

**Union Calendar No. 856**

115th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Report 115-1108

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES  
DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS**

(JANUARY 3, 2017 TO DECEMBER 27, 2018)

---

**R E P O R T**

OF THE

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



DECEMBER 27, 2018.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House  
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

33-928

WASHINGTON : 2018

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Texas, *Chairman*

GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania <i>Vice Chairman</i>	COLLIN C. PETERSON, Minnesota, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia,	DAVID SCOTT, Georgia
FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma	JIM COSTA, California
STEVE KING, Iowa	TIMOTHY J. WALZ, Minnesota
MIKE ROGERS, Alabama	MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio
BOB GIBBS, Ohio	JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia	FILEMON VELA, Texas, <i>Vice Ranking Minority Member</i>
ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, Arkansas	MICHELE LUJAN GRISHAM, New Mexico
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	ANN M. KUSTER, New Hampshire
VICKY HARTZLER, Missouri	RICHARD M. NOLAN, Minnesota
JEFF DENHAM, California	CHERI BUSTOS, Illinois
DOUG LAMALFA, California	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
TED S. YOHO, Florida	ALMA S. ADAMS, North Carolina
RICK W. ALLEN, Georgia	DWIGHT EVANS, Pennsylvania
MIKE BOST, Illinois	AL LAWSON, Jr., Florida
DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina	TOM O'HALLERAN, Arizona
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, Louisiana	JIMMY PANETTA, California
TRENT KELLY, Mississippi	DARREN SOTO, Florida
JAMES COMER, Kentucky	LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, Delaware
ROGER W. MARSHALL, Kansas	
DON BACON, Nebraska	
JOHN J. FASO, New York	
NEAL P. DUNN, Florida	
JODEY C. ARRINGTON, Texas	

---

MATTHEW S. SCHERTZ, *Staff Director*  
ANNE SIMMONS, *Minority Staff Director*

**LETTER OF SUBMITTAL**

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, D.C., December 27, 2018.*

Hon. KAREN L. HASS,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, D.C.*

Dear Ms. HASS: Pursuant to rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I herewith submit to the House a report of the activities of the Committee on Agriculture during the 115th Congress.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman.*



# CONTENTS

	Page
I. Summary of Organization, Jurisdiction, and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Agriculture .....	1
A. Organization .....	1
B. Committee Jurisdiction .....	4
C. Oversight Plan .....	8
II. Committee Activities During the 115th Congress .....	19
A. Main Legislative Activities .....	19
B. Statistical Summary of Activities .....	20
C. Digest of Bills Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Which Action Has Been Taken .....	21
1. Bills Enacted into Law .....	21
2. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate .....	44
3. House Resolutions Considered in the House .....	47
4. Bills Reported by the Committee on Agriculture But Not Considered .....	47
5. Bills Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture's Jurisdiction But Not Considered .....	47
6. Bills Ordered Reported by the Committee on Agriculture .....	52
7. Bills Ordered Reported But Not Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture's Jurisdiction .....	52
8. Bills Defeated .....	52
9. Bills Acted on by the Committee Included in the Other Laws Enacted .....	52
10. Bills Vetoed .....	53
11. Bills Acted on by Both Houses But Not Enacted .....	53
12. Concurrent Resolutions Approved .....	53
D. Oversight .....	54
1. Oversight Hearings .....	54
2. Listening Sessions .....	62
E. Published Hearings .....	62
F. Meetings Not Published .....	64
G. Committee Prints .....	65
H. Watersheds .....	65
III. Appendix .....	65
A. Executive Communications .....	65
B. Statutory Reports .....	84
C. Memorials .....	92
D. Petitions .....	94



## Union Calendar No. 856

115TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
115-1108

---

---

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS

DECEMBER 27, 2018.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CONAWAY, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the  
following

### R E P O R T

In accordance with rule XI, clause 1(d), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture reports herewith on its activities during the 115th Congress.

#### I. SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION, JURISDICTION, AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

##### A. ORGANIZATION

The House of Representatives established the total authorized membership of the Committee on Agriculture for the 115th Congress at 46, with a party division of 26 Republicans and 20 Democrats. Among the Committee Members were 12 Representatives who were serving their first terms (Comer, Marshall, Bacon, Faso, Dunn, Arrington, Evans, Lawson, O'Halleran, Panetta, Soto, and Blunt Rochester).

The Committee organized on February 1, 2017, into six subcommittees. The six subcommittees were constituted as follows:

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

(Ratio includes *ex officio* Members.)

(K. Michael Conaway, Chairman, and Collin C. Peterson, Ranking Minority Member, are *ex officio* members of all Subcommittees.)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY EXCHANGES, ENERGY, AND CREDIT  
(RATIO 9-7 (TOTAL 16))

AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia, *Chairman*

BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia	DAVID SCOTT, Georgia, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
MIKE ROGERS, Alabama	
DOUG LAMALFA, California	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois	ANN M. KUSTER, New Hampshire
JAMES COMER, Kentucky	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
ROGER W. MARSHALL, Kansas	TOM O'HALLERAN, Arizona
JOHN J. FASO, New York	DARREN SOTO, Florida

**Jurisdiction:** Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

---

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
(RATIO 9-7 (TOTAL 16))

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma, *Chairman*

GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania	MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
JEFF DENHAM, California	
DOUG LAMALFA, California	TIMOTHY J. WALZ, Minnesota
RICK W. ALLEN, Georgia	ANN M. KUSTER, New Hampshire
MIKE BOST, Illinois	RICHARD M. NOLAN, Minnesota
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, Louisiana	TOM O'HALLERAN, Arizona
TRENT KELLY, Mississippi	FILEMON VELA, Texas

**Jurisdiction:** Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

---

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION  
(RATIO 13-10 (TOTAL 23))

GLENN THOMPSON, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

STEVE KING, Iowa	JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts, <i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, Arkansas	
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	ALMA S. ADAMS, North Carolina
VICKY HARTZLER, Missouri	DWIGHT EVANS, Pennsylvania
RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois	MARCIA L. FUDGE, Ohio
TED S. YOHO, Florida	MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, New Mexico
DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina	AL LAWSON, Jr., Florida
JAMES COMER, Kentucky	JIMMY PANETTA, California
ROGER W. MARSHALL, Kansas	DARREN SOTO, Florida
JOHN J. FASO, New York	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
JODEY C. ARRINGTON, Texas	

**Jurisdiction:** Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives.



SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
(RATIO 13-10 (TOTAL 23))

ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, Arkansas, *Chairman*

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma	RICHARD M. NOLAN, Minnesota, <i>Ranking</i>
MIKE ROGERS, Alabama	<i>Minority Member</i>
BOB GIBBS, Ohio	TIMOTHY J. WALZ, Minnesota
AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia	CHERI BUSTOS, Illinois
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, Delaware
RICK W. ALLEN, Georgia	DAVID SCOTT, Georgia
MIKE BOST, Illinois	SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York
RALPH LEE ABRAHAM, Louisiana	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
DON BACON, Nebraska	AL LAWSON, Jr., Florida
NEAL P. DUNN, Florida	TOM O'HALLERAN, Arizona
JODEY C. ARRINGTON, Texas	

**Jurisdiction:** Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat, and wool; the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statues, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues.

---

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH  
(RATIO 9-7 (TOTAL 16))

RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois, *Chairman*

BOB GIBBS, Ohio	MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, New Mexico,
JEFF DENHAM, California	<i>Ranking Minority Member</i>
TED S. YOHO, Florida	AL LAWSON, Jr., Florida
DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina	JIMMY PANETTA, California
DON BACON, Nebraska	JIM COSTA, California
NEAL P. DUNN, Florida	JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Massachusetts
JODEY C. ARRINGTON, Texas	LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, Delaware

**Jurisdiction:** Policies, statutes, and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management; bioterrorism; adulteration and quarantine matters; research, education, and extension; and biotechnology.

---

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE  
(RATIO 9-7 (TOTAL 16))

DAVID ROUZER, North Carolina, *Chairman*

BOB GOODLATTE, Virginia	JIM COSTA, California, <i>Ranking Minority</i>
STEVE KING, Iowa	<i>Member</i>
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee	FILEMON VELA, Texas
VICKY HARTZLER, Missouri	CHERI BUSTOS, Illinois
TED S. YOHO, Florida	STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
TRENT KELLY, Mississippi	DWIGHT EVANS, Pennsylvania
ROGER W. MARSHALL, Kansas	

**Jurisdiction:** Policies, statutes, and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

## B. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Under Rules adopted by the House of Representatives for the 115th Congress, the Committee on Agriculture's (hereinafter also referred to as Committee) jurisdiction (See Rule X, clause 1 of the Rules of the House of Representatives) extended to—

- (1) Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves.
- (2) Agriculture generally.
- (3) Agricultural and industrial chemistry.
- (4) Agricultural colleges and experiment stations.
- (5) Agricultural economics and research.
- (6) Agricultural education extension services.
- (7) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States).
- (8) Animal industry and diseases of animals.
- (9) Commodity exchanges.
- (10) Crop insurance and soil conservation.
- (11) Dairy industry.
- (12) Entomology and plant quarantine.
- (13) Extension of farm credit and farm security.
- (14) Inspection of livestock, poultry, meat products, and seafood and seafood products.
- (15) Forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain.
- (16) Human nutrition and home economics.
- (17) Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering.
- (18) Rural electrification.
- (19) Rural development.
- (20) Water conservation related to activities of the Department of Agriculture.

The revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the 107th Congress (House Document No. 106-320) provides the following concerning the Committee on Agriculture:<sup>1</sup>

“This Committee was established in 1820 (IV, 4149). In 1880 the subject of forestry was added to its jurisdiction, and the Committee was conferred authority to receive estimates of and to report appropriations (IV, 4149). However, on July 1, 1920, authority to report appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture was transferred to the Committee on Appropriations (VII, 1860).

The basic form of the present jurisdictional statement was made effective January 2, 1947, as a part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 812). Subparagraph (7) was altered by the 93d Congress, effective January 3, 1975, to in-

<sup>1</sup>References are to the volume and section of *Hinds'* (volumes I-V, e.g., IV, 500) and Cannon's (volumes VI-VIII, e.g., VI, 400) *Precedents of the House of Representatives*, and to the *Congressional Record* by date and page (e.g., January 3, 1953, p. 500).

clude jurisdiction over agricultural commodities (including the Commodity Credit Corporation) while transferring jurisdiction over foreign distribution and nondomestic production of commodities to the Committee on International Relations (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470). Nevertheless, the Committee has retained a limited jurisdiction over measures to release CCC stocks for such foreign distribution (Sept. 14, 1989, p. 20428). Previously unstated jurisdictions over commodities exchanges and rural development were codified effective January 3, 1975.

The 104th Congress consolidated the Committee's jurisdiction over inspection of livestock and meat products to include inspection of poultry, seafood, and seafood products, and added subparagraph (20) relating to water conservation (sec. 202(a), H. Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p.464). Clerical and stylistic changes were effected when the House recodified its rules in the 106th Congress (H. Res. 5, Jan. 6, 1999, p. 47).

The Committee has had jurisdiction of bills for establishing and regulating the Department of Agriculture (IV, 4150), for inspection of livestock and meat products, regulation of animal industry, diseases of animals (IV, 4154; VII, 1862), adulteration of seeds, insect pests, protection of birds and animals in forest reserves (IV, 4157; VII, 1870), the improvement of the breed of horses, even with the cavalry service in view (IV, 4158; VII, 1865), and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, amending Horse Protection Act to prevent the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, or receiving of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption (July 13, 2006, p. 14304).

The Committee, having charge of the general subject of forestry, has reported bills relating to timber, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain (IV, 4160). The Committee on Natural Resources, and not this committee, has jurisdiction over a bill to convey land that is part of a National Forest created from the public domain (March 23, 2004, p. 4926). It has also exercised jurisdiction of bills relating to agricultural colleges and experiment stations (IV, 4152), incorporation of agricultural societies (IV, 4159), and establishment of a highway commission (IV, 4153), to discourage fictitious and gambling transactions in farm products (IV, 4161; VII, 1861), to regulate the transportation, sale and handling of dogs and cats intended for use in research and the licensing of animal research facilities (July 29, 1965, p. 18691); and to designate an agricultural research center (May 14, 1995, p.11070). The Committee shares with the Committee on the Judiciary jurisdiction over a bill comprehensively amending the Immigration and Nationality Act and including food stamp eligibility requirements for aliens (Sept. 19, 1995, p. 25533).

The House referred the President's message dealing with the refinancing of farm-mortgage indebtedness to the Committee, thus conferring jurisdiction (April 4, 1933, p. 1209).

The Committee has jurisdiction over a bill relating solely to executive level position in the Department of Agriculture (Mar. 2, 1976, p. 4958) and has jurisdiction over bills to develop land

and water conservation programs on private and non-Federal lands (June 7, 1976, p. 16768).”

Some of the specific areas in which the Committee on Agriculture exercises its jurisdiction or that have been created for the Committee by historical reference include:

- (1) Public Law 480, Eighty-third Congress, the restoration, expansion, and development of foreign markets for United States agricultural products; and the effect of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (and the North American Free Trade Agreement), bilateral free trade agreements, the European Community, and other regional economic agreements and commodity marketing and pricing systems on United States agriculture.
- (2) All matters relating to the establishment and development of an effective Foreign Agricultural Service.
- (3) Matters relating to rural development, including rural telephone companies, farm credit banks, farm rural housing loans, rural water supply, rural flood control and water pollution control programs, and loans for rural firehouses, community facilities, and businesses.
- (4) Production and use of energy from agricultural and forestry resources.
- (5) Matters relating to the development, use, and administration of the National Forests, including, but not limited to, development of a sound program for general public use of the National Forests consistent with watershed protection and sustained-yield timber management, study of the forest fire prevention and control policies and activities of the Forest Service and their relation to coordinated activities of other Federal, State, and private agencies; Forest Service land exchanges; and wilderness and similar use designations applied to National Forest land.
- (6) Price spreads of agricultural commodities between producers and consumers.
- (7) The formulation and development of improved programs for agricultural commodities; matters relating to the inspection, grading, and marketing of such commodities, including seafood; and food safety generally.
- (8) Matters relating to trading in futures contracts for all commodities and similar instruments, including commodity options and commodity leverage contracts.
- (9) The administration and operation of agricultural programs through State and county committees and the administrative policies and procedures relating to the selection, election, and operation of such committees.
- (10) The administration and development of small watershed programs under Public Law 566, Eighty-third Congress, as amended, and the development of resource conservation and development programs for rural areas.
- (13) Programs of food assistance or distribution supported in whole or in part by funds of the Department of Agriculture,

including but not limited to the food stamp program and the commodity distribution program.

- (12) Aquaculture programs of the Department of Agriculture.
- (13) Sugar legislation, including import control programs that stabilize domestic prices.
- (14) All matters relating to pesticides, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amendments of 1988, and the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, including, but not limited to, the registration, marketing, and safe use of pesticides, groundwater contamination, and the coordination of the pesticide program under FIFRA with food safety programs.
- (15) Agricultural research programs, including, but not limited to, the authorization of specific research projects and agricultural biotechnology development efforts.
- (16) All matters relating to the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.
- (17) Legislation relating to the control of the entry into the United States of temporary, nonresident aliens for employment in agricultural production.
- (18) Legislation relating to the general operations and the Organic Act of the Department of Agriculture, the Commodity Credit Corporation, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, Farm Credit System, Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
- (19) Producer-funded research, promotion, and consumer and industry information programs for agricultural commodities.
- (20) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects where the pricing of water delivered by such projects is affected by whether the water will be used in the production of a crop for which an acreage reduction program is in effect.
- (21) Legislation regarding reclamation water projects for which the Secretary of Agriculture is required to make a determination regarding commodity availability prior to the determination of the price to be charged for the delivery of such project water.
- (22) Legislation establishing the level of fees charged by the Federal Government for the grazing of livestock on Federal lands.
- (23) Legislation governing the Federal regulation of transactions involving swaps contracts, hybrid financial instruments, and derivative securities and financial products.
- (24) Legislation regarding the Federal Reserve Board with respect to its authority to regulate the establishment of appropriate levels of margin on stock index futures contracts.

The Committee also reviews and studies, on a continuing basis, the current and prospective application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter

of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof. In addition, the Committee, along with other standing Committees of the House, has the function of reviewing and studying on a continuing basis the effect or probable effect of tax and other fiscal and monetary policies affecting subjects within their jurisdiction.

#### C. OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Agriculture met on January 27, 2017, to also fulfill the General Oversight Responsibility reporting requirements of Rule X 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The following outline was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member and approved by the Full Committee. It was then forwarded to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration on February 6, 2017.

The Committee expects to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the following issues:

#### **2014 Farm Bill and Current Agricultural Conditions**

- Review the current state of the U.S. farm economy;
- Review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review programs for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement;
- Review the state of credit conditions and availability in rural America;
- Review the effect of weather conditions on crop production;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Warehouse Act;
- Review of market situation, including effect of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act;
- Review how Administrative Pay-Go is affecting Department actions; and
- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation.

#### **Energy**

- Assess energy programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review administration of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;
- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;
- Review the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric loan program;

- Review electricity reliability in rural America;
- Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
- Review USDA's use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the Green Fleet Initiative;
- Review implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS); and
- Review renewable fuel programs and their effect on agriculture.

### **Conservation and the Environment**

- Review the effect of regulatory activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its effect on agriculture productivity;
- Review EPA grant program activities that impact agriculture;
- Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers;
- Review the effect of the Administration's regulatory activity relative to methyl bromide and glyphosate on production of agriculture in the U.S.;
- Review budget and program activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
- Review USDA's implementation of the conservation compliance provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review of potential effects of EPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory program on U.S. agriculture;
- Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
- Review EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA 3);
- Review the effect of litigation and rulemaking concerning FIFRA, ESA, CAA, CWA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to evaluate these statutes' effects on agricultural operations;
- Review the EPA's regulatory actions in regard to pesticide evaluations;
- Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations; and
- Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and effects on production agriculture.

### **Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management**

- Review USDA’s implementation of crop insurance provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the role and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance;
- Review USDA’s and the Risk Management Agency’s (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal crop insurance;
- Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;
- Review the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock and dairy industries;
- Review USDA’s activities established to identify and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;
- Review USDA’s crop insurance rating methodology and management of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) process;
- Review RMA’s yield and revenue protection crop insurance products; and
- Review RMA’s progress in approving crop insurance products for under-served commodities.

### **Implementation of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act**

- In its review of rulemakings required by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203) (Dodd-Frank Act), the Committee will continue to ensure:
  - (1) The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) rulemaking processes are transparent and that meaningful comments are accepted and appropriately reviewed;
  - (2) An adequate cost-benefit analysis is performed by the CFTC in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act for proposed or final rules;
  - (3) The CFTC properly coordinates with both domestic and international financial regulators;
  - (4) Past exemptive relief orders, also referred to as “no action letters,” issued by the CFTC provide the proper relief for market participants; and
  - (5) Any final or proposed regulations will not harm or adversely affect the U.S. economy or financial markets, including the effect on jobs and competitiveness;
- Examine how Title VII rulemakings have affected U.S. market structure;
- Examine the developing effect of CFTC, SEC, and Prudential Regulator regulations, such as the imposition of new margin and capital requirements, and how they affect the ability of many “end-users” to utilize swaps to hedge against legitimate business risks;
- Examine the level of coordination between U.S. and international regulators for potential effects on U.S. financial institutions compared to their foreign counterparts; and



- Examine the feasibility of timetables established by the Dodd-Frank Act in building the data, technology and connectivity necessary to meet regulatory objectives.

#### **The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Derivatives Markets**

- Review the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC);
- Review the growing consolidation and internationalization of futures exchange trading;
- Review market machinations for exchange traded energy and agricultural futures products;
- Review enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally;
- Continue to examine how the CFTC and futures industry as a whole has addressed the MF Global and PFGBest bankruptcies from both an enforcement and regulatory reform standpoint to ensure that proper remedial action is taken to prevent future losses to segregated funds of customers;
- Continue to examine all sectors of the U.S. derivatives and futures markets, including, but not limited to: exchange or swap execution facility trading; the roles of dealers, inter-dealer brokers, data repositories, and clearinghouses; trade and price reporting; and proposals aimed at protecting the segregated funds of futures customers, especially in light of the Commodity Exchange Act statutory authorization of the CFTC which expired at the end of FY 2013;
- Continue to examine the ongoing investigation and enforcement action by the CFTC and other Federal regulators with respect to the manipulation of international financial benchmarks; and
- Review all operations of the CFTC, including, but not limited to: a continued examination of whether the cost-benefit analysis required by section 15a of the CEA is adequate with respect to proposed and finalized rules; the efficiency of internal Commission actions; the Commission's use of its independent leasing authority; stewardship of the Customer Protection Fund.

