

Calendar No. 111

118TH CONGRESS } 1st Session }	SENATE	{ REPORT 118-44
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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-  
TIONS BILL, 2024

JUNE 22, 2023—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2131]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 2131) mak-  
ing appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal  
year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, reports fa-  
vorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

*New obligatory authority*

Total of bill as reported to the Senate .....	\$207,458,404,000
Amount of 2023 appropriations .....	247,390,665,000
Amount of 2024 budget estimate .....	237,568,394,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2023 appropriations .....	– 39,932,261,000
2024 budget estimate .....	– 30,109,990,000

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## OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE BILL

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

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

The discretionary programs and activities of USDA and FDA that are supported by this bill include high priority responsibilities entrusted to the Federal Government and its partners to protect human health and safety, contribute to economic recovery, and achieve policy objectives strongly supported by the American people.

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

Fiscal year 2023 levels cited in this report reflect amounts enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 116–260) and do not include fiscal year 2023 supplemental appropriations. Accordingly, any comparisons to fiscal year 2023 do not reflect fiscal year 2023 supplemental appropriations. Fiscal year 2023 supplemental appropriations are included in the comparative statement of new budget authority at the end of this report under the heading “Other Appropriations”.

## REPORTS TO CONGRESS

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

## BREAKDOWN BY TITLE

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

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2023 enacted	Committee recommendation
Title I: Agricultural programs .....	8,394,410	8,579,816
Title II: Farm Production and Conservation programs .....	35,185,732	28,270,107
Title III: Rural economic and community development programs .....	4,080,503	3,942,517
Title IV: Domestic food programs .....	189,057,589	161,160,930
Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs .....	2,242,578	2,297,578
Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration .....	3,542,938	3,562,938
Title VII: General provisions .....	— 536,800	— 355,482
Other Appropriations .....	5,421,715	.....
Total, new budget (obligational) authority .....	247,388,665	207,458,404

TITLE I  
 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS  
 PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
 (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$65,607,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	112,634,000
Committee recommendation .....	65,067,000

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

The general authority of the Secretary to supervise and control the work of the Department is contained in the Organic Act (Public Law 101-624). The delegation of regulatory functions to Department employees and authorization of appropriations to carry out these functions is contained in 7 U.S.C. 450c-450g.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$65,067,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee for each office and activity:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary .....	7,432	34,713	7,432
Office of Homeland Security .....	1,396	2,396	1,396
Office of Tribal Relations .....	5,190	6,533	5,190
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	9,280	10,357	9,280
Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration .....	1,706	1,742	1,706
Departmental Administration .....	26,716	35,627	26,716
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs .....	4,609	4,727	4,609
Office of Communications .....	8,738	16,539	8,738
Total .....	65,067	112,634	65,067

*Camelina*.—As a nonfood crop that can be planted on land that would otherwise be idle or fallow and harvested to produce low-carbon feedstock for renewable biofuels and chemicals, camelina offers tremendous agronomic and economic benefits. The Committee is aware of the Department's efforts to expand crop insurance coverage for camelina under the existing pilot program and encourages USDA to further expand safety net offerings so that growers can introduce camelina into their existing crop rotations and gain important environmental and economic benefits, while further supporting American energy independence.

*Canadian Variety Registration*.—The Committee is concerned about unfair wheat variety registration practices that negatively affect American wheat growers that export to Canada. Currently, the Canadian wheat varietal registration system is overly burdensome to many American-developed varieties, requiring multiple years of Canadian test plot data and considering agronomic factors that are not relevant to the end use attributes of the grain. This results in U.S. farmers growing very few acres of registered varieties and has limited the opportunity to increase export trade. While the relevant provisions of USMCA regarding wheat grading made important changes, additional work is needed to ensure American growers can benefit from those changes. Therefore, the Committee urges the Secretary to work with the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to prioritize conversations with the Canadian government to address trade inequities resulting from Canada's current wheat varietal registration practices.

*Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC] Obligations and Commitments*.—The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the CCC.

*Communications Services for Limited English Proficient Communities*.—The Committee is supportive of efforts the department is taking to improve communications, which should include mediums such as television and radio, to reach limited English proficient [LEP] communities. However, to improve implementation, the Committee encourages the department to review the communication practices and create uniform applications across all USDA agencies to strengthen communication practices to include digital, television and radio advertising when working with limited English proficient communities. The Committee further directs each Department and agency funded by this Act with annual advertising budgets to include a report on expenditures related to local media advertising to include digital, television and radio no more than 30 days after the passage of this Act. The Committee also mandates that a portion of the advertising expenditures dedicated to LEP communities is dedicated to ethnic media outlets that work with hard-to-reach communities to ensure equity across all media outlets.

*Institute for Rural Partnerships*.—The Committee recognized the unique challenges faced by rural communities when it provided funding in fiscal year 2023 to continue three Institutes for Rural Partnerships in geographically diverse locations to identify and support community, statewide and regional partnership to address

these challenges. As rural challenges evolve, the continued need for these Institutes is clear. Therefore, the Committee provides \$9,000,000—to be divided equally to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships at established land-grant universities, which were originally funded in fiscal year 2022. Funding will support focused research and applied transitional needs locally and regionally.

*Office of Tribal Relations.*—The Committee supports elevating the Office of Tribal Relations to an Assistant Secretary level and encourages the Secretary to evaluate the resources needed.

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

*Train Derailments.*—The Committee is concerned with recent train derailments and specifically its impact on farmers and rural communities. Farmers in Ohio and Pennsylvania are unsure what long-term impacts the derailment and its chemical release will have on the safety and value of farm products, which could impact overall farm viability. As farmers are crucial to rural communities and the overall economy of the U.S., the Committee directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to support farmers through targeted outreach with information about the derailment, assistance with soil testing, mitigation for impacts to agricultural products, and resources to support farmers who can demonstrate they were affected by the derailment.

*USDA Customer and Producer Farm Delivery Systems Modernization.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan within 60 days of enactment of this act that accelerates the continued implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application and Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset [EDAPT]. Despite the continued direction and funding provided by Congress in previous fiscal years for these modernization applications, the Committee is aware that the Farm Service Agency, the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer continue to maintain numerous legacy mission support systems that should be decommissioned and transitioned to applications and mission support services systems that are interoperable, facts-based, data driven, and are provided efficiently, effectively, and professionally with a commitment to excellent customer service for USDA customers, including farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

*Voting-related Activities.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide to the Committee a briefing, no later than 90 days after enactment of this act, regarding any strategic plans developed by the department since January 20, 2021 outlining the ways the department has promoted voter registration and voter participation.



## EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

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

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$28,181,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	35,597,000
Committee recommendation .....	30,181,000

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$30,181,000 for the Office of the Chief Economist.

*Pest Management.*—The Committee recognizes the need for Federal pesticide policy to be science-based and keep in mind the needs of agricultural producers and encourages the Office of Pest Management Policy to evaluate the impact on industry.

*Policy Research.*—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155 for entities with existing institutional capacity to conduct complex economic and policy analysis and which have a lengthy and well-documented record of conducting policy analysis for the benefit of USDA, the Congressional Budget Office, or the Congress. Of the amount provided for policy research activities, \$2,000,000 shall be for a center based at an upper Midwest land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the region, including crop insurance, livestock risk management, and disaster programs, and \$3,000,000 shall be for the Department to focus efforts on entities that have information, analysis, research and staff necessary to provide objective, scientific information to support and enhance efficient, accurate implementation of Federal drought preparedness and drought response programs, including interagency thresholds used to determine eligibility for mitigation or emergency assistance.

## OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$16,703,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	17,494,000
Committee recommendation .....	16,703,000

The Office of Hearings and Appeals conducts administrative hearings and reviews of adverse program decisions made by the Rural Development mission area, the Farm Service Agency [FSA], the Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$16,703,000 for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

#### OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$14,967,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	21,135,000
Committee recommendation .....	14,967,000

The Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions including developing, presenting, and executing of the budget; reviewing program and legislative proposals for program, budget, and related implications; analyzing program and resource issues and alternatives; preparing summaries of pertinent data to aid the Secretary, Departmental policy officials, and agency program managers in the decision-making process; and providing Department-wide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget-related matters to the Committees of the Congress, the media, and interested public. The Office also provides Department-wide coordination of the preparation and processing of regulations and legislative programs and reports.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$14,967,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$92,284,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	95,061,000
Committee recommendation .....	92,284,000

The Office of the Chief Information Officer was established in the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-106), which required the establishment of a Chief Information Officer for major Federal agencies. This Office provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination, and direction to the Department's information management and information technology [IT] investment activities in support of USDA program delivery, and is the lead office in USDA e-gov efforts. The Office provides long-range planning guidance, implements measures to ensure that technology investments are economical and effective, coordinates interagency information resources management projects, and implements standards to promote information exchange and technical interoperability. In addition, the Office of the Chief Information Officer is responsible for certain activities financed under the Department's Working Capital Fund (7 U.S.C. 2235). The Office also provides telecommunication and automated data processing [ADP] services to USDA agencies through the National Information Technology Center with locations

in Fort Collins, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; and Washington, D.C. Direct ADP operational services are also provided to the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Communications, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Departmental Management.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$92,284,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$7,367,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	9,108,000
Committee recommendation .....	7,367,000

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

*National Finance Center.*—The National Finance Center [NFC] is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider and it provides integrated payroll and personnel services for over 640,000 Federal employees. To ensure that thousands of Federal employees' pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee has modified requirements under current law relating to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs the USDA to provide quarterly reports on full-time equivalent [FTE] levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, and functions, as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer [OCFO] and Office of the Chief Information Officer [OCIO] divisions, operations, and functions currently co-located with the NFC. The reports also are to include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each and any of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OCFO and OCIO functions compared to those during fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,367,000 for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,466,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,486,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,466,000

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights provides oversight of civil rights and related functions. This includes coordination of the administration of civil rights laws and regulations for

employees of USDA and participants in programs of the Department and ensuring compliance with civil rights laws.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,466,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

#### OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$37,595,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	38,617,000
Committee recommendation .....	37,595,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$37,595,000 for the Office of Civil Rights.

#### AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$40,581,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	124,628,000
Committee recommendation .....	40,581,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$40,581,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$7,581,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	7,630,000
Committee recommendation .....	6,586,000

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96–510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94–580), the Department has the responsibility to meet the same standards regarding the storage and disposition of hazardous materials as private businesses. The Department is required to contain, cleanup, monitor, and inspect for hazardous materials in areas under the Department’s jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,586,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$21,800,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	22,020,000
Committee recommendation .....	21,800,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$21,800,000 for the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$111,561,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	125,893,000
Committee recommendation .....	111,561,000

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

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

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$111,561,000 for the Office of Inspector General.

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$60,537,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	65,646,000
Committee recommendation .....	60,537,000

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$60,537,000 for the Office of the General Counsel.

*Organic Standard Integrity.*—To keep pace with new research and changing consumer demands, organic standards should be updated expeditiously to maintain integrity. The Committee encourages the Office of the General Counsel to prioritize the hiring of staff with expertise in the Organic Foods Production Act to address the backlog of organic standards updates within the National Organic Program.

## OFFICE OF ETHICS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$5,556,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	6,958,000
Committee recommendation .....	5,556,000

The Office of Ethics is the centralized and consolidated office implementing USDA's ethics program throughout the Department. The Office provides ethics services to all employees at the Department concerning advice, training, and guidance about compliance with conflict of interest and impartiality rules. This includes complying with the requirements of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (Public Law 112–105) and the Office of Government Ethics regulatory requirements (5 CFR parts 2634 through 2641).

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,556,000 for the Office of Ethics.

## OFFICE OF INFORMATION AFFAIRS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	\$9,966,000
Committee recommendation .....	

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee does not recommend an appropriation for the Office of Information Affairs.

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

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$2,384,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	2,414,000
Committee recommendation .....	2,384,000

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,384,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

## ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$92,612,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	98,453,000
Committee recommendation .....	92,183,000

The Economic Research Service provides economic and other social science research and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. The information that ERS produces is available to the general public and helps the Executive and Legislative Branches develop, administer, and evaluate agricultural and rural policies and programs.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$92,183,000 for the Economic Research Service.

*Agricultural Commodity Trade.*—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of international trade for U.S. agricultural commodities and believes that producers and markets would benefit from having access to additional data on the country of destination or origin of those commodities. Therefore, the Committee directs ERS to report on a quarterly basis the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities.

*Organic Data Analysis.*—The organic industry has grown at a tremendous rate over the past several years and accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential. Therefore, the Committee encourages ERS to continue and expand the efforts relating to organic data analysis.

*Rural Tract Codes.*—The Committee requests an update on the status and publication of the “Difficult Terrain and Access to

Urban Area” project, as well as a copy of the report upon its completion. The Committee also requests an update on ERS’ proposed plan to receive, review, and comment on the report.

#### NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$211,076,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	241,119,000
Committee recommendation .....	200,563,000

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

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$200,563,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, of which \$55,900,000 is for the Census of Agriculture.

*Barley Estimates.*—The Committee maintains funding for and expects NASS to continue providing barley acreage and production estimates for those States previously discontinued in 2016 and 2017.

*Chemical Use Data Series.*—The Committee maintains funding for and expects NASS to continue the collection and analysis of chemical use data, as well as practices such as integrated pest management. The Committee supports the NASS effort to resume collecting Fruit Chemical Use data and Vegetable Chemical Use data in alternating years and directs the continuation of this practice to ensure equal access to Federal statistics.

*Cost of Pollination Survey.*—The Committee maintains funding for NASS to continue the Cost of Pollination survey, which provides critical information to beekeepers and specialty crop growers.

*Cotton Estimates.*—The Committee encourages NASS to reinstate the Agricultural Statistics District level estimates for cotton, including in-season and end-of-season reports.

*Floriculture Crops Report.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Floriculture Crops Report and maintains funding for NASS to complete the report. In compiling the report, the Committee continues to direct NASS to include data from Alaska.



*Organic Data Initiative.*—The Committee maintains funding provided in fiscal year 2023 for NASS to coordinate with Agricultural Marketing Service for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

*Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey.*—The Committee encourages NASS to resume data collection and reporting so grape, wine, and juice producers can remain competitive and respond to challenges in the industry.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,744,279,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,938,303,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,792,879,000

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

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

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

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

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,791,879,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2023 levels.

