exceed 75 percent of the development cost of the projects and can supplement other funds borrowed or furnished by applicants to pay development costs.

The solid waste grant program is authorized under section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Grants are made to public bodies and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local and regional governments for the purpose of reducing or eliminating pollution of water resources and for improving the planning and management of solid waste disposal facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$463,230,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends \$66,500,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, the Colonias, and residents of Hawaiian Home Lands. The Committee recognizes the special needs and problems for delivery of basic services to these populations. In addition, the Committee makes up to \$15,919,000 available for the circuit rider program.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[Loan levels and budget authority in thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2014 appropriation	2015 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Direct loans authorized by Public Law 83-566	40,000	.....	.....
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	50,000	.....	50,000
Total loan levels	1,290,000	1,200,000	1,250,000
Budget authority:			
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	355	.....	295
Water and waste disposal grants	345,523	246,800	345,523
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Water well systems grants	993	.....	993
Colonias and AK/HI/Native American grants	66,500	36,480	66,500
Water and waste water revolving funds	1,000	.....	1,000
High energy cost grants	10,000	.....	10,000
Circuit rider	15,000	7,600	15,919
Technical assistance grants	19,000	9,120	19,000
Total, budget authority	462,371	304,000	463,230

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) provides the statutory authority for the electric and telecommunications programs.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. An appropriation to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2015, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is very concerned about the potential impacts of a proposed rule issued by Rural Development on February 4, 2014. The stated goal of the rule is to consolidate environmental procedures of the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Housing Service. However, in its present form the rule would dramatically increase USDA workload, and place undue burdens on RUS and its electric borrowers without commensurate benefit. Before issuing a final rule, the Committee directs Rural Development to report to the Committee on additional personnel requirements, obstacles to RUS program delivery and impacts on borrowers. Furthermore, additional loan processing fees proposed in the President’s Budget are not appropriate at this time.

The following table reflects the Committee’s recommendation for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account, the loan subsidy and administrative expenses, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 level	2015 request	
Loan authorizations:			
Electric:			
Direct FFB	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Guaranteed underwriting	500,000	.....	500,000
Subtotal	5,500,000	5,000,000	5,500,000
Telecommunications	690,000	690,000	690,000
Total loan authorization	6,190,000	5,690,000	6,190,000
Administrative expenses	34,478	33,000	34,478

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 level	2015 request	
Loan and grant levels:			
Distance learning and Telemedicine Program:			
Grants	24,323	24,950	24,323

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM
LOANS AND GRANTS—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 level	2015 request	
Broadband program:			
Treasury rate loans	34,430	44,238	34,430
Treasury rate loans budget authority	4,500	8,268	6,435
Grants	10,372	20,372	10,372
Total DLT and Broadband Program level	69,125	89,560	69,125
Total DLT and Broadband Budget authority	39,195	53,590	41,130

The Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.), as amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127). This program provides incentives to improve the quality of phone services, to provide access to advanced telecommunications services and computer networks, and to improve rural opportunities.

This program provides the facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with more urban centers and other facilities providing rural residents access to better healthcare through technology and increasing educational opportunities for rural students. These funds are available for loans and grants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$41,130,000 for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program. Funds recommended for the RUS broadband program are intended to promote broadband availability in those areas where there is not otherwise a business case for private investment in a broadband network. The Committee encourages RUS to focus expenditures on projects that bring broadband service to currently unserved households.

The Committee is concerned about the longstanding, unmet health needs in the Mississippi River Delta. The Committee recommendation includes \$3,000,000 to address critical healthcare needs in the region, as authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

Broadband Grants.—Of the funds recommended, \$10,372,000 in grants shall be made available to support broadband transmission and local dial-up Internet services for rural areas.

TITLE IV
DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

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

Appropriations, 2014	\$811,000
Budget estimate, 2015	816,000
Committee recommendation	816,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's nutrition assistance activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food and Nutrition Service.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$816,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

The Food and Nutrition Service represents an organizational effort to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in this country. Nutrition assistance programs provide access to a nutritionally adequate diet for families and persons with low incomes and encourage better eating patterns among the Nation's children. These programs include:

Child Nutrition Programs.—The National School Lunch and School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food programs provide funding to the States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam for use in serving nutritious lunches and breakfasts to children attending schools of high school grades and under, to children of preschool age in child care centers, and to children in other institutions in order to improve the health and well-being of the Nation's children, and broaden the markets for agricultural food commodities. Through the Special Milk Program, assistance is provided to the States for making reimbursement payments to eligible schools and child care institutions which institute or expand milk service in order to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation and transfer from section 32.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC].—This program safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and income by providing supplemental foods. The delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers

redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating State health agency may select. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.—This program seeks to improve nutritional standards of needy persons and families. Assistance is provided to eligible households to enable them to obtain a better diet by increasing their food purchasing capability, usually by furnishing benefits in the form of electronic access to funds. The program also includes Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico.

The program also includes the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, which provides nutritious agricultural commodities to low-income persons living on or near Indian reservations who choose not to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Commodity Assistance Program [CAP].—This program provides funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP], the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Disaster Assistance, Pacific Island Assistance, and administrative expenses for TEFAP.

CSFP provides supplemental foods to infants and children up to age 6, and to pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women with low incomes, and who reside in approved project areas. In addition, this program operates commodity distribution projects directed at low-income elderly persons.

TEFAP provides commodities and grant funds to State agencies to assist in the cost of storage and distribution of donated commodities.

Nutritious agricultural commodities are provided to residents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Cash assistance is provided to distributing agencies to assist them in meeting administrative expenses incurred. It also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters, and for FNS' administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

Nutrition Programs Administration.—Most salaries and Federal operating expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service are funded from this account. Also included is the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion [CNPP] which oversees improvements in and revisions to the food guidance systems, and serves as the focal point for advancing and coordinating nutrition promotion and education policy to improve the health of all Americans.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2014	\$19,287,957,000
Budget estimate, 2015	20,537,000,000
Committee recommendation	20,497,000,000

The Child Nutrition Programs, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Public Law 79-396) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642), provide Federal assistance to State agencies in the form of cash and commodities for use in preparing and serving nutritious meals to children while they are attending school, residing in service institutions, or participating in other organized activities away from home. The purpose of these programs is to help maintain the health and proper

physical development of America's children. Milk is provided to children either free or at a low cost, depending on their family income level. FNS provides cash subsidies to States for administering the programs and directly administers the program in the States which choose not to do so. Grants are also made for nutritional training and surveys and for State administrative expenses. Under current law, most of these payments are made on the basis of reimbursement rates established by law and applied to lunches and breakfasts actually served by the States. The reimbursement rates are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for food away from home.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$20,497,000,000 for the Child Nutrition Programs.

The Committee's recommendation provides for the following annual rates for the child nutrition programs.

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

Child nutrition programs	2015 budget	Committee recommendation
School Lunch Program	11,369,079	11,369,079
School Breakfast Program	3,904,967	3,904,967
Child and Adult Care Food Program	3,149,700	3,149,700
Summer Food Service Program	492,738	492,738
Special Milk Program	10,350	10,350
State Administrative Expenses	264,016	264,016
Commodity Procurement	1,199,797	1,199,797
Team Nutrition/HUSSC/CMS	17,004	17,004
Food Safety Education	2,718	2,718
Coordinated Review	10,000	10,000
Computer Support	11,250	11,250
CACFP Training and Technical Assistance	8,137	8,137
CNP Studies and Evaluation	20,079	20,079
Farm to School Team	2,261	2,261
Payment Accuracy	9,904	9,904
School Meal Equipment Grants	35,000	25,000
Summer EBT Demonstration	30,000	.....

The Committee expects FNS to utilize the National Food Service Management Institute to carry out the food safety education program.

School Meals.—The Committee recognizes that some schools anticipate difficulties in complying with the 100 percent whole grain requirement that is set to go in effect in July 2014. The Committee directs the Department to consult with individual school districts that express concern and to work with both schools and relevant industry stakeholders.

Summer Food Service Program [SFSP].—The Committee recognizes the importance of SFSP to promote year-round child nutrition. The Committee encourages FNS to work with nonprofit national youth mentoring organizations in administering this program. When working with these organizations, FNS should consider organizations with national headquarters that already provide services to the community and have well defined management practices.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,
AND CHILDREN [WIC]

Appropriations, 2014	\$6,715,841,000
Budget estimate, 2015	6,823,000,000
Committee recommendation	6,623,000,000

The special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children [WIC] is authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Its purpose is to safeguard the health of pregnant, breast-feeding and postpartum women and infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and inadequate income.

The WIC program food packages are designed to provide foods which studies have demonstrated are lacking in the diets of the WIC program target population. The authorized supplemental foods are iron-fortified breakfast cereal, fruit or vegetable juice which contains vitamin C, dry beans, peas, and peanut butter.

There are three general types of delivery systems for WIC foods: (1) retail purchase in which participants obtain supplemental foods through retail stores; (2) home delivery systems in which food is delivered to the participant's home; and (3) direct distribution systems in which participants pick up food from a distribution outlet. The food is free of charge to all participants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,623,000,000 for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC].

The Committee recommendation fully funds estimated WIC participation in fiscal year 2015. The Committee recommendation includes \$60,000,000 for breastfeeding support initiatives, \$14,000,000 for infrastructure, and \$30,000,000 for management information systems.