#### **Agriculture Trade and International Food Aid**

- Review tariff and non-tariff trade barriers—including domestic subsidies—currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;
- Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations (including World Trade Organization (WTO) accession agreements) to assess their potential effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed trade agreements and commitments to determine:
  - (1) whether they are consistent with current U.S. law;

- (2) whether they will promote economic development in rural areas of the U.S.;
  - (3) their effect or potential effect on current production of import sensitive agricultural commodities, and on exports of U.S. agricultural products;
  - (4) their effect or potential effect on the overall competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector, including the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products; and
  - (5) whether the agreements provide adequate, enforceable provisions to minimize non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports;
- Monitor existing trade agreements to ensure trading partners are meeting obligations and enforcing trade commitments;
  - Review agricultural export programs to determine how well they are promoting the interests of U.S. agriculture and examine proposals to improve, modify or expand such programs;
  - Review U.S. food aid programs to determine their effect or potential effect on the reduction of world hunger—particularly the potential effect of trade negotiations on the effectiveness of U.S. food aid programs;
  - Review USDA and USAID’s implementation of the Global Food Security Act (GFSa);
  - Review the market assessments USDA and USAID use to evaluate the potential impact of U.S. food aid on recipient countries;
  - Review USAID’s increasing use of cash-based food aid, including financial controls;
  - Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID; and
  - Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine efforts to eliminate such barriers.

#### **Agricultural Research and Promotion**

- Review implementation of biosecurity protocols at USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratories;
- Review USDA’s implementation of research, education, and extension programs authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the administration of the ARS research stations and worksites;
- Review USDA’s continuing ability to conduct foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility following the transfer of the center to the Department of Homeland Security;
- Assess Federal efforts to facilitate research and development of aquacultural enterprises, specifically focusing on the activities of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture;
- Review USDA’s regulation of organic standards;
- Review USDA’s collection of organic production and market data;

- Review administration of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- Review the administration of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative and other competitive research, extension and education grants programs;
- Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding, including a review of the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR);
- Review coordination between ARS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and action agencies in USDA—such as NRCS and FSA—in order to prevent duplicative research;
- Review operation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board;
- Review USDA’s efforts to expand research and development of pathogen reduction technologies;
- Evaluate the current mix of research funding mechanisms to ensure maximum benefits from these investments to producers, processors and consumers;
- Review administration of USDA’s agricultural marketing and promotion programs;
- Review coordination between USDA and the Department of Energy on energy research programs;
- Review the sufficiency of research funding under ARS, ERS, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NIFA;
- Review ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA national program priorities;
- Conduct oversight of the research grant process, generally, and more specifically to coordinate and prevent overlapping research; and
- Review the potential for research and technology transfer to address the needs of both the biofuels and livestock industries.

### **Biotechnology**

- Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
- Review FDA’s regulatory activities regarding genetically engineered animals;
- Assess USDA’s efforts to develop and promote benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally;
- Review USDA’s management and controls over biotechnology-derived material;
- Review the effect of litigation on USDA’s timeliness in resolving petitions to deregulate products of biotechnology;
- Review effects of state, county, and municipal regulation of biotechnology on the free-flow of agricultural products in interstate commerce; and
- Review USDA’s implementation of biotech labeling standard.

### **U.S. Forest Service Administration**

- Review the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) strategy for dealing with wildfire, including the effect of hazardous fuels management, forest health efforts and fire preparedness;
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the USFS fire management program;
- Review the effect of fire expenses on other USFS program delivery;
- Assess the USFS strategy for timber harvesting on Federal lands;
- Review effects of environmental regulations on National Forest land management;
- Review economic effects of National Forest land management on rural communities;
- Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest timber for renewable energy purposes; and
- Review USFS's management tools contained in the farm bill.

### **Dairy**

- Review USDA's implementation of the dairy risk management provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs; and
- Review efficiency of Federal Milk Marketing Order system.

### **Outreach and Civil Rights**

- Review the operations of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small, and minority farmers/ranchers;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to military veterans interested in careers in agriculture;
- Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- Review USDA's implementation of the receipt for service provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review USDA's process for settling discrimination claims and evaluating individual claims submitted pursuant to such settlements;
- Review the delivery of USDA services and outreach efforts on Indian reservations and Tribal lands;
- Review the current status of the Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers; and
- Review participation of minority farmers in FSA County/Local Committees as well as outreach to increase participation in County Committee elections.

### **USDA General Administration**

- Review confidentiality of information provided to USDA by agricultural producers;

- Review USDA's implementation of field office consolidation for the purpose of effectively and efficiently delivering commodity, conservation, energy and rural development programs;
- Review USDA's efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) systems; and
- Review the administrative structure of USDA for effectiveness and efficiency.

### **Farm Credit, Rural Development, and the Rural Economy**

- Review the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory program and activities regarding the Farm Credit System (FCS) to assure its safety and soundness;
- Review the activities and programs of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (also referred to as Farmer Mac);
- Review FSA's direct and guaranteed loan programs and graduation efforts;
- Review the Rural Electrification Act (REA);
- Review the farm economy and access to credit;
- Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
- Conduct oversight of the USDA's Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program;
- Review USDA Rural Development's application processes and internal controls related to the farm bill;
- Review the administration of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program;
- Conduct oversight of the implementation of USDA's telecommunications programs;
- Review the status of the Rural Telephone Bank;
- Assess the state of rural water systems and effectiveness of Federal funding to build and upgrade those systems;
- Assess the effectiveness of USDA programs targeted toward rural infrastructure and business needs;
- Review agricultural lending practices;
- Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
- Review the definition of "rural" under rural development programs;
- Review rural development loan programs and default rates; and
- Review the success of rural development programs in persistent poverty areas.

### **USDA Food and Nutrition Programs**

- Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit and vegetable initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program and other commodity distribution programs;

- Review participant eligibility criteria for SNAP;
- Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and provisions in the Affordable Care Act;
- Review SNAP work pilots and the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
- Review educative initiatives such as SNAP-Ed and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP);
- Review efforts by USDA and the states to combat waste, fraud, and abuse within nutrition programs;
- Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs; and
- Review the Community Food Project Program to ensure cooperative grants are working.

### **Specialty Crops**

- Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
- Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure that the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;
- Review farmers' market programs;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network; and
- Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

### **Food Safety**

- Review implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act;
- Review implementation of the FDA Egg Safety Rule;
- Review USDA's administration of meat and poultry inspection laws and the FDA's food inspection activities to ensure the development of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
- Review USDA's implementation of the catfish inspection program;
- Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
- Review implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection;
- Review USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and humane handling regulations; and
- Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards.

### **Plant and Animal Health**

- Review enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act;

- Assess Federal efforts to reduce threats to human, animal, and plant health due to predatory and invasive species;
- Review efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to manage wildlife conflicts in order to protect public health and safety;
- Assess USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Plan;
- Review implementation of Sec. 10201 (of the 2008 Farm Bill) regarding plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention;
- Review USDA's regulation on horse protection; and
- Review USDA's regulation on organic livestock and poultry practices.

#### **Livestock Marketing**

- Assess the effectiveness of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) in determining market manipulation in the livestock industry;
- Review structural changes in agribusiness and the potential cost and benefits for agricultural producers; and
- Review the USDA's mandatory livestock price reporting system.

#### **Homeland and Agricultural Security**

- Examine USDA's preparedness against terrorist threats to production agriculture;
- Review cooperative efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and USDA to prevent against foreign animal disease; and
- Review agricultural inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Review the effects of sequestration on USDA operations and programs; and
- Review the effect of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry;

#### **Consultation With Other Committees To Reduce Duplication**

- With Natural Resources on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
- With Science on research;
- With Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on nutrition programs;
- With Ways and Means on tax and trade issues;
- With Homeland Security on importation of animal and plant material and on research related to agroterrorism;
- With Armed Services on global food security;
- With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
- With Energy and Commerce on food safety and biomass energy programs both existing and new;

- With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain CWA compliance issues and food aid delivery;
- With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank Act issues;
- With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
- With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America; and
- Any other committee as appropriate.

AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 115TH CONGRESS

In the 115th Congress, the House Committee on Agriculture intends to continue to reauthorize all expiring authorities within its jurisdiction. In the 114th Congress, the Committee passed legislation to reauthorize all of the expired or expiring programs and authorities within its jurisdiction. At the end of the last Congress, only the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) remained to be reauthorized. On May 29, 2015, the Committee passed H.R. 2289, the Commodity End-User Relief Act, which would have reauthorized the CFTC. H.R. 2289 was subsequently passed by the House on June 9, 2015, but bill was not taken up by the full Senate.

On January 12, 2017, the House once again passed legislation that reauthorizes the CFTC—H.R. 238, the Commodity End-User Relief Act. H.R. 238 currently awaits action in the Senate.

There are three items within the Committee’s jurisdiction that are set to expire in the 115th Congress—the programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill), the National Forest Foundation Act, and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA).

The Committee plans to spend considerable time examining the programs that were last authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The current farm bill expires on September 30, 2018. Farm bill preparation will begin with hearings, both in Washington and in the field, to hear from producers and USDA about how the programs are working. Although dependent on timing in the Senate, it is the Committee’s goal to reauthorize the farm bill before it expires.

The National Forest Foundation was a lapsed authorization in the Committee’s jurisdiction identified at the beginning of the 114th Congress. While the program was successfully reauthorized last Congress, its authority will again expire on September 30, 2018, and will most likely be reauthorized during the farm bill process.

In addition to reauthorizing farm bill programs, during the first session of the 115th Congress, the Committee will reauthorize PRIA before it expires on September 30, 2017. This will be the fourth iteration of the pesticide registration bill. The Committee anticipates a hearing and markup for consideration of the bill. However, the Committee does not expect the need for a conference with the Senate.



AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 116TH CONGRESS

Going forward, the Committee intends to continue the effort to avoid lapsed authorizations. Accordingly, the Committee has identified two authorities set to expire in the 116th Congress—Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting and the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Both of these authorities were reauthorized in the 114th Congress and the Committee plans to reauthorize them during the course of the 116th Congress.

II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS

A. MAIN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Agriculture reported or otherwise considered a variety of bills in the 115th Congress covering many of the diverse areas within its jurisdiction.

Some of the major activities of the Committee during the 115th Congress included the following:

*Agenda for the House Agriculture Committee*

- The Agriculture Committee approached its business in an open, transparent manner and maintained the strong bipartisan tradition of the Committee. One of the main priorities of the Committee during this Congress was to provide oversight of the various Federal agencies through the hearing process.
- The Agriculture Committee held 32 committee hearings and 7 business meetings during the 115th Congress.
- The Committee heard testimony from nine Administration officials, specifically U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives and Administration officials from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Additional testimony heard by the Committee was offered by university researchers, nonprofit organizations, trade groups, and farmers and ranchers from across the United States for a total of 139 witnesses.
- The House Agriculture Committee successfully passed out of Committee a total of five bills that ultimately became law:
  - P.L. 115–43, Securing our Agriculture and Food Act;
  - P.L. 115–156, Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act;
  - P.L. 115–157, to rename the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center;
  - P.L. 115–277, To rename the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 in honor of Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter.; and
  - P.L. 115–334, Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.
- The House Agriculture Committee held 20 hearings to examine the reauthorization of the farm bill. The hearings reviewed all 12 titles of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and explored the various programs that are working and those that need to be improved upon.

- The House Agriculture Committee traveled across the United States to hear from producers impacted by agricultural policy. The Committee traveled to Gainesville, FL, San Angelo, TX, Morgan, MN, Modesto, CA, Decatur, IL, and Cobleskill, NY. Hundreds of producers and stakeholders participated in these listening sessions.
- The House Agriculture Committee successfully drafted and passed out of the House bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on end-users. The legislation would also clarify the CFTC's cost-benefit obligations for new rulemakings, as well as address concerns relating to protecting customers from another failure such as MF Global and Peregrine Financial. This legislation was the product of a multi-year process.

#### B. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

##### (1) *Statistics on bills referred to the Committee on Agriculture*

Number of bills referred:

House bills .....	354
Senate bills .....	1
House joint resolutions .....	0
House concurrent resolutions .....	1
Senate joint resolutions .....	0
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	0
House resolutions .....	8
Total .....	363

##### (2) *Disposition of Bills Containing Items Under the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture*

Bills enacted into law .....	7
Bills acted on by the Committee included in other bills that became law ....	2
Bills vetoed .....	0
Bills acted on by both Houses, but not enacted .....	0
Bills acted on by the House but not the Senate .....	12
Concurrent Resolutions approved .....	0
Bills reported to the House but not considered .....	1
Bills ordered reported, but not reported .....	0
Bills defeated in the House .....	0

##### (3) *Statistics on hearings and markups*

Full Committee/Subcommittee	Business Meetings	Hearings	Field Hearings
Full Committee on Agriculture .....	7	20	
Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management .....		3	
Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit .....		2	
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry .....		3	
Subcommittee on Nutrition .....		3	
Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research .....		2	
Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture .....		2	
Total .....	7	35	

C. DIGEST OF BILLS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN

1. *Bills Enacted into Law*

*P.L. 115–334 (H.R. 2)*

*Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*

H.R. 2 was introduced by Chairman K. Michael Conaway on April 12, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On April 18, 2018, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a vote of 26 yeas and 20 nays. On April 18, 2018, the bill failed the House by a vote of 198 yeas to 213 nays. Mr. Ryan moved to reconsider the vote. On June 21, 2018, the House passed the bill by a vote of 213 yeas to 211 nays.

On June 29, 2018, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 86 yeas to 11 nays. Chairman Conaway requested to go to conference on July 18, 2018. The Senate agreed to the conference on July 31, 2018.

On December 11, 2018, the Senate passed the conference report by a vote of 87 yeas to 13 nays. On December 12, 2018, the House passed the conference report by a vote of 369 yeas to 47 nays. On December 20, 2018, the President signed the bill.

**Title I: Commodities**

*Enhances Farm Policy and Provides Additional Flexibility*

PLC provides assistance to producers when the market price for a covered commodity falls to critically low levels (below the statutory reference price). ARC provides assistance to producers when actual crop revenue for a covered commodity falls below 86 percent of the benchmark revenue. Producers electing ARC can choose between county (CO) and farm-level (IC) coverage.

**Updated election options:** The conference report offers producers a new choice between ARC and PLC on a crop-by-crop and farm-by-farm basis, applied jointly to the 2019 and 2020 crop years.

Beginning in crop year 2021, producers will have the flexibility to make an annual decision between ARC and PLC on a crop-by-crop and farm-by-farm basis.

**Effective Reference Prices:** The conference report allows PLC Reference Prices to adjust with improvements in market prices. This Effective Reference Price is calculated as the greater of 85 percent of the 5 year Olympic average price and the PLC Reference Price established in the 2014 Farm Bill. In no case can the Effective Reference Price be more than 115 percent of the PLC Reference Price (or less than the PLC Reference Price), shown in the table below.

**Reference Prices for Covered Commodities**

Commodity	Units	PLC Reference Price	Maximum Effective Reference Price *
Barley	bu.	\$4.95	\$5.69
Chickpeas (Large)	cwt.	\$21.54	\$24.77

**Reference Prices for Covered Commodities—Continued**

Commodity	Units	PLC Reference Price	Maximum Effective Reference Price *
Chickpeas (Small)	cwt.	\$19.04	\$21.90
Corn	bu.	\$3.70	\$4.26
Dry Peas	cwt.	\$11.00	\$12.65
Grain Sorghum	bu.	\$3.95	\$4.54
Lentils	cwt.	\$19.97	\$22.97
Minor Oilseeds	cwt.	\$20.15	\$23.17
Oats	bu.	\$2.40	\$2.76
Peanuts	ton	\$535.00	\$615.25
Rice (LG/MG/SG)	cwt.	\$14.00	\$16.10
Rice (TJ)	cwt.	\$17.36	\$19.96
Seed Cotton	lb.	\$0.367	\$0.422
Soybeans	bu.	\$8.40	\$9.66
Wheat	bu.	\$5.50	\$6.33

\*To reach the maximum Effective Reference Price, the 5 year Olympic average price of the covered commodity must exceed the statutory reference price by 135 percent.

**Optional nationwide yield update:** Beginning in crop year 2020, owners of all farms in the country will have the opportunity to update the program yield used on the farm to calculate assistance under PLC, similar to the update opportunity provided in the 2014 Farm Bill. The update is intended to benefit producers who sustained multiple years of losses during the 2008–2012 crop years (the previous update period) for which the 2014 update was less effective.

Producers may update the yield on the farm for each covered commodity to 90 percent of the average yield per planted acre on the farm from 2013–2017—ignoring years where the covered commodity was not planted on the farm—multiplied by the yield update factor for the covered commodity listed in the table below. For any year in which the yield on the farm was less than 75 percent of the county average yield from 2013–2017, owners may plug 75 percent of the county average yield.

For example, assume the average yield per planted acre on the farm from 2013–2017 for wheat was 35 bu/ac. The producer could update the PLC yield to 30.8 bu/ac (or  $90\% \times 35 \text{ bu/ac} \times 0.9767$ ).

**Yield Update Factor by Commodity**

Commodity	Yield Update Factor *
Barley	0.9714
Canola	0.9595
Chickpeas (Large)	1.0000
Chickpeas (Small)	0.9767
Corn	0.9000
Cotton (Upland)	0.9000
Dry Peas	0.9988
Flaxseed	1.0000
Grain Sorghum	0.9000

**Yield Update Factor by Commodity—Continued**

Commodity	Yield Update Factor*
Lentils	1.0000
Mustard	0.9423
Oats	0.9677
Peanuts	0.9273
Rapeseed	1.0000
Rice (LG)	0.9324
Rice (MG/SG)	0.9866
Rice (TJ)	0.9591
Safflower	1.0000
Soybeans	0.9000
Sunflower	0.9378
Wheat	0.9767

\*The yield update factor is the ratio of the national average yield for the commodity from 2008–2012 and 2013–2017 (limited to not less than 90 percent or more than 100 percent).

**ARC–CO improvements:** The conference report makes several targeted improvements to enhance the efficacy of ARC–CO. The conference report:

- Increases the yield plug from 70 percent to 80 percent of the county transitional yield.
- Incorporates the Effective Reference Price into the calculation of benchmark revenue.
- Adds a trend adjustment factor that will function similar to the factor utilized in crop insurance policies.
- Creates a pilot program that will allow the Secretary the flexibility to divide up to 25 large counties into sub-county units with independently calculated ARC payment rates.
- Requires the Secretary to establish guarantees for irrigated and non-irrigated yields in each county.
- Prioritizes the use of RMA data for calculating county yields in accordance with H.R. 4654.
- Provides assistance based on the county of the farm’s physical location.
- Requires USDA to publish payment rates and program data in a more timely manner.

**Targets assistance to land in active production:** The conference report suspends ARC and PLC payments on farms that have been entirely in grass or pasture since 2009 to ensure the farm safety net is targeted to those farms that are producing covered commodities. Recognizing that farms in grass are conserving natural resources, the conference report guarantees those farms an opportunity to participate in a 5 year grassland incentive contract under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) at a rate of \$18 per acre.

*Improves the Marketing Assistance Loan*

Harvest is often the lowest point of the year for commodity prices. The marketing loan allows farmers to pledge their crop as collateral and receive a loan for a portion of the crop's value, providing flexibility to market the crop when prices improve. The conference report increases the loan rates for certain commodities to more accurately reflect current market prices and provide more relevant assistance to farmers.