*6PPD.*—The Committee notes that studies have suggested 6PPD–Quinone may be contributing to Coho Salmon mortality in the Pacific Northwest. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 to assess, analyze, and develop potential alternatives to 6PPD.

*Aflatoxin Mitigation Research.*—The Committee recognizes the increasing economic and food safety threat that aflatoxin poses to corn and other affected agricultural crops and products. Aflatoxin has historically been a regional concern in the southeast but is currently spreading to other parts of the country due to more frequent extreme weather events. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to expand research into methods of mitigating the risk of aflatoxin, particularly regarding responsive agriculture, human nutrition, and food safety.

*Agricultural Data Security.*—The Committee recognizes the critical need for agricultural data security advancements alongside increased use of autonomous systems and new technologies. To prepare for these needs, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 for ARS to collaborate with a land-grant university to research these data security needs and solutions. The partnership should involve a university with expertise in both agricultural technology cybersecurity.

*Agricultural Genomics.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for agricultural genomic research to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sectors in order to maximize the return on the investment in genomics of agriculturally important species.

*Agrioltaics.*—In the report accompanying the Senate fiscal year 2022 Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations Act, the Committee recognized the advancement in agrioltaics and its potential in renewable energy and water efficiency. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to conduct a study on dual-use renewable energy systems that includes an assessment of the compatibility of different species of livestock and different crop types with different dual-use renewable energy system designs as well as a risk-benefit analysis of dual-use renewable energy systems in different regions. Further, the Committee directs USDA to conduct a demonstration program on dual-use renewable energy systems in multiple regions of the United States, including arid, semi-arid, and wet agricultural zones. In picking locations for the demonstration programs, the Department shall prioritize cooperative agreements with land-grant universities and ARS climate hubs. The Committee also encourages USDA to enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement to provide education, outreach and technical assistance materials for producers. The Committee provides an additional \$1,500,000 for this research.

*AgTech Cooperative Agreements.*—The Committee provides an additional \$1,500,000 for cooperative agreements to support the research, development and acceleration of agriculture technology.

*Alfalfa Research.*—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics, and the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support research focused on alfalfa improvement. Research should focus on using tools to accelerate and enhance existing breeding programs focused on improving yield and quality parameters; developing innovative harvesting and utilization systems; developing new markets for co-products; and quantifying environmental benefits from alfalfa-based systems.

*Ancient Crop Genetics.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of plant genetics research in enhancing yields and reducing global food insecurity. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 for utilizing ancient crop plant ancestors to meet consumer demands and protect the global food supply.

*Animal Health and Agro-/Bio-Defense Program.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 enacted level to continue to support the Animal Health and Agro/Bio Defense Program.

*Appalachian Native Tree Crop.*—The Committee provides \$800,000 for the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station to study and expand native fruit tree breeding including the pawpaw, American persimmon, and hazelnut to expand new market opportunities for Appalachian farmers.

*Appalachian Natural Products Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to advance natural products research and applications with a focus on plant species in Appalachia.

*Aquaculture Seedstock.*—The Committee remains concerned that vital seedstock to support the development of aquaculture in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will be sourced from foreign aquaculture producers. Domestic on-land recirculating aquaculture systems are highly capable of producing seedstock to support significant domestic on-land and offshore aquaculture industry growth, including through broodstock acquisition and care, spawning, and larval culture techniques. Therefore, the Committee encourages USDA to continue working collaboratively with U.S. aquaculture producers and research institutions that specialize in the development of aquaculture technologies and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the development of aquaculture technology that will ensure a steady supply of warm water marine fish seedstock for the economic growth of the U.S. aquaculture industry.

*Atlantic Salmon Breeding Program.*—The Committee directs ARS to continue its Atlantic salmon breeding and domestication work. The Committee notes that domestic salmon farms are required to only use strains of salmon that are of North American origin and that these strains need substantial breeding improvement in order to be competitive with strains currently used by foreign producers. The Committee notes that the current ARS Atlantic salmon breeding program lacks a geneticist and supports efforts by the Department to address this need.

*Binational Agricultural Research and Development [BARD].*—The Committee is supportive of the activities carried out through BARD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support BARD's historical grant-making functions and expand BARD programming for food and nutrition as well as artificial intelligence.

*Barley Pest Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes that insects and viral, bacterial, and fungal diseases inflict substantial yield and quality losses to the barley crop throughout the United States, resulting in significant economic losses to growers and end-users. The Committee supports research to be carried out through the Barley Pest Initiative to address these major threats to sustainable and profitable barley production and utilization. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 to support this initiative.

*Bee Genomic Sequencing.*—The Committee is aware that the genome of the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, has been sequenced, but there are more than 4,000 bee species in the United States, not all of which are affected by colony collapse or population declines in the same way. The Committee recognizes the critical importance of bee species to American agriculture, floriculture, and ecosystem biodiversity and the increasing challenges to bee colony health related to parasites, poor nutrition, pathogens, and pesticides. Although progress has been made in understanding these influences on pollinator health, additional research into a broader range of genetic information will assist in addressing the decline in bee pollinators. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to sequence and study the genomes of all species of bees in the United States and directs that this research be conducted in conjunction with Midwestern land-grant universities with established expertise in bee genomic biology.

*Biosafety Level 2 Lab Space.*—The Committee recognizes that the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF] is an important component of the work that USDA does to protect the agricultural economy of the U.S. and to maintain our position as a global leader in animal health, biodefense, and biosecurity. The Committee is also aware that there exists a need for lab space, especially that meets Biosafety Level 2 standards, to support additional research and scientific work including on adult swine or cattle. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, the Secretary is directed to brief the Committee on its plans to ensure that the country has access to sufficient space to conduct pharmaceutical and biologic safety studies as well as for acclimation of research animals prior to transition to higher containment work. Initial awards should be focused on research on controlled environment agriculture in northern climates, densely populated regions, and small farms.

*Center for Pollinator Health.*—The Committee is aware that bees play a crucial role in U.S. agriculture as pollinators and that continued colony loss poses a serious threat to future food production. While the Committee commends the Department for the steps it has taken to better understand and address this problem, the Committee is concerned that the maximum benefits of multiagency efforts have yet to be achieved. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the Center for Pollinator Health in order to provide a central Federal voice on pollinator health. The Committee encourages ARS to collaborate with Federal and land-grant university partners to examine the impact of pesticides, varroa mites, and other potential contributors to bee colony declines.

*Central Crops Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for improvements to research capacity for ARS corn and soybean, and small grain genotyping work.

*Center for Soil Health Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support comprehensive soil testing in addition to critical research on emerging contaminants and biological characteristics of soil.

*Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].*—The Committee recognizes the importance of a live test for cervids potentially affected with CWD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research

dedicated to the development of such test and research on pathways of transmission.

*Citrus Breeding.*—The Committee provides an additional \$1,100,000 to continue a breeding research program focused on developing and evaluating citrus rootstock and scion materials in areas where citrus is grown.

*Citrus Greening Disease Research.*—The Committee commends ARS on its research efforts on citrus greening disease and encourages the agency to continue working to develop methods to reduce transmission and enhance immunity in citrus trees, and to work with industry, universities, growers, and other partners to develop effective control mechanisms. The Committee also encourages ARS to coordinate its efforts with the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination [HLB–MAC] group.

*Climate Hubs.*—The Committee understands the important role ARS has on addressing climate related issues. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS research teams to support regional Climate Hubs.

*Coffee Leaf Rust.*—The recent discovery of coffee leaf rust in the U.S. insular pacific has substantially impacted U.S. coffee agriculture, and the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to develop science-based management strategies, provide extension services, and research CLR resistant varieties of coffee.

*Controlled Environment Agriculture.*—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for research on nutrient and water management, best practices, logistics, the agriculture-energy nexus, and economic feasibility for controlled environment agriculture. Work should specifically include research on solutions to Tribal food sovereignty and access to traditional foods including viability for controlled environment cultivation of such crops and medicines.

*Cotton Blue Disease.*—The Committee is aware that emerging exotic pathogens of cotton, such as the Cotton Blue Disease identified in Southeastern States, could have a devastating impact on the cotton industry if they continue to spread. The Committee no less than the fiscal year 2023 level and directs ARS to coordinate with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS], academic partners, and industry to develop a multi-State sentinel program with the purpose of conducting research to establish biomarkers for these diseases and to determine whether there are viable extension management strategies pertaining to aphid control and general cotton management.

*Cotton Ginning.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of pollution abatement, improving fiber quality, ginning efficiency, cotton seed, and other byproducts and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to expand research in cotton ginning and innovation by existing laboratories.

*Cotton Genetics Management and Fiber Quality Traits.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the domestic cotton industry and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to expand research associated with cotton fiber quality and yield traits. No less than the fiscal year 2023 level is also provided for continued research on effective cotton genetics and management practices for improved cotton quality and production.

*Cover Crops and Cereal Grain Variety Selection.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to develop soil enhancement technologies and research cereal grains, cover crops, and invasive weeds as they related to the northern climates in regions dominated by permafrost.

*Cover Crops Research and Outreach.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of developing profitable and practicable cover crop options for use in dairy, grain, and vegetable production systems, including for use in no-till organic systems and as forages. Therefore, the Committee provides an additional \$250,000 to support research with the purposes of improving measures of soil health and resiliency; varietal development; optimal dairy forage species combinations; timing and strategies for cover crop seeding and termination; forage integration into organic dairy systems; and mitigation of environmental and extreme rainfall impacts on water quality and soil security for diverse cover crop systems.

*Cranberry Research.*—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in water conservation, pest control, disease reduction, and fruit quality improvements in cranberry production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the improvement of cranberry yields, pest and disease management, and water resource management by developing fields devoted to cranberry research and collection and storage of samples for analysis in appropriate existing laboratory facilities.

*Crop Production Systems and Crop Genetics.*—The Committee recommends no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support ARS activities in crop production systems and crop genetics in the mid-south region.

*Dairy Forage Research.*—The Committee provides an increase of \$800,000 for research and outreach on the attributes of alternative cropping cycles and forage systems for dairy production systems, including evaluation of the interactions between climate change, water quality, soil carbon, and cost-of-production in the short and long term.

*East Coast Shellfish Breeding.*—The Committee recognizes the dangers of parasites and bacterial and viral diseases to shellfish farmers and understands the importance of selective breeding to combat these infections. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for shellfish breeding research focused on the East Coast.

*Federal Invasive Species Control Lab.*—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

*Fish Meal from Woody Biomass.*—The Committee recognizes that the continued growth of the aquaculture industry in the U.S. and globally depends upon the development of sustainable fish meal. ARS is encouraged to accelerate work on fish meal from woody bio-

mass, such as yeast from woody biomass that have the ability to convert low-grade wood into high-value (high-quality protein source) fish meal with economic yields.

*Floriculture and Nursery Research.*—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of the floriculture and nursery sector of agriculture and the industry’s need for continued innovation. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to support academic and Federal researchers to pursue efforts in crop protection, breeding, mechanization, and other areas through USDA’s Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative.

*Food Systems.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to continue a Food Systems Center that addresses how local, regional, and global food systems can provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food, regardless of individual life circumstances.

*Forest Products.*—The Committee recognizes the important role of the forests products sector to the U.S. economy. The need to create new and improved value-added products and renewable energy from our Nation’s wood supply is critical to the sustainability of the National economy. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support research on wood product quality improvement and improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques. ARS shall conduct this research in consultation with the Forest Products Laboratory.

*Fusion of Machine Learning and Electromagnetic Sensors.*—The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for research on fusing machine learning and enhanced multi-spectrum sensors for the purpose of collecting real-time environmental data at the site of food production.

*Genetic Oat Research.*—The Committee recognizes the potential genetic oat research has to improve disease resistance (especially rusts and viruses), augment genetics, increase yields, and develop crop rotation systems that include oats, which will enhance the value of oats and provide benefits to producers and consumers. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to expand existing research focused on oat improvement.

*Genomes to Fields.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support the Germplasm Enhancement of Maize project to complement existing USDA maize germplasm programs and to support the emerging large-scale public sector effort to investigate the interaction of maize genome variation and environments, known as the Genomes to Fields project.

*Grape Genomics.*—The Committee understands the importance of the National Grape Improvement Center that, when complete, will be the world’s leading facility for grape genomics and gene expression research. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 for ARS to recruit and hire scientists necessary to operate the center.

*Healthy Soils Initiative.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support the study of enhanced food nutritional quality through Healthy Soil-Healthy Food-Healthy People Initiatives.

*Healthy Soils in Semi-Arid Locations.*—The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 to conduct research on soil health in the

semi-arid west within integrated cropland and rangeland ecosystems.

*Hemp Cultivar Development.*—The Committee encourages ARS to conduct biotechnology and genomics research in collaboration with capable institutions to elucidate the genetic control of key production and product quality traits in hemp to facilitate cultivar development. In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to partner with institutions already engaged in such research to conduct hemp genetic improvement research and breeding with new breeding and editing techniques.

*Hemp Germplasm.*—The Committee recognizes the increasing demand for hemp for a variety of uses and its growing importance as a crop for U.S. farmers. When the Nation's hemp germplasm was destroyed in the 1980s, researchers lost access to publicly available germplasm for plant breeding purposes. The Committee directs ARS to establish and maintain a hemp germplasm repository at the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for this purpose. The Committee also encourages ARS and the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit to partner with 1890 institutions that have existing institutional capacity on hemp germplasm research, education, and extension capabilities.

*Hemp Production Systems.*—The Committee recognizes the emerging market potential for U.S. hemp and hemp-based products for a variety of uses. The Committee directs ARS to conduct regionally-driven research, development, and stakeholder engagement to improve agronomic and agro-economic understanding of effectively integrating hemp into existing agricultural cropping, processing, and marketing systems. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for this purpose. Research, engagement, and technology transfer shall be conducted in strict accordance with all applicable Federal and State authorities and regulations.

*Herbicide Resistance Initiative.*—The Committee supports the creation of a regionally focused Herbicide Resistance Initiative for the Pacific Northwest to identify and overcome herbicide resistance associated with the crop production pathway, reducing production losses and reducing or eliminating pressure on trade limits due to contamination. The Committee supports research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with ARS, research institutions and stakeholder support. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support the initiative.