Income Eligibility.—The Food and Nutrition Service is to submit, within 30 days, a report to the subcommittee on the policies, procedures, training and technical assistance it has provided to State WIC programs on income eligibility determination and verification since the release of the February 2013 Government Accountability Office report “WIC Program: Improved Oversight of Income Eligibility Determination Needed.” The report is to include data from the USDA’s regional offices on the extent to which all State WIC programs have complied with the use of a standard set of income eligibility and verification criteria.

WIC Food Package.—The Committee understands the Department is working with the Institute of Medicine to make recommendations for the fish species to include in the WIC food packages that scientific evidence shows to be low in mercury and in other respects nutritious, including wild salmon, for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women. The Committee requests a report, within 120 days of enactment of this act, on this effort.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$82,169,945,000
Budget estimate, 2015	84,256,387,000
Committee recommendation	82,251,387,000

The Food Stamp Program was reauthorized through fiscal year 2012 and renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program attempts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among low-income persons by increasing their food purchasing power. Eligible households receive SNAP benefits with which they can purchase food through regular retail stores.

Other programs funded through SNAP include Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico and American Samoa, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Community Food Projects program.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is currently in operation in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Participating households receive food benefits, the value of which is determined by household size and income. The cost of the benefits is paid by the Federal Government. As required by law, the Food and Nutrition Service annually revises household benefit allotments to reflect changes in the cost of the thrifty food plan.

Administrative Costs.—All direct and indirect administrative costs incurred for certification of households, issuance of benefits, quality control, outreach, and fair hearing efforts are shared by the Federal Government and the States on a 50–50 basis.

State Antifraud Activities.—Under the provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, States are eligible to be reimbursed for 50 percent of the costs of their fraud investigations and prosecutions.

States are required to implement an employment and training program for the purpose of assisting members of households participating in SNAP in gaining skills, training, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment. The Department of Agriculture has implemented a grant program to States to assist them in providing employment and training services.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$82,251,387,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Of the amount recommended, \$3,000,000,000 is made available as a contingency reserve.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue the purchase of bison from producer-owned and Native American owned cooperatives for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Although funding is not provided specifically for bison purchase, historically these purchases have been important for the Native American population both economically and nutritionally.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2014	\$269,701,000
Budget estimate, 2015	275,701,000
Committee recommendation	275,701,000

The Commodity Assistance Program includes funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and funding to pay expenses associated with the storage and distribution of commodities through The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP].—Authorized by section 4(a) of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), as amended in 1981 by Public Law 97–98, this program provides supplemental food to infants and children up to age 6, and to pregnant, post partum, and breast-feeding women who have low incomes, and reside in approved project areas. In addition, the program operates commodity distribution projects directed at low-income elderly persons 60 years of age or older.

The foods for CSFP are provided by the Department of Agriculture for distribution through State agencies. The authorized commodities include: iron-fortified infant formula, rice cereal, cheese, canned juice, evaporated milk and/or nonfat dry milk, canned vegetables or fruits, canned meat or poultry, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, farina, and peanut butter and dry beans. Elderly participants may receive all commodities except iron-fortified infant formula and rice cereal.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP].—Authorized by the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.), as amended, the program provides nutrition assistance to low-income people through prepared meals served on site and through the distribution of commodities to low-income households for home consumption. The commodities are provided by USDA to State agencies for distribution through State-established networks. State agencies make the commodities available to local organizations, such as soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks, and community action agencies, for their use in providing nutrition assistance to those in need.

Funds are administered by FNS through grants to State agencies which operate commodity distribution programs. Allocation of the funds to States is based on a formula which considers the States' unemployment rate and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.—The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program [FMNP] provides WIC or WIC-eligible participants with coupons to purchase fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods, such as fruits and vegetables, from farmers' markets. This benefits both participants and local farmers by increasing the awareness and use of farmers' markets by low-income households.

Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance.—This program provides funding for assistance to the nuclear-affected islands in the form of commodities and administrative funds. It also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS' administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$275,701,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to distribute Commodity Assistance Program funds equitably among the States, based on an assessment of the needs and priorities of each State and the State's preference to receive commodity allocations through each of the programs funded under this account.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program.—The Committee recommends \$208,682,000 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. This amount fully funds participation in fiscal year 2015. The Committee is aware that there are additional States that have approved applications to participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and encourages USDA to work to provide sufficient funding for these States in future budget requests.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.—The Committee is aware that the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income mothers and children, benefiting not only WIC participants, but local farmers as well. Therefore, the Committee recommends \$16,548,000 for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and directs the Secretary to obligate these funds within 45 days.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program.—The Agricultural Act of 2014 provides \$324,000,000 for TEFAP commodities to be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funds. The Committee recommendation includes \$49,401,000 for TEFAP transportation, storage, and program integrity. In addition, the Committee recommendation grants the Secretary authority to transfer up to an additional 10 percent from TEFAP commodities for this purpose.

The Committee encourages the Secretary to identify opportunities for increasing the supply of TEFAP commodities in the coming fiscal year through bonus and specialty crop purchases. The Department shall make available to the States domestically produced catfish fillets for distribution to local agencies.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2014	\$141,348,000
Budget estimate, 2015	155,000,000
Committee recommendation	155,000,000

The Nutrition Programs Administration appropriation provides for most of the Federal operating expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service, which includes the Child Nutrition Programs; Special Milk Program; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC]; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico; the Commodity Assistance Program, including the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program; and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance.

The major objective of Nutrition Programs Administration is to efficiently and effectively carry out the nutrition assistance programs mandated by law. This is to be accomplished by the fol-

lowing: (1) giving clear and consistent guidance and supervision to State agencies and other cooperators; (2) assisting the States and other cooperators by providing program, managerial, financial, and other advice and expertise; (3) measuring, reviewing, and analyzing the progress being made toward achieving program objectives; and (4) carrying out regular staff support functions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$155,000,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration. Included in this amount is \$12,999,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account.

TITLE V
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from loan accounts	Total
Appropriations, 2014	177,863	6,394	184,257
Budget estimate, 2015	182,563	6,394	188,957
Committee recommendation	182,797	6,394	189,191

The Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS] was established March 10, 1953, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1320, supplement 1. Public Law 83-690, approved August 28, 1954, transferred the agricultural attachés from the Department of State to the Foreign Agricultural Service.

The mission of FAS overseas is to represent U.S. agricultural interests, to promote export of domestic farm products, improve world trade conditions, and report on agricultural production and trade in foreign countries. FAS staff are stationed at 98 offices around the world where they provide expertise in agricultural economics and marketing, as well as provide attaché services.

FAS carries out several export assistance programs to counter the adverse effects of unfair trade practices by competitors on U.S. agricultural trade. The Export Enhancement Program uses CCC-owned commodities as export bonuses to provide export enhancements to U.S. producers. The Market Access Program [MAP] conducts both generic and brand-identified promotional programs in conjunction with nonprofit agricultural associations and private firms financed through reimbursable CCC payments.

The General Sales Manager was established pursuant to section 5(f) of the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation and 15 U.S.C. 714-714p. The funds allocated to the General Sales Manager are used for conducting the following programs: (1) CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102), including facilities financing guarantees; (2) Food for Peace; (3) section 416b Overseas Donations Program; (4) Market Access Program; and (5) programs authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act including barter, export sales of most CCC-owned commodities, export payments, and other programs as assigned to encourage and enhance the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$189,191,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service, including a direct appropriation of \$182,797,000.

Included in this amount is \$1,140,000 for payments to the General Services Administration for rent and for payments to the Department of Homeland Security for building security activities, which was previously funded through the Agriculture Buildings and Facilities and Rental Payments account. While the Committee has a history of supporting USDA reconstruction and stabilization activities, the Committee expects appropriated funds to be used for established FAS trade promotion, trade policy, trade capacity building, and food security efforts.

Borlaug Fellows Program.—The Committee recommendation includes \$1,500,000 for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. This program provides training for international scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The fellows work closely with U.S. specialists in their fields of expertise and apply that knowledge in their home countries. The Committee recognizes the importance of this program in helping developing countries strengthen their agricultural practices and food security.

Cochran Fellowship Program.—The Committee recommendation includes \$5,300,000 for the Cochran Fellowship Program. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to provide additional support for the program through the Commodity Credit Corporation Emerging Markets Program.

Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.—The Committee expects the FAS to fund the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.

Market Access Program.—The Committee continues the full mandatory funding for the Market Access Program and expects the Department to administer the program as authorized in 7 U.S.C. 5623, without changing the eligibility requirements for participation of cooperative organizations, small businesses, trade associations, and other entities.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE I DIRECT CREDIT AND FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2014	\$2,735,000
Budget estimate, 2015	2,528,000
Committee recommendation	2,528,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,528,000 for administrative expenses to continue servicing existing Food for Peace title I agreements.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$1,466,000,000
Budget estimate, 2015	1,400,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,466,000,000

Commodities Supplied in Connection With Dispositions Abroad (Title II) (7 U.S.C. 1721–1726).—Commodities are supplied without cost through foreign governments to combat malnutrition and to meet famine and other emergency requirements. Commodities are also supplied for nonemergencies through public and private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations. The Commodity

Credit Corporation pays ocean freight on shipments under this title, and may also pay overland transportation costs to a landlocked country, as well as internal distribution costs in emergency situations. The funds appropriated for title II are made available to private voluntary organizations and cooperatives to assist these organizations in meeting administrative and related costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,466,000,000 for Food for Peace title II grants.