**Loan Rate Comparison Table**

Commodity	2014 Farm Bill	2018 Farm Bill
Barley	\$1.95/bu	\$2.50/bu
Chickpeas (Large)	\$11.28/cwt	\$14.00/cwt
Chickpeas (Small)	\$7.43/cwt	\$10.00/cwt
Corn	\$1.95/bu	\$2.20/bu
Cotton (ELS)	\$0.7977/lb	\$0.95/lb
Cotton (Upland)	\$0.45–\$0.52/lb	\$0.45–\$0.52/lb
Dry Peas	\$5.40/cwt	\$6.15/cwt
Grain Sorghum	\$1.95/bu	\$2.20/bu
Lentils	\$11.28/cwt	\$13.00/cwt
Minor Oilseeds	\$10.09/cwt	\$10.09/cwt
Oats	\$1.39/bu	\$2.00/bu
Peanuts	\$0.1775/lb	\$0.1775/lb
Rice	\$6.50/cwt	\$7.00/cwt
Soybeans	\$5.00/bu	\$6.20/bu
Sugar (Raw Cane)	\$0.1875/lb	\$0.1975/lb
Wheat	\$2.94/bu	\$3.38/bu

*Strengthens the Dairy Safety Net*

All sectors of production agriculture have been struggling to cope with a period of chronically low prices, but perhaps none more so than the dairy sector. Recognizing these challenges, in February Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA) which made an \$800 million investment in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) and lifted the cap on livestock insurance expenditures.

The conference report renames MPP as Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) and builds on the BBA investment by offering new coverage levels for the first 5 million pounds of production, drastically reducing premiums on catastrophic coverage levels for larger producers, and eliminating the restriction between the margin program (formerly MPP, now DMC) and Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance.

**Increases coverage options:** The conference report adds \$8.50, \$9.00, and \$9.50 coverage levels for the first 5 million pounds of covered milk production. Additionally, the conference report expands the range of production allowed to be covered, from five percent up to 95 percent of production history.

**Rewards risk management strategies:** For dairy operations that choose to make a 5 year decision to lock in a coverage level and coverage percentage for the life of the 2018 Farm Bill, premium rates are reduced by 25 percent.

**Offers flexibility and reduces certain premiums for large operations:**

- The conference report allows dairies with covered production in excess of 5 million pounds to enroll in \$8.50, \$9.00, or
- \$9.50 coverage under Tier I and to make an independent coverage level election in Tier II. Additionally, as noted in the table that follows, premiums for \$5.00 coverage in Tier II are reduced by 88 percent (91 percent if the premium is discounted for 5 year coverage) in an effort to make catastrophic coverage levels more affordable.

**Premium Comparison Table (\$/cwt)**

Coverage Level	Tier I (first 5m pounds)			Tier II (over 5m pounds)		
	MPP Premium	DMC Premium	DMC Discounted Premium*	MPP Premium	DMC Premium	DMC Discounted Premium*
\$9.50	N/A	\$0.150	\$0.113	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$9.00	N/A	\$0.110	\$0.083	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$8.50	N/A	\$0.105	\$0.079	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$8.00	\$0.142	\$0.100	\$0.075	\$1.360	\$1.813	\$1.360
\$7.50	\$0.087	\$0.090	\$0.068	\$1.060	\$1.413	\$1.060
\$7.00	\$0.063	\$0.080	\$0.060	\$0.830	\$1.107	\$0.830
\$6.50	\$0.040	\$0.070	\$0.053	\$0.290	\$0.650	\$0.488
\$6.00	\$0.016	\$0.050	\$0.038	\$0.155	\$0.310	\$0.233
\$5.50	\$0.009	\$0.030	\$0.023	\$0.100	\$0.100	\$0.075
\$5.00	\$0.000	\$0.005	\$0.00375	\$0.040	\$0.005	\$0.00375
\$4.50	\$0.000	\$0.0025	\$0.00188	\$0.020	\$0.0025	\$0.00188
\$4.00	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.00000

\*The DMC Discounted Premium would be the premium cost if an operation chooses to lock in the coverage level and coverage percentage for 5 years.

**Provides access to more risk management tools:** The conference report eliminates the restriction on participating in DMC and LGM crop insurance. This flexibility, along with the new Dairy Revenue Protection (Dairy-RP) insurance policy developed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, will provide multiple options to address risk for dairy farmers.

**Provides equitable relief for 2018 MPP participation:** The conference report allows dairy operations that were prohibited from participating in MPP following the premium reductions enacted via the BBA (due to enrollment in an LGM contract) to retroactively enroll in coverage.

**Incentivizes participation in revamped program:** Recognizing MPP did not provide an adequate safety net for dairy farmers, the conference report provides dairy operations the opportunity to utilize 75 percent of the net premium paid for MPP from 2014–2017 as a credit for future DMC premiums. Alternatively, operations can elect to receive 50 percent of net premium as a direct refund.

*Improves Vital Disaster Programs*

**Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** LIP provides assistance to livestock producers in the event of the death or forced sale of livestock due to an eligible cause of loss. The conference report updates the eligible causes of loss to include disease and deaths of unweaned livestock, so all livestock death losses are consolidated under one program (whereas certain losses were previously covered under ELAP).

**Livestock Forage Program (LFP):** LFP provides feed cost replacement for livestock producers in the event of forage loss due to

severe drought. The conference report maintains this critical assistance for livestock producers.

***Emergency Assistance For Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP):*** ELAP provides assistance to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish to aid in the reduction of losses not covered under other disaster programs. The conference report ensures ELAP assistance will cover the inspection of herds for cattle fever tick and removes the arbitrary payment limitation on ELAP assistance.

***Tree Assistance Program (TAP):*** TAP offers cost-share assistance to eligible orchardists who suffer loss or damage to tree groves. Producers may receive 65 percent of the cost of replanting trees or 50 percent of the cost to remove damaged limbs and vines. The conference report increases the cost share to 75 percent for beginning farmers and veterans.

*Maintains Current Administrative Provisions*

***Payment limitations and AGI means testing:*** The conference report maintains the current payment limitation of \$125,000 in assistance from ARC/PLC per person or entity. The separate limit for peanuts is maintained and doubling for spouses continues to apply. Additionally, participation continues to be limited to persons or entities with less than \$900,000 in average adjusted gross income (AGI). The conference report removes Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLGs) from counting toward the payment limitation.

***Actively Engaged in Farming (AEF) regulations:*** The conference report maintains current AEF regulations and continues to ensure all individuals eligible for the farm safety net are required to contribute land, labor, or capital to the farm operation **and** provide the necessary amount of labor and/or management. The conference report amends the definition of family to include first cousins, nieces, and nephews to ensure family farms are not subjected to cumbersome regulations only intended for non-family operations.

## **Title II: Conservation**

The conference report continues the voluntary, locally-led, incentive-based conservation model. It builds on the success of the 2014 Farm Bill by streamlining, simplifying and improving program administration. The conference report also provides additional investment in soil health practices, such as cover crops, ultimately providing “downstream” benefits to communities in the form of cleaner water, cleaner air, healthier soils, and more wildlife habitat.

***Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):*** The conference report allows for an increased acreage cap of 27 million acres by 2023, while also addressing the issue of CRP competing with farmers for productive land by reducing rental rates and incentive payments. The conference report includes House-passed provisions to increase the grassland acre floor to 2 million acres and provides more flexibility for grazing.

***Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):*** The conference report continues the commitment to working lands by increasing funding for EQIP to \$2.025 billion by fiscal year 2023. Furthermore, the conference report adds producer-focused flexibility by establishing incentive contracts and alternative funding



arrangements for irrigation districts. The conference report fosters innovation through Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Furthermore, it authorizes Conservation Innovation Trials and the Soil Health Pilot Project, connecting farmers and ranchers in the conservation innovation space with public and private entities and reporting findings for public review.

***Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):*** The conference report continues the commitment to comprehensive working lands conservation by reforming and adding much needed flexibility to CSP. By removing the average \$18 per acre funding requirement for the program, the conference report intends to better incentivize farmers to address local resource concerns. Current CSP contracts will be honored with an option for a 1 year extension for contracts expiring in 2019. Otherwise, funding for CSP is reduced from approximately \$1.8 billion per year to no more than \$1 billion per year with the savings being used to fund other higher-priority initiatives like EQIP, ACEP, and RCPP.

***Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):*** The conference report restores funding for ACEP to \$450 million per year and provides additional flexibility for ACEP to make the program more efficient for farmers, stakeholders, and USDA. The conference report continues to perform the functions of conserving agricultural lands through Agriculture Land Easements (ALE) and wetlands through Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). The conference report makes important changes to streamline the requirements for ALE plans, add flexibility to matching fund requirements, reform the right of enforcement, clarify the need for conservation plans, and lift burdens on land trust certification.

***Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):*** The 2014 Farm Bill consolidated the authorities of the many regional programs into RCPP, where USDA partners with private organizations to address natural resource concerns. Targeted conservation initiatives are developed on the local level and selected by USDA through a competitive, merit-based application process. The conference report increases funding for RCPP to \$300 million per year and streamlines the program to allow greater flexibility for NRCS, partners, and producers.

***Watershed and Flood Prevention and Small Watershed Rehabilitation:*** The conference report provides \$500 million over 10 years for conservation infrastructure initiatives like Watershed and Flood Prevention and Small Watershed Rehabilitation.

***Additional producer access:*** The conference report removes impediments to conservation adoption by eliminating requirements for entities to have a SAM/DUNS number and providing USDA the ability to waive AGI limits for environmentally sensitive land of special significance.

***Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot:*** According to USDA, feral swine cause an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage to property, crops, and natural resources annually and present a risk for the transmission of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other potentially catastrophic diseases. The conference report establishes the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot with \$75 million for threat assessment, control methods, and land restoration.

***Emphasizes protection of drinking water sources:*** The conference report reserves ten percent of covered conservation funding for the protection of sources of drinking water, allows community water systems to work with State Technical Committees to identify local priority areas for source water protection, and allows additional incentives for practices that protect source water.

***Other highlights:***

- Provides \$50 million for the Voluntary Public Access Program.
- Provides \$5 million for Grassroots Source Water Protection.
- Reauthorizes the Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program.
- Updates the Technical Service Provider (TSP) definition and the TSP certification process.

**Title III: Trade**

***Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation:*** In an era where global agricultural markets are routinely distorted by the high and rising subsidies, tariffs, and non-tariff trade barriers of foreign governments, U.S. trade promotion programs are critical to promoting American agricultural products. The conference report streamlines the four existing trade promotion programs under one umbrella—as envisioned in the House-passed farm bill—to establish and maintain budget baseline for each of the programs moving forward. The conference report includes \$255 million each fiscal year for Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation with a Priority Trade Fund of \$3.5 million annually to be used amongst the four programs at the discretion of the Secretary.

- ***Market Access Program (MAP):*** MAP provides funding for export market development for U.S. agricultural commodities (both generic and branded) in other countries around the world. The conference report funds MAP at not less than \$200 million each year.

***Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT):*** The BEHT serves as a financial reserve allowing the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of USAID to respond to unanticipated food crises abroad when other resources are not available. The conference report extends authority to use the funds of the BEHT, which currently holds over \$280 million in available funds, through fiscal year 2023.

***Cochran Fellowship Program:*** The Cochran Fellowship Program is maintained to provide short-term training opportunities to agricultural professionals from middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies. The conference report includes a House provision that allows the Secretary to authorize in-country training if deemed more appropriate and emphasizes fellowships focused on sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The conference report authorizes appropriations of up to \$13 million each fiscal year to carry out the program.

***Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program:*** The Borlaug Fellowship Program is reauthorized to continue promoting food security and economic growth through training fellowships for citizens from developing and middle-income countries. The conference report directs the Sec-

retary to leverage fellowship alumni engagement to further improve the program and maintains the current authorization of appropriations for the program.

***International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program:*** First proposed in the House-passed farm bill, the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program will enhance agricultural capacity in eligible countries by providing fellowships to U.S. citizens for the development of school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs. This new initiative will build on the successful 4-H and FFA models in the U.S. to encourage young agricultural leaders in developing countries. This initiative will also provide real-world, hands-on experience for recent U.S. college graduates who plan to return to the U.S. to pursue careers in agriculture. The conference report authorizes appropriations of \$5 million for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program each fiscal year.

#### **Title IV: Nutrition**

The conference report reflects over 30 improvements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other Federal nutrition programs, many of which reflect House priorities and lay the groundwork for improved policy by this administration and in future farm bills. The conference report includes incremental but significant victories that will improve SNAP integrity and make the program more effective for recipients.

##### *Incentivizes Work*

Existing work requirements are strengthened and paired with a variety of options and supports to increase opportunities for recipients while holding states accountable to administer Employment and Training (E&T) programs effectively. The conference report:

- Requires state agencies to consult with their state workforce development board or local employers to design the state agency's employment and training (E&T) program to meet state or local workforce needs.
- Requires E&T programs to include case management and allows for additional options including supervised job search, apprenticeships, and subsidized employment.
- Allows the state agency and the Secretary to certify additional training and work programs, known as workforce partnerships, to be operated by a private employer or a nonprofit organization with no use of Federal funds.
- Prioritizes reallocation of unexpended E&T funds, ensuring they go to states with impactful pilots and programs.
- Requires state agencies to advise adults with no earnings of available E&T services at SNAP recertification.
- Expands countable veteran workforce programming to include programs run by the Department of Labor or Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Requires the support of governors for all Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement waiver requests.

- Reduces monthly exemptions—whereby states can exempt SNAP recipients from the ABAWD work requirements—from 15 percent to 12 percent of the ABAWD population.

*Improves Program Integrity*

While SNAP is impactful and effective at helping those most in need, improvements are needed to reduce the almost \$700 million in annual program abuses.

**Participant tracking and access to state information systems:** The conference report provides minimum standards and funding for states to track the length of time participants are on SNAP and permits the Secretary to audit and inspect state records and information systems.

**Quality control improvements:** The conference report eliminates \$48 million in annual state bonuses while holding states accountable for ensuring households receive the accurate amount of SNAP benefits and for making certain the program is administered in the most effective and efficient manner. States will no longer be given bonuses for administering SNAP in a manner that should be considered standard operating procedure.

**Interstate data matching to prevent multiple issuances:** The conference report establishes a National Accuracy Clearinghouse, ensuring SNAP recipients are not receiving benefits in multiple states. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that this provision alone will save almost \$60 million per year.

**Evaluation of child support enforcement cooperation requirements:** The conference report requires USDA to assess the feasibility and potential impact of mandatory child support enforcement orders across states. This will lay the groundwork for future efforts to ensure unpaid child support goes to the children who are entitled to it and in many cases desperately need it.

**Review of SNAP operations:** The conference report authorizes a review of certain group facilities, ensuring they are not drawing nutrition-related benefits from multiple Federal programs.

**Required action on data match information:** The conference report permits states to pursue additional clarification and verification information (e.g., 3rd party income verification services) to ensure accurate eligibility and benefit determinations.

**Retail food store and recipient trafficking:** The conference report provides continued support to combat retailer fraud and recipient trafficking.

**Improvements to electronic benefit transfer system:** The conference report limits benefit storage to 3 months and benefit expungement to 9 months (down from 6 and 12 months, respectively), giving households a reasonable amount of time to use benefits if they need them while mitigating concerns about high balances on EBT cards and the potential for fraud.

*Promotes Healthy Foods*

More can be done to incentivize healthy food purchases. The conference report achieves this by improving existing incentives and by expanding coordination between educators, retailers, and recipients.

**Retail incentives:** The conference report codifies the current waiver process by which retail food stores offer incentives to house-

holds participating in SNAP to purchase certain staple foods identified for increased consumption by the most recent dietary recommendations.

**Nutrition education:** The conference report improves nutrition education through coordination, reporting, technical assistance, and comprehensive analysis of impact and outcomes.

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program:** The conference report permanently establishes projects to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Additionally, the conference report establishes a nutrition incentive technical assistance center to inform current and future grantees of best practices related to the delivery of incentives and the collection and dissemination of information related to incentive projects. This program was formerly known as the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program.

**Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program:** The conference report extends funding through 2023 to carry out a program geared toward low-income seniors that increases consumption of agricultural commodities and aids in the development of new farmers' markets.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):** The conference report provides additional resources for TEFAP, assisting emergency feeding organizations (e.g., food banks) in meeting the needs of their communities.

**Healthy fluid milk incentives projects:** Subject to appropriations (and authorized at \$20 million), the Secretary is required to carry out milk incentive projects that develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of milk by SNAP households via incentives at the point of purchase.

#### **Title V: Credit**

The conference report ensures access to credit so farmers and ranchers have the capital they need to invest in and run their operations. Access to credit is essential to production agriculture, because most producers utilize loans to buy seed, fertilizer, fuel, feed, and other inputs; buy and upgrade equipment; access land; and make all the other purchases and investments needed to run their business. Because most agricultural operations are financed with debt, farmers and ranchers borrow more money each year to produce a crop than most Americans will borrow in a lifetime.

The conference report updates credit authorities to meet the capital needs of modern production agriculture with an emphasis on beginning farmers and ranchers. It also reauthorizes the credit programs contained in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, including all Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans.

*Provides Additional Incentives for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers*

**New flexibility for veterans:** Under current law, all ownership loan applicants must have participated in business operations of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years prior to the date the application is submitted. The conference report allows military and other relevant experience to fulfill a portion of, or satisfy entirely, the eligibility requirement.

**Individual Development Accounts:** The conference report re-authorizes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program which authorizes matching-funds for savings accounts to meet farming-related expenses.

**Reserving loan fund set-asides:** The conference report sets aside a portion of funds to provide guaranteed farm ownership loans and direct operating loans for beginning farmers and ranchers.

**Priority for joint financing:** The conference report continues an existing priority for joint financing participation loans and down payment loans within direct farm ownership loans. By providing priority to applicants, USDA can maximize the number of borrowers served for a given level of appropriations.

*Improves FSA Loans*

**Increases farm ownership loan limits and operating loan limits:** Under current law, FSA can guarantee standard operating loans and farm ownership loans up to \$1,399,000 and make direct operating and farm ownership loans for up to \$300,000. The conference report increases guaranteed loan limits to \$1,750,000, direct operating loans to \$400,000, and direct farm ownership loans to \$600,000, which enables farmers and ranchers to maintain, buy, and enlarge down payments and construction on new or existing farms or ranches.

**Extends Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program:** FSA makes and guarantees loans to promote conservation practices on farms and ranches that help protect natural resources throughout the United States. The conference report extends the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program to provide access to credit for farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land but do not have the “up front” funds available to implement these practices.

*Other Provisions*

**Farm Credit Act:** The Farm Credit Act of 1933 established the Farm Credit System (FCS) as a group of cooperative lending institutions to provide short, intermediate, and long-term loans for agricultural purposes. The conference report does not make any policy or jurisdictional changes to Farm Credit Institutions but makes numerous clarifications and modest updates to ensure that FCS and its regulated institutions have the tools and authorities they need to serve the agricultural community.

**Study on loan risk:** Under current law, farm mortgages are not allowed to be passed on to secondary markets if they are over 1,000 acres or \$13 million. Secondary markets are a vital component of agricultural lending. The conference report requires the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) to conduct a study assessing the feasibility of increasing the 1,000 acre limitation to 2,000 acres. The findings of that report will be sent to the committees of jurisdictions in both chambers and will highlight any potential lending risks that may occur. Upon completion of a favorable study, the cap will be increased to 2,000 acres.

**Maintains state agricultural mediation programs:** State mediation programs were developed to assist agricultural producers, their creditors, and other persons directly affected by the

actions of USDA to resolve disputes, thereby reducing the participant's cost associated with administrative appeals, litigation, and bankruptcy. The conference report reauthorizes the mediation program to enable states to assist farmers facing economic challenges in the declining farm economy.

***Equitable relief:*** The conference report authorizes the Secretary to provide equitable relief to a farmer or rancher whose failure to comply with the terms of a loan was caused by an action of USDA.

***Successional land:*** The conference report authorizes relending authority to resolve ownership of successional farmland.

***Study on credit needs of certain farmers:*** The conference report requires GAO to report on the agricultural credit needs of Indian Tribes and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

#### **Title VI: Rural Development**

The conference report invests in the health, infrastructure, and economic development projects needed to meet the current challenges in rural America. It provides new tools for USDA to help meet the opioid and mental health crises roiling our communities. It redoubles the Federal commitment to providing broadband access to every rural American. It provides many rural communities new access to the credit they need to make long-term infrastructure investments. Finally, it promotes cooperative, regional economic development.

##### *Addresses the Rural Health Crisis*

***Combats opioid addiction through treatment access:*** The conference report prioritizes projects that help communities meet the challenges of the opioid crisis, including projects that build and upgrade medical facilities, and projects that provide access to telehealth services in rural communities. It also provides a 33 percent increase in authorized funding for grants under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

***Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network:*** The conference report reestablishes the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network to direct resources to mental health professionals aiding the agricultural community during a time of record suicides. During these times of challenging economic conditions in farm and ranch country, this network will help bring behavioral health services and support to America's farm and ranch families.