*High Performance Computing Support.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support high performance computing capability to address scientific needs and directs ARS to collaborate with appropriate partners with the technical capacity and scientific synergy to provide cost-effective high performance computing support.

*Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research.*—The Committee recognizes that critical research is needed to mitigate against threats posed by landscape use, pests, and pathogens to the beekeeping and specialty crop industries, and to the health of pollinators in general. ARS shall prioritize Honey Bee Breeding, Genet-



ics, and Physiology Research to study breeding resistance in bees from mites, diseases, and various other threats.

*Hops Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support hops research.

*Human Nutrition Research.*—Maintenance of health throughout the lifespan, along with prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations, are the major emphases of human nutrition research. This research supports USDA's strategic goals of nutrition monitoring; the scientific basis for dietary recommendations; prevention of obesity and related diseases; and life stage nutrition and metabolism, in order to better define the role of nutrition in pregnancy and growth of children and for healthier aging. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to expand research regarding life stage nutrition and metabolism and the growth, health promotion, disease prevention, diet, and immune function of the developing child, especially the rural child. The Committee also provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to address the vital role that research has on human nutrition and an aging population.

*Impact of Harmful Algal Bloom [HAB] on Aquaculture.*—The Committee recognizes the negative effects of algal blooms on aquaculture products. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level and directs the ARS to coordinate with academic partners to understand the effects of chemical mixtures of algal blooms on aquaculture and to develop application control strategies to sustain growth in aquaculture production systems that are able to be extended to industry.

*Improvements in Broiler Production.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level and directs ARS to coordinate with academic partners to understand the interactions between parasites and viruses in antibiotic free poultry production for improved vaccination strategies and products that are able to mitigate against coinfections in poultry products.

*Improving Health and Productivity of Agricultural Fields.*—The Committee recognizes the potential benefits that fast-growing, biomass convertible cover crops, such as canola, could have on improving the profitability and sustainability of small to medium-sized farms. As such, the Committee directs ARS to provide no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory to conduct research focused on identifying fast growing cover crops that have the ability to generate farmer profitability as a cash crop and as a biofuel source, while also improving the productivity and health of agricultural soils.

*Invasive Pests.*—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

*Laboratory Staffing.*—The Committee directs ARS to fully staff laboratories even if the laboratory is proposed to be closed in the budget request.

*Little Cherry Disease.*—The Committee is concerned by the growing prevalence of Little Cherry Disease in the Pacific Northwest and the significant threat that it poses to the region's stone fruit. The Committee includes an additional \$750,000 for research on detection and mitigation of the disease and the vector insects involved.

*Macadamia Tree Health Initiative.*—The Macadamia Tree Health Initiative was authorized for the purpose of developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat the macadamia felted coccid. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for this purpose.

*Measurement and Monitoring Innovation Lab.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue to support the ARS Agricultural Measurement and Monitoring Innovation Lab.

*Meat Animal Research Center.*—The Committee encourages ARS to prioritize research critical for the beef industry including climate adaptation and climate resiliency; optimized natural resource utilization; improved production efficiencies, meat safety, and meat quality in support of the vitality of rural communities; and the environmental sustainability of beef production, including reduced methane emissions.

*Methyl Bromide Alternatives.*—Farmers throughout the country continue to face significant adverse economic and operational impacts associated with the phase-out of methyl bromide. Therefore, to meet ongoing needs for collaborative information sources on state-of-the-art fumigant alternatives for use by researchers, growers, food processors, legislators, government policy officials, and other interested parties, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide continued funding for education and outreach regarding methyl bromide alternatives to minimize the impacts of soil and post-harvest pests to agriculture and maintain critical domestic and international markets.

*Missouri River Basin Water Resource Management Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research on the benefits of improving flood control on the lower Missouri River, assessing the impact on commodity process of river navigability, evaluating the probabilities of levee failure and associated damage under different protection scenarios, and utilizing biophysical simulation models to evaluate agricultural production and minimize erosion and pollution runoff while supporting flood control, navigation, and drinking and cooling water supplies.

*Mitigation of Salmonella in Poultry.*—The Committee recognizes that additional research may be necessary in order to reduce salmonella related illness and meet the Healthy People 2030 goal. The Committee encourages ARS to partner with a Hispanic Serving Institution, that has previous experience with the U.S National Poultry Research Center, in efforts to mitigate salmonella in poultry production and processing and improve public health.

*National Agricultural Library [NAL].*—The Committee strongly encourages ARS to maintain its focus on agriculture-related legal

issues within the NAL. The Committee notes that as the agriculture sector faces increasing financial stress, there is a necessity that agriculture-related legal issues be addressed on an increasingly frequent basis. Further, agricultural-related legal issues are increasingly complex and the impact of these legal issues continues to broaden in scope. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support climate science research at the NAL. Further, the Committee provides funding at the fiscal year 2023 level to the Agricultural Law Information Partnership, including for the existing partner institutions, and recommends that the National Agricultural Library continue to play an important role in assisting all stakeholders with understanding these complex legal issues. The Committee encourages ARS and the National Agricultural Library to engage in multi-year cooperative agreements with the Agricultural Law Information Partnership's partner institutions.

*National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility.*—The Committee an additional \$9,000,000 to continue stand-up activities and other initial costs to operate and maintain the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF].

*Nematodes.*—The Committee recognizes that one of the biggest trade, quality, and condition irritants for potato research in the Pacific Northwest are nematodes. The Committee provides \$1,300,000 to support research into sampling methods and suppression strategies for nematodes.

*Onion Breeding.*—The Committee understands the challenges facing the onion industry including perishability, disease and pest management, and low yield. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for ARS to research onion breeding and genetics. The research should work to develop new onion varieties, resiliency against disease and pests, as well as adoption of automation and mechanization technology.

*Pacific Shellfish Genetics and Breeding.*—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of shellfish aquaculture for rural and coastal communities on the Pacific coast and the need for resilient, healthy genetic stocks that can withstand the region's changing ocean and coastal conditions as well as new disease threats. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for a shellfish genetics and breeding program to develop genetically improved stock, promote enhanced disease resiliency, modernize production technologies, and transfer technology and improved stocks to shellfish farmers in Pacific States.

*PFAS Solutions Throughout Agricultural and Food Systems.*—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 to establish a Center of Excellence for PFAS solutions throughout Agricultural and Food Systems in conjunction with a university partner. Funding shall be used on research to address PFAS issues in the agricultural landscape, animal uptake, adsorption, distributions, metabolism, and excretion, as well as the fate of PFAS residues in meat and dairy products as well as in animal urine and feces and subsequent distribution in the environment.

*Plant Associated Microbes.*—The Committee recognizes that plant associated microbes can play a critical role in promoting plant health and growth. The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for

the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory for additional research and storage and plant associated microbes to characterize key attributes that benefit plant production.

*Poultry Processing Research and Innovation.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support research focused on novel poultry processing approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

*Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research.*—The Committee is aware that bees play a crucial role in U.S. agriculture as pollinators and that colony loss poses a serious threat to future food production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue work at the Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research Center.

*Postharvest Dairy Research.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of developing solutions to address agricultural postharvest inefficiencies to conserve limited resources and feed a growing population. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research to develop postharvest technologies that decrease waste and improve resource use of protein, fat, and sugar in dairy processing.

*Potato Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the development of new management strategies for potato storage that will maintain potato quality, reduce grower and processor losses, and increase profits.

*Poultry Production and Product Safety.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to facilitate research in ionizing technology and its use to control various pathogens in vaccine development and other uses.

*Precision Aquaculture.*—The Committee recognizes that land-based, closed-containment aquaculture provides the capacity to raise freshwater or marine species in any locale with minimal environmental impacts. Implementing precision agriculture technologies in these systems will increase production efficiencies and profitability, ultimately increasing capacity for meeting the seafood demands of U.S. consumers through responsible and sustainable domestic aquaculture production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue the implementation of precision aquaculture in land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems.

*Predictive Modeling Tools.*—The Committee supports efforts to develop sustainable agricultural production systems for crops through the use of forecasting tools that incorporate post-harvest soil testing and in-season monitoring of plant pathogens to combat crop diseases. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to work with Federal and land-grant university partners in order to develop predictive modeling tools that aid farm management decisions to improve agricultural production of row crops.

*Predictive Crop Performance.*—The Committee is aware of the growing need for crop varieties whose performance minimizes risks associated with severe year-to-year fluctuations in weather pat-

terns. As such, the Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 for additional research that integrates high-throughput performance data collected with drone, robot, and on-tractor technologies with genome data to accurately predict which advanced lines have economic value and environmental stability.

*Pulse Crop Quality.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS wheat quality laboratories in researching and advancing the quality and overall utilization of wheat and pulse crops. The Committee provides an additional \$500,000 to further these efforts for pulse crops by establishing quality analysis standards, developing innovative production processes, and evaluating crop varieties for product functionality and market suitability.

*Pulse Health Initiative.*—The Committee supports the expansion of pulse crop research and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to enhance scientific research into the health and nutritional benefits of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans.

*Rangeland Precision Livestock Management.*—The Committee recognizes the opportunity for precision livestock management strategies and tools to promote economically efficient and environmentally responsive livestock production systems for the Western rangeland. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 to develop precision nutrition strategies for rangeland-based livestock as well as technology-based rangeland and livestock management strategies to optimize the health and productivity of both Western rangeland-based livestock and the rangeland ecosystem. Further, the Committee recommends this funding to transfer new knowledge and technology strategies into data-informed tools and decision guidance for Western livestock and rangeland managers.

*Rangeland Research.*—The Committee recognizes the demonstrated potential for cooperative partnerships to address complex sagebrush steppe ecosystem challenges in the Great Basin region. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for ARS to support a regional, multi-institutional cooperative partnership to advance collaborative science-based conservation research, extension, and education to address time-sensitive and shared rangeland challenges affecting sustainable agricultural productivity, rural communities, and ecosystem health.

*Recirculating Aquaculture Systems Research.*—The Committee notes that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world yet the U.S. faces a significant and growing trade deficit with nearly 90 percent of consumed seafood and aquacultured products imported from foreign countries. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support research into Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, an emerging land-based technology to expand production and add resilience to domestic finfish aquaculture.

*Research Facilities.*—The Committee understands the important collaboration between ARS and universities and the impact that aging facilities have on new research opportunities. The Committee directs ARS to submit a report that includes information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and cooperators, as well as the extent to which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.

*Resilient Dryland Farming.*—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in dryland production practices, cropping, and equipment to increase profitability, conserve the soil, enhance soil water storage, promote soil health, and decrease reliance on herbicides. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to expand research focused on resilient dryland farming. Research should focus on improving yield and quality parameters; developing cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases; and quantifying economic and environmental benefits from dryland crop production systems.

*Resilient Livestock Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of livestock as a main source of sustainability of food production systems to remain globally competitive and nourish a growing global population. In the face of increasing severe weather events, exponential expansion of the human population, and reductions in natural resources, livestock production needs to be more efficient and resilient to provide products for human consumption. The Committee support the ARS's Animal Disease Research Unit increasing its collaborative work to devise functional genomics strategies for developing traits in livestock to address disease resistance and improve resiliency in harsher weather conditions and provides \$2,000,000 to establish the Resilient Livestock Initiative.

*Sclerotinia.*—The Committee is aware of the economic importance of controlling sclerotinia, which affects sunflowers, soybeans, canola, edible beans, peas, and lentils and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for this purpose. The Committee encourages ARS to continue both core research and cooperative projects of the National Sclerotinia Initiative.

*Shrimp Production Research.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of increasing domestic shrimp production and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research and commercial development of production technologies that will improve shrimp health and streamline feed management regimes.

*Small Farm Orchard Production Current Research Information System [CRIS] Unit.*—The Committee recognizes the critical need for development of low-cost technology and innovative production strategies for small farm fruit growers that enables profitable operations on a variety of lands, including reclaimed mines, increases overall fruit quality, reduces production costs, and increases economic and ecological sustainability. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the purpose of implementing a Small Farm Orchard Production CRIS Unit.

*Small Fruits.*—The Committee recognizes the need to support research to promote sustainable and organic production of berry and grape crops with the goal of reducing pesticide use and improving quality and yield. The Committee provides an additional \$500,000 to support research to improve the ability to forecast pest and disease spread, implement precision management strategies, and improve the overall quality of fruit.

*Small Grains Genomic Initiative.*—The Committee supports research on barley and wheat high throughput genomics and phenotyping and recognizes its importance in improving crop traits and developing new cultivars. The Committee provides no less than

the fiscal year 2023 level to support the Small Grains Genomic Initiative.

*Smoke Exposure.*—The Committee is concerned about the impacts of wildfire smoke on winegrape producers and supports research to help growers and processors establish science-based threshold levels of smoke compounds that cause smoke-tainted grapes, identify the compounds responsible for smoke taints, develop mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke taint, and conduct research into compounds that can act as a barrier between the grapes and the smoke compounds. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for this research.

*Soft White Wheat Falling Numbers Test.*—The Committee recognizes the emerging crisis surrounding wheat starch degradation as detected by the Hagberg-Perten Falling Numbers [FN] Test. The quality loss was particularly devastating to Pacific Northwest soft white wheat producers in late 2016. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 funding level to research the accuracy of the FN test and better understand environmental, storage, and genetic conditions leading to this quality loss.

*Soil Carbon Research.*—The Committee recognizes the need for research into current and future dryland production practices to increase profitability, conserve soil, enhance soil water storage, promote sequestration of carbon and soil health, and reduce reliance on herbicides. The Committee no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research focused on improving yield; assessing the level of carbon sequestration through existing practices; developing new cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases by improving soil health; improving sequestration of carbon; and identifying opportunities for increasing sustainability of dryland crop production.

*Sorghum Crop Improvement.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for sorghum research to address increased drought pressure and erratic climate patterns through trait-based sorghum breeding, phenotyping, and associated genomic resources. This research will help develop varieties which respond to plant stress and deliver increased yield potential in these harsh semi-arid conditions.

*Southern Regional Research Center [SRRC].*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the SRRC crop adaptive resilience food program to conduct collaborative research with research universities by exploring the value-added enhancement of State-grown crops such as rice and other grains and pulses, to define the role for novel approaches in crop biological signaling and modification to yield environmentally sustainable, adaptive and stressor resistant varieties and interventions.