MC GOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

Appropriations, 2014	\$185,126,000
Budget estimate, 2015	185,126,000
Committee recommendation	185,126,000

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support education, child development, and food security for some of the world's poorest children. The program provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. Commodities made available for donation through agreements with private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergovernmental organizations, and foreign governments may be donated for direct feeding or for local sale to generate proceeds to support school feeding and nutrition projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$185,126,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(EXPORT CREDIT PROGRAMS AND GSM-102)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Guaranteed loan levels	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2014	5,500,000	6,748
Budget estimate, 2015	5,500,000	6,748
Committee recommendation	5,500,000	6,748

In 1980, the Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC] instituted the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) under its charter authority. With this program, CCC guarantees, for a fee, payments due U.S. exporters under deferred payment sales contracts (up to 36 months) for defaults due to commercial as well as noncommercial risks. The risk to CCC extends from the date of export to the end of the deferred payment period covered in the export sales contract and covers only that portion of the payments agreed to in the assurance agreement. Operation of this program is based on criteria which will assure that it is used only where it is determined

that it will develop new market opportunities and maintain and expand existing world markets for U.S. agricultural commodities. The program encourages U.S. financial institutions to provide financing to those areas where the institutions would be unwilling to provide financing in the absence of the CCC guarantees. CCC also provides facilities financing guarantees.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 establishes the program account. The subsidy costs of the CCC export guarantee programs are exempt from the requirement of advance appropriations of budget authority according to section 504(c)(2) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, Public Law 101-508. Appropriations to this account will be used for administrative expenses.

TITLE VI
RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] is a scientific regulatory agency whose mission is to promote and protect the public health and safety of Americans. FDA's work is a blend of science and law. The Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 [FDAAA] (Public Law 110–85) reaffirmed the responsibilities of the FDA: to ensure safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way, and to monitor products for continued safety while they are in use. In addition, FDA is entrusted with two critical functions in the Nation's war on terrorism: preventing willful contamination of all regulated products, including food, and improving the availability of medications to prevent or treat injuries caused by biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents.

The FDA Foods program has the primary responsibility for assuring that the food supply, quality of foods, food ingredients and dietary supplements are safe, sanitary, nutritious, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled. The variety and complexity of the food supply has grown dramatically while new and more complex safety issues, such as emerging microbial pathogens, natural toxins, and technological innovations in production and processing, have developed. This program plays a major role in keeping the United States food supply among the safest in the world.

In January 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act was signed into law. This law enables FDA to better protect public health by strengthening the food safety system. It enables FDA to focus more on preventing food safety and feed problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides FDA with new enforcement authorities designed to achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention- and risk-based food and feed safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gives FDA important new tools to hold imported food and feed to the same standards as domestic food and feed and directs FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with State and local authorities.

The FDA Drugs programs are comprised of four separate areas, Human Drugs, Animal Drugs, Medical Devices and Biologics. FDA is responsible for the lifecycle of products, including premarket review and postmarket surveillance of human and animal drugs, medical devices and biological products to ensure their safety and effectiveness. For Human Drugs this includes assuring that all

drug products used for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease are safe and effective. Additional procedures include the review of investigational new drug applications; evaluation of market applications for new and generic drugs, labeling and composition of prescription and over-the-counter drugs; monitoring the quality and safety of products manufactured in, or imported into, the United States; and, regulating the advertising and promotion of prescription drugs. The Animal Drugs and Feeds Program ensures only safe and effective veterinary drugs, intended for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases in animals and the improved production of food-producing animals, are approved for marketing.

The FDA Biologics program assures that blood and blood products, blood test kits, vaccines, and therapeutics are pure, potent, safe, effective, and properly labeled. The program inspects blood banks and blood processors, licenses and inspects firms collecting human source plasma, evaluates and licenses biologics manufacturing firms and products; lot releases licensed products; and monitors adverse events associated with vaccine immunization, blood products, and other biologics.

The FDA Devices and Radiological program ensures the safety and effectiveness of medical devices and eliminates unnecessary human exposure to manmade radiation from medical, occupational, and consumer products. In addition, the program enforces quality standards under the Mammography Quality Standards Act (Public Law 108–365). Medical devices include thousands of products from thermometers and contact lenses to heart pacemakers, hearing aids, and MRIs. Radiological products include items such as microwave ovens and video display terminals.

FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas, serves as a specialized resource, conducting peer-review scientific research that provides the basis for FDA to make sound science-based regulatory decisions through its premarket review and postmarket surveillance. The research is designed to define and understand the biological mechanisms of action underlying the toxicity of products and lead to developing methods to improve assessment of human exposure, susceptibility and risk of those products regulated by FDA.

In 2009, Congress granted FDA new authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. FDA exercises this responsibility by protecting the public health from the health effects of tobacco, setting scientific standards and standards for tobacco product review, conducting compliance activities to enforce its authority over tobacco, and conducting public education and outreach about the health effects of tobacco products.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Appropriations, 2014	2,551,905	1,825,965	4,377,870
Budget estimate, 2015	2,575,383	2,161,827	4,737,210
Committee recommendation	2,588,536	1,902,324	4,490,860

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,588,536,000 for FDA salaries and expenses. The Committee also recommends \$798,000,000 in Prescription Drug User Fee Act user fee collections; \$128,282,000 in Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act user fee collections; \$22,464,000 in Animal Drug User Fee Act user fee collections; \$6,944,000 in Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act user fee collections; \$566,000,000 in Tobacco Product user fee collections; \$312,116,000 in Generic Drug User Fee Act user fee collections; \$21,014,000 in Biosimilar User Fee Act user fee collections; \$5,300,000 in Voluntary Qualified Importer Program collections; \$1,434,000 in food and feed recall collections; \$6,414,000 in food reinspection collections; \$19,705,000 in Mammography Quality Standards Act fee collections; and \$13,651,000 in export and certification fees, as assumed in the President's budget. The Committee recommendation includes bill language which prohibits FDA from developing, establishing, or operating any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701.

The Committee recommendation does not include proposed user fees for food facility registration and inspection, food import, food contact substance notification, cosmetics, and international courier imports. None of these user fee proposals have been authorized by Congress. The Committee will continue to monitor any action by the appropriate authorizing Committees regarding these proposed user fees.

For direct appropriations, the Committee recommendation is consistent with the budget request, including fully funding the amount requested for implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. In addition, the Committee recommendation includes a \$4,000,000 increase for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System.

The Committee expects FDA to continue all projects, activities, laboratories, and programs as included in fiscal year 2014 unless otherwise specified.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2014 and budget request levels:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 enacted	2015 request	
Centers and related field activities:			
Foods	882,817	903,403	903,403
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN]	266,408	279,994	279,994
Field Activities	616,409	623,409	623,409
Human Drugs	466,374	479,678	484,223
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER]	339,838	347,513	347,873
Field Activities	126,536	132,165	136,350
Biologics	210,928	209,754	209,754
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]	170,744	169,890	169,890
Field Activities	40,184	39,864	39,864
Animal Drugs	141,566	144,577	148,577
Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM]	87,846	90,505	94,505
Field Activities	53,720	54,072	54,072
Medical and radiological devices	320,825	317,937	317,937

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year—		Committee recommendation
	2014 enacted	2015 request	
Center for Devices and Radiological Health	240,345	238,308	238,308
Field Activities	80,480	79,629	79,629
National Center for Toxicological Research	62,494	58,998	63,331
Other Activities	172,107	175,360	175,635
Rent and related activities	132,718	116,340	116,340
Rental Payments to GSA	162,076	169,336	169,336
Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority	2,551,905	2,575,383	2,588,536

Abuse Deterrent Drug Development.—The Committee urges FDA to make faster progress on setting and applying appropriate regulatory incentives and expectations regarding abuse-deterrent opioids. This includes finalizing the January 2013 draft guidance on evaluation and labeling of abuse-deterrent opioids and publishing draft guidance on the assessment of generic versions of such products. The draft guidance on generics should include a discussion of whether and in what circumstances human abuse liability studies will be needed, and if so, how applicants can ensure that such studies are acceptable for review by FDA. The Committee further urges FDA to include, where appropriate, descriptions of studies of a product's abuse-deterrent properties when a sponsor has not yet established a claim of abuse deterrence.

Antibiotics.—The Commissioner is urged to devise a strategy to help ensure the use of medically important antibiotics in food animals for disease prevention, as defined in guidance for Industry No. 213, that is judicious and appropriate. Additionally, the Commissioner is directed to finalize a Veterinary Feed Directive rule prior to April 1, 2015, and is encouraged to include provisions that provide adequate assurance that licensed veterinarians will be familiar with the animals and premises where they are kept when prescribing medically important antibiotics for use in food animals.

Artificial Pancreas.—The Committee commends the FDA for taking critical steps in advancing artificial pancreas systems, including its recent approval of the threshold suspend system. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure that artificial pancreas systems are further developed, tested and approved, ensuring timely access to safe and effective systems for patients with type I diabetes.