***Combating other rural health emergencies:*** The conference report also includes additional authority from the House-passed farm bill for the Secretary to declare other types of rural health emergencies and to prioritize program resources to meet those emerging challenges.

##### *Extends Rural Broadband Networks*

***Access to broadband:*** The conference report continues USDA's critical investments in rural broadband. It provides new authority for the Secretary to make grants to finally bring broadband access to Americans in the most rural corners of our nation. Importantly, it includes the House-passed requirements for forward-looking broadband standards, to ensure that applicants build projects right the first time.

***Extending middle-mile broadband infrastructure:*** The conference report includes the House-passed authority for USDA to

make loans and grants to middle-mile broadband projects, which link rural regions to the Internet backbone connections needed to provide high-speed Internet in rural communities.

*Improves Rural Economies*

**Expanding rural access to capital for critical infrastructure:** The conference report gives all rural communities access to the credit they need to finance critical infrastructure by expanding the guaranteed lending programs that bring private capital into rural America. This change, included in the House-passed farm bill, will permit these larger rural communities to build and upgrade essential infrastructure like hospitals, water systems, schools, public safety institutions, and telecommunications networks under the Community Facilities, Water and Waste Disposal, and Broadband Guaranteed Lending Programs.

**Regional economic development:** The conference report includes House-passed improvements to the Strategic Community Economic Development Program, which incentivizes communities to work together with a broad coalition of stakeholders to achieve durable economic development gains. It also includes a new program designed to support emerging economic clusters in rural regions.

*Improves Program Integrity and Protects Taxpayers*

**Promote better coordination among broadband agencies:** The conference report includes important House-passed language to require coordination among USDA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the three principal agencies with jurisdiction over broadband policy, when administering their respective programs.

**Reducing duplication in broadband deployment:** The conference report makes certain that broadband funds are spent where they are most needed, by prioritizing projects to communities with less than 10/1 Mbps broadband service and requiring that 90 percent of the households in any new broadband project receiving a grant or subsidized loan be unserved. It also includes an expanded process for public notification and assessment of proposed broadband projects, to ensure that existing providers have the opportunity to protect their investments.

**Safeguarding taxpayer investments:** The conference report includes numerous House-passed tools to promote program integrity and protect taxpayer resources, including by creating actionable requirements for broadband grant recipients and requiring new fees on lenders for certain guaranteed loans.

#### **Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters**

The farm bill keeps American agriculture at the forefront of innovation and productivity through cutting-edge research and support of the nation's land grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture to provide the safest, most abundant, most affordable food supply in the world.

Research is especially critical with the world population expected to reach nine billion by 2050.

**Land-Grant Universities:** The land-grant university system plays a critical role in food and agricultural research, extension,



and education. While maintaining the investment in capacity and competitive funds, the conference report provides the framework for future investment in the land-grant system's infrastructure and deferred maintenance. The conference report also streamlines the plan of work and time and effort reporting processes for land-grant formula funds to ensure that university research and extension personnel are able to spend their time and effort on actual projects rather than on completing unnecessary federally-mandated reports.

The conference report provides new resources to strengthen our nation's 1890 land-grant universities. The conference report strikes an onerous carryover funding limitation for 1890 extension programs, directs the Secretary to issue a report highlighting the state-level disparity in matching funds, and establishes a grant program for each 1890 institution to award scholarships to individuals pursuing a career in food and agricultural sciences.

***Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA):*** The conference report reauthorizes competitive grants to support the research and outreach capacity at NLGCA institutions and makes a key revision to clarify that an NLGCA institution is required to have at least two food and agricultural science degrees.

***Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI):*** The conference report maintains \$80 million per year for SCRI and incorporates \$25 million per year in additional funding from the creation of the Citrus Trust Fund for the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension program.

***Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI):*** To ensure an adequate domestic supply of organically produced goods, the conference report makes a historic investment in organic agricultural research to ensure organic producers have the tools and resources needed to take advantage of higher premiums and a robust organic market.

***Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI):*** AFRI is USDA's premier competitive grants program for agricultural sciences, providing funding for important research, extension, and education. The conference report reauthorizes appropriations for AFRI at \$700 million per year, repeals the matching funds requirement, and refines priorities to ensure stakeholder needs can be addressed.

***National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board:*** The Board, its Specialty Crop Committee, and Citrus Disease Subcommittee are all reauthorized in the conference report. The membership of the Board is adjusted to remove duplication and encourage a streamlined stakeholder process. The conference report clarifies that the purpose of the Board is to provide a stakeholder-driven process to make recommendations to the Secretary on Federal research priorities. The conference report also clarifies that agricultural economists should be represented on the board.

***Pest and disease research:*** The conference report carries an important provision from the House-passed farm bill to increase coordination of research for the tactical sciences to help address biosecurity threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters.

#### **Title VIII: Forestry**

***Expedites environmental reviews:*** The conference report encourages proper management for healthy and productive Federal, state, and private forests and incentivizes infrastructure and new market opportunities to revitalize communities and healthy landscapes. The conference report simplifies environmental reviews while still ensuring robust protection of the environment.

The conference report reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfires by renewing the insect and disease categorical exclusion (CE) and expanding its purposes to allow for expedited reduction of hazardous fuels in our forests. This renewal and significant expansion of the existing authority to harvest and salvage insect and disease infested timber in forests will reduce the wildfire threat to our communities. The conference report also expedites treatment of Federal land by authorizing a CE of up to 4,500 acres to protect and promote habitat for the Greater Sage Grouse and Mule Deer.

***Empowers state and local decision making—Good Neighbor Authority (GNA):*** The conference report also promotes forest management by empowering non-Federal partners to remove timber. The 2014 Farm Bill allowed the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with states and Puerto Rico to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System lands. Improving on the 2014 Farm Bill, the conference report expands that authority to include counties and Indian Tribes to provide more localized forest management and timber removal on our Federal forests.

This expanded authority also codifies the current practice of allowing the states to keep any receipts from these timber sales, much of which is used for additional forest management and fuel load reduction. Failure to act on this fix could have jeopardized the entire Good Neighbor Authority.

***Utility infrastructure rights-of-way vegetation management pilot:*** The conference report authorizes the USFS to create a privately-funded pilot program to conduct limited and selective vegetation management near electricity infrastructure outside of a right-of-way. This pilot program will help reduce fuel load, decrease wildfire risk associated with tree contact with power lines, and promote electricity reliability.

***Community Wood Energy (and Wood Innovation) Program:*** Markets are essential for forest management and healthy forests. The conference report modifies the Community Wood Energy Program to support grants for new infrastructure, new mills, and added capacity that will use low-value, small-diameter material.

***Timber Innovation Act:*** For successful construction, tall wood buildings require research to ensure their safety and compliance with all building standards. The conference report establishes a performance-driven research and development program to help advance tall wood building construction in the United States.

***Report on wildfire, insect infestation, and disease prevention on Federal land:*** The conference report directs USDA to update Congress on Federal forest management efforts to address forest health.

***State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restoration Program:*** The conference report expands existing authorities to focus the Landscape Scale Restoration Program on cross-boundary res-

toration to address concerns such as watershed restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and wildlife habitat conservation.

**Promotes cross-boundary wildfire mitigation:** The conference report authorizes new collaborative tools to treat hazardous fuel loads on bordering non-Federal lands.

**Resource Advisory Committees (RAC):** The conference report empowers local governments and local decision making by streamlining the RAC appointment process to allow more effective local collaboration on management projects and to expedite results.

**Land transfers:** The conference report gives the USFS additional authority for sale or exchange of small parcels of land and authorizes several land transfers, including in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, the Kisatchie National Forest, the NRCS Riverside County California Property, and the Okhissa Lake Rural Economic Development Conveyance.

#### **Title IX: Energy**

The conference report reauthorizes successful energy programs that help diversify our nation's energy supply, promote energy efficiency, and create new economic opportunities in rural America.

**Rural Energy for America Program (REAP):** REAP provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for the development of renewable energy systems or for energy efficiency improvements. The conference report provides \$50 million per year and authorizes funding to be used for the purchase and installation of energy efficient equipment systems.

**Biobased Markets Program:** The Biobased Markets Program was designed to promote biobased products through mandatory purchasing requirements for Federal agencies and their contractors and a voluntary product certification and label. The conference report modernizes this program by clarifying renewable chemical eligibility and streamlining the process required to use the biobased label. The conference report also ensures that mature markets for biobased products made from forestry materials and other biobased products are not put at a competitive disadvantage. The Biobased Markets Program is funded at \$3 million per year.

**Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance:** Improved in the 2014 Farm Bill, this program provides loan guarantees to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased product manufacturing. The conference report expands project eligibility and provides \$75 million in funding.

**Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels:** The conference report reauthorizes the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels while ensuring the equitable distribution of payments to feedstocks. The Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels is funded at \$7 million per year.

**Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP):** BCAP assists agricultural and forest land owners with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility. The conference report reauthorizes this program and adds algae as an eligible crop.

**Biodiesel Fuel Education Program:** The conference report reauthorizes the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program which provides

competitive grants to educate individuals about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use.

***Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program:*** The conference report establishes the Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education program to educate producers and rural businesses on biogas systems and utilization of carbon dioxide.

***Repealed programs:*** The conference report repeals the Repowering Assistance Program and the Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative.

#### **Title X: Horticulture**

Specialty crops play an important role in the success of U.S. agriculture and are an essential component of our nation's food supply. Diversity among the crops—ranging from fruits and vegetables to tree nuts, nursery crops, and floriculture—makes the task of developing the specialty crop safety net particularly challenging. The conference report includes investments and reforms made in the House-passed farm bill to ensure that the specialty crop safety net remains strong.

***Specialty Crop Block Grants Program:*** The Specialty Crop Block Grants Program provides State Departments of Agriculture with resources to award promotion and marketing grants to enhance the competitiveness of the specialty crop industry. The conference report maintains \$85 million per year and—at the insistence of the House—ensures that Federal bureaucracy does not unnecessarily interfere with project implementation at the state level.

***Plant Pest & Disease Management Program & National Clean Plant Network:*** The conference report maintains the significant advances made in the 2014 Farm Bill for the Plant Pest & Disease Management Program and the National Clean Plant Network. The programs will continue to be funded at \$75 million per year.

***National Organic Program:*** Consumer demand for organically produced goods continues to provide market incentives for U.S. farmers and ranchers across a broad range of products.

However, increases in domestic production have not been enough to keep up with increases in demand. Inadequate organic certification programs among our trading partners has led to fraudulent imports of organic products, undercutting domestic producers and creating distrust among consumers. To maintain program integrity, the conference report provides the National Organic Program with authority to require additional documentation, to access available data from cross-border documentation systems administered by other Federal agencies, and to provide oversight and approval for certifying agents operating in foreign countries.

The conference report also requires USDA to modernize the trade tracking and data collection systems of the National Organic Program and provides funding to maintain and upgrade technology systems and data collections.

***National Organic Standard Board (NOSB):*** The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is a Federal advisory board made up of 15 public volunteers from across the organic community.

Established by the Organic Foods Production Act (part of the 1990 Farm Bill) and governed by the Federal Advisory Committee

Act, the NOSB considers and makes recommendations to USDA on requirements for the production, handling, processing, and marketing of organic agricultural products. The NOSB also has special responsibilities related to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

The conference report improves the structure and functioning of the NOSB. First, it allows for an employee of an owner or operator of an organic farming operation to represent the owner or operator on the NOSB and requires an annual authorization. Second, it clarifies that a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote proposing to amend the national list shall be considered decisive. The conference report also encourages the NOSB to consult with the FDA or EPA when deciding on a substance that FDA has determined is safe or the EPA has determined will not cause harm, and encourages the NOSB to develop procedures for the timely consideration and review of materials directly related to food safety compliance for inclusion on the national list.

**Hemp:** The conference report legalizes the production of hemp as an agricultural commodity and removes it from the list of controlled substances. The conference report strikes a common-sense balance between proper enforcement and the flexibility many agricultural producers seek to produce hemp.

**Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP):** The conference report combines the existing Farmers' Markets and Local Food Promotion Program and the Value-Added Producer Grant Program under one umbrella. LAMP is provided \$500 million in funding over 10 years and is authorized through fiscal year 2023.

#### **Title XI: Crop Insurance**

At the request of virtually every farmer, rancher, rural business owner, and lender in the country, the conference report protects crop insurance. Crop insurance, which is consistently under budget and today covers 311 million acres (or 90 percent of insurable acres) with more than \$100 billion in liability protection, is vital to ensuring farmers have the ability to recover from natural disasters and secure annual operating loans.

The conference report maintains the existing structure of crop insurance, allowing for private sector delivery in coordination with the Risk Management Agency (RMA). The conference report also rejects misguided proposals to apply means tests or payment limitations, invests in expanding options for under-served commodities and producers, and expands the premium discount for new and beginning farmers to assist in getting their farms and ranches up and running.

**Insurance for forage and grazing:** Crops that can be both grazed and harvested—like winter wheat—are now eligible for separate policies on each intended use to provide livestock producers and pasture owners with additional insurance options.

**Research and development priorities:** RMA is instructed to focus research and development activities on improving insurance for crops affected by hurricanes and tropical storms, farms that utilize more efficient irrigation systems, losses in crop quality, grain sorghum, different irrigation practices for rice, citrus, hops, greenhouse products, and high-risk, highly-productive batture land.

**Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP):** WFRP discounts for beginning farmers and ranchers are expanded to 10 years (from

5 years in current law). The conference report also requires the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board to review modifications to improve the effectiveness of WFRP policies, including reducing paperwork burdens on producers and agents, removing caps on nursery and livestock production, allowing waivers to expand operations, and using alternative record keeping like geospatial imaging to document planting and production history.

**Rebating:** The conference report reaffirms that rebating is strictly prohibited, whether in the form of discounts, incentives, or other inducements, ensuring fair treatment for all producers. The conference report commends RMA for taking the rebating prohibition seriously and carrying out the prohibition in a manner that is consistent with Congressional intent and current law.

Grandfathered rebating activity is strictly limited to the current list of entities in the current list of states.

**Hemp:** The conference report makes hemp eligible for crop insurance and directs the FCIC Board to streamline the process for developing hemp policies.

**Crop insurance education grants:** The conference report streamlines crop insurance education grants, primarily by requiring they be delivered through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

## **Title XII: Miscellaneous**

### *Livestock*

**Animal disease prevention and management:** Strong food security directly impacts national security. The animal agriculture sector faces disease threats capable of devastating the rural economy and our nation's food supply. The conference report takes a historic step toward ensuring USDA and its partners have the tools necessary to identify, diagnose, and respond to a potential outbreak, by addressing three critical components of a robust animal health protection system. The conference report provides \$300 million over 10 years to be allocated amongst these animal disease prevention and management programs in addition to authorizing supplemental funding through the appropriations process.

- *National Animal Health Laboratory Network:* The conference report reauthorizes the National Animal Health Laboratory Network for rapid disease diagnosis.
- *National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (FMD Vaccine Bank):* The conference report establishes a U.S.-only vaccine bank to respond to the accidental or intentional introduction of animal diseases—foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in particular.
- *National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program:* The conference report establishes the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program to leverage local, state, and national resources to prevent and respond to threats such as FMD, cattle fever tick, avian influenza (AI), porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) and more.

**Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot:** According to USDA, feral swine cause an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage to property, crops, and natural resources annually and present a risk

for the transmission of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other potentially catastrophic diseases. The conference report establishes the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot with \$75 million for threat assessment, control methods, and land restoration.

**Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program:** The conference report reauthorizes and provides funding to strengthen and enhance the production and marketing of sheep and sheep products in the United States through improvements to infrastructure, business operations, and resource development.

**Study on livestock dealer statutory trust:** The conference report requires a study on the feasibility of establishing a statutory livestock dealer trust to protect unpaid sellers of livestock in instances of livestock dealer default.

**Definition of livestock:** The conference report includes alpacas, llamas, live fish, and crawfish in the definition for *livestock* under the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act. This change clarifies the types of livestock that are covered under Department of Transportation regulations.

**Veterinary training:** The conference report encourages the Secretary to maintain veterinary teams capable of providing effective services before, during, and after emergencies in all regions of the United States.

**Report on FSIS guidance and outreach to small meat processors:** The conference report directs USDA to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of FSIS outreach and guidance to small meat processors.

**Regional cattle and carcass grading correlation and training centers:** The conference report authorizes AMS regional cattle and carcass correlation and training centers to limit subjectivity in cattle grading nationwide, ensuring accurate reporting and transparency.

#### *Beginning Farmers*

**Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) Program:** The conference report combines two existing programs, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Program, under one umbrella. FOTO is provided \$435 million in funding over 10 years and is authorized through 2023.

**Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050:** The conference report establishes the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050. This commission—first proposed in the House-passed farm bill—will address needs relative to maintaining and strengthening a vital farm sector for the future. By 2050, we will need to more than double our productive capacity to feed the world's population. Ensuring the next generation of farmers and ranchers are in place to meet that need is the key goal in the creation of the Commission.

**Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator:** In early 2017, USDA announced a partnership with the National FFA Organization to help youth prepare for careers in agriculture. Part of that agreement was the creation of an Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator to be the main point of contact for USDA pro-

grams aimed at helping youth enter the agricultural workforce. The conference report formally establishes this position.

**Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement:** The conference report reauthorizes the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and makes clarifying edits to reflect the administration's reorganization efforts. The office was established by the 2008 Farm Bill to improve access to USDA programs and to improve the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches and beginning/socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

*Other Key Provisions*

**Pima Cotton Trust Fund and Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund:** The conference report reauthorizes and fully funds these textile trust funds which compensate for a tariff schedule that favors importers of finished fabric goods over domestic manufacturers. These trust funds help ensure the domestic textile industry remains viable and competitive.

**Grain Standards:** The conference report includes House-passed language to allow certain grain handling facilities to restore prior exception agreements that were unilaterally terminated by USDA, a practice that Congress did not intend or agree with.

**Added Sugars:** The conference report directs FDA to not require the added sugar declaration on the nutrition facts label of any single-ingredient product, including sugar, honey, agave, and maple syrup.

**National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA):** The conference report includes a 10 year reauthorization for NORA, an industry-funded check-off program that provides resources for consumer education and research to improve energy efficiency and safety.

*P.L. 115-43 (H.R. 1238)*

*Securing our Agriculture and Food Act*

H.R. 1238 was introduced by Representative David Young on February 28, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On March 16, 2017, the Committee discharged the bill. The bill passed the House under suspension of the rules on March 22, 2017. The Senate passed the legislation by Unanimous Consent on March 24, 2017. The President signed the bill into law on June 30, 2017.

P.L. 115-43 amended the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs for the Department of Homeland Security to carry out a program to coordinate DHS efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to homeland security.

*P.L. 115-157 (H.R. 2154)*

*To rename the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center.*

H.R. 2154 was introduced by Representative Kevin Cramer on April 26, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On May 16, 2017, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On May 17, 2017, the bill was



considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed the bill by a voice vote.

H.R. 2154 renames the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center. Edward T. Schafer served as North Dakota's Governor from 1992 to 2000, and as our nation's Secretary of Agriculture from 2008 to 2009. Renaming the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, to honor Secretary Schafer is a fitting tribute to this distinguished public servant. Located in Secretary Schafer's home state and at one of the nation's premier land-grant universities, this research center continues to advance its vital work on improving crops to strengthen our nation's food security.

*P.L. 115-156 (H.R. 1177)*

*Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act*

H.R. 1177 was introduced by Representative Bruce Poliquin on February 16, 2017, and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture that same day. On May 16, 2017, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported by a voice vote. On May 17, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a vote of 418 yeas to 1 nay.

The bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to release, on behalf of the United States, the condition that certain lands conveyed to the City of Old Town, Maine, be used for a municipal airport.

In the early 1980s, the City of Old Town, Maine, purchased land from the Federal Government to be part of the Old Town Airport. The deed included a use restriction, as required by a 1941 amendment to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, limiting use of the land to a municipal airport or other public use. Old Town has invested heavily in this land in order to attract businesses, but the deed restriction needs to be lifted before further economic development can occur.

H.R. 1177 provides for the removal of the deed restriction on the parcel of land around the Old Town airport to allow for business development. The bill allows the City of Old Town to send a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture detailing which lands it would like released from the deed restriction and directs the Secretary to release that land to the City of Old Town.

The Committee believes H.R. 1177 will allow economic development in Old Town to move forward, creating 175 much-needed jobs. This legislation will provide certainty to private investors in the community and help the local economy thrive.