*Spray Drone Research.*—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 to support academic research on agricultural spray drones to safely and effectively improve productivity, sustainability, and precision application for growers.

*Strawberry Production.*—The Committee recognizes that the highly perishable, delicate, and labor-intensive nature of strawberry production makes this crop an ideal test bed for innovative automation technologies. The Committee provides an additional

\$500,000 to utilize innovative automatic technologies to enhance strawberry production.

*Sudden Oak Death.*—The European strain 1 [EU1] and the North American strain 1 [NA1] of the sudden oak death pathogen are major threats to western Douglas-fir/tanoak forests, resulting in quarantine restrictions that threaten U.S. forests and export markets for log shipments and lily bulbs. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research to improve understanding of the EU1 and NA1 strains of the sudden oak death pathogen and treatment methods to inform control and management techniques in wildlands.

*Sugar Beet Research.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for plant disease research to improve the quality of sugar beet production.

*Sugarcane Variety Development.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support research to shorten the conventional sugarcane breeding timeline, break through the current plateau in sugar content, and predict improvement in other traits such as cold tolerance, ratooning ability, and disease resistance.

*Sustainable Aquaculture.*—The Committee notes that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for a pilot Aquaculture Experiment Station in partnership with universities to support rapid response research on sustainable aquaculture for coldwater and warmwater production environments, with special emphasis on workforce education.

*Sustainable Poultry Processing Research.*—The Committee supports the utilization of food safety strategies to mitigate the increase in growth-related meat quality defects, such as myopathies, and food borne illnesses, particularly *Campylobacter*, that are associated with the increased supply of poultry production. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level and directs the ARS to work with academic partners to develop further meat processing strategies to enhance the utilization and value of myopathic poultry meat and reduce foodborne, microbial pathogens throughout the poultry industry complex.

*Sustainable Specialty Crops.*—The Committee supports research to advance sustainable and profitable specialty crop agriculture in the arid and semi-arid West. Maintaining productivity and profitability for specialty crops while adopting new sustainability practices is challenging. Decreasing the risk of adopting new sustainability practices is especially critical in water limited systems where options to control pests, pathogens, and weeds and increase productivity are constrained by the semi-arid and arid conditions. Additionally, opportunities for value-added products from post-harvest processing operations are needed to increase profitability and sustainability for producers and processors. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for this research.

*Sustainable Water Use Research.*—The alluvial plain within the Lower Mississippi River Basin is one of most productive agricultural regions in the United States. The Committee remains concerned with the unsustainable use of water in the Alluvial Aquifer as a result of increasing water withdrawals and stagnant re-



charging. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research to improve the recharge capabilities of the Alluvial Aquifer and to develop new conservation and irrigation techniques to reduce water usage in agriculture production.

*Tree Fruit Post-Harvest Research.*—The Committee recognizes that tree fruit production, including pear and cherry, is a predominant supplier for domestic and international markets. The Committee further recognizes that the tree fruit industry faces significant economic vulnerability from variations in post-harvest quality control. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for pear and cherry tree fruit research to optimize yield and post-harvest quality, extend storage life, and promote enhanced resiliency from endemic and emerging diseases.

*Tropical and Subtropical Research.*—Research on Tropical and Subtropical crops is critical as the presence of and destruction by invasive pests such as fruit flies, coffee berry borer, felted macadamia nut coxoid, plant viruses, and fungal diseases increasingly threaten crop security in the Pacific and Insular Areas. The Committee encourages ARS to support this research.

*Tropical Grazing Land Pest Management.*—The recent introduction of invasive insect species such as *Prosapia bicincta* has substantially impacted tropical grazing lands. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to develop science-based pest management strategies.

*Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Precision Agriculture Applications.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support efforts utilizing UAS in crop production operations and to address the challenges associated with data capture, transfer, and analysis.

*U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.*—The Committee recognizes that the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station is a valuable asset for grazing lands and sheep industry genetic research, and the repository of over five decades of sage grouse research and data. The station is not only valuable for the domestic livestock industry, but also the Western region's wildlife interface. The Committee provides funding for rangeland research and urges ARS to continue engaging collaborators to ensure the station functions as an agricultural research facility while also evaluating opportunities through a domestic livestock/wildlife collaboration.

*U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative [USWBSI].*—The Committee recognizes that fusarium head blight is a major threat to agriculture, inflicting substantial yield and quality losses throughout the United States. The Committee supports research carried out through the USWBSI. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to conduct further research on reducing the impact of fusarium head blight on wheat and barley.

*Warmwater Aquaculture.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to facilitate the advancement of technologies that improve the efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of warmwater aquaculture production.

*Water Quality Management Systems.*—The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 to assess, develop, and disseminate novel water resource monitoring systems that promote sustainability

practices for watershed and rangeland management necessary for small communities to prepare for a changing climate.

*Wheat and Sorghum Research.*—The Committee recognizes the potential impact heat and drought can have on the yield and quality of wheat and sorghum and the need for new cultivars to adapt to changing climatic conditions. In addition, sorghum crops have been hit particularly hard by the invasive sugarcane aphid and new resistant cultivars are needed. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for research to improve the productivity and quality of wheat and sorghum during uncertain growing seasons resulting from extended droughts and increased temperatures. Within this increase, funding is included to initiate gene flow research to advance the durability and sustainability of fitness traits in sorghum.

*Wheat Resiliency Initiative.*—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for a Wheat Resiliency Initiative that supports additional research into Wheat Stem Sawfly and Hessian Fly. This funding would allow researchers to build capacity to address underfunded and emerging challenges to wheat production throughout the United States.

*Whitefly.*—The Committee remains concerned with the whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*, epidemic, which is severely impacting pecan production in the Southeastern United States. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue this research.

*Wind Erosion Research Network.*—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 to develop infrastructure to predict wind erosion effects and target erosion mitigation measures in response to fire and vegetation loss and a changing climate.

*Woody Biomass for Recyclable Packaging.*—The Committee recognizes the potential for biobased thermoplastics made from woody biomass as more recyclable packaging material and encourages ARS to accelerate research and technology deployment in this space.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$74,297,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	41,405,000
Committee recommendation .....	88,869,000

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$88,869,000 for Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234) amends the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) by establishing an agency to be known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Secretary transferred to the Director of NIFA, effective October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. The mission is to work with university partners and customers to advance research, extension, and higher education in

the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation.

#### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,094,121,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,215,099,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,084,600,000

Research and Education programs administered by NIFA are USDA's principal entrée to the U.S. university system for the purpose of conducting agricultural research and education programs as authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a-361i); the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962, as amended (Public Law 87-788); the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (Public Law 89-106); the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (Public Law 95-113); the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note); the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-185), as amended; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-624); the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171); and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246). Through these authorities, USDA participates with States and other cooperators to encourage and assist State institutions in conducting agricultural research and education through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States and the territories; approved Schools of Forestry; the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University; 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and other eligible institutions. The appropriated funds provide Federal support for research and education programs at these institutions.

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,084,600,000 for research and education activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Hatch Act .....	7 U.S.C. 361a-i .....	265,000
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act .....	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7 .....	38,000
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program) .....	7 U.S.C. 3222 .....	89,000
Payments to the 1994 Institutions .....	534(a)(1) of Public Law 103-382 ..	7,000
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 3152(b) .....	30,000
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 3222a .....	10,000

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

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Centers of Excellence at 1890's Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 5926(d) .....	10,000
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 3241 .....	16,000
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156 .....	5,000
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions .....	536 of Public Law 103-382 .....	5,000
New Beginning for Tribal Students .....	7 U.S.C. 3222e .....	5,000
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture .....	7 U.S.C. 3319i .....	6,000
Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas.	7 U.S.C. 3362 and 3363 .....	2,500
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(b) .....	455,000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment .....	7 U.S.C. 3151a .....	10,000
Veterinary Services Grant Program .....	7 U.S.C. 3151b .....	4,000
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program .....	7 U.S.C. 3195 .....	4,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops .....	7 U.S.C. 3319d .....	2,000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institutions Challenge Grants.	7 U.S.C. 3152(b) .....	10,000
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education .....	7 U.S.C. 3152(j) .....	1,000
Aquaculture Centers .....	7 U.S.C. 3322 .....	5,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education .....	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832.	50,000
Farm Business Management .....	7 U.S.C. 5925f .....	2,500
Sun Grant Program .....	7 U.S.C. 8114 .....	3,500
Research Equipment Grants .....	7 U.S.C. 3310 .....	5,000
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4) .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c) .....	15,000
Alfalfa Forage and Research Program .....	7 U.S.C. 5925 .....	4,000
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative .....	7 U.S.C. 5924 .....	2,500
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program .....	7 U.S.C. 5925 .....	1,000
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository .....	.....	1,000
Special Research Grants:		
Global Change/UV Monitoring .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c) .....	1,400
Potato Research .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c) .....	4,000
Aquaculture Research .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c) .....	2,200
Total, Special Research Grants .....	.....	7,600
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System .....	.....	5,000
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.	.....	8,000
Total, Necessary Expenses .....	.....	13,000
Total, Research and Education Activities .....	.....	1,084,600

*Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards.*—The Committee remains determined to see that quality research and enhanced human resources development in the agricultural and related sciences be a nationwide commitment. Therefore, the Committee continues its direction that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA's agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCOR].

*Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.*—The Committee provides \$455,000,000 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI].

Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234) specifies priority areas within AFRI, includ-

ing an emphasis on conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding. The Committee strongly supports providing farmers nationwide with greater access to cultivars that are locally and regionally adapted to their soils, climates, and farming systems. The Committee is concerned that insufficient progress is being made in prioritizing this effort. As such, the Committee directs the agency to make regionally adapted, publicly held cultivar development a distinct funding priority within AFRI for fiscal year 2024 and directs the agency to take steps to improve its tracking of public cultivar projects within AFRI and report its progress in meeting this goal.

*Agriculture Technology.*—The Committee encourages USDA to support research and development of agricultural robotics, particularly to increase yields in vertically stacked farming production.

*Agroacoustics.*—The Committee recognizes the growing field of acoustics and the many positive impacts it may have in agriculture, particularly with respect to pest management. The Committee encourages AFRI to prioritize funding for agroacoustics in its basic and applied research program, as well as through the Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement grants.

*Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research.*—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa and forage has the potential to increase alfalfa and forage yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics. The Committee provides funding to support research into the improvement of yields, water conservation, creation of new uses, and other research areas holding the potential to advance the alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage industry.

*Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes.*—The Committee supports collaboration between USDA and the National Science Foundation to pursue advances in precision agriculture and food supply security. NIFA is encouraged to continue supporting the work of the Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes as part of its mission to provide opportunity through innovation.

*Algae Applications in Agriculture Research.*—The Committee encourages NIFA to support research on algae and algae application in agriculture, including new technologies and commercial markets for renewable and sustainable products derived from algae.

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

*Aquaculture Research.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the domestic aquaculture industry to the U.S. economy. The Committee provides funding for aquaculture research to address issues related to genetics, disease, systems, and economics.

*Brucellosis Research.*—Federal and State animal health officials have made eradicating livestock disease with significant reservoirs a national animal health priority. This need was reflected in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), which made the research and development of surveillance methods, vaccines, vaccination delivery systems, and diagnostics tests a priority research area

under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (Public Law 89–106), particularly for bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages the agency to make competitive grants available to study improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs.

*Citrus Disease Research Program.*—The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing and is provided \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding through the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Trust Fund, as authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334). The Committee believes research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages NIFA, to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board’s citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB–MAC group.

*Countering Seafood Fraud.*—The Committee remains concerned about countering economic fraud and improving the safety of the U.S. food supply. The Committee is concerned that adequate technology is not yet available to provide for appropriate sampling of the food supply. The Committee believes NIFA should conduct research to develop technologies that will provide rapid, portable, and facile screening of fish species at port sites, as well as wholesale and retail centers.

*Diversification in Agriculture.*—The Committee recognizes the rapid evolution of U.S. agriculture, including the diversification of practices, markets, and technologies as farms transition from one generation to another. The Committee encourages NIFA to prioritize investments that deliver hands-on technical education in diversified agriculture and food systems and to support technical colleges seeking to establish beginning farmer programs serving diversified agriculture and supporting farm viability.

*Dual Use/Dual Benefit.*—The Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture Using Agriculturally Important Domestic Species program is an interagency partnership grants program funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [NICHD] and USDA. The Committee strongly urges continuation of this partnership because it sponsors use of farm animals as dual purpose models to better understand developmental origins of disease, fat regulation and obesity, stem cell biology, assisted reproductive technologies, and infectious disease, which directly benefits both agriculture and biomedicine. This program also strengthens ties between human medicine, veterinary medicine, and animal sciences, which is key to success of the One Health Initiative.

*Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.*—The Committee continues to strongly support and maintains funding for the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Program.

*Enteric Methane Innovation.*—The Committee recognizes the value of public research in supporting innovation. AFRI is encouraged to prioritize applications that focus on the advancement of enteric fermentation solutions, such as cattle feed additives, methane-inhibiting vaccines, and breeding for low-methane cattle.

*Food Safety.*—The Committee continues its recommendation that NIFA prioritize research on technologies to rapidly and effectively detect pathogens or contaminants in order to address foodborne illnesses and improve the safety of our Nation's supply, including research of novel biodetection technologies.

*Function and Efficacy of Nutrients to Treat Obesity.*—The Committee supports research partnerships with academic entities to research how bioactive substances help reduce obesity. Given the persistent obesity problem in the U.S. and the associated and growing costs to Federal healthcare programs, the Committee strongly supports increased investment in this area, as it holds great promise to develop new methods to tackle obesity in our communities.

*Genome to Phenome.*—The Committee is supportive of the multi-university crop research initiative known as Genome to Phenome and encourages NIFA to support the development of tools and datasets that can be used across multiple crop species to improve the output and efficiency of agriculture. The Committee recognizes that investment in this area will help with developing advanced genome engineering tools for integrated optimization of crop yield and livestock feed for improved animal reproduction and nutrition and mitigation of environmental impacts from crop and livestock production.

*Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program.*—The Committee notes that research into laying hens and turkeys holds the potential to improve the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. The Committee recommendation funding to support research into laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme weather conditions, all which hold the potential to advance the laying hen and turkey industry.