Compounding Guidance Documents.—The Committee notes that the Food and Drug Administration has begun implementing the Compounding Quality Act by releasing guidances and working to appoint members to the Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee. The Committee is concerned that the Food and Drug Administration is not meeting with any stakeholders before publicly releasing further guidance for public comment. The Committee directs the Food and Drug Administration to meet with stakeholders to help inform the implementation of the Compounding Quality Act to ensure continued access to safe compounded drugs for which there is a clinical need.

Comprehensive Device Review Assessment.—FDA is directed to participate in a comprehensive assessment of the process for the review of device applications conducted by an independent entity capable of performing technical analysis, management assessment, and program evaluation for the device review program. In consultation with FDA and industry, the assessment should include, but is not limited to, an identification of process improvements and best practices for conducting predictable, efficient, and consistent premarket reviews that meet regulatory review standards; analysis of elements of the review process to facilitate a more efficient process; assessment of FDA methods and controls for collecting and reporting information on premarket review process resource use and performance; assessment of the effectiveness of FDA’s Reviewer Training Program implementation; and recommendations for ongoing periodic assessments and any additional, more detailed or focused program assessments. Following this assessment, FDA is directed to report to the Committee, within 120 days of the enactment of this act, on the findings of the assessment and the agency’s plan to incorporate those findings and recommendations, as appropriate, into its management of the premarket review program.

Counterfeit Products.—The Committee recommendation includes an increase of \$4,820,000 to provide FDA with additional resources to investigate counterfeit drugs both within the United States and internationally. These funds will be used to complete undercover purchases of suspected counterfeit products for testing; to remove counterfeit products from the market; and to prosecute criminal actors. The Committee believes that the growing marketplace for counterfeit drugs available on the Internet is particularly concerning, and these funds will allow FDA to enhance its cybercrime program, which will ultimately allow FDA to seek appropriate criminal fines and forfeitures, and to protect the public health.

Fixed Dose Combination Drugs.—The Committee applauds the agency’s issuance of draft guidance to promote the development of fixed combination drug products for critical diseases like cancer, HIV, global diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, and against health threats like drug-resistant infections. The Committee encourages the FDA to finalize the guidance by the end of this calendar year to facilitate development of new treatments against serious and life-threatening diseases.

Food Safety Modernization Act.—The Committee notes that FDA has stated its intent to re-propose certain sections of the Food Safety Modernization Act proposed rules for produce safety and preventive controls for human food and animal food because significant changes are warranted. The Committee is concerned that the agency only intends to address discrete portions of these proposed rules. FDA is reminded that the activities covered by the proposed rules are complex and interrelated and that the concerns raised by the rules are broader than the handful of items FDA has announced that it will address. The agency shall ensure that all Food Safety Modernization Act regulations are science-based, risk-based, and flexible, taking into account the different risks posed by different commodities. For example, the secondary market for spent grains and byproduct from human food manufacturing and agricultural practices is an important part of the supply chain for agricultural

producers that reduces waste and produces safe, cost effective animal feed. FDA should reconsider how its proposed preventive controls for animal food rule will affect this relationship and the environment. Additionally, FDA should take into account the diversity of many integrated livestock and poultry feeding arrangements, and aquaculture feeding arrangements, when promulgating the final rule.

Further, FDA is directed to ensure that the public has an opportunity to review and comment on all preventive controls for human food requirements, accompanied by an economic analysis, including such elements as supplier verification, environmental monitoring, and verification testing of products in the form of a proposed rule, not an interim final or final rule. FDA should allow flexibility in the location and frequency of verification testing. The Committee strongly encourages the agency to re-propose the produce safety and preventive controls for human and animal food rules in their entirety so stakeholders may comment on the agency's proposals as a whole.

Food Safety Outreach and Technical Assistance.—As FDA implements the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act [FSMA], it is critical that the agency work with USDA to perform outreach and technical assistance to farmers and small businesses to help them understand FSMA requirements and resources available to help with FSMA compliance as rules are developed and implemented. The Committee recommendation includes \$2,500,000 for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to conduct extension activities related to FSMA, as requested in the budget.

Global Drug Supply Chain.—FDA is directed to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to the Office Global Regulatory Operations and Policy and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research to advance the agency's strategic priority of strengthening the safety and integrity of the global drug supply chain. In order to advance this initiative, resources should be dedicated to FDA's international leadership to combat threats to global health and the global drug supply chain from counterfeit medicines; promote regulatory convergence and the harmonization of international standards that will strengthen global drug supply chain security; and build upon and achieve key goals as articulated in FDA's reports on Global Engagement and the Pathway to Global Product Safety and Quality. As part of this effort, funding and personnel should be dedicated to advance the success of key efforts, including the FDA-championed Global Road Map on Medical Product Quality and Supply Chain Integrity under the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee which will require FDA's continued leadership to ensure its success and tangible outcomes. In addition, adequate resources should be dedicated to FDA's work to improve policy, international cooperation, and enforcement collaboration related to the Internet and the unprecedented growth in illegal drug sales via the Internet, including the online trade of counterfeit, adulterated, misbranded, and unapproved drugs.

Import Shipments.—The Commissioner is encouraged to ensure that sufficient FDA personnel are available to clear shipments expeditiously at the time of their arrival at the port of entry, includ-

ing outside normal working hours and on holidays. The Commissioner is further encouraged to work to develop a process by which shipments from highly compliant importers may be released with minimal administrative disruption. Recognizing that FDA has a responsibility to ensure legitimate trade is cleared rapidly and that compliant shipments are not unduly detained, FDA is directed to provide two reports to the Committees on Appropriations, the first 6 months after the enactment of this act, and the second in 6 additional months. These reports shall provide information on the number of shipments being identified for FDA examination as a percentage of all shipments subject to FDA regulatory review and the number of violative products detained as a percentage of those being held.

Inclusion in Clinical Trials.—Research has shown that gender differences, as well as differences based on age, race, or other factors, may contribute to differences in the safety and efficacy of drugs, biologics, and devices. The Committee directs FDA to encourage diverse participation, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and the elderly, to help assure that clinical trials are representative of those individuals who ultimately will use these medical products, and that the products will be safe and effective for people in these demographic subgroups. The Committee urges the FDA to issue the Action Plan required by section 907 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act and provide a timeline for implementation of the actions FDA will take, in cooperation with industry stakeholders, to ensure that women, minorities, and others are appropriately represented in clinical research, that meaningful subgroup analyses of clinical trials are conducted, and that subgroup specific clinical trial results are made publically available in an accessible and timely manner.

Mammography Quality Standards Act.—The Committee recommendation includes full funding as requested for implementation of the Mammography Quality Standards Act. This program sets national quality standards for mammography facilities, equipment, personnel and operating procedures, and has improved the quality of mammography and made mammograms a more reliable tool to detect breast cancers.

Nanotechnology.—The Committee recognizes the increased capabilities that FDA has developed to study environment, health, and safety of nanomaterials within FDA's Jefferson Laboratory Campus, including the National Center for Toxicological Research, and its consolidated headquarters at White Oak, Maryland. The Committee expects FDA to continue to support collaborative research with universities and industry on the toxicology of nanotechnology products and processes in accordance with the National Nanotechnology Initiative Environment, Health, and Safety Research Strategy as updated in October 2011.

Office of Cosmetics and Colors.—The Committee recommendation includes not less than \$11,700,000 for cosmetics activities, including not less than \$7,200,000 for the Office of Colors and Cosmetics [OCAC]. Funding provided for OCAC is for direct support of the operation, staffing, compliance, research and international activities performed by this office. The Committee notes that every year since fiscal year 2012, it has requested that OCAC respond to a citizen

petition setting safety levels for trace amount of lead in cosmetics. The Committee is disappointed that OCAC has not responded to these requests and urges OCAC to make this a priority. Therefore, the Committee directs the Office of Colors and Cosmetics to respond to the petition by March 15, 2015. Additionally, in light of China's importance to U.S.-based manufacturers and consumers, the Committee directs FDA establish a bilateral technical dialogue with Chinese regulators. The Committee directs FDA to promote international regulatory harmonization and trade in cosmetic products by supporting international trade negotiations on cosmetics in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

Oversight Activities.—The Committee notes that over the past 5 years FDA's responsibilities have grown significantly and resources available to the agency have increased more than 60 percent. The Committee is concerned that oversight of FDA has not kept pace with the growth in the agency's regulatory authority or funding. Therefore, the Committee recommendation includes \$1,500,000 for the HHS Office of Inspector General specifically for oversight of FDA activities. The funding provided under this appropriation is in addition to FDA oversight activities supported within the Inspector General's regular appropriation. The Committee instructs the Inspector General to submit a plan, within 60 days of the enactment of this act, on the additional oversight activities planned with this funding.

Pediatric Device Consortia Grants.—The Committee is pleased that the nine FDA-funded Pediatric Device Consortia have assisted in advancing the development of 324 proposed pediatric medical devices since its inception in 2009, as well as promoting job-growth in the healthcare sector, and as such, continues to support this critical effort. The program funds consortia to assist innovators in developing medical and surgical devices designed for the unique needs of children, needs that often go unmet by devices currently available on the market. However, the Committee remains concerned that children's medical devices continue to lag behind those manufactured for adults and directs the FDA to fund the program at the levels authorized by the Food and Drug Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–144).