*P.L. 115-277 (H.R. 6870)*

*To rename the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 in honor of Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter.*

H.R. 6870 was introduced by Representative Paul Tonko on September 25, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Agriculture, House Administration, and the Judiciary. On September 28, 2018, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On September 28, 2018, the bill passed the House by unanimous consent.

2. *Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate*

*H.R. 238, Commodity End-User Relief Act*

H.R. 238 was introduced by Representative K. Michael Conaway on January 4, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services. The bill passed the House on January 12, 2017, by a vote of 239 yeas to 182 nays.

This legislation reauthorizes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end-users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end-users manage risks, to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes.

*H.R. 382, 100 Years of Women in Congress Act*

H.R. 382 was introduced by Representative Grace Meng on January 9, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The bill passed the House under suspension of the rules on March 20, 2017, by a voice vote.

This bill amends the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to designate as Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program Grants the current research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

*H.R. 953, Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017*

H.R. 953 was introduced by Representative Bob Gibbs on February 7, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On February 16, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On May 24, 2017, the House passed the bill by a vote of 25 yeas to 165 nays.

The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017, H.R. 953, amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in, or near, navigable waters.

This bill amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency, or a state, from requiring a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for a discharge of a pesticide from a point source into navigable waters if the discharge is approved under FIFRA. Point source pollution is waste discharged from a distinct place, such as a pipe, channel, or tunnel.

NPDES permits are required for: (1) a discharge resulting from the application of a pesticide in violation of FIFRA that is relevant to protecting water quality, if the discharge would not have occurred but for the violation or the amount of pesticide or pesticide residue contained in the discharge is greater than would have oc-

curred without the violation; (2) stormwater discharges regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); and (3) discharges regulated under NPDES of manufacturing or industrial effluent or treatment works effluent and discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including a discharge resulting from operations concerning ballast water held in ships to increase stability or vessel biofouling prevention.

*H.R. 1029, Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2017*

H.R. 1029 was introduced by Representative Rodney Davis on February 14, 2017. The bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 16, 2017, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by a voice vote. On March 20, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote.

This bill amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to improve pesticide registration and other activities under the Act, to extend and modify fee authorities, and for other purposes.

*H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017*

H.R. 2936 was introduced by Representative Bruce Westerman on June 20, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition, to the Committee on Natural Resources. On October 4, 2017, the Committee reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote. On November 1, 2017, the bill was considered under a rule and passed the House with 232 yeas and 188 nays.

H.R. 2936 addresses the declining health of America's forested land managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) due to a lack of active management.

The most significant result of this diminished forest health is the significant increase in catastrophic wildfires in the past 15 years. These catastrophic wildfires have a significant negative impact on watershed health, wildlife habitat, property, and human life. In 2016 alone, a total of 4,312 structures were destroyed by wildfires, including 3,192 residences, 1,025 minor structures and 78 commercial structures. Most disturbing, agency data indicates that 349 lives have been lost to catastrophic wildfire in the last twenty years.

The alarming increase in catastrophic wildfire impacts can be attributed to the decrease in timber production. From the mid-1950s to the mid-1990s, the USFS typically harvested between 10 and 12 billion board feet annually. Since 1996, that number has declined to a range of 1.5 to 3.3 billion board feet. During this same period, the average number of acres burned increased to 6.2 million acres.

The reason for the declining amount of timber production is twofold: longer planning periods that result in increased time and money and leave our forests vulnerable to insect and disease damage, and the effect of unnecessary litigation on forest planning decisions.

A 2012 USFS report estimated between 65 million and 82 million acres of forest land are facing some level of threat of wildfire and are in need of restoration. This is more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the National Forest System. In 2014, the USFS treated 2.9 million acres of land. At this pace, it would take the USFS more than 20 years to treat this endangered land.

Prior to marking up H.R. 2936, the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing to review the management of the National Forest System. Members heard testimony from former U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, as well as stakeholders representing forestry, sportsmen, and conservation industries. The witnesses' testimony highlighted the need for active forest management to address the challenges the U.S. Forest Service is facing.

This legislation attempts to address the core issues facing the USFS: lengthy and costly planning processes to complete needed hazardous fuel reduction projects, and the threat of litigation forcing the USFS and BLM to take an overly cautious approach to forest management. H.R. 2936 addresses these challenges by including categorical exclusions for processes that are routine and have known effects, allowing the agencies to perform forest management activities sooner to save time and taxpayer money. It rewards collaboration, giving all interest groups a seat at the table, and minimizes the threat of litigation of these collaborative projects.

H.R. 2936 imposes no new requirements or burdens on the USFS or BLM. It expands upon the successes of the 2014 Farm Bill and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

H.R. 2936 retains many environmental safeguards to ensure the respective land management agencies use these authorities in a reasonable and environmentally safe manner.

*H.R. 2941, Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act*

H.R. 2941 was introduced by Representative Ralph Lee Abraham on June 20, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On October 4, 2017, the Committee reported the bill by voice vote. On October 31, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) currently owns tracts of land in Louisiana that are inter-mixed with private land and heavily impacted by residences. These tracts have lost their natural qualities and are isolated from the core lands of Kisatchie National Forest. This fragmentation and urbanization leaves the land incompatible with National Forest management. The Committee believes managing these tracts for public benefit and use is a poor use of taxpayer money.

In disposing of the occupied lots with some minor acreage of adjacent Federal land, the USFS eliminates administrative and boundary maintenance costs. USFS would then be able to use the proceeds to identify and purchase land with recreational qualities that is more conducive to National Forest management.

H.R. 2941, the Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act, will allow the sale of these isolated parcels (two in total; 50.08 acres; as identified as desired disposal by the USFS). The proceeds from the sale of these parcels will be made available for the acqui-

sition of lands and interests in land in the Kisatchie National Forest.

Kisatchie National Forest is rich in renewable wildlife resources, and supporting wilderness habitat is vital to their sustainability. H.R. 2941 allows Kisatchie National Forest to consolidate ownership of natural lands and continues the strong tradition of the National Forest Service acting as stewards for the environment.

*H.R. 3567, To authorize the purchase of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, California.*

H.R. 3567 was introduced by Representative Ken Calvert on July 28, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On October 4, 2017, the Committee reported the bill by voice vote. On October 31, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote.

Since 1996, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to acquire a property vacated by the USDA Salinity Lab.

Although NRCS has not obligated any funds for plant materials research at the Glenwood Drive property since they acquired it, RCRCD subsequently invested \$2.8 million into the property with the understanding that NRCS would eventually transfer the property.

H.R. 3567 would authorize transfer of the title to the RCRCD, a decision supported by NRCS. The legislation states that current NRCS operation at the property shall be allowed to continue at no cost to the Federal Government.

### *3. House Resolutions Considered in the House*

None.

### *4. Bills Reported by the Committee on Agriculture But Not Considered*

None.

### *5. Bills Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture's Jurisdiction But Not Considered*

#### *H.R. 10, Financial CHOICE Act of 2017*

H.R. 10 was introduced by Representative Jeb Hensarling on April 26, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, Transportation and Infrastructure, Rules, the Budget, and Education and the Workforce. On May 25, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On June 8, 2017, the legislation passed the House by a vote of 233 yeas to 186 nays.

#### *H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017*

H.R. 23 was introduced by Representative David Valadao on January 3, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On

July 12, 2017, the legislation passed the House by a vote of 230 yeas to 190 nays.

This bill would address water operations at Reclamation facilities and Federal approval of non-Federal water storage facilities on Federal lands.

*H.R. 289, Guides and Outfitters Act (GO Act)*

H.R. 289 was introduced by Representative Doug LaMalfa on January 4, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On July 10, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

This bill amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to specify the circumstances in which the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture may: (1) issue special recreation permits for Federal recreational lands and waters, and (2) charge a special recreation permit fee for them.

*H.R. 825, Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017*

H.R. 825 was introduced by Paul Gosar on February 2, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On September 21, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. The purpose of H.R. 825 is to promote the development of renewable energy on public land.

*H.R. 995, 21st Century Respect Act*

H.R. 995 was introduced by Representative Hakeem Jeffries on February 9, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On February 9, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On November 8, 2017, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered the legislation to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent. On November 28, 2017, the legislation was considered under suspension of the rules and passed the House by a voice vote.

H.R. 995 would require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to amend certain sections of the *Code of Federal Regulations* for racial appropriateness.

Today the United States is 241 years old. In that time, the country has seen an immense amount of change and growth. Over the course of history, laws and policies have been updated to reflect this growth. However, some decades-old statutes and regulations contain antiquated terms. Enacted in 2016, Public Law 114–157 modernized antiquated ethnic terms related to minorities found in the Office of Minority Economic Impact of the Department of Energy (42 U.S.C. 7141) and section 106 of the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 (Minority Business Enterprises, 42 U.S.C. 6705) for racial appropriateness. H.R. 995 would make similar changes to terms found in certain regulations of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

*H.R. 1873, Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act*

H.R. 1873 was introduced by Representative Doug LaMalfa on April 4, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 12, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On June 21, 2017, the bill was considered under a rule in the House and passed by a vote of 300 yeas to 118 nays.

This legislation amends the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to enhance the reliability of the electricity grid and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands by facilitating vegetation management on such lands.

*H.R. 2425, Public Lands Telecommunications Act*

H.R. 2425 was introduced by Representative Jared Huffman on May 16, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. On June 27, 2017, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered it reported, amended, by voice vote. On December 21, 2018, the Committee on Natural Resources reported the bill, as amended.

This legislation would support the establishment and improvement of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture through the retention and use of rental fees associated with such sites, and for other purposes.

*H.R. 2939, Water Rights Protection Act of 2017*

H.R. 2939 was introduced by Representative Scott Tipton on June 20, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On July 25, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

This legislation would prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

*H.R. 3186, Every Kid Outdoors Act*

H.R. 3186 was introduced by Representative Niki Tsongas on July 11, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure. On August 3, 2018, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On September 12, 2018, the bill was in the House and passed by a vote of 383 yeas to 2 nays.

Since 2015, the Department of the Interior, through the 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative, has offered fourth graders and their families free entrance to our national parks and other Federal lands. The initiative launched prior to the National Park Service's Centennial in 2016 as one way to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors. Funding and support for the initiative comes through the National Park Service's budget for youth en-

agement programs as well as from private donations and volunteer hours.

*H.R. 3400, Recreation Not Red-Tape Act*

H.R. 3400 was introduced by Representative Rob Bishop on July 26, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Armed Services. On April 18, 2018, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended.

This bill amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service to review the process for the issuance and renewal of special recreation permits, including for cross-jurisdictional trips, with respect to outfitters and guides.

*H.R. 3548, Border Security for America Act of 2017*

H.R. 3548 was introduced by Representative Michael McCaul on July 28, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform. On January 10, 2018, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. The legislation makes certain improvements to the security of the international borders of the United States.

*H.R. 3668, Sportsmen's Heritage And Recreational Enhancement Act (SHARE Act)*

H.R. 3668 was introduced by Representative Jeff Duncan on January 10, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means. On September 18, 2017, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation.

This legislation provides for the preservation of sportsmen's heritage and enhancement of recreation opportunities on Federal land.

*H.R. 4760, Securing America's Future Act of 2018*

H.R. 4670 was introduced by Representative Bob Goodlatte on January 10, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. On June 21, 2018, the legislation was considered on the House floor and failed by a vote of 193 yeas to 231 nays. This legislation amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to revise immigrant visa allocation provisions, including family related visas.



*H.R. 4824, Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018*

H.R. 4824 was introduced by Representative John Curtis on January 18, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. On August 30, 2018, the Committee on Agriculture discharged the legislation. On September 12, 2018, the bill passed the House by a voice vote.

This legislation would allow certain state permitting authority to encourage expansion of broadband service to rural communities.

*H.R. 6136, Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018*

H.R. 6136 was introduced by Representative Bob Goodlatte on June 19, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, the Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

On June 27, 2018, the bill was considered on by the House and failed by a vote of 121 yeas to 301 nays.

This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border, including by increasing enforcement personnel. The bill provides funding for infrastructure, law enforcement, and border security, including funds for a border wall along the southern border. The bill provides for: (1) an Integrated Border Enforcement Team Program within DHS; (2) Tunnel Task Forces; (3) a pilot program on the use of electromagnetic spectrum to support border control operations; (4) a Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program; (5) construction of new border ports of entry; (6) a biometric exit data system at certain airports, seaports, and land ports of entry; (7) electronic passport screening and biometric matching; and (8) protections for children apprehended at the border from parental separation and for children in DHS custody.

DHS may provide assistance to a foreign country to address migrant flows affecting the United States. DHS may provide 6 year renewable contingent nonimmigrant status for certain aliens who were under the age of 16 when they first entered the United States. Adjustment to immigrant status is provided based on a point system. Children of long-term temporary foreign workers are also eligible for such status adjustment.

DHS may designate certain groups as a criminal gang. Such individuals may not seek asylum, withholding of removal, or temporary protected status. Indemnification is provided for law enforcement entities sued for complying with DHS detainers. DHS detainer authority is revised.

The bill creates a private right of action against a state or local jurisdiction that declines to honor a DHS detainer for a convicted illegal alien who then commits murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor.

The bill eliminates: (1) the diversity visa program, (2) certain family-based visa categories, and (3) the per-country limit for employment-based immigrants. The per-country limit for family based-immigrants is increased.

Asylum and visa screening provisions are revised.

*6. Bills Ordered Reported by the Committee on Agriculture*

See the bills listed under “1. Bills Enacted into Law” and “2. Bills Acted on by the House But Not the Senate.”

*7. Bills Ordered Reported but Not Reported by Other Committees Within the Committee on Agriculture’s Jurisdiction*

None.

*8. Bills Defeated*

None.

*9. Bills Acted on by the Committee Included in Other Laws Enacted*

*H.R. 2521, South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017*

H.R. 2521 was introduced by Representative Joe Wilson on May 18, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On October 4, 2017, the Committee ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote. On October 31, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Peanut Standards Board (Board) for the purpose of advising the Secretary on quality and handling standards for domestically produced and imported peanuts. The Board is comprised of 18 members equally divided between producers and industry representatives by region.

The Secretary appoints members to the Board, but is required to select three producers from each of the three regions (Southeast, Southwest, and Virginia/Carolina). As it is currently written, only the states of Virginia and North Carolina are considered a part of the Virginia/Carolina region.

H.R. 2521, the South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017 would amend the 2002 Farm Bill to add South Carolina to the Virginia/Carolina region for purposes of appointments to the Peanut Standards Board. The bill would not change the number of position available on the board, nor would it impact the definitions of any of the other growing regions.

See P.L. 115-334 (H.R. 2) listed under “1. Bills Enacted into Law”.

*H.R. 2921, National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017*

H.R. 2921 was introduced by Representative Kevin Cramer on June 15, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition, to the Committee on Natural Resources. On October 4, 2017, the Committee reported the bill by voice vote. On October 31, 2017, the bill was considered in the House under suspension of the rules and passed by a voice vote.

H.R. 2921 addresses the need for collaboration in maintaining our U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands and energy infrastructure rights-of-way that local communities and businesses rely upon.

Deteriorating forest health, particularly in the western United States, has increased the frequency and severity for forest fires in recent years. This has resulted in increased fire threat to electric transmission and associated utility infrastructure across USFS land.

The Government Accountability Office has found that fuel reduction treatment projects reduce flammable vegetation, minimize the severity of wildland fires, increase landscape resiliency to fire, and provide firefighter access during fire suppression activities.

If a fire destroys utility infrastructure, there are several known and potential costs, including: infrastructure replacement, costs to customers for electric outages, government disaster funding, and supplemental appropriations.

H.R. 2921 would create a pilot program to conduct limited and selective vegetation management near utility infrastructure outside of a right-of-way. To incentivize private participation, it creates a separate off-right-of-way liability standard from the current strict liability standard to a gross negligence standard for this voluntary work. The 10 year program—funded entirely by interested utility companies—allows vegetation management on USFS lands—approved by the Secretary of Agriculture—up to 75' beyond the utility's right-of-way to better protect utility infrastructure and reduce the risk of forest fires.

See P.L. 115-334 (H.R. 2) listed under “1. Bills Enacted into Law”.

*H.R. 6720, Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2018*

H.R. 6720 was introduced by Representative Vern Buchanan on September 6, 2018. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On September 12, 2018, the bill passed by the House by voice vote.

See P.L. 115-334 (H.R. 2) listed under “1. Bills Enacted into Law”.

*10. Bills Vetoed*

None.

*11. Bills Acted on by Both Houses But Not Enacted*

None

*12. Concurrent Resolutions Approved*

*Other Bills of Interest:* Several bills acted on by other committees, but not acted on by the Committee on Agriculture, contain provisions relating to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. The following are abbreviated summaries of these bills.

*H. Con. Res. 71, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2018.*

H. Con. Res. 71 was introduced by Representative Diane Black on July 21, 2017, and was referred to the Committee on the Budg-

et. The Committee on the Budget ordered the bill reported July 21, 2017.

H. Con. Res. 71 establishes the budget for the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2018 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2027.

*H.R. 2810, National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2018*

H.R. 2810 was introduced by Representative Mac Thornberry on June 7, 2017. The bill was referred to the Committee on Armed Services. This legislation contained provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdiction. On July 14, 2017, the House passed the bill by a vote of 344 yeas to 81 nays.

On December 12, 2017, it became Public Law No. 115–91.

D. OVERSIGHT

The Committee on Agriculture and its subcommittees were active in their oversight functions, holding a number of oversight hearings and activities during the 115th Congress. The hearings related to the application, administration, and effectiveness of laws that lie within the Committee's jurisdiction as well as the organization and operation of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies having responsibility for the administration of such laws. The hearings often result in recommendations for improvements in the administration of the laws, regulations and policies in effect in the Executive Branch as they relate to the Committee's jurisdiction. Information gathered at these hearings was useful in preparing legislation for consideration in the House of Representatives.

As part of its hearings, the Committee and its subcommittees reviewed the way the particular Federal agency or department (usually the Department of Agriculture) administered existing laws related to the subject matter of the legislation before, or to be considered by, the Committee. In most cases, legislation favorably reported to the House carries a termination date (a "sunset") to ensure that in the future Congress will again review the effectiveness and the methods with which the Executive Branch of Government has carried out the letter and the spirit of that statute.

In keeping with the objective of the Oversight Plan, as submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration, and Rule XI, clause 2 of the House of Representatives, the Committee and its subcommittees conducted the following chronological oversight hearings during the 115th Congress (Note: To see a copy of the Oversight Plan as submitted, see "I. Summary of Organization, Jurisdiction, and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Agriculture."):

*1. Oversight Hearings*

**February 15, 2017:** *Rural Economic Outlook: Setting the Stage for the Next Farm Bill.* Full Committee. Serial No. 115–1.

This hearing focused on the current state of the rural economy. Witnesses were five economists from USDA, the Federal Reserve, and land-grant universities who provided data and perspective on the significant challenges facing American's farmers, ranchers, and their rural neighbors. With net farm income expected down 50 per-

cent from its peak in 2013, concerns on the economic realities are front and center for the upcoming discussion on the farm bill. Producers need a reliable farm safety net that provides reliable risk management tools in periods of low prices. Witnesses described their concerns on the economy, but also some bright spots when comparing the current situation to the farm crisis of the 1980s. Dairy and cotton were both the particular focus of questions, with the economists on the panel providing perspective on their concerns with markets and current policy for those commodities.

**February 16, 2017:** *Pros and Cons of Restricting SNAP Purchases*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115-2.

In this hearing Members discussed the implications of further restricting what can be purchased with SNAP dollars, the implementation process for retailers, and the impact that restrictions, incentives, and nutrition education have in consumer behavior change. The hearing focused on the best avenue to improve the diets of low-income Americans. Members heard from a variety of perspectives related to the impact of restricting food purchases within SNAP and their applicable impacts on health, behavior patterns, as well as from a representative from the retail industry.

**February 28, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Conservation Policy*. Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 115-3.

This Subcommittee hearing evaluated reforms made to the conservation title (Title II) in the past farm bill. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, conservation programs were consolidated and reformed to provide flexibility and to reduce duplication across programs. The farm bill provides farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners with voluntary, incentive-based financial and technical assistance for conservation practices. Testimony provided feedback on consolidation as well as suggestions for policy changes in the next farm bill. The need for technical assistance was a priority for all the witnesses, for working lands programs and land retirement programs. All witnesses supported incentive-based, voluntary conservation as the best way to provide benefits to the environment, the farmer, the public, and wildlife.