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

*Multi-Trophic Aquaculture Research.*—Nearly half the seafood consumed across the world is the result of aquaculture, and the aquaculture industry is a critical and growing part of the U.S. economy. However, less than 1 percent of worldwide production comes from U.S. producers. The Committee is concerned that inefficient production technologies hinder the ability of the domestic aquaculture industry to compete on a global scale. The Committee supports development and demonstration of an integrated aquaculture system that would contain at one site a highly competitive and sustainable system with a low environmental footprint and primary self-containment capability. The Committee supports the development of a "Beta" model that would focus on developing, build-

ing, operating, demonstrating, and teaching around this intensified, integrated, bio-secure production technology for feed, fish-plant, and energy products.

*Organic Research.*—USDA’s National Organic Standards Board [NOSB] has identified key organic research priorities, many of which would help to address challenges that have limited the growth in organic production in this country. The Committee encourages NIFA to give strong consideration to the NOSB organic research priorities when crafting the fiscal year 2024 Request for Applications for AFRI and the Organic Transition Program. Given the growing demand for organic products, the Committee also encourages USDA to increase the number of organic research projects funded under AFRI and the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

*Protein Functionality.*—The Committee encourages USDA to support research projects that characterize protein from crop plants such as chickpeas, sorghum, lentils, fava beans, lupin, rice, oats, mushrooms, and water lentils to assess their suitability for use in food products. The Committee is particularly interested in research projects involving plants that can be easily cultivated in the U.S. and that are sustainably grown and produced.

*Risk Management Education.*—In light of the increase in mandatory funding provided for the Risk Management Education Program by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334), the Committee encourages NIFA to raise the maximum grant size in order to accommodate a wider range of project types and scopes, including regional and national projects, which would require a separate larger maximum grant size.

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

*Small Fruits Research.*—The Committee encourages USDA to support research to promote sustainable production of berry and grape crops with the goal of reducing pesticide use and improving quality and yield. The Committee is concerned about invasive insects, such as the spotted winged drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug, and the negative impact they have on small fruit production and integrated pest management. The Committee strongly encourages USDA to support research to improve the ability to forecast pest and disease spread and implement precision management strategies.

*Soil Health.*—The Committee recognizes SARE’s accomplishments to improve soil health through cutting-edge research, education, and extension on cover crops, diversified rotations, and managed grazing. SARE is encouraged to focus on increasing agricultural resilience in the context of a changing climate and the related economic, social, and environmental challenges, including through interdisciplinary systems research and education, farmer and rancher research and demonstration grants, and graduate student research grants.



*Specialty Crop Research Initiative.*—The Committee emphasizes the important role of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative in addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry through research and extension activities. The Committee encourages NIFA to prioritize proposals for, and enhance its overall commitment to the ability of farmers to extend their growing season through the use of winter growing techniques, including but not limited to high tunnel vegetable production.

*Supplemental and Alternative Crops.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of nationally coordinated, regionally managed canola research and extension programs. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to seek input from stakeholders and to give priority consideration to proposals in the peer review process that address research needs in production areas with the greatest potential to expand, as well as those where canola production is established and needs to be maintained.

*Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [SARE].*—The Committee is strongly supportive of the SARE program and directs USDA to ensure that research, education, and extension activities carried out within SARE remain intact. The Committee encourages consideration of expanding the focus on soil health, including soil carbon dynamics and increasing agricultural resilience in a changing climate.

*Tribal Seed Banks.*—The Committee directs NIFA, in consultation with Tribal governments, to conduct a study to identify Tribal seeds cultivars and assess current availability production, storage, and harvesting processes to protect Tribal seed banks; evaluate methods to preserve and ensure the availability for future generations; and advises on the role of USDA in protecting Tribal seeds. NIFA is further directed to ensure the confidentiality of sensitive information of Tribal Nations, including traditional cultural knowledge and information about locations that are considered sacred.

*U.S. Dairy Education and Training.*—The Committee encourages NIFA to support cooperative work with State-run universities in the Southwest with experience in bringing together students and young dairy professionals from multiple States in summer programs designed to provide practical dairy teaching with the goal of facilitating research into workforce safety and antimicrobial stewardship.

*Veterinary Corps.*—Veterinarians fulfilling the terms of a contract under USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, authorized by the National Veterinary Medical Services Act (Public Law 108–161), shall be members of the National Veterinary Medical Services Corps and members who have fulfilled the terms of their contract shall be alumni of the Corps.

*Veterinary Shortages.*—The Committee is concerned by the critical shortage of veterinarians in the public, private, industrial, and academic sectors, which serve on the front lines of upholding our Nation's food safety, public health, animal health, and homeland security. The Committee also notes that large portions of rural America have inadequate access to livestock and public health veterinarians. As such, the Committee provides an increase in program funding for both the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program and the Veterinary Services Grant Program.

*Workforce Development.*—Within the AFRI Education and Workforce Development initiative, the Committee directs the Secretary to prioritize applications that establish or expand career and technical training opportunities for meat processing.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$11,880,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	11,880,000
Committee recommendation .....	11,880,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$565,410,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	611,862,000
Committee recommendation .....	567,410,000

Cooperative extension work was established by the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (Public Law 63–95). USDA is authorized to provide, through the land-grant colleges, cooperative extension work that consists of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture and related subjects, and to encourage the application of such information by demonstrations, publications, through 4–H clubs, and other means to persons not in attendance or resident at the colleges.

To fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act (Public Law 63–95), State and county extension offices in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and Micronesia conduct educational programs to improve American agriculture and strengthen the Nation's families and communities.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$567,410,000 for extension activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and 3(c) and Cooperative Extension	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of Public Law 93–471.	325,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 3221 .....	72,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3) .....	11,000
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions .....	7 U.S.C. 3222b .....	21,500
Renewable Resources Extension Act .....	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq. ....	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs .....	7 U.S.C. 2662(i) .....	5,000
Food and Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program .....	7 U.S.C. 7642 .....	2,500
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields .....	7 U.S.C. 5925 .....	2,000
Food Safety Outreach Program .....	7 U.S.C. 7625 .....	10,000
Food and Agriculture Service Learning .....	7 U.S.C. 7633 .....	2,000
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network .....	7 U.S.C. 5936 .....	12,000
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):		
Food and Nutrition Education .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	70,000
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	5,000
New Technologies for Agricultural Extension .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	3,550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	8,395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	4,305
Total, Section 3(d) .....		91,250
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities:		
Agriculture in the K–12 Classroom .....		1,000
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities.		8,100
Total, Necessary Expenses .....		9,100
Total, Extension Activities .....		567,410

*Cooperative Extension System.*—The Committee recognizes the essential function that extension plays in ensuring that farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes are empowered to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology and a changing climate, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. The Committee is concerned that the Federal investment in this critical Federal, State, and local partnership has lagged in recent years, just as extraordinary stresses have been placed on farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, and communities.

*Extension Design Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes that for decades, the foundation of traditional farm extension programs had researchers and educators working on the farms and fields alongside crop and livestock producers, but that changes are needed to develop a 21st century extension to meet the needs of today's farmers. The Committee notes that new efforts require USDA to use high-performance computing to develop, test, and deploy new digital infrastructure and platforms that can translate research into

real-time interactive feedback, online modeling, demonstration, and simulations. The Committee directs NIFA to conduct meetings with producers, stakeholders, and policymakers to begin developing a framework for the next generation of farm extension programs.

*Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.*—The Committee recognizes the farmers, ranchers, and individuals working in agriculture who face highly stressful working conditions. NIFA is encouraged to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to assess the feasibility of a national farmer and farm worker crisis line. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NIFA is directed to provide a report detailing the program’s evolution since inception, types of programming provided, and FRISAN’s strategy for continuing outreach and services.

*Minority Outreach.*—The Committee is concerned that extension service resources do not reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in proportion to their participation in the agricultural sector. All institutions that receive extension funding should seek to ensure that an equitable percentage of their overall extension work reaches minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The Committee directs NIFA to evaluate distribution of extension resources to these three populations and report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

*Rural Opioid Addiction Training.*—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education Programs [RHSE] for the sole purpose of combatting opioid abuse in rural communities. The Committee reminds USDA of the statutory requirement in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) for fiscal years 2019 through 2025 that the Secretary give priority to applications addressing substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder. The Committee is still waiting for NIFA to provide a report to the Committee detailing RHSE funding awarded to projects addressing opioid abuse, projects combatting other types of substance abuse, and projects unrelated to substance abuse for the past three fiscal years.

#### INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$41,500,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	41,500,000
Committee recommendation .....	41,500,000

Section 406, as amended, of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–85) authorizes an integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$41,500,000 for integrated activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Methyl Bromide Transition Program .....	7 U.S.C. 7626 .....	2,000
Organic Transition Program .....	7 U.S.C. 7626 .....	7,500
Regional Rural Development Centers .....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c) .....	3,000
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative .....	7 U.S.C. 3351 .....	8,000
Crop Protection/Pest Management .....	7 U.S.C. 343(d) .....	21,000
Total, Integrated Activities .....	.....	41,500

*Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative.*—The Committee supports the important work being done through the publicly funded diagnostic laboratory network and encourages NIFA to prioritize funding to strengthen animal health diagnostic laboratories, taking into consideration the following: the degree to which the capacity for surveillance, monitoring, response, and capacity is enhanced; the concentration of human and animal populations that are directly at risk; trade, tourism, and cultural considerations; geography, ecology, and climate; evidence of active collaboration with and support of the State animal health officials; those States with highest risk for the introduction of foreign and emerging pests and diseases; and evidence of stakeholder support and engagement.

*Organic Transition.*—The Committee maintains funding for the Organic Transition Program and directs the agency to use this increase to focus specifically on research topics related to the role of organic agriculture with regard to climate change.

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

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,617,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,657,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,617,000

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,617,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,171,071,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,188,788,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,185,967,000

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

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

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

*Animal Care.*—The agency conducts regulatory activities that ensure the humane care and treatment of animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89–544) and Horse Protection Acts (Public Law 91–540). These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibition, and as pets, and monitoring certain horse shows.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,185,967,000 for salaries and expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The following table reflects the Committee's specific recommendations for APHIS:

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance:			
Animal Health Technical Services .....	\$39,183	\$40,067	\$39,183
Aquatic Animal Health .....	5,000	6,461	6,385
Avian Health .....	64,930	66,324	64,930
Cattle Health .....	111,771	103,658	111,771
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health .....	35,319	32,498	35,819
National Veterinary Stockpile .....	6,500	5,813	6,500
Swine Health .....	26,044	31,624	30,294
Veterinary Biologics .....	21,479	22,217	21,479
Veterinary Diagnostics .....	63,777	63,425	63,777
Zoonotic Disease Management .....	21,567	24,430	21,567
Subtotal, Animal Health .....	395,570	396,517	401,705
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated) .....	35,541	37,690	35,541
Cotton Pests .....	15,450	15,737	15,450
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests .....	14,986	15,425	13,986
Pest Detection .....	29,075	30,164	29,075
Plant Protection Methods Development .....	22,557	22,556	21,807
Specialty Crop Pests .....	216,117	222,037	217,904
Tree & Wood Pests .....	62,562	64,272	62,562
Subtotal, Plant Health .....	396,288	407,881	396,325
Wildlife Damage Management .....	121,957	122,897	121,957
Wildlife Services Methods Development .....	26,244	25,658	26,244
Subtotal, Wildlife Services .....	148,201	148,555	148,201
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement .....	18,722	19,390	18,722
Biotechnology Regulatory Services .....	19,691	23,916	19,691
Subtotal, Regulatory Services .....	38,413	43,306	38,413
Civilian Climate Corps .....		6,016	
Contingency Fund .....	514	543	514
Emergency Preparedness & Response .....	44,067	45,198	48,067
Subtotal, Emergency Management .....	44,581	51,757	48,581
Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response .....	1,023,053	1,048,016	1,033,225
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export .....	19,292	17,766	19,292
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations .....	25,572	28,976	25,572
Subtotal, Safe Trade .....	44,864	46,742	44,864
Animal Welfare:			
Animal Welfare .....	37,506	35,641	37,506
Horse Protection .....	4,096	3,166	4,096
Subtotal, Animal Welfare .....	41,602	38,807	41,602
Agency Management:			
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure .....	4,251	7,451	4,251
Physical/Operational Security .....	5,182	5,205	5,182
Rent and DHS Security Payments .....	42,567	42,567	42,567
Subtotal, Agency Management .....	52,000	55,223	52,000

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Congressionally Directed Spending .....	9,552	.....	14,276
Total, Direct Appropriation .....	1,171,071	1,188,788	1,185,967

*Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.*—The Committee recognizes that the prevention of infestations of pests and diseases is significantly more cost effective than subsequent control or eradication. This is an important Federal responsibility, and the Committee provides \$35,541,000 for the agricultural quarantine inspections [AQI] function, including pre-departure and interline inspections, and canine detection and surveillance activities.

The Committee notes that assessing AQI treatment monitoring fees on a per-enclosure basis imposes disproportionate impacts on industry and user groups at certain key ports of entry, including ports along the Southeastern United States. USDA is encouraged to continue evaluating alternative and equitable funding mechanisms in consultation with relevant stakeholder groups.

*Agricultural Quarantine Inspection Fees.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to issue a final rule to update the AQI user fee schedule in fiscal year 2024, if a final rule is warranted based on the comments received on the proposed rules.

*Animal Disease Traceability.*—The Committee recognizes that improving animal disease traceability may help better protect domestic livestock health. The Committee is concerned the Department may place a financial burden on producers and livestock auction markets as they seek to comply with potential new traceability regulations. The Committee urges the Department to mitigate the financial impact on producers and auction markets and address concerns raised by industry, especially those related to data privacy and confidentiality.

*Animal Welfare.*—The Committee is concerned about APHIS's Animal Care program and the steep decline in enforcement related to violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The Committee urges the agency to reform its current licensing and enforcement scheme. While the agency took steps towards this goal over the last year, the Committee believes more progress can be made. This includes, but is not limited to: ensuring consistent, thorough, unannounced inspections on a regular basis; ensuring each failure to allow access for inspection and each violation or failure to comply with animal welfare standards is documented on an inspection report; and, requiring that inspection reports which identify violations or failures of compliance be shared with relevant local, State, and Federal agencies.