Prescription Drug Inserts.—The Committee is aware that FDA is considering regulatory changes that could eliminate printed professional inserts for prescription drugs. A July 2013 GAO report on the topic concluded that while there were potential public health benefits associated with electronic drug labeling, relying exclusively on electronic labeling could disadvantage physicians, pharmacists, other healthcare providers, and ultimately patients, potentially adversely impacting public health. Therefore, the Committee directs FDA to ensure that any proposed regulation regarding electronic inserts of drug labeling does not come in lieu of paper inserts.

Seafood Advisory.—The Committee is concerned that after many years, the FDA has not published an updated advice on seafood consumption for pregnant women, mothers and children. The Committee directs the FDA to publish final advice to pregnant women on seafood consumption in conjunction with all applicable parties as directed in House Report 112–101 and Senate Report 112–73 by June 30, 2014.

Seafood Economic Integrity.—The Committee recognizes the importance of seafood to a healthy diet, but is concerned that the FDA does not focus sufficient attention on economic integrity issues, particularly with respect to mislabeling of species, weights, and treatment. The Committee encourages the FDA to work with States and the Department of Commerce to more aggressively combat fraud in parts of the seafood industry.

Shellfish Embargo.—As a result of a dispute over sanitation protocols, the European Union imposed a retaliatory ban on U.S. shellfish in July 2010, depriving U.S. shellfish growers of a lucrative market. The Committee is concerned that, in nearly 4 years, a resolution has not been achieved. The Committee recommends that the FDA continue its ongoing consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] to address the issue as expeditiously as possible. The FDA is also directed to provide a report to the Committee on this issue within 100 days.

Special Protocol Assessment.—The Committee is aware that questions have arisen in connection with the rescission of a Special Protocol Assessment [SPA] Agreement. While FDA can rescind a SPA agreement reached under section 505(b)(5)(C) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act if certain requirements are met, the Committee expects that FDA should be accountable for continued diligence in identifying issues that bear on a SPA agreement and in notifying the sponsor of such issues within a reasonable period of time after FDA becomes aware. To ensure clarity over the standard to rescind a SPA agreement, the Committee encourages FDA to revise and re-issue, after public comment, its existing guidance regarding SPA agreements, including the statutory standards associated with the rescission of such agreements.

Sunscreen Labeling Regulations.—The Committee is pleased that FDA finalized regulations establishing significant new labeling and testing requirements for products marketed under FDA's monograph for over-the-counter sunscreen drug products. The Committee directs the FDA to finalize its proposed rule limiting the maximum Sun Protection Factor [SPF] to "50" or "50+" and issue a proposed rule to establish testing and labeling standards for sunscreen sprays.

User Fees.—The Committee notes that the restoration in fiscal year 2014 of user fees sequestered in fiscal year 2013 was to be used by FDA to mitigate the impact of the sequester on the user fee programs. This includes the hiring of new staff, and FDA initiatives supported by PDUFA user fees, including the regulatory science activities as outlined in sections IX, X, and XI of the PDUFA Reauthorization Performance Goals and Procedures Fiscal Years 2013 Through 2017. The Committee requests that FDA provide a detailed financial summary for the restored fiscal year 2013 PDUFA user fees; identify funding spent to date; and a detailed plan for the allocation of the remaining funds. Specifically, the Committee requests that FDA identify and report to the Committee an itemized accounting of any and all funds expended for each of the regulatory science activities as outlined in sections IX, X, and XI of the PDUFA V Performance Goals and provide a plan for how the PDUFA user fees will be allocated for each such activity through fiscal year 2017.

White Oak Consolidation.—The Commissioner is directed to identify in FDA’s fiscal year 2016 budget justification the funding level that is necessary to complete Phase II and Phase III of the White Oak Consolidation. Additionally, the Committee expects FDA to provide a justification and spending plan in subsequent budget requests for completion of both Phase II and Phase III of the White Oak Consolidation.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2014	\$8,788,000
Budget estimate, 2015	8,788,000
Committee recommendation	8,788,000

FDA maintains offices and staff in 49 States and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including field laboratories and specialized facilities, as well as the National Center for Toxicological Research complex. Repairs, modifications, improvements, and construction to FDA headquarters and field facilities must be made to preserve the properties, ensure employee safety, meet changing program requirements, and permit the agency to keep its laboratory methods up to date.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$8,788,000 for FDA buildings and facilities. This funding shall be used to upgrade FDA facilities and laboratories which are currently below public safety standards and incapable of performing agency requirements.

INDEPENDENT AGENCY

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2014	\$62,600,000
Budget estimate, 2015	65,100,000
Committee recommendation	65,100,000

The Farm Credit Administration [FCA] is the independent agency in the executive branch of the Government responsible for the examination and regulation of the banks, associations, and other institutions of the Farm Credit System.

Activities of the Farm Credit Administration include the planning and execution of examinations of Farm Credit System institutions and the preparation of examination reports. FCA also promulgates regulations, establishes standards, enforces rules and regulations, and approves certain actions of the institutions.

The administration and the institutions under its jurisdiction now operate under authorities contained in the Farm Credit Act of 1971, Public Law 92–181, effective December 10, 1971. Public Law 99–205, effective December 23, 1985, restructured FCA and gave the agency regulatory authorities and enforcement powers.

The act provides for the farmer-owned cooperative system to make sound, adequate, and constructive credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives, rural residences, and associations and other entities upon which farming operations are depend-

ent, and to modernize existing farm credit law to meet current and future rural credit needs.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 authorized the formation of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation [FAMC] to operate a secondary market for agricultural and rural housing mortgages. The Farm Credit Administration, under section 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, is assigned the responsibility of regulating this entity and assuring its safe and sound operation.

Expenses of the Farm Credit Administration are paid by assessments collected from the Farm Credit System institutions and by assessments to the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$65,100,000 on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

Annual Report.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Farm Credit System in agricultural finance, including lending to beginning farmers and ranchers and to farmers and ranchers utilizing local and regional food markets. The Committee encourages the Farm Credit Administration to provide to the Committee an annual report with data and analysis of the operations and achievements of the Farm Credit System in providing financial and other forms of support for farms and ranches serving emerging local and regional food markets, including but not limited to beginning farmers and ranchers.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Committee recommends the following provisions:

Section 701. This section makes funds available for the purchase, replacement, and hire of passenger motor vehicles.

Section 702. This section gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to transfer unobligated balances to the Working Capital Fund and clarifies longstanding practices associated with the Fund.

Section 703. This section limits the funding provided in the bill to 1 year, unless otherwise specified.

Section 704. This section limits negotiated indirect costs on cooperative agreements between the Department of Agriculture and nonprofit organizations to 10 percent.

Section 705. This section makes appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct guaranteed loans available until expended to disburse obligations for certain Rural Development programs.

Section 706. This section prohibits the purchase of new information technology equipment in excess of \$25,000 without the prior approval of the Chief Information Officer.

Section 707. This section makes funds for certain conservation programs available until expended to disburse certain obligations made in the current fiscal year.

Section 708. This section makes certain former Rural Utilities Service borrowers eligible for the Rural Economic Development loan and grant program.

Section 709. This section includes language regarding a limitation of funds.

Section 710. This section provides funds for Rural Development and the Farm Service Agency information technology expenses.

Section 711. This section includes language regarding reconstituted infant formula.

Section 712. This section includes language regarding first-class travel.

Section 713. This section includes language regarding the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Section 714. This section limits the amount of funding available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of commodities under the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

Section 715. This section makes funds available for the expenses and activities of certain advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces at the Department of Agriculture.

Section 716. This section includes language regarding the limitation on direct costs for grants awarded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Section 717. This section includes language regarding loan levels.

Section 718. This section includes language regarding the availability of funds for certain Department of Agriculture programs.

Section 719. This section includes language regarding the availability of funds for certain Department of Agriculture programs.

Section 720. This section prohibits the use of funds for user fee proposals that fail to provide sufficient budget impact information.

Section 721. This section prohibits the reprogramming of funds for programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less without the prior notification of the Committee on Appropriations.

Section 722. This section includes language for the establishment of a fee under the business and industry loan program.

Section 723. This section prohibits the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services from transmitting questions or responses as a result of the appropriations hearing process to non-Department employees.

Section 724. This section includes language regarding pre-packaged news.

Section 725. This section requires Department of Agriculture agencies to provide reimbursement to other Department of Agriculture agencies for employees detailed for longer than 30 days.

Section 726. This section provides funding for the Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers Program.

Section 727. This section provides funding to carry out a program for hardwood trees.

Section 728. This section includes language regarding spending plans.

Section 729. This section includes language regarding the guaranteed single family housing program.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank Program.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding conferences.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding the Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 733. This section includes language regarding Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones.

Section 734. This section includes language regarding the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program.

Section 735. This section includes language regarding the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Section 736. This section includes language regarding housing programs.

Section 737. This section includes language regarding non-recurring expenses.

Section 738. This section includes language regarding emergency spending.

Section 739. This section includes language regarding milk marketing orders.

Section 740. This section includes language regarding official portraits.

Section 741. This section includes language regarding rural housing loans.

Section 742. This section includes language regarding travel.

Section 743. This section includes a rescission of funds.

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2015, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), 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 Appropriations Act, 2015, and the accompanying Senate Report.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 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 2015 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.