**February 28, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: International Market Development*. Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 115-3.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to develop a better understanding of, and record of support for, USDA's trade promotion and market development programs—namely the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program. Witnesses made clear the importance of these programs in opening and developing new markets for U.S. products overseas, especially in the face of uncertainty regarding the status of existing and future trade agreements.

**March 9, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Rural Development and Energy Programs*. Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 115-3.

Through this hearing, the Committee reviewed the portfolio of rural development and energy programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Subcommittee heard from a broad array of stakeholders who shared their views on how the rural de-

velopment and renewable energy loan and grant programs promote economic growth and rural revitalization.

**March 9, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Specialty Crops.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 115–3.

This hearing continued a series of Subcommittee hearings that set the stage for the next farm bill. The hearing evaluated the effectiveness of the 2014 Farm Bill programs aimed at benefiting specialty crop production, which can be found in multiple titles. Witnesses raised concerns on a host of different programs, such as research funding, pest and disease control, trade promotion programs, and immigration policy.

**March 16, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Agricultural Research.* Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. Serial No. 115–3.

This hearing explored agricultural research (Title VII of the 2014 Farm Bill). The witnesses provided a general overview of the topic, stressing the important role that research plays in ensuring that American agriculture remains competitive and capable of addressing growing needs around the world. The witnesses also highlighted growing concerns over declining public investment in agricultural research, and the fact that other countries are now significantly outpacing the United States in terms of agricultural research investment.

**March 16, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Forestry Initiatives.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 115–3.

In the hearing the witnesses evaluated the effectiveness of farm bill authorized provisions that impact Forest Service managed lands, as well as state and private forestry. The focus was on the Forestry, Conservation, and Energy titles of the 2014 Farm Bill. A particular interest to members and the witnesses was the effect that management decisions had on catastrophic wildfires. They discussed challenges to reducing fuel loads through the removal of timber and biomass, and needed technical assistance for private forests owners to manage properly. Witnesses also testified about the importance of markets for wood products to drive forest management.

**March 21, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Nutrition Distribution Programs.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 115–3.

This hearing provided Members with operational and policy perspectives associated with three food distribution programs within the Nutrition title: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Witnesses provided information on how USDA Foods are distributed, associated eligibility criteria and legal authority, as well as how these distribution programs differ from one another, how they interact, and how TEFAP, CSFP, and FDPIR, along with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), strengthen the nutrition safety net and provide support to citizens in need.

**March 21, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Livestock Producer Perspectives.* Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. Serial No. 115–3.

Despite the lack of a formal “livestock title” in the most recent farm bill, livestock producers participate in a variety of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and initiatives. This hearing gave representatives from four of the major livestock producer groups the opportunity to discuss their experiences with existing programs and initiatives, as well as an opportunity to generally discuss the issues facing the livestock industry, and namely, to lay out their priorities for the upcoming farm bill.

**March 22, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Dairy Policy*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–3.

This hearing reviewed current dairy policy and explored options to make it more effective for farmers in the next farm bill. The witnesses provided a general overview of the state of the dairy industry, which is experiencing an extended period of low prices. They discussed the effectiveness of the Margin Protection Program (MPP), which was crafted in the 2014 Farm Bill during a time when dairy farmers were dealing with record feed costs that were squeezing margins on the farm. Witnesses also touched on international issues that have arisen, hindering their ability to sell their products overseas in markets that they have become increasingly dependent upon.

**March 28, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Commodity Policy—Part I*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 115–3.

This was a continuation of a series of Subcommittee hearings to set the stage for the next farm bill, and the first to concentrate on provisions in the commodities (Title I) and crop insurance titles (Title XI). The hearing focused on how the farm safety net of the 2014 Farm Bill has performed, thus far, and what changes will need to be made in the next farm bill. Witnesses highlighted the importance of farm policy to farmers and ranchers and provided recommendations to improve the safety net. Witnesses were producers representing the national associations for corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and grain sorghum.

**March 28, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: The Future of SNAP*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 115–3.

The House Committee on Agriculture completed a comprehensive review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the 114th Congress. Known as the *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP*, the purpose of the review was to provide a better understanding of SNAP, the population it serves, how the program administers food benefits and other services to assist that population, and to examine ways the program can be improved. This hearing provided an additional opportunity for stakeholders and Members to discuss priorities for improvements to SNAP in the upcoming farm bill, including fostering adequate nutrition, improving self-sufficiency, bettering outcomes for children and families via education, and continuing to improve program efficiency and integrity.

**March 29, 2017:** *Review of the Farm Credit System*. Full Committee. Hearing Serial No. 115–4.

The purpose of this hearing was twofold. First, the committee examined the soundness of the Farm Credit System by hearing testimony from the board of the Farm Credit Administration. Members focused on the financial soundness of the System as well as the

bounds of association lending authority. Although there has been a decline in net farm income, the regulators were confident that the System is properly capitalized and diversified to function properly. Additionally, representatives from the System's lending institutions addressed the credit needs of farmers and ranchers, and how the institutions are working to provide reliable credit in a declining farm economy.

**April 4, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Commodity Policy—Part II.* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Hearing Serial No. 115–3.

This was a continuation of a series of Subcommittee hearings to set the stage for the next farm bill, and the second to concentrate on provisions in the commodities (Title I) and crop insurance titles (Title XI). The hearing focused on how the farm safety net of the 2014 Farm Bill has performed, thus far, and what changes will need to be made in the next farm bill. Witnesses highlighted the importance of farm policy to farmers and ranchers and provided recommendations to improve the safety net. Witnesses were representatives of the national associations for cotton, rice, peanut, oilseed, and sugar producers.

**April 4, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Credit Programs.* Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. Serial No. 115–3.

During this hearing the Committee evaluated the effectiveness of the Farm Service Agency credit programs authorized by the farm bill. The focus stayed on the decline in net farm income and how all lending institutions are adjusting to the changing needs of producers in these economic times. Witnesses spoke to the importance of all programs, both direct and guaranteed, and to their ability to provide reliable credit to producers of all kinds. Additional discussion focused on the use of Farmer Mac as a secondary market for agricultural banks to continue to serve customers for years to come.

**April 5, 2017:** *Agriculture and Tax Reform: Opportunities for Rural America.* Full Committee. Serial No. 115–5.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to prepare for the upcoming debate on reforming the nation's Tax Code by hearing testimony on tax policies that are important to agricultural producers and rural Americans. Witnesses discussed the unique challenges of farming, ranching, and forestry, and how specific provisions in the code address those concerns. Witnesses also discussed how Congress might further consider those concerns within the contours of what we currently know about potential tax reform.

**May 17, 2017:** *State of the Rural Economy: Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.* Full Committee. Hearing Serial No. 115–6.

The purpose of this hearing was to review the status of the rural economy and provide the newly confirmed Secretary of Agriculture an opportunity to speak directly with the Committee about a variety of timely issues. In his testimony, Secretary Perdue highlighted that America's farmers and ranchers are facing increasing financial stress with little relief on the horizon. He also discussed USDA priorities under the new Administration and a proposed reorganization within the Department. Members' questions for the Secretary largely related to agricultural concerns in their districts, with an eye toward informing the discussions of the upcoming farm bill.



**June 7, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: The Future of International Food Aid and Agricultural Development.* Full Committee. Serial No. 115-3.

The purpose of this hearing was to build on extensive work done by the Committee during the 114th Congress reviewing U.S. international food aid and agriculture development programs. Witnesses representing a broad range of stakeholder viewpoints discussed how the Administration's recent budget proposal would be detrimental to their work. Testimony was provided on behalf of a commodity group, a private voluntary organization (PVO), a Ready-to-Use-Food (RUTF) manufacturer, a maritime coalition, and a non-profit policy foundation. The hearing explored how programs eliminated or reduced within the President's budget proposal actually are a strong fit within the current Administration's 'America First' policy based on job creation, national security, commodity usage, and other benefits. Members asked questions related to potential policy changes as they prepare to craft the upcoming farm bill.

**June 8, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: SNAP Technology and Modernization.* Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 115-3.

The House Committee on Agriculture completed a comprehensive review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the 114th Congress. Known as the *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP*, the purpose of the review was to provide a better understanding of SNAP, the population it serves, how the program administers food benefits and other services to assist that population, and to examine ways the program can be improved. This hearing focused on technology and modernization, including areas that strengthen program integrity, improve the customer experience, streamline delivery of services, and ease administrative burden. Witnesses reinforced this discussion via testimony on eligibility and issuance systems, customer-facing technologies, and business enhancements.

**June 13, 2017:** *Small Watershed Infrastructure: Continuing the Mission, Building upon Success.* Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. Serial No. 115-7.

This Subcommittee hearing evaluated the P.L. 83-566 Small Watershed and Dam Rehab program. Members heard firsthand how the program has changed since its inception and how the needs of today's watersheds have evolved since the 1950s. Testimony provided a background on the program and how small watersheds differ from large watershed infrastructure. Witnesses shared success stories of small watershed infrastructure investments and the many benefits that they provide for the protection of life and property, water availability, conservation and recreation. Citing the backlog of applicants, the witnesses asked for continued support and funding of the program today and into the future.

**June 22, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: University Research.* Full Committee. Serial No. 115-3.

The purpose of this hearing was to highlight the importance of agricultural research conducted by the U.S. university system, and to discuss pressing issues facing these institutions including deferred maintenance of research infrastructure and facilities. Witnesses represented a variety of university types including a non-land-grant agriculture institution, two "1862s" conventional land-

grant institutions, a “1890s” historically black institution, a representative of the “1994s” Tribal institutions, and a Hispanic-serving agriculture institution. The hearing explored how various funding streams impact university agricultural research and examples of successful research innovations. Testimony covered areas such as research prioritization, infrastructure needs, and funding types. Members asked questions related to agricultural research funding and potential policy changes as they prepare to craft the upcoming farm bill.

**June 27, 2017:** *Clearing the Next Crisis: Resilience, Recovery, and Resolution of Derivative Clearinghouses*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–8.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to examine the possibility of a future financial crisis and how the cleared market industry would respond. This hearing provided the Committee Members with an understanding of the work industry participants have done to prepare for a crisis, as well as to consider how regulators would be expected to respond.

**July 12, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Technology and Innovation in Specialty Crops*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–3.

The purpose of this hearing was to highlight innovation in the specialty crop industry and discuss ways the next farm bill can further benefit specialty crop producers. Witnesses represented various parts of the specialty crop industry including producers, a marketer, a mechanization start-up co-founder, a state agriculture federation representative, and a trade association official. Testimony focused largely on the impact of the agricultural labor shortfall on specialty producers and the witnesses’ experiences with farm bill programs such as marketing and promotion, research and extension, plant pest and disease protections, and crop insurance. The Chairman highlighted that—despite being treated differently than many row crops within the farm safety net—a variety of supports are in place for specialty crops that should not be overlooked. Members asked questions related to specialty producers’ involvement in current USDA programs and potential policy changes as they prepare to craft the upcoming farm bill, as well as plant breeding and consumer acceptance of new technologies.

**July 13, 2017:** *The Future of Farming: Technological Innovations, Opportunities, and Challenges for Producers*. Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. Serial No. 115–9.

The purpose of this hearing was to explore how promising new information technologies and the increasing utilization of data are influencing agriculture. Witnesses representing a range of agricultural information entities discussed efficiencies, innovations, and challenges impacting this sector. Testimony was provided on behalf of a grower information cooperative, a data reporting company, and two agriculture technology law firms. This hearing allowed the Subcommittee to delve more deeply into the opportunities for production agriculture when data is used to enhance a producer’s decision-making abilities, while also allowing discussion of privacy concerns. Member questions focused on Congress’s oversight role as innovation in agricultural data progresses, specific examples where

new technology is proving profitable, and important connections with other sectors of the economy.

**July 18, 2017:** *The Next Farm Bill: Pathways to Success for SNAP Households*. Subcommittee on Nutrition. Serial No. 115–3.

The House Committee on Agriculture completed a comprehensive review of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the 114th Congress. Known as the *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP*, the purpose of the review was to provide a better understanding of SNAP, the population it serves, how the program administers food benefits and other services to assist that population, and to examine ways the program could be improved. This hearing allowed for discussion of career and education pathway approaches that could facilitate improved opportunities for SNAP recipients and households to succeed in the labor market. Witnesses reinforced this discussion via testimony on the labor market, curriculum development and soft skill education, and the importance of case management as an enhancement to work-specific programming.

**July 19, 2017:** *The State of Infrastructure in Rural America*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–10.

Through this hearing, the Committee examined the state of rural infrastructure and considered opportunities to improve these systems. Members heard from a broad cross-section of organizations who build, use, and rely on this infrastructure every day. Witnesses discussed the importance of modernizing the roads, waterways, utilities, and research institutions that serve rural Americans, and the urban Americans who depend on rural America for food, fiber, and energy.

**July 26, 2017:** *Renegotiating NAFTA: Opportunities for Agriculture*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–11.

The purpose of this hearing was to discuss agriculture’s critical role in trade as the Administration enters renegotiation discussions with Canada and Mexico on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Witnesses representing a broad range of agricultural export entities discussed expanding market opportunities and tightening enforcement. Testimony was provided on behalf of dairy, poultry, grains, oilseed, and specialty crop trade associations. The hearing explored U.S. benefits achieved through the current NAFTA agreement, and areas where updates could be beneficial to the agriculture industry. Members asked questions related to market access programs, trade barriers, and potential policy changes.

**October 11, 2017:** *Examining the 2017 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–12.

Through this hearing, the Committee received testimony from the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, J. Christopher Giancarlo, outlining his agenda on modernizing the agency to become a “21st Century Regulator”.

**February 6, 2018:** *The State of the Rural Economy*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–13.

The purpose of this hearing was to allow Members to speak directly with the Secretary of Agriculture about issues impacting rural communities and the agriculture industry. In his testimony, Secretary Perdue discussed the strain on the farm economy from

continued low commodity prices. He projected further price drops and trade challenges for the coming year. The Secretary also discussed Department efforts to combat these difficulties including improvements to the farm safety net and the President’s Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. Member questions for the Secretary focused on areas of interest in the upcoming farm bill and district-specific concerns.

**July 18, 2018:** *Cryptocurrencies: Oversight of New Assets in the Digital Age*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–14.

Through this hearing, the Committee sought to examine the regulatory classification of cryptocurrency tokens and how they fit into existing regimes. The Committee heard from a wide variety of stakeholders on the purpose, utility, and distinctions of these new assets to help members gain a better understand of the creation, function, and usage of various types of digital assets.

**July 25, 2018:** *Examining the Upcoming Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission*. Full Committee. Serial No. 115–15.

Through this hearing, the Committee received testimony from the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, J. Christopher Giancarlo, outlining his upcoming agenda for the Commission. Chairman Giancarlo also summarized his recent white paper entitled “Swaps Regulation Version 2.0: An assessment of the Current Implementation of Reform and Proposals for Next Steps.” Throughout the hearing the members learned about regulations around derivative clearinghouses, swap reporting rules, swap execution rules, swap dealer capital, and the end-user exemption.

## 2. Listening Sessions

Full Committee. Serial No. 115–3, pt. 2, Appendix.

- **June 24, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; Gainesville, FL
- **July 31, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; San Angelo, TX
- **August 3, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; Morgan, MN
- **August 5, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; Modesto, CA
- **August 30, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; Decatur, IL
- **October 9, 2017:** *Farm Bill Listening Session: Conversations in the Field*; Cobleskill, NY

As the Committee developed the 2018 Farm Bill, the Members traveled across the United States to hear from producers on what is and isn’t working in U.S. agricultural policy.

## E. PUBLISHED HEARINGS

- **Note:** The listening sessions listed in Section D. 2. were published as an appendix (Serial No. 115–3, pt. 2) to *The Next Farm Bill*, Serial No. 115–3, pt. 1. To avoid duplication they are not listed in the following table of published hearings.

- 115-1 RURAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE NEXT FARM BILL—Full Committee—Wednesday, February 15, 2017.
- 115-2 PROS AND CONS OF RESTRICTING SNAP PURCHASES—Full Committee—Thursday, February 16, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: CONSERVATION POLICY—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: INTERNATIONAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Thursday, March 9, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: SPECIALTY CROPS—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Thursday, March 9, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH—Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research—Thursday, March 16, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: FORESTRY INITIATIVES—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Thursday, March 16, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: NUTRITION DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, March 21, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: LIVESTOCK PRODUCER PERSPECTIVES—Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture—Tuesday, March 21, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: DAIRY POLICY—Full Committee—Wednesday, March 22, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: COMMODITY POLICY—PART 1—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Tuesday, March 28, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: THE FUTURE OF SNAP—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, March 28, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: COMMODITY POLICY—PART 2—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Tuesday, April 4, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: CREDIT PROGRAMS—Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit—Tuesday, April 4, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—Full Committee—Wednesday, June 7, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: SNAP TECHNOLOGY AND MODERNIZATION—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Thursday, June 8, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: UNIVERSITY RESEARCH—Full Committee—Thursday, June 22, 2017.
- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN SPECIALTY CROPS—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

- 115-3, pt. 1 THE NEXT FARM BILL: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS FOR SNAP HOUSEHOLDS—Subcommittee on Nutrition—Tuesday, July 18, 2017.
- 115-4 REVIEW OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM—Full Committee—Wednesday, March 29, 2017.
- 115-5 AGRICULTURE AND TAX REFORM: OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL AMERICA—Full Committee—Wednesday, April 5, 2017.
- 115-6 STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SONNY PERDUE—Full Committee—Wednesday, May 17, 2017.
- 115-7 SMALL WATERSHED INFRASTRUCTURE: CONTINUING THE MISSION, BUILDING UPON SUCCESS—Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry—Tuesday, June 13, 2017.
- 115-8 CLEARING THE NEXT CRISIS: RESILIENCE, RECOVERY, AND RESOLUTION OF DERIVATIVE CLEARINGHOUSES—Full Committee—Tuesday, June 27, 2017.
- 115-9 THE FUTURE OF FARMING: TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES FOR PRODUCERS—Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management—Thursday, July 13, 2017.
- 115-10 THE STATE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AMERICA—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 19, 2017.
- 115-11 RENEGOTIATING NAFTA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 26, 2017.
- 115-12 EXAMINING THE 2017 AGENDA FOR THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION—Full Committee—Wednesday, October 11, 2017.
- 115-13 THE STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY—Full Committee—Tuesday, February 6, 2018.
- 115-14 CRYPTOCURRENCIES: OVERSIGHT OF NEW ASSETS IN THE DIGITAL AGE—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 18, 2018.
- 115-15 EXAMINING THE UPCOMING AGENDA FOR THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION—Full Committee—Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

#### F. MEETINGS NOT PUBLISHED

February 1, 2017—Full Committee open business meeting. Organizational meeting for the 115th Congress. Approval of the Committee Rules, Committee staff assignments, and the Oversight Plan for the 115th Congress by voice vote.

February 16, 2017—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of the Budget Views and Estimates Letter, by voice vote.

May 3, 2017—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 1177, Removing Outdated Restrictions to Allow for Job Growth Act, and H.R. 2154, to rename the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center in Fargo, North Dakota, as the Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center, by voice vote.

October 4, 2017—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2521, South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017, H.R. 2921, National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017, H.R. 2941, Kisatchie National Forest Land

Conveyance Act, and H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, by voice vote.

March 1, 2018—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of the Budget Views and Estimates Letter, by voice vote.

April 18, 2018—Full Committee open business meeting. Approval of H.R. 2, Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, by a recorded vote of 26 yeas to 20 nays.

#### G. COMMITTEE PRINTS

*Committee on Agriculture Rules*. Adopted February 1, 2017. Print No. 114–1.

#### H. WATERSHEDS

None.