*Avian Influenza.*—The Committee remains concerned with the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza and appreciates the Department's ongoing efforts to contain spread of the virus. The Committee encourages the Department to continue coordination with State animal health officials in order to proactively mitigate spread of the virus. The Committee also urges the Department to increase outreach and engagement with poultry producers to edu-



cate on proactive measures individuals can take to further mitigate the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. The Committee encourages the Department to utilize existing supplemental funding to continue these efforts.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the extreme economic hardship posed to gamebird and egg farmers when flocks are determined to be infected by high and low pathogenic avian influenza and acknowledges the severe limitations on controlled marketing available to producers of live game birds, as well as the income loss from egg production. The Committee encourages APHIS to provide full indemnity coverage for gamebird and egg operations and cease attempts to limit coverage.

*Cattle Fever Ticks.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for cattle fever tick research needs and directs APHIS to coordinate with ARS on the development of its long-term cattle fever tick research program. The Committee directs APHIS to continue to coordinate with ARS, CBP, Department of the Interior, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation board, and other stakeholders on control efforts to manage non-native Carrizo cane, which is a favorable habitat for the cattle fever tick. The Committee still awaits a report on the progress of this effort.

*Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].*—The Committee is concerned about the growing threat of CWD and its impact on wild and farmed deer populations. As such, the Committee provides \$18,000,000 to implement Section 603 of Public Law 117–392, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act. Specifically, of the amount provided for cervid health activities, \$13,000,000 shall be for APHIS to allocate funds directly to State departments of wildlife and State departments of agriculture to further develop and implement chronic wasting disease surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Of the amount provided for Wildlife Service Methods Development, \$5,000,000 shall be for CWD work at the National Wildlife Research Center, and the Committee directs APHIS to continue working with university collaborators to provide research support to the overall effort to detect, combat, and control CWD.

*Citrus Health Response Program [CHRP].*—CHRP is a national effort to maintain a viable citrus industry within the United States, maintain producers' continued access to export markets, and safeguard citrus producing States against a variety of invasive pests and diseases. These funds are designed to partner with State departments of agriculture and industry groups to address the challenges of citrus pests and diseases. In addition to the funds provided in this account, the Committee encourages APHIS to utilize the funds available in the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs account to the greatest extent possible to sustain the economic viability of the citrus industry.

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].*—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under APHIS. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Eastern Equine Encephalitis.*—The Committee remains concerned about the capacity of States to conduct surveillance, testing, prevention, and research relating to Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The Committee continues to provide \$1,000,000 to support ongoing cooperative agreements with impacted States.

*Feral Cattle in the Gila National Forest Wilderness Area.*—The continued presence of feral cattle in the Gila National Forest Wilderness Area in New Mexico is negatively impacting both the ecosystem and recreational use of the area. The Committee directs the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services and the United States Forest Service to address this issue as expeditiously as feasible. The Services shall provide reports to the Senate Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on Appropriations on their progress in the first and third quarters of the year.

*Foreign Trading Partners.*—The Committee encourages APHIS and the Foreign Agricultural Service to engage with foreign trading partners, international organizations and others to create a global environment that's conducive to agricultural trade in forest products by addressing trade barriers related to fumigation, and establishing transparent and predictable rules and standards.

*Horse Protection Rule.*—The Committee urges the Secretary to issue the new proposed Horse Protection Act rule expeditiously, consistent with the agency's announced intentions in December 2021, and to finalize and publish the new final rule as soon as possible if warranted by public comments received. The Committee further urges the Secretary to ensure that the new rule considers at a minimum all the key elements of the final rule, "Horse Protection; Licensing of Designated Qualified Persons and Other Amendments".

*Huanglongbing Emergency Response.*—The Committee maintains the increased funding levels for Huanglongbing Emergency Response within the Specialty Crop Pests line item included in fiscal year 2023. The Committee encourages APHIS to allocate sufficient resources in order to continue vital management, control, and associated activities to address citrus greening. The disease, for which there is no cure, has caused a reduction in citrus production by over 60 percent since 2007 in Florida alone. All citrus producing counties in Texas are under quarantine, and California has detected the disease in some backyard trees in the Los Angeles basin. The spread of this disease has called the domestic citrus industry's future into question, costing thousands of jobs and millions in lost revenue and increased production costs per acre. In addition, the agency is encouraged to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB-MAC group which will benefit the citrus industry. The agency should appropriately allocate resources based on critical need and maximum effect to the citrus industry. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2023 funding level for citrus health to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB-MAC group. The MAC is focused on short-term solutions to help the citrus industry, and the cooperative nature of Federal, State, and industry representatives in this group is expected to result in the development of tools and techniques to address this devastating disease. Helping growers explore new possible solutions, the MAC has been an effective resource. These citrus health activities directly

protect citrus production on approximately 765,000 acres in the United States worth more than \$11,000,000,000 in total.

*Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group.*—The Committee recognizes the significant economic impact of this disease on the citrus industry, which is especially acute in Florida and is a growing concern in both Texas and California. The Committee also understands that growers are requesting the right to try treatments that have begun to show success in early stages of testing. The Committee encourages the HLB–MAC group to explore and identify new methods to expedite the delivery of promising treatments directly to growers. Finally, the Committee expects that any funds which are redirected from existing HLB–MAC projects be repurposed to other priority HLB–MAC projects that are showing promising results to ensure these critical funds remain committed to facilitating the design and implementation of the rapid delivery pathway to growers.

*Invasive Blue Catfish.*—The Committee directs APHIS to continue strong collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State partners to control the spread of invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay region.

*Lacey Act Implementation.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378) in addressing trafficking of illegally taken wildlife, fish, and plants, including illegal deforestation activities. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to support the implementation of the Lacey Act within the Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance program. Additionally, APHIS is directed to complete a report within 90 days detailing the status of efforts to expand the Lacey Act declaration requirement to additional commodities.

*Los Alamitos Sterile Insect Release Facility.*—The Committee urges APHIS, the Department of Defense, and local and State co-operators to develop a comprehensive plan for much needed facility enhancements at the Sterile Insect Release Facility in Los Alamitos, California.

*Marine Mammals in Captivity.*—The Committee is concerned that USDA’s handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are outdated. Marine mammal science has progressed significantly in the almost 40 years since the most important of these regulations were last updated, and the current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and directs the agency to report back within 90 days on its progress in achieving that goal.

*National Animal Health Laboratory Network.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

*National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.*—The Committee provides \$4,020,000 to support the continued implementation of the 2023–2025 National Aquaculture Health Plan and the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards, an increase of \$1,385,000, to protect aquatic animal health, enhance individual biosecurity,

and facilitate domestic and international commerce in fish and shellfish.

*National Bio- and Agro-Defense Human Capital Development.*—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for APHIS to ensure necessary steps are taken to develop a qualified workforce comprised of subject matter experts in foreign, emerging, and zoonotic diseases and capable of developing, validating, and conducting needed diagnostics, performing epidemiologic studies, and completing bioinformatics analyses. The Committee encourages APHIS to establish cooperative agreements with academic research institutions, particularly non-land grant Hispanic-Serving Institutions, to support the next generation of the NBAF workforce, including facilities and equipment.

*National Detector Dog Training Center.*—The Committee supports the work of the National Detector Dog Training Center in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from invasive pests and diseases. The Committee requests USDA, within 1 year after enactment, to submit a report to Congress regarding the Center's role in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from pests and diseases. The Committee requests that the report include a description of domestic pest and disease programs that use canine detector teams, coordination between APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on use of canine teams for agricultural quarantine inspections, and the Center's current capacity level.

*Navel Orangeworm.*—The Committee acknowledges and encourages continued collaboration among ARS, APHIS, and State co-operators to address threats posed to tree nut production by the navel orangeworm.

*Non-Lethal Strategies.*—The Committee is aware that Wildlife Services has worked with landowners to deploy non-lethal strategies, such as fladry, electric fencing, and livestock guardian dogs, to reduce predator depredation on livestock. The Committee provides \$4,500,000 for Wildlife Services to hire personnel exclusively to promote and implement non-lethal human-predator conflict deterrence techniques in interested States, with a focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts related to predators and beavers in the Western Region and Great Lakes States and to assist in providing training in these techniques to agricultural producers, landowners, and other agency personnel in collaboration with the National Wildlife Research Center.

Additionally, APHIS is directed to provide an annual report within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, detailing how these additional funds were dispersed; including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.

*National Veterinary Stockpile.*—Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD] remains a grave threat to the animal agriculture industry in the United States. The U.S. agriculture industry must remain vigilant and be prepared in the event of an FMD outbreak. The Committee provides \$6,500,000 for the National Veterinary Stockpile to protect the Nation's food supply by maintaining enough countermeasures capable of deployment against the most damaging animal diseases.

*Pale or Potato Cyst Nematode Eradication.*—The Committee supports the work of the Pale Cyst Nematode eradication program and recognizes that if left untreated, this pest could spread, affecting crops other than potatoes. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level in order to continue with successful efforts to eradicate this pest.

*Poultry Indemnity Payments.*—The Committee directs USDA to coordinate amongst all relevant agencies under its authority to update, and where applicable, develop consistent, easily replicated formulas on an annual basis to estimate market values of livestock and poultry categories for indemnity purposes. In developing and updating these annual values, USDA should ensure that they reflect applicable modern production practices, and relevant livestock and poultry markets so that payments by USDA represent average fair market values for the category of animal that the compensation payment is intended to cover.

*Roseau Cane.*—The Committee remains concerned with the invasive species scale insect pest that is destroying Roseau cane in the Mississippi River's Delta region along the Gulf of Mexico. An estimated 225,000 acres of wetlands in the Delta have been affected with the die-off, and Roseau cane is important in maintaining a healthy marsh and preventing erosion. The Committee directs APHIS to work with ARS and stakeholders and provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to develop an integrated management program for control of the Roseau cane scale insect pest infestation.

*Soring.*—The Committee has consistently recognized the need for the equine industry and APHIS to cooperate in order to eliminate the soring of horses. In 2021, the National Academy of Sciences recognized the importance of developing an objective science-based inspection to ensure accuracy and fairness. The Committee directs APHIS to augment its existing procedures and protocols by implementing swabbing and other proven objective science-based inspection tools for its horse soring inspection protocol and to address the findings of the NAS report as the agency deems warranted.

*Sudden Oak Death.*—The European strain 1 [EU1] and the North American strain 1 [NA1] of the sudden oak death pathogen are major threats to western Douglas-fir/tanoak forests, resulting in quarantine restrictions that threaten U.S. forests and export markets for log shipments and lily bulbs. The Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2023 funding level to improve understanding of EU1 and NA1 strains of the sudden oak death pathogen and treatment methods to inform control and management techniques in wildlands.

*Twenty-Eight Hour Law.*—The Committee is concerned that the regular feeding, watering, and rest required, by 49 U.S.C. 80502, to be provided by animal carriers is not being effectively enforced. The Committee directs APHIS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on barriers to successful implementation of this law.

*Veterinary Countermeasures.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of APHIS incorporating new vaccines, when warranted, as veterinary countermeasures are procured by the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank.

*West Nile Virus.*—The Committee remains concerned with the threats to human and animal health posed by West Nile virus and recognizes that a critical strategy for addressing these threats is necessary to prevent the infection and transmission by known vectors, including farm-raised alligators. The Committee encourages APHIS to further investigate West Nile virus and other infectious diseases affecting farm-raised alligators and develop methods to prevent infection and transmission.

*Wildlife Damage Management.*—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides \$121,957,000 for wildlife damage control to maintain priority initiatives, including preventing the transport of invasive snakes and other harmful species. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 funding level for the agency to reduce blackbird depredation in the Northern Great Plains.

The Committee maintains support for assistance to catfish producers to help mitigate wildlife depredation, particularly as it pertains to fish-eating and disease-carrying birds. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for damage management efforts and the development of methods to assist producers in combatting the persistent threat and economic hardship caused by cormorants, pelicans, and other birds.

The Committee recognizes the importance of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in reducing adverse ecological and economic impacts caused by feral swine across the country. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level in support of APHIS' efforts to decrease these invasive pests' damage and risk to agriculture, natural resources, and property. The Committee also encourages the use of all approved measures as a force multiplier and to prioritize areas with the most populous swine population.

The Committee provides \$28,000,000 for the National Rabies Management Program to fortify existing barriers and advance prevention and eradication efforts.

*Wildlife Services Education and Training.*—The Committee is aware of the wide range of hazardous procedures and materials utilized by APHIS personnel in the conduct of daily duties. In addition, a recent comprehensive study noted the critical need to provide standardized safety training, certification, and database management for tracking to ensure the safest working environment possible. As such, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 within Wildlife Damage Management to maintain a National Training Academy focused on those areas of greatest concern such as pyrotechnics, firearms, hazardous materials, immobilization and euthanasia drugs, pesticides, animal care and handling, land vehicles, watercraft, and zoonotic diseases.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$3,175,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	3,175,000
Committee recommendation .....	3,175,000

The APHIS appropriation for Buildings and Facilities funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific pro-

gram activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes an appropriation of \$3,175,000 for buildings and facilities of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

This funding is necessary to allow APHIS to maintain existing facilities and perform critically needed repairs to and replacements of building components, such as heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning on a prioritized basis at APHIS facilities. The Committee notes that due to the environmentally sensitive nature of many APHIS facilities, closure of a facility could result if APHIS is unable to complete the required repairs.

#### AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

##### MARKETING SERVICES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$237,695,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	254,605,000
Committee recommendation .....	229,891,000

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

Programs administered by this agency include the market news services, standardization, grading, classing, shell egg surveillance services, transportation services, wholesale farmers and alternative market development, grant payments to States for marketing activities, the Federal administration of marketing agreements and orders, commodity purchases, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t), the Plant Variety Protection Act (Public Law 71–325), and market protection and promotion activities.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$229,891,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service. The Committee provides the following amounts: \$7,504,000 for the Acer Access and Development Program; \$1,000,000 for the Cattle Contract Library; and \$32,700,000 for oversight and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The Committee includes in this account \$15,000,000 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives and \$8,000,000 for the Microgrants for Food Security Program.