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, regional, State, district, and county offices.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 7 of rule XVI requires that Committee reports accompanying general appropriations bills identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee is filing an original bill, which is not covered under this rule, but reports this information in the spirit of full disclosure.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities which currently lack authorization for fiscal year 2015:
Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on May 22, 2014, the Committee ordered favorably reported en bloc a bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, provided, that the bills be subject to amendment (or further amendment) and that the bills be consistent with the subcommittee allocations, by a recorded vote of 30–0, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas	Nays
Chairwoman Mikulski	
Mr. Leahy	
Mr. Harkin	
Mrs. Murray	
Mrs. Feinstein	
Mr. Durbin	
Mr. Johnson	
Ms. Landrieu	
Mr. Reed	
Mr. Pryor	
Mr. Tester	
Mr. Udall	
Mrs. Shaheen	
Mr. Merkley	
Mr. Begich	
Mr. Coons	
Mr. Shelby	
Mr. Cochran	
Mr. McConnell	
Mr. Alexander	
Ms. Collins	
Ms. Murkowski	
Mr. Graham	
Mr. Kirk	
Mr. Coats	
Mr. Blunt	
Mr. Moran	
Mr. Hoeven	
Mr. Johanns	
Mr. Boozman	

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of

that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the committee.”

The Committee bill as recommended contains no such provisions.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SEC. 308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93-344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount in bill	Committee allocation	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with the subcommittee allocation for 2015: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies:				
Mandatory	114,937	114,937	107,310	¹ 107,310
Discretionary	20,575	20,675	21,833	¹ 21,649
Security .....	.....	.....	.....	NA
Nonsecurity	20,575	20,675	.....	NA
Projections of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2015 .....	.....	.....	.....	² 114,734
2016 .....	.....	.....	.....	4,627
2017 .....	.....	.....	.....	1,048
2018 .....	.....	.....	.....	403
2019 and future years .....	.....	.....	.....	349
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2015	NA	38,923	NA	32,858

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

Consistent with the funding recommended in the bill for disaster funding and in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(D) of the BBEDCA, the Committee anticipates that the Budget Committee will file a revised section 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations reflecting an upward adjustment of \$100,000,000 in budget authority plus associated outlays.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Production, Processing, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Secretary	5,051	5,086	5,086	+35	.....
Office of Tribal Relations	498	502	502	+4	.....
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination	1,496	1,507	1,507	+11	.....
Office of Advocacy and Outreach	1,209	1,217	1,217	+8	.....
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	804	809	809	+5	.....
Departmental Administration	22,786	25,661	25,311	+2,525	- 350
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,869	3,897	3,897	+28	.....
Office of Communications	8,065	8,137	8,137	+72	.....
Total, Office of the Secretary	43,778	46,816	46,466	+2,688	- 350
Executive Operations:					
Office of the Chief Economist	16,777	16,854	16,854	+77	.....
National Appeals Division	12,841	13,430	13,430	+589	.....
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	9,064	10,292	9,305	+241	- 987
Subtotal, Executive Operations	38,682	40,576	39,589	+907	- 987
Office of the Chief Information Officer	44,031	45,199	45,199	+1,168	.....
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	6,213	6,080	6,080	- 133	.....
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	893	898	898	+5	.....
Office of Civil Rights	21,400	24,236	24,236	+2,836	.....
Agriculture buildings and facilities and rental payments	(233,000)	(64,825)	(64,844)	(- 168,156)	(+ 19)
Payments to GSA	164,470	.....	.....	- 164,470	.....
Department of Homeland Security	13,800	.....	.....	- 13,800	.....
Building operations and maintenance	54,730	64,825	64,844	+10,114	+ 19

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Hazardous materials management	3,592	3,600	3,600	+ 8	
Office of Inspector General	89,902	97,240	97,240	+ 7,338	
Office of the General Counsel	41,202	47,567	47,567	+ 6,365	
Office of Ethics	3,440	3,867	3,867	+ 427	
Total, Departmental Administration	526,133	380,904	379,586	- 146,547	- 1,318
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	893	898	898	+ 5	
Economic Research Service	78,058	83,446	85,373	+ 7,315	+ 1,927
National Agricultural Statistics Service	161,206	178,999	178,154	+ 16,948	- 845
Census of Agriculture	(44,545)	(48,044)	(48,044)	(+ 3,499)	
Agricultural Research Service:	1,122,482	1,104,403	1,139,673	+ 17,191	+ 35,270
Salaries and expenses					
National Institute of Food and Agriculture:	772,559	837,747	787,545	+ 14,986	- 50,202
Research and education activities	(11,880)	(11,880)	(11,880)		
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund		(10,000)	(10,000)	(+ 10,000)	
Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund	469,191	468,968	472,686	+ 3,495	+ 3,718
Extension activities	35,317	28,821	32,217	- 3,100	+ 3,396
Integrated activities					
Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,277,067	1,335,536	1,292,448	+ 15,381	- 43,088
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	893	898	898	+ 5	
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:	821,721	834,341	872,414	+ 50,693	+ 38,073
Salaries and expenses	3,175	3,175	3,175		
Buildings and facilities					

Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	824,896	837,516	875,589	+ 50,693	+ 38,073
Agricultural Marketing Service:					
Marketing Services	79,914	82,963	81,634	+ 1,720	- 1,329
Standardization activities (user fees) NA	(64,000)	(64,000)	.....	(- 64,000)	(- 64,000)
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(60,435)	(60,709)	(60,709)	(+ 274)	.....
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent, Section 32	1,107,000	1,122,000	1,122,000	+ 15,000	.....
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from section 32)	(20,056)	(20,317)	(20,317)	(+ 261)	.....
Payments to States and Possessions	1,363	1,235	1,363	.....	+ 128
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service program	1,248,712	1,266,907	1,265,706	+ 16,994	- 1,201
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration:					
Salaries and expenses	40,261	44,017	44,017	+ 3,756	.....
Limitation on inspection and weighing services	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	.....	.....
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	811	816	816	+ 5	.....
Food Safety and Inspection Service	1,010,689	1,001,402	1,022,770	+ 12,081	+ 21,368
Lab accreditation fees	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	.....	.....
Total, Production, Processing, and Marketing	6,231,666	6,175,033	6,225,219	- 6,447	+ 50,186
Farm Assistance Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	893	898	898	+ 5	.....
Farm Service Agency:					
Salaries and expenses	1,177,926	1,139,323	1,182,544	+ 4,618	+ 43,221
(Transfer from Food for Peace (Public Law 480))	(2,735)	(2,528)	(2,528)	(- 207)	.....
(Transfer from export loans)	(354)	(354)	(354)	.....	.....
(Transfer from ACF)	(306,998)	(306,998)	(306,998)	.....	.....
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts	(310,087)	(309,880)	(309,880)	(- 207)	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses	(1,488,013)	(1,449,203)	(1,492,424)	(+ 4,411)	(+ 43,221)
State mediation grants	3,782	3,404	3,404	- 378	.....
Grassroots source water protection program	5,526	.....	6,500	+ 974	+ 6,500

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Dairy indemnity program	250	.....	500	+ 250	+ 500
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency	1,187,484	1,142,727	1,192,948	+ 5,464	+ 50,221
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF) Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	(575,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(+ 925,000)	.....
Guaranteed	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	.....	.....
Subtotal	(2,575,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(+ 925,000)	.....
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	(1,195,620)	(1,252,004)	(1,252,004)	(+ 56,384)	.....
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,500,000)	(1,393,443)	(1,393,443)	(- 106,557)	.....
Subtotal	(2,695,620)	(2,645,447)	(2,645,447)	(- 50,173)	.....
Emergency loans	(34,658)	(34,667)	(34,667)	(+ 9)	.....
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	.....	.....
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	.....	.....
Indian highly fractionated land loans	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	.....	.....
Boll weevil eradication loans	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	.....	.....
Total Loan authorizations	(5,527,278)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(+ 874,836)	.....
Loan subsidies:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	4,428	.....	.....	- 4,428	.....

Farm operating loans:							
Direct	65,520	63,101	63,101	63,101	-2,419		
Unsubsidized guaranteed	18,300	14,770	14,770	14,770	-3,530		
Subtotal	83,820	77,871	77,871	77,871	-5,949		
Emergency Loans	1,698	856	856	856	-842		
Indian highly fractionated land loans	68				-68		
Individual development account grants		2,500	2,500	2,500	+2,500		
Total, Loan subsidies	90,014	81,227	81,227	81,227	-8,787		
ACF administrative expenses:							
Salaries and expense (transfer to FSA)	306,998	306,998	306,998	306,998			
Administrative expenses	7,721	7,920	7,920	7,920	+199		
Total, ACF expenses	314,719	314,918	314,918	314,918	+199		
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (Loan authorization)	404,733	396,145	396,145	396,145	-8,588		
	(5,527,278)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(+874,836)		
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,592,217	1,538,872	1,589,093	1,589,093	-3,124		+50,221
Risk Management Agency: Administrative and operating expenses	71,496	76,779	76,779	76,779	+5,283		
Total, Farm Assistance Programs	1,664,606	1,616,549	1,666,770	1,666,770	+2,164		+50,221
Corporations							
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:							
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund	9,502,944	8,668,000	8,668,000	8,668,000	-834,944		
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:							
Reimbursement for net realized losses	12,538,880	9,067,281	9,067,281	9,067,281	-3,471,599		
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)			
Total, Corporations	22,041,824	17,735,281	17,735,281	17,735,281	-4,306,543		
Total, Title I, Agricultural Programs (By transfer)	29,938,096	25,526,863	25,627,270	25,627,270	-4,310,826		+100,407
(Loan authorization)	(330,143)	(330,197)	(330,197)	(330,197)	(+54)		
	(5,527,278)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(6,402,114)	(+874,836)		