### III. APPENDIX

#### A. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

##### *By Date Published in the Congressional Record*

**Note:** In April 2013 the Parliamentarian’s office altered its procedures concerning the referral of Executive Communications. In prior Congresses the Communications concerning pesticide tolerances submitted from the Environmental Protection Agency were referred to the Committee on Agriculture; however, beginning in August 2013 this type of Communication was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Parliamentarian’s office was notified of this discrepancy on November 24, 2014. The following is a list of the Executive Communication’s numbers along with the date of publication in the *Congressional Record* (entries marked with an asterisk (\*) are for Communications concerning an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance (when in reference to a pesticide) which were also historically referred to the Committee on Agriculture):

<b>January 6, 2017:</b> 41, 51.	<b>February 16, 2018:</b> 4034, 4035.
<b>January 20, 2017:</b> 247.	<b>February 23, 2018:</b> 4074, 4078.
<b>February 6, 2017:</b> 499, 500.	<b>March 1, 2018:</b> 4142.
<b>February 16, 2017:</b> 582.	<b>March 19, 2018:</b> 4294.
<b>March 9, 2017:</b> 753, 754, 755.	<b>March 20, 2018:</b> 4315, 4317.
<b>March 23, 2017:</b> 903, 904.	<b>April 10, 2018:</b> 4424, 4425, 4428.
<b>April 17, 2017:</b> 1072.	<b>April 19, 2018:</b> 4628, 4629, 4630, 4631.
<b>April 20, 2017:</b> * 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090.	<b>May 16, 2018:</b> 4862.
<b>April 28, 2017:</b> 1196.	<b>May 22, 2018:</b> 4964.
<b>May 15, 2017:</b> 1353, 1354.	<b>May 24, 2018:</b> 4973.
<b>May 25, 2017:</b> 1426, 1427, 1428.	<b>June 8, 2018:</b> 5095, 5098.
<b>June 15, 2017:</b> 1681, 1683.	<b>June 12, 2018:</b> 5119.
<b>July 10, 2017:</b> 1869, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1876.	<b>June 14, 2018:</b> 5171.
<b>July 12, 2017:</b> 1932, 1934.	<b>July 11, 2018:</b> 5511, 5517, 5518, 5522, 5523.
<b>July 28, 2017:</b> 2128, 2131, 2132, 2134, 2136.	<b>July 18, 2018:</b> 5674.
<b>August 15, 2017:</b> 2233, 2234.	<b>July 25, 2018:</b> 5770.
<b>August 29, 2017:</b> 2335.	<b>July 26, 2018:</b> 5791.
<b>September 13, 2017:</b> 2509.	<b>August 31, 2018:</b> 6064, 6065.
<b>October 3, 2017:</b> 2749, 2751, 2752.	<b>September 17, 2018:</b> 6236, 6237.
<b>October 10, 2017:</b> 2810.	<b>September 26, 2018:</b> 6358.
<b>October 31, 2017:</b> 3017, 3018.	<b>October 16, 2018:</b> 6529.
<b>November 1, 2017:</b> 3039.	<b>October 30, 2018:</b> 6656, 6659.
<b>November 6, 2017:</b> 3088.	<b>November 6, 2018:</b> 6714, 6716, 6718.
<b>November 21, 2017:</b> 3198.	<b>November 16, 2018:</b> 6856, 6857.

**December 6, 2017:** 3304, 3307.

**December 13, 2017:** 3374, 3375.

**December 14, 2017:** 3392, 3394, 3395, 3396.

**February 26, 2018:** 4100, 4101, 4106, 4108, 4109, 4110.

**November 27, 2018:** 6940.

**November 28, 2018:** 6985.

**December 13, 2018:** 7156, 7163, 7164.

**December 19, 2018:** 7181.

E.C. 3—Jan. 4, 2017: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Promotion [FNS–2016–0028] (RIN: 0584–AE44) received January 3, 2017.

E.C. 9—Jan. 5, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the Egg Research and Promotion Rules and Regulations To Update Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, and Information Provisions [Doc. No.: AMS–LPS–15–0042] received January 3, 2017.

E.C. 34—Jan. 6, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0045; SC16–981–2 FR] received January 5, 2017.

E.C. 35—Jan. 6, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0084; SC16–987–1 FIR] received January 5, 2017.

E.C. 36—Jan. 6, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0077; SC16–923–1 FR] received January 5, 2017.

E.C. 127—Jan. 10, 2017: A letter from the Supervisory Regulatory Analyst, GIPSA, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighting Services Under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) received January 6, 2017.

E.C. 167—Jan. 12, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Revisions to Inspection Application Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0063] received January 10, 2017.

E.C. 180—Jan. 13, 2017: A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule and interim final rule—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 [FNS 2011–0008] (RIN: 0584–AD87) received January 11, 2017.

E.C. 181—Jan. 13, 2017: A letter from the Supervisory Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighting Serv-



ices Under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) received January 11, 2017.

E.C. 323—Jan. 24, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0062; SC16-984-2 FR] received January 19, 2017.

E.C. 343—Jan. 27, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Biennial Review and Republication of the Select Agent and Toxin List; Amendments to the Select Agent and Toxin Regulations [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0095] (RIN: 0579-AE08) received January 24, 2017.

E.C. 413—Jan. 30, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Delay of Effective Date for 31 Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency between October 28, 2016 and January 17, 2017 [FRL-9958-87-OP] received January 25, 2017, jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture.

E.C. 603—Feb. 24, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Biennial Review and Republication of the Select Agent and Toxin List; Amendments to the Select Agent and Toxin Regulations; Delay of Effective Date [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0095] (RIN: 0579-AE08) received February 17, 2017.

E.C. 830—Mar. 17, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Further Delay of Effective Dates for Five Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency Between December 12, 2016 and January 17, 2017 [FRL-9960-28-OP] received March 16, 2017, jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

E.C. 866—Mar. 21, 2017: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs—Specific Administrative Provisions for the Veterinary Services Grants Program (RIN: 0524-AA70) received March 20, 2017.

E.C. 1188—Apr. 28, 2017: A letter from the Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's 2016 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 228d; Aug. 15, 1921, ch. 64, title IV, Sec. 415 (as added by Public Law 106-472, Sec. 312(e)(2)); (114 Stat. 2077).

E.C. 1279—May 8, 2017: A letter from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—United States Standards for Barley received May 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1280—May 8, 2017: A letter from the NIFA Director, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Competitive and Non-competitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs—General Award Administrative Provisions and Specific Administrative Provisions (RIN: 0524-AA69) received May 2, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1281—May 8, 2017: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (RIN: 0524-AA39) received May 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1347—May 15, 2017: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Doc. No.: FSIS-2016-0048] (RIN: 0583-AD05) received May 10, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1470—Jun. 2, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Asian Longhorned Beetle: Update List of Regulated Articles [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0097] received May 25, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1547—Jun. 8, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators Rule; Delay of Effective Date [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183; FRL-9963-34] received June 2, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1576—Jun. 12, 2017: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Recordkeeping (RIN: 3038-AE36) received June 2, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1577—Jun. 12, 2017: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Whistleblower Awards Process (RIN: 3038-AE50) received June 2, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1578—Jun. 12, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0076; SC16-983-2 FIR] received June 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1628—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0116; SC17-956-1 IR] received June 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1629—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Change in Quality Control Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0047; SC16-981-3 FIR] received June 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1630—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0088; SC16-966-1 FR] received June 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1631—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—National Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices [Doc. No.: AMS-NOP-15-0012; NOP-15-06 FR] (RIN: 0581-AD44) received June 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1632—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Triclopyr; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0036; FRL-9961-29] received June 7, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1657—Jun. 13, 2017: A letter from the Board Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Proposed Budget and Performance Plan, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Government Reform.

E.C. 1764—Jun. 22, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2017-2018 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0107; SC17-985-1 FR] received June 19, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1765—Jun. 22, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of the interim rule as final rule—Changes to Reporting and Notification Requirements and Other Clarifying Changes for Imported Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0083; SC16-944/980/999-1 FIR] received June 19, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1766—Jun. 22, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Beef Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-15-0084] received June 19, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1767—Jun. 22, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Pitahaya Fruit From Ecuador Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0004] (RIN: 0579–AE12) received June 20, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1839—Jul. 6, 2017: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Commission Delegated Authority Provisions and Technical Amendments (RIN: 3038–AE42) received June 29, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1865—Jul. 10, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [Doc. No.: AMS–LPS–16–0071] received June 28, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 1899—Jul. 11, 2017: A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for CY 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5.64 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended; to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2086—Jul. 26, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0116; SC17–956–1 FIR] received July 24, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2118—Jul. 28, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0111; SC17–945–1 FR] received July 26, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2119—Jul. 28, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0031; SC17–984–1 IR] received July 26, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2120—Jul. 28, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, *et al.*; Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2016–17 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0105; SC16–930–5 FR] received July 26, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2461—Sep. 12, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various

Statutes [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-16-0051] (RIN: 0581-AD58) received August 24, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2462—Sep. 12, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Hass Avocados From Colombia [Doc. No.: APHIS-2016-0022] (RIN: 0579-AE29) received August 24, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2502—Sep. 13, 2017: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2016 Annual Report on the Farm Credit System, pursuant to Sec. 5.17(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Public Law 92-181); to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2537—Sep. 14, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Black Stem Rust; Additions of Rust-Resistant Species and Varieties [Doc. No.: APHIS-2017-0049] received September 7, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2538—Sep. 14, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—U.S. Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts and Walnuts in the Shell [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0005, SC-16-331] received September 7, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2550—Sep. 18, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Bone-In Ovine Meat From Uruguay [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0050] (RIN: 0579-AE21) received September 12, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2551—Sep. 18, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2017 Amendments) [Doc. No.: AMS-CN-17-0003] received September 13, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2552—Sep. 18, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Persimmon With Calyxes From Japan Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0098] (RIN: 0579-AE27) received September 12, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2553—Sep. 18, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin; Modification of Allocation of Assessments [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0104; SC16-930-4 FR] received September 13, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2579—Sep. 21, 2017: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Orchids in Growing Media From the Republic of Korea Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0091] (RIN: 0579–AE24) received September 20, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2694—Sep. 28, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0033; SC17–922–1 IR] received September 22, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2744—Oct. 3, 2017: A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulation Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Water and Waste Loans and Grants (RIN: 0572–AC36) received September 27, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2774—Oct. 5, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Persimmons From New Zealand Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0052] (RIN: 0579–AE26) received October 4, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2804—Oct. 10, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tolfenpyrad; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA–HQ–OPP–2017–0309; FRL–9967–72] received October 5, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2805—Oct. 10, 2017: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2017 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency's current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); Public Law 101–73, Sec. 1206(a); (103 Stat. 523); to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2872—Oct. 23, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pecans Grown in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas; Establishment of Assessment Rates [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0027; SC17–986–1 FR] received October 6, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 2997—Oct. 31, 2017: A letter from the Board Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule—Assessment and Apportionment of Administrative Expenses (RIN: 3052–AD30) received October 26, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3136—Nov. 9, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Depart-

ment of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Black Stem Rust; Additions of Rust-Resistant Species and Varieties [Doc. No.: APHIS–2017–0049] received November 3, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3221—Nov. 29, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; *De Minimis* Quantity Exemption Threshold [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0066] received November 27, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3222—Nov. 29, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida; Change in Size Requirements for Oranges [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0064; SC17–905–2 IR] received November 27, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3223—Nov. 29, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Minimum Quality and Handling Standards for Domestic and Imported Peanuts Marketed in the United States; Change to the Quality and Handling Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0102; SC16–996–3 FR] received November 27, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3224—Nov. 29, 2017: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0048; SC17–983–2 IR] received November 27, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3277—Dec. 4, 2017: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Mango Fruit From Vietnam Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2016–0026] (RIN: 0579–AE25) received November 29, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3390—Dec. 14, 2017: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [EPA–HQ–OPP–2017–0563; FRL–9969–16] received November 28, 2017, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3502—Dec. 21, 2017: A letter from the Acting Director, PDRA, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (RIN: 0572–AC37) received December 11, 2017 to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3536—Dec. 21, 2017: A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's CY 2016 annual report on activities under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical

Forest Conservation Act of 1998, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1738m(a); July 10, 1954, ch. 469, title VI, Sec. 614 (as added Public Law 101-624 Sec. 1512); (104 Stat. 3662) and 22 U.S.C. 2431k(a); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 813(a) (as added by Public Law 105-214, Sec. 1); (112 Stat. 893); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

E.C. 3801—Jan. 21, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting The Department's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0036; SC17-982-1 FR] received January 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3802—Jan. 21, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pecans Grown in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas; Establishment of Reporting Requirements and New Information Collection [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0032; SC17-986-2 FR] received January 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3816—Jan. 25, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Change in Size Requirements for Grapefruit [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0063; SC17-905-1 IR] received January 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3817—Jan. 25, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0035; SC17-984-1 FIR] received January 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3896—Feb. 7, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Orchids in Growing Media From Taiwan [Docket No.: APHIS-2016-0005] (RIN: 0579-AE28) received January 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 3982—Feb. 14, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standardizing Phytosanitary Treatment Regulations: Approval of Cold Treatment and Irradiation Facilities; Cold Treatment Schedules; Establishment of Fumigation and Cold Treatment Compliance Agreements [Doc. No.: APHIS-2013-0081] (RIN: 0579-AD90) received February 12, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4065—Feb. 23, 2018: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Indaziflam; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0551; FRL-9973-10] received February 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.



E.C. 4130—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Onions Grown in South Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0040; SC17-959-1 FR] received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4131—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA): Guidance on Growers' Trust Protection Eligibility and Clarification of "Written Notification" [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0045] (RIN: 0581-AD50) received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4132—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2017–2018 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0107; SC17-985-1A FR] received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4133—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Redistricting and Importer Representation [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0097] received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4134—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0033; SC17-922-1 FIR] received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4135—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Methyl Bromide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0447; FRL-9971-19] received February 27, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4151—Mar. 1, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Increased Assessment Rate for Processed Pears [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-170045; SC17-927-1 FR] received February 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4219—Mar. 13, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Federal Grain Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fees for Official Inspection and Official Weighing Services Under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) received February 28, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4272—Mar. 15, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final

rule—National Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices [Doc. No.: AMS–NOP–15–0012; NOP–15–06] (RIN: 0581–AD75) received March 14, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4288—Mar. 19, 2018: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Expiration Date Required for Serial and Subserials and Determination of Expiration Date of Product [Doc. No.: APHIS–2009–0028] (RIN: 0579–AD06) received March 15, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4289—Mar. 19, 2018: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of *Campanula* spp. Plants for Planting in Approved Growing Media From Denmark Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2016–0051] (RIN: 0579–AE31) received March 15, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4290—Mar. 19, 2018: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food Agriculture, Office of Grants and Financial Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) Certification Process (RIN: 0524–AA39) received March 14, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4522—Apr. 13, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Restructuring of Regulations on the Importation of Plants for Planting [Doc. No.: APHIS–2008–0011] (RIN: 0579–AD75) received March 21, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4523—Apr. 13, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fresh Cherimoya Fruit From Chile Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0015] (RIN: 0579–AE13) received March 29, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4588—Apr. 18, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Lemons From Chile Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS–2015–0051] (RIN: 0579–AE20) received April 9, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4638—Apr. 23, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rinderpest; Update of Communicable Animal Disease Provisions [Doc. No.: APHIS–2017–0070] received April 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4714—May 7, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Promotion and Economics Division, Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Honey Packers and Importers Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Information Order; Change in Producer Eligibility Requirements and Implementation

of Changes for Past Due Assessments [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0124] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4715—May 7, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, *et al.*; Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2017–18 Crop Year for Cranberries [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0061; SC17-929-2-FR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4716—May 7, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Subpart Nomenclature Change; Technical Amendment [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0083; SC18-915-I FR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4717—May 7, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0037; SC17-906-1 FR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4718—May 7, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida; Change in Size Requirements for Oranges [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0064; SC17-905-2 FIR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4820—May 15, 2018: A letter from the Acting PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revisions and Clarifications in Requirements for the Processing of Donated Foods [FNS-2017-0001] (RIN: 0584-AE38) received May 7, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4911—May 18, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0051; SC17-966-1 FR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4912—May 18, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines and Pummelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Change of Size Requirements for Grapefruit [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0063; SC17-905-1 FIR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4913—May 18, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico;

Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0048; SC17-983-2 FIR] received May 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4962—May 22, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—VSTA Records and Reports Specific to International Standards for Pharmacovigilance [Doc. No.: APIS-2014-0063] (RIN: 0579-AE11) received May 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 4983—Jun. 1, 2018: A letter from the Director, Issuances Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Elimination of Trichinae Control Regulations and Consolidation of Thermally Processed, Commercially Sterile Regulations [Doc. No.: FSIS-2015-0036] (RIN: 0583-AD59) received May 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5083—Jun. 8, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Threshold for *De Minimis* Activity and Exemptions From Licensing Under the Animal Welfare Act [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0059] (RIN: 0579-AD99) received June 4, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5084—Jun. 8, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Tree Tomatoes From Ecuador Into the Continental United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2015-0072] (RIN: 0579-AE23) received June 4, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5085—Jun. 8, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [Doc. No.: APHIS-2013-0049] (RIN: 0579-AC60) received May 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5086—Jun. 8, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule—Standards of Conduct and Referral of Known or Suspected Criminal Violations; Standards of Conduct (RIN: 3052-AC44) May 24, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5184—Jun. 15, 2018: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendments to the Swap Data Access Provisions of Part 49 and Certain Other Matters (RIN: 3038-AE44) received June 13, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5259—Jun. 21, 2018: A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions [Doc. No.: APHIS-2017-0055] (RIN: 0579-AE37) received June 19, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5451—Jul. 6, 2018: A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting CY 2017 annual report on activities under the Enterprise for the Americas Ini-

tiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2431k(a); Public Law 87–195, Sec. 813(a) (as added by Public Law 105–214, Sec. 1); (112 Stat. 893); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Agriculture.

E.C. 5537—Jul. 12, 2018: A letter from the Acting PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions To Reduce Paperwork in the Summer Food Service Program [FNS–2013–0026] (RIN: 0584–AD84) received June 11, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5542—Jul. 12, 2018: A letter from the Acting Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Conservation Program Recipient Reporting (RIN: 0578–AA64) received May 21, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5571—Jul. 13, 2018: A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Development Utilities Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Policy on Audits of RUS Borrowers and Grantees (RIN: 0572–AC33) received May 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5572—Jul. 13, 2018: A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Matching Funds Requirements for Agricultural Research and Extension Capacity Funds at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions in Insular Areas (RIN: 0524–AA68) received May 15, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5763—Jul. 24, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule—Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052–AC84) received July 18, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5772—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Milk in California; Federal Milk Marketing Order Promulgation [Doc. No.: AO–15–0071; AMS–DA–14–0095] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5773—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0074; SC18–905–1 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5774—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0082; SC18–925–1 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5775—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Depart-

ment of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Marketing Orders and Marketing Agreements, and Research, Promotion, and Information Programs [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–18–0007] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5776—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Change in Assessment Rate Computation [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0115] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5777—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, *et al.*; Establishment of Handler Diversion and Reporting Requirements and New Information Collection [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0066; SC17–929–3 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5778—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Milk in Florida Marketing Area; Order Amending the Order [AMS–DA–17–0068; AO–18–0008] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5779—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order 984 [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–16–0053; SC16–984–1 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5780—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—General Regulations for Federal Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crop Marketing Agreements and Orders; Authority To Meet Via Electronic Communications [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0086; SC18–900–1 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5781—Jul. 26, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–18–0001; SC18–932–1 FR] received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5802—Jul. 27, 2018: A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (RIN: 0560–AI39) received July 25, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5823—Aug. 3, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Almonds Grown in California; Revision to the Adjusted Kernel Weight Computation [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0084; SC18–981–1 FR] received July 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5824—Aug. 3, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, *et al.*; Revision of Exemption Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0047; SC17-930-1 FR] received July 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5825—Aug. 3, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule—Inspection Application Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0063 FIR] received July 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5880—Aug. 7, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock and Poultry Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Referendum Procedures Under the Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order and the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Removal of Obsolete References [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-17-0052] received August 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5881—Aug. 7, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2018–2019 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0073; SC18-985-1 FR] received August 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5915—Aug. 10, 2018: A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5916—Aug. 10, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule—Organization; Definitions; Eligibility Criteria for Outside Directors (RIN: 3052-AC97) received August 2, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 5969—Aug. 24, 2018: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conditions for Payment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims [Doc. No. APHIS-2015-0061] (RIN: 0579-AE14) received August 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6203—Sep. 12, 2018: A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Chief Compliance Officer Duties and Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap Participants; Amendments (RIN: 3038-AE56) received September 7, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6204—Sep. 12, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2018 Amendments) [Doc. No.:

AMS–CN–18–0013] received September 10, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6280—Sep. 20, 2018: A letter from the USDA/FSA Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule—Market Facilitation Program (RIN: 0560–AI42) received September 10, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6295—Sep. 24, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Increased Assessment Rate for Area No. 2 [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–18–0022; SC18–948–1 FR] September 18, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6296—Sep. 24, 2018: A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Establishing a Performance Standard for Authorizing the Importation and Interstate Movement of Fruits and Vegetables [Doc. No.: APHIS–2010–0082] (RIN: 0579–AD71) received September 18, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6336—Sep. 26, 2018: A letter from the Team Lead, Regulations Management Team, Rural Development Innovation Center, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Announcement Process for Rural Utilities Service Grant Programs (RIN: 0572–AC39) received September 18, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6520—Oct. 16, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Cranberries Grown in States of Massachusetts, *et al.*; Establishment of 2018–19 Seasonal Volume Regulation [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–18–0012; SC18–929–2 FR] received October 9, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6564—Oct. 19, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s notification of its 2018 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency’s current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); Public Law 101–73, Sec. 1206(a); (103 Stat. 523); to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6640—Oct. 30, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur Country, Oregon; Modification of Handling Regulations [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0077; SC18–945–1 FIR] received October 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6641—Oct. 30, 2018: A letter from the Regulatory Review Group Director, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs, Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility (RIN: 0560–AH69) received October 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.