*Acer Access and Development.*—The Committee provides \$7,504,000 for the Acer Access and Development Program. The Secretary shall use this funding for competitive grants that support

the promotion of research and education, natural resource sustainability, and market development and promotion.

*Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives.*—The Committee includes \$15,000,000 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, which promotes innovation in dairy and supports dairy farm businesses. The Committee encourages the Secretary to expend unobligated balances previously appropriated for this program, including by allocating funding to centers that have already expended funding under Public Law 117–2.

*Dairy Sanitary Export Certificate Software.*—The Committee is concerned with the USDA dairy sanitary export certificate program software ATLAS has caused US dairy exporters significant export delays and detentions in foreign ports. USDA is directed to report to the Committee on the status of its improvements to the ATLAS program including reporting on the quantity errors in certificates issued by the end of this fiscal year and to include in such report, status of Department and AMS funding from existing and relevant funds, such as CCC funds, and if necessary, inclusion within the Department's fiscal year 2025 budget request.

*Grain Terminals.*—The Committee notes the ongoing contract negotiations between West Coast grain terminal operators and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and recognizes the importance of reaching an agreement that works for both parties. A failure to reach an agreement could result in an interruption in grain terminal service that would negatively impact the Nation's grain exports. The Committee urges all parties to continue negotiating in good faith to ensure an equitable outcome for both grain terminal operators and their workers is expeditiously reached.

*Honey.*—The Committee directs the department to provide a report on the necessary resources and authorities needed to ensure a fairer market for domestic honey producers and more transparent market for American consumers. The Department is encouraged to collaborate with Customs and Border Protection, the Food and Drug Administration, and domestic commercial honey producer stakeholders.

*Meat Pricing Concerns.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that meat pricing mechanisms are transparent and provide reliable price discovery for cattle producers and the rest of the supply chain nationwide. The Committee notes that the Nation's food supply chain is an issue of national security, and emphasizes that our farmers, ranchers, processors, and consumers must have a fair and competitive marketplace. The Committee directs the Secretary, working with the Attorney General as appropriate, to act expeditiously to analyze these issues and to consider extending the ongoing investigation to include economic disruptions associated with public health emergencies.

*Micro-Grants for Food Security.*—The Committee urges AMS to administer the Micro-Grants for Food Security program in a manner that will ensure that low-income, disadvantaged, and minority individuals are able to submit applications and receive funding for projects such as animal processing and slaughter facilities, including reindeer herders, greenhouses, and hydroponic growing facilities that would increase the amount and quality of locally produced foods. When practicable, the Committee directs AMS to waive or



amend how it applies the regulatory requirements of 2 CFR 200.206, 200.313, 200.328, and 200.329 to ensure that this program addresses food insecurity challenges.

*National Organic Program.*—The Committee recognizes that organic regulations are a valuable market development tool for U.S. agriculture and provides \$22,759,000 for the National Organic Program [NOP]. A healthy market for organic products requires a clear product distinction backed by a trusted, verified, and consistently enforced label. The Committee also recognizes that regular updates to the regulations are crucial. The Committee directs USDA to provide all resources needed for the NOP to deliver the strongest possible oversight before allowing the USDA organic seal to be granted to domestic and international operations and products, including a continued focus on proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and practice standards development. In addition, within 60 days of enactment of this act, AMS is directed to provide a full report outlining the breakdown of the National Organic Program's key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities, practice standards development, and technology upgrades.

*Native American Foods and Tourism.*—The Committee recognizes that enhanced Native American tourism creates important job opportunities in Native American communities while showcasing their heritage, food, traditions, history, and continuing vitality. The Committee encourages USDA to support the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (Public Law 114–221) by prioritizing projects that market, promote, or expand Native American foods, markets, and enterprises.

*Organic Dairy.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of consumer confidence in the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal and notes the work that USDA has done to increase training and certifier consistency with respect to dairy operations. The Committee directs AMS to seek strong enforcement of organic dairy production standards and resolve significant variations in standard interpretation that exists among organic certifiers, as well as among organic dairy producers. AMS shall continue to conduct critical risk-based oversight, particularly for large, complex dairy operations, as it has in the past four fiscal years.

*Organic Data Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes that accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by accredited certifying agents on aggregate production areas certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for AMS to coordinate with NASS for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

*Soil Health.*—The National organic standards require farmers that voluntarily chose to certify their operation as meeting organic practices to use farming practices that improve soil health, such as crop rotations, cover cropping, and pasture-based livestock prac-

tices. By improving soil health, these farming practices also increase the carbon sequestration potential of the soil, and improve the farm's resilience to extreme weather events and patterns. To maximize the climate benefits of organic agriculture, the Committee urges the National Organic Program to increase enforcement efforts to ensure full compliance with the soil health and pasture requirements of USDA organic standards.

#### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2023 .....	\$62,596,000
Budget limitation, 2024 .....	62,596,000
Committee recommendation .....	62,596,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$62,596,000 on administrative expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

#### FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$21,501,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	21,501,000
Committee recommendation .....	21,501,000

Under section 32 of the act of August 24, 1935, (Public Law 74–320), an amount equal to 30 percent of customs receipts collected during each preceding calendar year and unused balances are available for encouraging the domestic consumption and exportation of agricultural commodities. An amount equal to 30 percent of receipts collected on fishery products is transferred to the Department of Commerce. Additional transfers to the child nutrition programs of the Food and Nutrition Service have been provided in recent appropriations acts.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a transfer from section 32 funds of \$21,501,000 for the formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2023–2024:

#### ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD— FISCAL YEARS 2023–2024

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation—30% of Customs Receipts .....	21,679,259,652	27,123,377,552	30,801,280,267

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—  
FISCAL YEARS 2023–2024—Continued

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Prior Year Appropriation, Available .....	6,491,590	15,546,365	381,930
Total, Appropriation: .....	21,685,751,242	27,138,923,917	30,801,662,197
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service—Current Year .....	– 19,968,082,397	– 25,199,766,588	– 228,545,432,000
Food and Nutrition Service—Prior Year .....	– 6,491,590	– 15,546,365	– 381,930
Commerce Department—Current Year .....	– 253,668,845	– 362,610,964	– 377,363,204
Total, Transfers .....	– 20,228,242,832	– 25,577,923,917	– 28,923,177,134
Total Available Funds .....	1,457,508,410	1,561,000,000	1,878,485,063
Budget Authority, Farm Bill (w/CPI adjustment) .....	1,448,000,000	1,547,000,000	1,657,000,000
Sequestration .....	– 71,877,000	– 77,292,000	– 83,334,000
Total Funding Availability .....	1,376,123,000	1,469,708,000	1,573,666,000
Unavailable for Obligations under Enacted Budget level			
Budget Authority, Appropriations Act .....	1,376,123,000	1,469,708,000	1,573,666,000
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward .....	381,956,523	430,948,281	5,686,215
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program (FFVP) transfer .....	– 187,000,000	– 191,000,000	– 195,000,000
Hemp Production Program transfer .....			
Total Spending Authority—After Transfers: .....	1,571,079,523	1,709,656,281	1,384,352,215
Less Obligations:			
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commod- ities) .....	483,322,237	485,000,000	485,000,000
12% Commodity Floor Requirement (CNP) .....			
Subtotal, CNP (Entitlement Commodities) .....	483,322,237	485,000,000	485,000,000
Farm Bill Specialty Crop Purchases (Remaining Funds) ..			206,000,000
State Option Contract .....		5,000,000	5,000,000
Removal Defective Commodities .....		2,500,000	2,500,000
Disaster Relief .....	77,494,704	5,000,000	5,000,000
Direct Payments .....			
Emergency Surplus Removal Prior Year Adjustments .....			
Emergency Surplus Removal:			
Fruit and Vegetables .....	364,665,729	288,000,000	
Meat and Fish .....	153,758,925	75,000,000	
Poultry .....	29,993,219		
Dairy .....			
Total Purchases .....	548,417,873	363,000,000	
Future Needs Remaining Funds .....		120,029,000	622,173,215
Carryin Balance .....		157,031,424	3,807,306
Remaining Funds .....		277,060,424	625,980,521
Subtotal, Commodity Purchases .....	1,109,234,814	1,137,560,424	1,329,480,521
Accounting Adjustment .....	5,050,181		
Total, Commodity Purchases .....	1,114,284,995	1,137,560,424	1,329,480,521
Commodity Purchase Service .....	36,810,000	37,178,000	37,178,000
Marketing Agreements and Orders .....	20,817,000	21,501,000	21,501,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—  
FISCAL YEARS 2023–2024—Continued

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Total, Administrative Funds .....	57,627,000	58,679,000	58,679,000
Total Direct Obligations .....	1,171,911,995	1,196,239,424	1,388,159,521
Unavailable Prior Year Recoveries—Unavailable .....	16,677,338	381,930	.....
Prior Year Recoveries—Available .....	19,126,554	5,686,215	.....
Current Year—Unavailable .....	.....	.....	.....
Current Year—Unobligated within spending limitation ...	399,167,528	.....	.....
Total, Unavailable Resources .....	16,677,338	381,930	.....
Unobligated Balance Carrying Forward .....	430,948,281	5,686,215	.....
Reimbursements .....	6,240,315	1,148,723	1,148,723

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

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,235,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,235,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,235,000

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program is authorized by section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638) and is also funded from appropriations. Matching grants are awarded on a competitive basis to State marketing agencies to identify and test market alternative farm commodities, determine methods of providing more reliable market information, and develop better commodity grading standards. This program has made many types of projects possible, such as electronic marketing and agricultural product diversification. Current projects are focused on the improvement of marketing efficiency and effectiveness and seeking new outlets for existing farm produced commodities. The legislation grants USDA authority to establish cooperative agreements with State departments of agriculture or similar State agencies to improve the efficiency of the agricultural marketing chain. The States perform the work or contract it to others and must contribute at least one-half of the cost of the projects.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,235,000 for Payments to States and Possessions for Federal-State marketing projects and activities.

## LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Limitation, 2023 .....	\$55,000,000
Budget limitation, 2024 .....	55,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	55,000,000

The agency provides an official grain inspection and weighing system under the U.S. Grain Standards Act [USGSA] (Public Law 64–190, and official inspection of rice and grain-related products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638). The USGSA was amended in 1981 to require the collection of user fees to fund the costs associated with the operation, supervision, and administration of Federal grain inspection and weighing activities.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$55,000,000 on inspection and weighing services expenses.

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,117,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,146,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,117,000

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,117,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

## FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,158,266,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,290,419,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,205,009,000

The major objectives of the FSIS are to ensure that meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged, as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act (Public Law 59–242) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (Public Law 85–172), as amended; and to provide continuous in-plant inspection to egg processing plants under the Egg Products Inspection Act (Public Law 91–597).

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

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,205,009,000 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The following table represents the Committee's specific recommendations for the FSIS as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

#### FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Food safety inspection:			
Federal .....	1,036,888	1,159,572	1,081,390
State .....	67,131	73,530	67,462
International .....	18,975	20,987	20,885
PHDCIS .....	35,272	36,330	35,272
Total .....	1,158,266	1,290,419	1,205,009

*Brazilian Beef.*—The Committee urges FSIS to maintain current rates of reinspection tasks for raw beef imports from Brazil and to adjust rates of import inspection as necessary and consistent with import compliance history. The Committee also requests FSIS to continue conducting routine onsite verification audits of the Brazilian inspection system.

*Humane Slaughter.*—The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765).

The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765) enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas and that all inspectors receive robust training.

*Invasive Blue Catfish.*—The Committee continues to provide \$1,000,000 to cover overtime fees for inspectors at Siluriformes facilities and directs the Department to expand the eligible use of these funds to include equipment and infrastructure to support Siluriformes processing, with a priority for plants that process invasive species.

*Reduced User Fees.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue the reduced user fees for small and very small establishments as established by the American Rescue Plan act of 2023.

*Salmonella*.—The Committee is concerned about the Salmonella illness rate in the United States, which has not decreased in 25 years, and is supportive of the Department's efforts to reform the Salmonella food safety regulation for poultry. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests a report by FSIS that details the actions the agency has initiated for reducing Salmonella illnesses caused by poultry. The Committee directs FSIS to provide a description in the report of any actions under development as well as any completed actions, including proposed and final regulations or policy.

*Siluriformes Fish*.—The Committee is aware that Blue Catfish were first introduced in the Chesapeake Bay region to develop a recreational fishery, but are now considered invasive and can have harmful effects on native species in the region. While the Committee recognizes the use of the commercial market as a population control measure, the Committee reaffirms the need for these fish to go through the required inspection process under the Federal Meat Inspection Act to ensure wild-caught catfish are safe for consumption. Notably, the March 2022 FSIS Data Summary of Siluriformes Fish Testing found that a number of positive residue tests for pesticides and heavy metals came from wild-caught Siluriformes. Therefore, of the funds provided for FSIS, funding may be used for additional residue testing of wild-caught catfish harvested from the Chesapeake Bay region. All wild-caught and farm-raised fish of the order Siluriformes are subject to mandatory FSIS inspection and any exclusion of a particular species of catfish or nature-of-harvest would put the United States in violation of its World Trade Organization commitments with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and international equivalence. The Committee also notes that FSIS has already issued a directive informing processors that FSIS will not bill establishments that process wild-caught catfish that occurs outside of scheduled hours. The Committee directs FSIS to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate within 180 days of enactment of this Act detailing any barriers and challenges wild caught processors encounter under the FSIS program.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND  
CONSERVATION

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,727,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,780,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,727,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation [FPAC] provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department’s commodity programs, farm loans, disaster assistance, crop insurance, natural resources conservation and environment programs, and certain energy programs. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Farm Service Agency [FSA] (including the Commodity Credit Corporation), Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,727,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

*Communication.*—The Committee is committed to supporting the mission and values of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including through critical investments to protect our land, water, and soil. The Committee recognizes that consistent coordination is essential to this end, and is frustrated by the current lack of communication between NRCS and the Committee. Within 60 days of enactment of this act, and every 30 days thereafter, NRCS is directed to brief the Committee on ongoing and upcoming initiatives, as well as resources necessary for continued success of the Service.