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(115,435)	(115,709)	(115,709)	(+ 274)	.....
TITLE II—CONSERVATION PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment	893	898	898	+ 5	.....
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation operations	812,939	814,772	849,295	+ 36,356	+ 34,523
Farm Security and Rural Investment program (transfer authority) .....	.....	(732,819)	.....	.....	(- 732,819)
Total, Public Lands Conservation operations	812,939	1,547,591	849,295	+ 36,356	- 698,296
Watershed rehabilitation program	12,000	.....	.....	- 12,000	.....
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	824,939	814,772	849,295	+ 24,356	+ 34,523
Total, Title II, Conservation Programs	825,832	815,670	850,193	+ 24,361	+ 34,523
TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	893	898	898	+ 5	.....
Rural development:					
Rural development expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	203,424	225,101	228,898	+ 25,474	+ 3,797
(Transfer from RHF)	(415,100)	(397,296)	(415,100)	.....	(+ 17,804)
(Transfer from RDLFP)	(4,439)	(4,249)	(4,439)	.....	(+ 190)
(Transfer from Healthy Foods, HNI) .....	.....	(750)	.....	.....	(- 750)
(Transfer from RETLP)	(34,478)	(33,000)	(34,478)	.....	(+ 1,478)
Subtotal, Transfers from program accounts	(454,017)	(435,295)	(454,017)	.....	(+ 18,722)

Total, Rural development expenses	(657,441)	(660,396)	(682,915)	(+ 25,474)	(+ 22,519)
Rural Housing Service:					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec. 502)	(900,000)	(360,000)	(900,000)		(+ 540,000)
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)		
Subtotal, Single family	(24,900,000)	(24,360,000)	(24,900,000)		(+ 540,000)
Housing repair (Sec. 504)	(26,280)	(26,279)	(26,279)	(- 1)	
Rental housing (Sec. 515)	(28,432)	(28,432)	(28,432)		
Multifamily housing guarantees (Sec. 538)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)		
Site development loans (Sec. 524)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		
Single family housing credit sales	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)		
Self-help housing land develop. (Sec. 523)	(5,000)		(5,000)		(+ 5,000)
Farm Labor Housing (Sec. 514)	(23,855)	(23,854)	(23,854)	(- 1)	
Total, Loan authorizations	(25,148,567)	(24,603,565)	(25,148,565)	(- 2)	(+ 545,000)
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec. 502)	24,480	26,568	66,420	+ 41,940	+ 39,852
Housing repair (Sec. 504)	2,176	3,687	3,687	+ 1,511	
Rental housing (Sec. 515)	6,656	9,812	9,812	+ 3,156	
Farm labor housing (Sec. 514)	5,656	7,681	7,681	+ 2,025	
Total, Loan subsidies	38,968	47,748	87,600	+ 48,632	+ 39,852
Farm labor housing grants					
RHF administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	8,336	8,336	8,336		
	415,100	397,296	415,100		+ 17,804
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program	462,404	453,380	511,036	+ 48,632	+ 57,656
(Loan authorization)	(25,148,567)	(24,603,565)	(25,148,565)	(- 2)	(+ 545,000)
Rental assistance program:					
Rental assistance (Sec. 521)	1,110,000	1,088,500	1,093,500	- 16,500	+ 5,000
Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account:					
Rural housing voucher program	12,575	8,000	8,000	- 4,575	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Multi-family housing revitalization program	20,000	20,000	20,000		
Total, Multi-family housing revitalization	32,575	28,000	28,000	-4,575	
Mutual and self-help housing grants	25,000	10,000	25,000		+ 15,000
Rural housing assistance grants	32,239	25,000	32,239		+ 7,239
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct	(2,200,000)	(2,200,000)	(2,200,000)		
Guaranteed	(59,543)		(75,000)	(+ 15,457)	(+ 75,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(2,259,543)	(2,200,000)	(2,275,000)	(+ 15,457)	(+ 75,000)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Guaranteed	3,775		3,585	-190	+ 3,585
Grants	13,000	17,000	13,000		-4,000
Rural community development initiative	5,967		5,967		+ 5,967
Economic impact initiative grants	5,778		5,778		+ 5,778
Tribal college grants	4,000	4,000	4,000		
Total, RCFP Loan subsidies and grants	32,520	21,000	32,330	-190	+ 11,330
Subtotal, grants and payments	89,759	56,000	89,569	-190	+ 33,569
Total, Rural Housing Service	1,694,738	1,625,880	1,722,105	+ 27,367	+ 96,225
(Loan authorization)	(27,408,110)	(26,803,565)	(27,423,565)	(+ 15,455)	(+ 620,000)

Rural Business—Cooperative Service:							
Rural Business Program Account:							
(Guaranteed business and industry loans)							
Loan subsidies and grants:							
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy							
Rural business enterprise							
Rural business opportunity							
Rural business development							
Delta regional authority							
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants							
Rural Business and Cooperative Grants							
Intermediary Relending Program Fund:							
(Loan authorization)							
Loan subsidy							
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD)							
Total, Rural Development Loan Fund							
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:							
(Loan authorization)							
Limit cushion of credit interest spending							
(Rescission)							
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:							
Cooperative development							
Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas							
Grants to assist minority producers							
Value-added agricultural product market development							
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants							
Rural Microenterprise Investment Program Account:							
(Loan authorization)							
Loan subsidies and grants							
Total, Rural Microenterprise Investment							
Rural Business Investment Program Account:							
(Loan authorization)							

(+367,300)

(+5)

(958,102)

(590,802)

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-18,012

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Loan subsidy		4,000			-4,000
Grants		2,000			-2,000
Total, Rural Business Investment Program		6,000			-6,000
Rural Energy for America Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(12,760)	(47,259)	(12,760)		(-34,499)
Loan subsidy	3,500	5,000	1,350	-2,150	-3,650
Grants		5,000			-5,000
Total, Rural Energy for America Program	3,500	10,000	1,350	-2,150	-8,650
Healthy Foods, Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative:					
Grants		12,250			-12,250
Administrative expenses (transfer to RD)		750			-750
Total, Healthy Foods, Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative		13,000			-13,000
Total, Rural Business—Cooperative Service	-37,390	-11,600	-41,816	-4,426	-30,216
(Loan authorization)	(1,022,823)	(772,467)	(1,022,828)	(+5)	(+250,361)
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)	(1,200,000)		
Guaranteed	(50,000)		(50,000)		(+50,000)
Direct loans authorized by Public Law 83-566	(40,000)			(-40,000)	
Total, Loan authorization	1,290,000	1,200,000	1,250,000	-40,000	+50,000

Loan subsidies and grants:						
Guaranteed subsidy	355			295		+ 295
Water and Waste Revolving Fund	1,000			1,000		+ 1,000
Water well system grants	993			993		+ 993
Colonia's and AKHI grants	66,500		36,480	66,500		+ 30,020
Water and waste technical assistance	19,000		9,120	19,000		+ 9,880
Circuit rider program	15,000		7,600	15,919		+ 8,319
Solid waste management grants	4,000		4,000	4,000		
High energy cost grants	10,000			10,000		+ 10,000
Water and waste disposal grants	345,523		246,800	345,523		+ 98,723
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	462,371		304,000	463,230		+ 159,230
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:						
Loan authorizations:						
Electric:						
Direct, 5 percent						
Direct, FFB	(5,000,000)		(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)		
Guaranteed underwriting	(500,000)			(500,000)		(+ 500,000)
Subtotal, Electric	(5,500,000)		(5,000,000)	(5,500,000)		(+ 500,000)
Telecommunications:						
Direct, Treasury rate	(690,000)		(345,000)	(690,000)		(+ 345,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(6,190,000)		(5,345,000)	(6,190,000)		(+ 845,000)
RETLP administrative expenses (transfer to RD)	34,478		33,000	34,478		+ 1,478
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	(6,190,000)		(5,345,000)	(6,190,000)		(+ 845,000)
Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program:						
Loan authorizations:						
Broadband telecommunications	(34,483)		(44,238)	(34,430)		(- 9,808)
Total, Loan authorizations	(34,483)		(44,238)	(34,430)		(- 9,808)
Loan subsidies and grants:						
Distance learning and telemedicine:						
Grants	24,323		24,950	24,323		- 627

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct	4,500	8,268	6,435	+1,935	-1,833
Grants	10,372	20,372	10,372		-10,000
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	39,195	53,590	41,130	+1,935	-12,460
Total, Rural Utilities Service	536,044	390,590	538,838	+2,794	+148,248
(Loan authorization)	(7,514,483)	(6,589,238)	(7,474,430)	(-40,053)	(+885,192)
Total, Title III, Rural Development Programs	2,397,709	2,230,869	2,448,923	+51,214	+218,054
(By transfer)	(454,017)	(435,295)	(454,017)		(+18,722)
(Loan authorization)	(35,945,416)	(34,165,270)	(35,920,823)	(-24,593)	(+1,755,553)
TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	811	816	816	+5	
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	19,262,957	20,472,000	20,472,000	+1,209,043	-10,000
School breakfast program equipment grants	25,000	35,000	25,000		-30,000
Demonstration projects		30,000			
Total, Child nutrition programs	19,287,957	20,537,000	20,497,000	+1,209,043	-40,000
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	6,715,841	6,823,000	6,623,000	-92,841	-200,000
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:					
(Food stamp program)	79,168,947	79,250,389	79,250,389	+81,442	
Reserve	3,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000		-2,000,000
FDPIR nutrition education services	998	998	998		
National food consumption survey		5,000			-5,000