E.C. 6642—Oct. 30, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, *et al.*; Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2017–18 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0071; SC18–930–1 FR] received October 17, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6643—Oct. 30, 2018: A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the 2017 Annual Report on the Farm Credit System, pursuant to Sec. 5.17(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Public Law 92–181); to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6816—Nov. 15, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—General Regulations for Federal Fruit, Vegetable, and Specialty Crop Marketing Agreements and Orders; Electronic Mailing Notice of Hearing [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–18–0066; SC18–900–2 FR] received October 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6817—Nov. 15, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 982 [Doc. No.: AO–SC–16–0136; AMS–SC–16–0074; SC16–982–1] received October 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6818—Nov. 15, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Changing of Container Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS–SC–17–0049; SC17–906–2 FR] received October 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6819—Nov. 15, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Livestock and Poultry Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Soybean Promotion and Research: Amend the Order To Adjust Representation on the United Soybean Board [Doc. No.: AMS–LPS–18–0015] received October 31, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6820—Nov. 15, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—United States Standards for Grades of Pecans [Doc. No.: AMS–FV–14–0101, SC–17–331] received October 29, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6846—Nov. 16, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 989 [Doc. No.: AO–FV–16–0016; AMS–SC–16–0011; SC16–989–1] received November 6, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6929—Nov. 27, 2018: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity

Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—*De Minimis* Exception to the Swap Dealer Definition (RIN: 3038-AE68) received November 15, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6930—Nov. 27, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities (RIN: 3052-AD28) received November 16, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 6931—Nov. 27, 2018: A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Office of Secondary Market, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Farmer Mac Investment Eligibility (RIN: 3052-AC86) received November 13, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 7009—Nov. 29, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-17-0044; SC18-906-1 FR] received November 26, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 7103—Dec. 10, 2018: A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3038-AE71) received November 28, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 7104—Dec. 10, 2018: A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Increased Assessment Rate for Fresh Pears [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-18-0048; SC18-927-1 FR] received November 28, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 7139—Dec. 12, 2018: A letter from the Team Lead/RD Innovation Center, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Rural Development Environmental Regulation for Rural Infrastructure Projects (RIN: 0572-AC44) received December 6, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

E.C. 7140—Dec. 12, 2018: A letter from the Team Lead/RD Innovation Center, Rural Development—Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—"Buy American" Requirement (RIN: 0572-AC42) received December 6, 2018, to the Committee on Agriculture.

#### B. STATUTORY REPORTS

USAID: U.S. International Food Assistance Report FY 2015, as required by Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act, as amended by Section 3010 of the 2014 Farm Bill. January 5, 2017.

USDA: NRCS report on the status of projects funded through the Conservation Innovation Grants Program, as required by the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198). January 10, 2017.

USDA: Report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79). January 10, 2017.

USDA: Annual report on the SNAP E&T projects as required by Section 4022 of P.L. 113–79. January 11, 2017.

USDA: NRCS report concerning formal appeals received from December 8, 2015 to December 9, 2016, as required under Section 280 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. January 12, 2017.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Plant Variety Protection Board as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. January 12, 2017.

USDA: APHIS audits or reviews of countries or regions that have received animal health status recognitions as required by the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2016. January 12, 2016.

EPA: Charter for the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. January 17, 2017.

GAO: Report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, FNS entitled *SNAP: Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*. January 18, 2017.

DOC: Report on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from October 1 through December 31, 2016, as required by Section 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. January 18, 2017.

FCA: Final Rule adopted by the FCA Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1971. January 19, 2017.

USDA: Report regarding use of categorical exclusions under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act as amended by Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. January 23, 2017.

USDA: Report by USDA Food and Nutrition Service on the demonstration projects to end childhood hunger and the related evaluation authorized and funded by Section 141 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. February 1, 2017.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods as required by P.L. 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act. February 3, 2017.

USDA: Map and perimeter boundary description for the Ontonagon Wild and Scenic River, in Michigan, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by P.L. 102–249. March 2, 2017.

USDA: Federal Grain Inspection Service Annual Report. March 27, 2017.

USDA: Proposed purchase of the Linville Cove tract from the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina by the Forest Service. April 5, 2017.

USDA: Annual Assessment of Cattle and Hog Industries as required by the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921. April 12, 2017.

USDA: Notice of the “NorthMet Project Land Exchange”, a proposed land exchange located in the State of Minnesota on the Superior National Forest. April 17, 2017.

USDA: Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. April 17, 2017.

DOC: Report on the export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from January 1 through March 31, 2017, as required by Section 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. April 17, 2017.

DOI: Estimate of anticipated wildfire suppression costs for each fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July as required by the FLAME Act of 2009. April 21, 2017.

USDA: Notice of the "NorthMet Project Land Exchange", a proposed land exchange located in the State of Minnesota on the Superior National Forest. April 21, 2017.

USDA: RMA report on progress made in developing and improving Federal crop insurance for organic crops. April 25, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service letter regarding the NorthMet land exchange on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota. May 4, 2017.

FCA: Semiannual report prepared by the IG of the FCA for the period of October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, pursuant to section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978. May 4, 2017.

DOE: Charter renewing the Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee. May 12, 2017.

DHHS: Report to Congress on Welfare Indicators and Risk Factors as required by the Welfare Indicators Act of 1994. May 17, 2017.

USDA: AMS letter informing of the release of producer list related to the South Texas Market Order as required under Section 1663 of the Food Security Act of 1985. May 17, 2017.

USAID: OIG Semiannual Report for the period ending March 31, 2017. May 22, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed Federal acquisition of Tract K-1576 located within the boundaries of the Cherokee National Forest, TN. May 22, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed Federal acquisition of the Conasauga River tract located within the boundaries of the Cherokee National Forest, TN. May 22, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed acquisition of the American Woodlands Tract G-1780 on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Virginia. June 1, 2017.

EPA: Charter establishing the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee to Negotiate a Proposed Rule to Limit Chemical Data Reporting for Certain Inorganic Byproducts under TSCA Section 8(a) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. June 5, 2017.

GAO: Report on a major rule promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, AMS entitled "National Organic Program; Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices." June 6, 2017.

USDA: Report on the effectiveness of the Restaurant Meals Program, which is operated by states as an option under SNAP. June 8, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed Federal acquisition of Upper Ammonoosuc on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. June 15, 2017.

USDA: Report presenting enrollment data, by state, for payments made for easements valued at \$250,000 or greater, payments made under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program subject to the waiver of adjusted gross income limitations, and payments made under the Conservation Stewardship Program. June 16, 2017.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: USDA report based on disclosures of wrongdoing at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. June 22, 2017.

U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Report based on disclosures of wrongdoing made by whistleblowers at the USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. June 22, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed acquisition of Brick Church on the Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina. August 3, 2017.

EPA: Charter renewing the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. June 5, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service providing notice of the proposed Brick Church acquisition on the Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina. August 3, 2017.

USDA: Letter outlining the Forest Service estimate of wildland fire suppression costs for FY17, as required in the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88), as a part of the Title V-FLAME Act of 2009. August 23, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service providing notice of the proposed "Santee Road" acquisition on Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina. August 29, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service providing notice of the proposed "South Eatmon" acquisition on Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina. August 29, 2017.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. August 29, 2017.

USDA: Final map and perimeter boundary description package for Tray Mountain Wilderness Area, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia as required by the Wilderness Act. September 11, 2017.

USDA: Progress report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014. September 13, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service proposed acquisition of "A.O. & Patricia Curran, Tract #0-6772a, b, & c" on Ozark St. Francis National Forest, Arkansas. September 20, 2017.

OMB: Global Food Security Budget Crosscut Report as required by section 8(b) of the Global Food Security Act of 2016. September 22, 2017.

USDA: FOIA request to AMS for a list containing contact information for growers of avocados around Homestead, FL. September 29, 2017.

FCA: Final rule adopted by the Farm Credit Administration Board under the provisions of the Farm Credit Act of 1972 to amend Title 12, Chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. October 16, 2017.

USDA: Notification of a revision to the CCC budget for FY18 as required by Section 5 of the CCC Charter Act and the Government Corporation Control Act. October 18, 2017.

USDA: Report that describes the annual disbursements and expenditures for each state and the number of organic operations served by the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program. October 19, 2017.

USDA: Report providing a summary of RCPP activity during Fiscal Year 2014–16, and includes the number and types of partners; the number of producers receiving assistance; total funding committed to projects from Federal and non-Federal sources; and a description of how RCPP funds are being administered. October 30, 2017.

USDA: 2017 Conference Transparency Report detailing all conferences with costs of \$10,000 or more sponsored to held by USDA or attended by USDA employees during the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. November 13, 2017.

USDA: Report providing a description of the extent to which the requests for highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation determinations are being addressed in a timely manner, as required by Section 1241(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985. November 13, 2017.

USAID: FY 2017 Agency Financial Report for the U.S. Agency for International Development. November 20, 2017.

USDA: Semiannual Report to Congress, which covers the 6 month reporting period from April 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017, summarizing the most significant accomplishments of the USDA's Office of Inspector General. November 29, 2017.

USDA: Report to Congress on factors that affect the export of specialty crops in accordance with Section 3202(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. November 16, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service letter giving notice of proposed "Honey Hill" acquisition on the Francis Marion National Forest, South Carolina. November 30, 2017.

USAID: Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending September 30, 2017 from the OIG at the US Agency for International Development. December 2, 2017.

EPA: Charter renewing the Local Government Advisory Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. December 8, 2017.

USDA: Report on the action plans developed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for high consequence plant pests and diseases to assist in preventing the introduction and widespread dissemination of new threats in the United States. December 12, 2017.

USDA: Report that describes the change in cropland reported to the Farm Service Agency for the years of 2016 and 2017 for all the counties in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. December 19, 2017.

USDA: NRCS report concerning formal appeals received from December 10, 2016 to December 11, 2017, as required under Section 280 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. December 22, 2017.

USDA: Forest Service final map and perimeter boundary description package for Dolly Soda Wilderness, Otter Creek Wilderness, Cranberry Wilderness, and Laurel Fork South Wilderness. January 4, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression costs for FY 2018, as required by P.L. 111–88, FLAME Act of 2009. January 12, 2018.

USDA: 28th Progress report on implementation of the provisions on certain types of fish in the Agricultural Act of 2014. January 12, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service proposed Keewenaw Land Association acquisition on the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan. January 18, 2018.

DOT: Quarterly report for the period October 1–December 31, 2015 of the Treasury Office Foreign Assets Control in the administration of the 1 year licensing regime set forth in 906(a)(1) of the Act with respect to the exportation of agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices to Iran and Sudan.

DOT: Quarterly report for the period January 1–March 31, 2016 of the Treasury Office Foreign Assets Control in the administration of the 1 year licensing regime set forth in 906(a)(1) of the Act with respect to the exportation of agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices to Iran and Sudan.

DOT: Quarterly report for the period October 1–December 31, 2017, submitted under 906(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

USDA: Report to Congress on the global effort to reduce child hunger and increase school attendance for FY15. February 1, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. February 8, 2018.

USDA: Report to evaluate pilot projects that test innovative Federal-state partnerships which identify, investigate, and reduce retailer fraud in the SNAP program. February 12, 2018.

DOC: Report to Congress on the export licensing actions taken by BIS relating to exports and re-exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from October 1 through December 31, 2017. February 13, 2018.

USDA: Report to Congress on the USDA Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program. February 21, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Recreation Resource Advisory Committees for the Eastern Region, Southern Region, and the Pacific Southwest Region. February 22, 2018.

USDA: Report on the SNAP E&T pilot projects as required by P.L. 113–79. March 5, 2018.

USDA: FY 2017 Federal Information Security Modernization Act reports. March 8, 2018.

USDA: Equitable Relief Report as required by the 2002 Farm Bill. March 12, 2018.

GAO: Report on National Organic Program; Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices. March 28, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the Human Studies Review Board. March 28, 2018.

DOS: Report to Congress on Efforts by Mexico to meet its Treaty Deliveries of Water to the Rio Grande in accordance with the Treaty between the United States and Mexico. March 29, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. March 29, 2018.

USDA: Report on the marketing methods and challenges with reporting livestock and meat markets to help identify improvements to the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Program and promote an orderly reauthorization of LMR in 2020. March 30, 2018.

FCSIC: Annual Report required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 31, 2018.

FCA: 2017 Annual Report as required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. March 31, 2018.

USDA: 2017 Annual Report as required under the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002. April 3, 2018.

DHHS: Report to Congress on Welfare Indicators and Risk Factors in accordance with the Welfare Indicators Act of 1994. April 5, 2018.

USDA: RMA Report on progress made in developing and improving Federal crop insurance for organic crops. April 10, 2018.

USDA: Annual report on the Federal Grain Inspection Service. April 17, 2018.

EPA: Charter re-establishing the Environmental Financial Advisory Board in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. April 18, 2018.

USDA: Pesticide Data Program Summary of 2016 Data.

USDA: Committee Charter for the National Organic Standards Board. May 4, 2018.

USDA: Wildland fire suppression costs for FY 2018, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, as a part of the Title V–FLAME Act of 2009.

EPA: Charter renewing the EPA Board of Scientific Counselors in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. May 9, 2018.

CFTC: Charter for the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Market Risk Advisory Committee. Descriptions of MRAC's purposes and the subjects it is intended to address are included in the enclosed charter. May 9, 2018.

FCA: Proposed amendments to title 12, chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations* as promulgated by the FCA. May 14, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service estimate of anticipated wildland fire suppression cost for FY18, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, as a part of the Title V–FLAME Act of 2009. May 17, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter regarding the proposed land acquisition of 11.25 acres, located in Hiawatha National Forest located in Mackinaw County, Michigan. May 8, 2018.

USDA: Report on the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program. July 19, 2018.



USDA: Forest service letter regarding the acquisition of land of 148 acres within the Shawnee National Forest, located in Alexander County, Illinois. July 20, 2018.

GAO: FSA report on promulgate rule 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program. July 26, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter regarding the acquisition of 185.55 acres that lie on either side of the Cherokee National Forest in a corner that connects Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. July 26, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter estimating anticipate wildland fire suppression costs for FY 2018 as required by P.L. 111–88. August 2, 2018.

FCSIC: Annual report for 2017 as required by the Farm Credit Act of 1971. July 19, 2018.

FCA: Amendments to title 12, chapter VI of the *Code of Federal Regulations* as promulgated by the FCA. July 24, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter to regarding proposed acquisition of 160 acres within Ouachita National Forest, located in Scott County, Arkansas. August 6, 2018.

USDA, USAID: U.S. International Food Assistance Report FY 2016 as required by Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act. August 9, 2018.

DOC: Report to the Congress on the export licensing actions taken by BIS relation to exports and reexports of agricultural commodities to Cuba from April 1 through June 30, 2018. August 20, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter regarding proposed acquisition within the boundary of the Uwharrie National Forest in North Carolina. August 20, 2018.

GAO: Seed Cotton Changes to Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Risk Coverage Programs. September 4, 2018.

GAO: Report on rule entitled “Market Facilitation Program”. September 14, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the national Environmental Justice Advisory Council in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. September 12, 2018.

DOI: Estimate of anticipated wildlife suppression costs for each fiscal year during the first weeks of March, May, and July. September 19, 2018.

USDA: Report to Congress on the global effort to reduce child hunger and increase school attendance. September 20, 2018.

DOI: Letter to notify the relevant congressional committees if the Secretary estimates that only 60 days worth of funds remain in the FLAME fund administered by the Secretary. September 21, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service letter regarding the proposed acquisition of 600 acres within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. September 28, 2018.

USDA: Estimated of anticipated wildlife fire suppression costs for FY 2019, as required in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. October 3, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. October 5, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2. October 17, 2018.

USDA: Forest Service report on conveyances of National Forest System land made by the Secretary during the period covered by the report. October 2, 2018.

USDA: Letter to notify of the intention to terminate Federal Marketing Order No. 953, which regulates the handling of Irish potatoes grown in Southeastern states. October 24, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. October 25, 2018.

FCA: Final rule to comply with section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. October 31, 2018.

EPA: Charter renewing the National Environmental Education Advisory Council. November 7, 2018.

DOC: Export licensing actions taken by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security relating to exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba during the preceding 2 year period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018. November 13, 2018.

USAID: Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending September 30, 2018, produced by the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Agency for International Development. November 20, 2018.

USDA: Report detailing all conferences with costs of \$10,000 or more sponsored or held by USDA or attended by USDA employees during the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

EPA: Charter re-establishing the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. November 27, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees. December 3, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board. December 3, 2018.

USDA: Committee Charter for the Forestry Research Advisory Council. December 3, 2018.

### C. MEMORIALS

Memorial No. 15. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3009, urging Congress to amend the 2014 Farm Bill to allow counties to use raw yield data from insurance companies to supplement the national agriculture statistics survey to calculate payments under the Agriculture Risk Coverage program when an insufficient number of surveys are returned to accurately calculate payments; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted March 30, 2017.

Memorial No. 19. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 2, requesting the Congress to enact legislation requiring revenues received by the Federal Government from wind and solar energy developments on lands of the United States be shared equally with the state in

which those developments are located; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture. Submitted April 3, 2017.

Memorial No. 32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6, urging that United States farmers, ranchers and food processors be enabled to compete freely and trade fairly in foreign and domestic markets on a strictly level playing field; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce. Submitted May 1, 2017.

Memorial No. 75. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 120, memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to support the domestic beef industry; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Agriculture. Submitted June 29, 2017.

Memorial No. 94. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 129, urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to support the domestic beef industry; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted July 14, 2017.

Memorial No. 104. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 211, opposing the nomination of Scott Pruitt as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology. Submitted August 11, 2017.

Memorial No. 159. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 31, urging the United States Congress to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise existing policies that promote the waste of water after an irrigated crop has been declared a failure; to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted January 8, 2018.

Memorial No. 189. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1007, urging the United States Congress to Reauthorize Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Funding; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Submitted April 27, 2018.

Memorial No. 253. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 19, urging the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and Utah's Congressional delegation to propose and secure the passage of legislation that requires PILT payments to be a fair and steady source of revenue that would otherwise be generated but for the Federal control of Utah lands; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture. Submitted August 7, 2018.

Memorial No. 254. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to House Joint Resolution 2, encouraging the Federal Government to consider moving the headquarters for the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to Utah; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture. Submitted August 7, 2018.

Memorial No. 266. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to State Joint Resolution No. 73, respectfully urging the Congress of the United States to pass the “Military Hunger Prevention Act”; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture. Submitted October 19, 2018.

Memorial No. 267. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 421, urging the Congress of the United States to pass the language from the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, as contained in the Farm Bill of 2018, removing industrial hemp from the Schedule I Controlled Substance List and legalizing commercial industrial hemp production in the United States; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted November 6, 2018.

Memorial No. 272. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 29, urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Submitted December 21, 2018.

#### D. PETITIONS

Petition No. 60. The SPEAKER presented a petition of David Koehler, State Senator, 46th District, Illinois, relative to Senate Resolution No. 377, urging the Congress to adopt a farm bill that supports and promotes the development of local and regional food systems; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted July 25, 2017.

Petition No. 80. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 28, to express the firm and unequivocal repudiation and opposition of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico to H.R. 4202 of the United States House of Representatives that proposes the application of the “Animal Welfare Act” to United States territories and, consequently, prohibits cockfights in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Agriculture. Submitted February 15, 2018.