Fiscal year 2016 (first quarter)	21,064,097	.....	.....	.....	- 21,064,097
Total, Food stamp program	82,169,945	105,320,484	82,251,387	+ 81,442	- 23,069,097
Fiscal year 2015	(82,169,945)	(84,256,387)	(82,251,387)	(+ 81,442)	(- 2,005,000)
Commodity Assistance Program:					
Commodity supplemental food program	202,682	208,682	208,682	+ 6,000	.....
(By transfer) .....	.....	.....	(2,800)	(+ 2,800)	.....
Farmers market nutrition program	16,548	16,548	16,548	.....	.....
Emergency food assistance program	49,401	49,401	49,401	.....	.....
Pacific island and disaster assistance	1,070	1,070	1,070	.....	.....
Total, Commodity assistance program	269,701	275,701	275,701	+ 6,000	.....
Nutrition programs administration	141,348	155,000	155,000	+ 13,652	.....
(Transfer out) .....	.....	.....	(- 2,800)	(- 2,800)	.....
Total, Food and Nutrition Service	108,584,792	133,111,185	109,802,088	+ 1,217,296	- 23,309,097
Fiscal year 2015	(108,584,792)	(112,047,088)	(109,802,088)	(+ 1,217,296)	(- 2,245,000)
Total, Title IV, Domestic Food Programs	108,585,603	133,112,001	109,802,904	+ 1,217,301	- 23,309,097
Fiscal year 2015	(108,584,792)	(112,047,088)	(109,802,088)	(+ 1,217,296)	(- 2,245,000)
TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses	177,863	182,563	182,797	+ 4,934	+ 234
(Transfer from export loans)	(6,394)	(6,394)	(6,394)	.....	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses	184,257	188,957	189,191	+ 4,934	+ 234
Food for Peace Title I Direct Credit and Food for Progress Program Account, administrative expenses:					
Farm Service Agency, Salaries and expenses (transfer to FSA)	2,735	2,528	2,528	- 207	.....
Unobligated balances (recission) .....	.....	- 13,000	- 13,000	- 13,000	.....
Food for Peace Title II Grants:					
Expenses	1,466,000	1,400,000	1,466,000	.....	+ 66,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account (administrative expenses):					
Salaries and expenses (Export Loans):					
General Sales Manager (transfer to FAS)	6,394	6,394	6,394		
Farm Service Agency S&E (transfer to FSA)	354	354	354		
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account	6,748	6,748	6,748		
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants	185,126	185,126	185,126		
Total, Title V. Foreign Assistance and Related Programs (By transfer)	1,838,472 (6,394)	1,763,965 (6,394)	1,830,199 (6,394)	- 8,273	+ 66,234
TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation	2,551,905	2,575,383	2,588,536	+ 36,631	+ 13,153
Prescription drug user fees	(760,000)	(798,000)	(798,000)	(+ 38,000)	
Medical device user fees	(114,833)	(128,282)	(128,282)	(+ 13,449)	
Human generic drug user fees	(305,996)	(312,116)	(312,116)	(+ 6,120)	
Biosimilar biological products user fees	(20,716)	(21,014)	(21,014)	(+ 298)	
Animal drug user fees	(23,600)	(22,464)	(22,464)	(- 1,136)	
Animal generic drug user fees	(7,328)	(6,944)	(6,944)	(- 384)	
Tobacco product user fees	(534,000)	(566,000)	(566,000)	(+ 32,000)	
Food and feed recall user fees	(12,925)			(- 12,925)	
Food Reinspection fees	(15,367)			(- 15,367)	
Subtotal (including user fees)	(4,346,670)	(4,430,203)	(4,443,356)	(+ 96,686)	(+ 13,153)

Mammography user fees	(19,318)	(19,705)	(19,705)	(+ 387)	.....
Export and color certification user fees	(12,447)	(13,651)	(13,651)	(+ 1,204)	.....
Food and feed recall user fees .....	.....	(1,434)	(1,434)	(+ 1,434)	.....
Food reinspection fees .....	.....	(6,414)	(6,414)	(+ 6,414)	.....
Voluntary qualified importer program fees .....	.....	(5,300)	(5,300)	(+ 5,300)	.....
Pharmacy compounding fees (CBO estimate) .....	.....	(1,000)	(1,000)	(+ 1,000)	.....
Subtotal, FDA (with user fees)	(4,378,435)	(4,477,707)	(4,490,860)	(+ 112,425)	(+ 13,153)
FDA new user fees (Leg. proposals):					
Food facility registration and inspection user fees .....	.....	(60,120)	.....	.....	(- 60,120)
Food import user fees .....	.....	(169,021)	.....	.....	(- 169,021)
International courier user fees .....	.....	(5,807)	.....	.....	(- 5,807)
Cosmetic user fees .....	.....	(19,457)	.....	.....	(- 19,457)
Food contact substance notification user fees .....	.....	(5,098)	.....	.....	(- 5,098)
Subtotal, FDA new user fees (Leg. Proposals) .....	.....	(259,503)	.....	.....	(- 259,503)
Buildings and facilities	8,788	8,788	8,788	.....	.....
Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals)	(4,387,223)	(4,745,998)	(4,499,648)	(+ 112,425)	(- 246,350)
Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only)	(4,387,223)	(4,486,495)	(4,499,648)	(+ 112,425)	(+ 13,153)
Total, FDA (excluding user fees)	2,560,693	2,584,171	2,597,324	+ 36,631	+ 13,153
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(62,600)	(65,100)	(65,100)	(+ 2,500)	.....
Total, Title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	2,560,693	2,584,171	2,597,324	+ 36,631	+ 13,153
TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Limit dam rehab (Sec. 718(1))	- 153,000	.....	.....	+ 153,000	.....
(rescission) .....	.....	- 153,000	- 142,000	- 142,000	+ 11,000
Limit environmental quality incentives program (Sec. 718(2))	- 272,000	- 250,000	- 136,000	+ 136,000	+ 114,000
Limit fruit and vegetable program (Sec. 719)	- 119,000	- 122,000	- 122,000	- 3,000	.....
Section 32 (rescission) (Sec. 719)	- 189,000	- 203,000	- 121,000	+ 68,000	+ 82,000
Resource conservation and development (rescission) (Sec. 727)	- 2,017	.....	.....	+ 2,017	.....
Geographic disadvantaged farmers (Sec. 728)	1,996	.....	1,996	.....	+ 1,996
Hardwood trees (Reforestation Pilot Program) (Sec. 729)	600	.....	600	.....	+ 600
Agriculture buildings and facilities and rental payments (rescission) (Sec. 731)	- 30,000	.....	.....	+ 30,000	.....
Rural Housing Service (rescission) (Sec. 733)	- 1,314	.....	.....	+ 1,314	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2014 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2014 appropriation	Budget estimate
Section 9005 Bioenergy program (rescission) (Sec. 734)	—8,000	.....	.....	+8,000	.....
Water Bank program (Sec. 739)	4,000	.....	4,000	.....	+4,000
Section 9003 Biorefinery program (rescission) (Sec. 741)	—40,694	.....	.....	+40,694	.....
Hunger Commission (Sec. 743)	1,000	.....	.....	—1,000	.....
FDA user fees (Sec. 747)	79,000	.....	.....	—79,000	.....
Citrus greening (APHIS) (Sec. 748)	20,000	.....	.....	—20,000	.....
Southwest Border Regional Commission	.....	2,000	.....	.....	.....
Emergency livestock assistance program (rescission)	.....	—125,000	.....	.....	.....
Emergency watershed protection program (disaster relief category)	.....	.....	85,000	+85,000	+85,000
Emergency forestry restoration program (disaster relief category)	.....	.....	15,000	+15,000	+15,000
Emergency watershed protection program	.....	.....	24,978	+24,978	+24,978
Emergency conservation program	.....	.....	11,755	+11,755	+11,755
Total, Title VII, General provisions	—708,429	—851,000	—502,671	+205,758	+348,329
Grand total	145,437,976	165,182,539	142,654,142	—2,783,834	—22,528,397
Appropriations fiscal year 2015	(145,881,001)	(144,767,442)	(143,113,142)	(—2,767,859)	(—1,654,300)
Disaster relief category	.....	.....	(100,000)	(+100,000)	(+100,000)
Rescissions	(—443,025)	(—649,000)	(—559,000)	(—115,975)	(+90,000)
Advance appropriations, fiscal year 2016	.....	(21,064,097)	.....	.....	(—21,064,097)
(By transfer)	(790,554)	(771,886)	(793,408)	(+2,854)	(+21,522)
(Loan authorization)	(41,472,694)	(40,567,384)	(42,322,937)	(+850,243)	(+1,755,553)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(178,035)	(180,809)	(180,809)	(+2,774)	.....