*USDA—Customer and Producer Farm Delivery Systems Modernization.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan within 60 days of enactment of this act that accelerates the continued implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application and Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset [EDAPT]. Despite the continued direction and funding provided by Congress in previous fiscal years for these modernization applications, the Committee is aware that the Farm Service Agency, the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer continue to maintain numerous legacy mission support systems that should be decommissioned and transitioned to applications and mission support services systems that are interoperable, facts-based, data driven, and are provided efficiently, effectively, and professionally with a commitment to excellent cus-



tomers service for USDA customers, including farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

*Farmers.gov.*—The Committee directs USDA to continue implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application. The expansion should consider all farm programs which require direct application from farmers, ranchers, and producers and provide a comprehensive application system within USDA.

#### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$248,684,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	265,825,000
Committee recommendation .....	249,684,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$249,684,000 for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.

#### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency was established October 13, 1994, pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). The FSA administers a variety of activities, such as the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC]; the Conservation Reserve Program [CRP]; the Emergency Conservation Program [ECP]; the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program [ELAP]; the Commodity Operation Programs, including the warehouse examination function; farm ownership, farm operating, emergency disaster, and other loan programs; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP], which provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which crop insurance is not available. In addition, FSA currently provides certain administrative support services to the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS] and RMA.

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from program accounts	Total, FSA, salaries and expenses
Appropriations, 2023 .....	1,215,307	305,803	1,521,110
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,262,353	321,621	1,583,974
Committee recommendation .....	1,215,307	321,621	1,536,928

The account Salaries and Expenses, Farm Service Agency, funds the administrative expenses of program administration and other functions assigned to FSA. The funds consist of appropriations and transfers from the CCC export credit guarantees, Food for Peace loans, and Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program accounts, as well as miscellaneous advances from other sources. All administrative funds used by FSA are consolidated into one account. The

consolidation provides clarity and better management and control of funds and facilitates accounting, fiscal, and budgetary work by eliminating the necessity for making individual allocations and allotments and maintaining and recording obligations and expenditures under numerous separate accounts.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,536,928,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of \$1,215,307,000.

*Acequia Irrigated Land.*—The Committee recognizes that acequias serve as the primary method of irrigation in many rural and underserved communities in New Mexico and that acequias remain an integral aspect of New Mexican cultural identity. Recent changes administered by FSA changed eligibility of drought on farms and ranches irrigated by acequias for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP]. Given the Farm Service Agency has historically considered drought on acequia-irrigated land eligible for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance and the ongoing severe drought conditions in New Mexico and throughout the west, the Committee urges the Department to maintain their position that drought on acequia-irrigated land is an eligible cause of loss for NAP.

*Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act.*—USDA is responsible for monitoring foreign purchases of agricultural land under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act [AFIDA] and for assessing penalties on entities that have failed to make disclosures as required. The Committee is concerned that USDA failed to assess penalties for a failure to disclose foreign investments in American agricultural land. The Committee directs the Secretary to report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on USDA's efforts to ensure that foreign investments are being accurately disclosed, including an analysis of any barriers USDA faces in conducting oversight of these purchases and planned steps for overcoming these challenges.

*Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP].*—The Committee recognizes that drought is now the single largest cause of U.S. farm production losses and strongly supports the development of creative solutions to conserve water while maintaining the productive use of farmland. The Committee is concerned that the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment [PEA] for CRP published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2019 (84 FR 52868) ignores the intent of Congress and the urgent threat of drought by immediately dismissing without meaningful consideration the new authorization for CREP drought and water conservation agreements to permit dryland agricultural uses with the adoption of best management practices. The Committee directs the Secretary to revise the PEA to allow dryland agriculture uses on land enrolled in CREP in accordance with section 1231A(e)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831a(e)(2)). The Committee reminds USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–260 directed the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee detailing a full analysis of the new CREP dryland agricultural uses authority and what dryland farming best management

practices could make advancements to protect ground water and surface water quality and control soil erosion while enhancing wild-life habitat.

*Disaster Preparedness.*—The Committee recognizes that millions of farm animals die each year due to the effects of adverse weather. The Committee is also aware that veterinary and agricultural trade associations recognize the importance of disaster planning in preventing the extent of livestock deaths. Therefore, the Committee encourages USDA to educate producers on the benefits of written disaster preparedness plans.

*Honey Bee Losses.*—For purposes of administering the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program for honeybees, the Secretary is directed to expand eligibility under the program to include climate change and drought related losses, including additional transportation and feed costs, among other things, as determined by the Secretary. Additionally, or in lieu of ELAP expansion, the Secretary may choose to include managed honeybees under other appropriate disaster assistance programs. Disaster assistance is essential to protecting a fragile beekeeping industry that is responsible for pollinating billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural input.

*Information Technology.*—The Committee remains dedicated to ensuring FSA has reliable and functioning IT systems because it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to the tools they need to succeed. The Committee has invested significant taxpayer dollars to modernize outdated systems and continues to provide resources above the budget request. The Committee continues statutory language that allows funds for IT to be obligated only after the Secretary meets certain reporting requirements. The Committee has reviewed the third-party IT analysis and expects the agency to follow the recommendations where applicable. FSA is directed to provide timely updates for future IT needs.

*Panther Depredation.*—The Committee is aware that livestock producers in Florida have suffered from panther depredation. To support the ongoing conservation and recovery of endangered Florida panthers while minimizing conflicts with ranchers, the Committee encourages FSA to work with ranchers to tailor the Livestock Indemnity Program to address unique circumstances currently preventing producers from receiving compensation for losses stemming from Florida panther depredation events.

#### STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$7,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	7,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	7,000,000

This program is authorized under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233). Originally designed to address agricultural credit disputes, the program was expanded by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) to include other agricultural issues such as wetland determinations, conservation compliance, rural water loan programs, grazing on National Forest System lands, and pesticides. Grants are made to States whose mediation programs have been certified by the FSA. Grants will be

solely for operation and administration of the State's agricultural mediation program.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,000,000 for State Mediation Grants.

#### GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$7,500,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	7,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	7,500,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,500,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

#### DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	500,000
Committee recommendation .....	500,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2024 to be \$500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

#### GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$4,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	4,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	4,000,000

This program is authorized under Title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792). Under the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, the Department offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances for farmers and ranchers outside the contiguous United States that face tremendously high costs for transporting agriculture products and inputs.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,000,000 for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

## AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

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

The following programs are financed through this fund:

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

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

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

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

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

*Heirs' Property Relending Program.*—Provide revolving loan funds to eligible intermediary lenders to resolve ownership and complete a succession plan on farmland that has multiple owners. The lenders will provide loans to qualified individuals to resolve these ownership issues and ensure fair access to land for farmers, ranchers, and future generations.

*Indian Tribe Land Acquisition Loans.*—Made to any Indian Tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior or Tribal corporation established pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (Public Law 93-638) which does not have adequate uncommitted funds to acquire lands or interest in lands within the Tribe's reservation or Alaskan Indian community, as determined by the Secretary of the

Interior, for use of the Tribe or the corporation or the members thereof.

*Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans.*—Made to Indian Tribal members to purchase highly fractionated lands, as authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234).

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a total loan level of \$10,685,585,000 for programs within the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table reflects the program levels for farm credit programs administered by the Farm Service Agency recommended by the Committee, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and the budget request levels:

#### AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct .....	3,100,000	3,100,000	3,100,000
Guaranteed .....	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Farm Operating:			
Direct .....	1,633,333	1,633,000	1,633,000
Guaranteed unsubsidized .....	2,118,491	2,118,491	2,118,491
Emergency Loans .....	4,062	37,668	37,668
Indian Tribe Land Acquisition .....	20,000	20,000	20,000
Conservation Loans:			
Guaranteed .....	150,000	150,000	150,000
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans .....	5,000	5,000	5,000
Boll Weevil Eradication .....	60,000	60,000	60,000
Relending Program .....	61,426	61,426	61,426
Total, Loan Authorizations .....	10,652,312	10,685,585	10,685,585

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

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

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Operating:			
Direct .....	23,520	27,598	27,598
Guaranteed unsubsidized .....	11,228	1,483	1,483
Emergency Loans .....	249	3,507	3,507
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans .....	894	1,577	1,577
Relending Program .....	10,983	19,368	19,368
Boll Weevil .....	.....	258	258
Total, Loan Subsidies .....	46,874	53,791	53,791
ACIF Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses .....	305,803	321,621	321,621

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Administrative Expenses .....	20,658	20,250	20,250
Total, ACIF Expenses .....	326,461	341,871	341,871

## RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$66,870,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	77,897,000
Committee recommendation .....	66,870,000

The Risk Management Agency performs administrative functions relative to the Federal Crop Insurance program that is authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508), as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 [ARPA] (Public Law 106–224), the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

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

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$66,870,000 for Risk Management Agency, Salaries and Expenses.

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

*Administrative and Operating Expenses.*—The Committee encourages the RMA to provide an annual inflation adjustment to administrative and operating [A&O] reimbursements and to provide equitable relief for specialty crop policies in a manner similar to a previous adjustment that was initiated without renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

*Alfalfa.*—The Committee recognizes alfalfa to be an important domestic forage crop valued for nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, crop rotation, and as a natural habitat. From 2002 through 2021, alfalfa acreage has declined 33.4 percent. The Committee encourages RMA to explore the creation of a revenue and/or quality alfalfa crop insurance policy to ensure producers have a safety net that they need to produce this important crop.

*Aquaculture.*—The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) directed the Board of

Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider treating the different growth stages of aquaculture species as separate crops for the Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan. RMA is directed to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act regarding the steps taken by the Board to consider the feasibility of this proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.

*Haying and Grazing of Cover Crops.*—The Committee recognizes and applauds the Department's recent efforts to provide flexibility to producers wishing to hay or graze cover crops on prevented planting acreage before November 1. This is an important step forward to ensure that producers planting decisions are based on sound agriculture practices, while also promoting smart agricultural practices that build soil health and resilience in our working lands.

*Improved Producer Education.*—The Committee recognizes that crop insurance is a vital public-private partnership and is the first line of defense for effectively managing risk for many farmers. However, the Committee believes that additional education is needed through the use of clear, comparative, and easy to understand information on the costs of selected crop insurance policies, the producer premium, and the Federal premium subsidy. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to work with crop insurance providers and agents to ensure that all farmers have access to that cost information on their policies in a transparent and easy to understand manner.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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

#### CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$941,124,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,022,566,000
Committee recommendation .....	922,151,000

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

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

Resource appraisal and program development ensures that programs administered by the Secretary for the conservation of soil,



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

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

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

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$922,151,000 for NRCS Conservation Operations. The Committee provides \$86,757,000 for Soil Surveys; \$16,751,000 for Snow Survey and Water Forecasting; \$10,751,000 for Plant Materials Centers; and \$800,892,000 for Conservation Technical Assistance, including \$10,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb).

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

*Agricultural Land Easements.*—The Committee encourages NRCS to allow transaction costs to be covered under the NRCS Agricultural Land Easement program.

*Alfalfa Utilization.*—The Committee recognizes alfalfa as one of the most environmentally friendly crops which can be grown on the landscape. Alfalfa is valued for its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, protect, and conserve soil, protect water quality, provide a habitat for pollinators, and generate a multitude of ecosystem benefits. The Committee recognizes alfalfa as a 'climate-smart' commodity with an exceptional capacity for carbon sequestration and decreased reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilizers. However, alfalfa is not well-utilized in conservation programs at USDA's NRCS. The Committee urges the Secretary to incentivize the use and integration of alfalfa in NRCS programs to capitalize on the unique environmental and conservation benefits it brings to the agricultural landscape.

*Chesapeake Bay States' Partnerships Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes the important role of voluntary conservation practices in protecting and restoring waterways, especially when deployed at scale. The Committee supports the Department's continuation of the Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, and encourages continued leveraging of conservation resources for agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Additionally, NRCS is encouraged to target additional Conservation Technical Assistance funds in the most effective basin areas of the watershed.

*Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.*—NRCS received nearly \$19,000,000,000 in additional funding to RCPP, EQIP, CSP and

ACEP prior to fiscal year 2024. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NRCS is directed to submit to the Committee a report outlining how the agency allocated funding to ensure that programmatic goals were met in a timely, optimized, and efficient manner. This report should include consideration of whether priority practice eligibility choices included Western practices to secure water and forestry co-benefits, as well as information on staff hiring, technology systems utilized, contracting strategies, practice eligibility lists, and departmental directives to NRCS.

*Conservation Operations.*—In carrying out projects on public lands that would directly or indirectly prevent, prepare for, or respond to economic, environmental, or public health consequences resulting from climate change, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, seek out ways to utilize qualified youth or conservation corps, as defined in section 203(11) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722(11), non-profit wilderness and trails stewardship organizations, and consult with public lands stewardship organizations for the purpose of identifying appropriate projects, activities, and workforce development outcomes.

*Critical Conservation Areas [CCA].*—The Committee supports CCAs and the collaborative regional approach to address common natural resources goals while maintaining or improving agricultural productivity. The Committee urges NRCS to provide sufficient Conservation Technical Assistance funds to CCAs to address conservation planning backlogs. The Committee also encourages NRCS to leverage all possible resources to identify nutrient loss and reduce runoff to achieve the goals of the 2015 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.

*Drought Resilience.*—The Committee applauds the passage of the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, appreciates efforts to increase efficiencies, and expects NRCS to utilize all available opportunities to assist producers, irrigators, and irrigation districts in addressing drought resiliency and mitigation while maintaining strong rural and agriculture communities and protecting natural resources. NRCS is expected to prioritize implementation of Drought Contingency Plans, agreements, or programs that conserve surface or ground water, improve drought resiliency, and address current and anticipated conservation needs and drought-related resource concerns.

*Energy Efficiency Opportunities.*—The Environmental Quality Incentive Program [EQIP] is an important tool to help farmers conserve energy, conduct energy audits, and develop conservation plans through locally based technical service providers. The Committee is concerned that very few farmers who complete energy audits are able to actually utilize EQIP or other Federal programs to help them adopt much-needed energy efficiency measures to reduce their high energy expenses. The Secretary is urged to seek out and implement opportunities to encourage and support farmers to implement energy efficiency projects.

*Feral Hogs.*—The Committee is concerned that the feral hog population is rapidly expanding despite efforts to constrain their spread. To help prevent further damages to agriculture and urban lands, the Committee encourages NRCS to use available funds for a cost-share program for the construction and repair of perimeter

fencing. The Committee directs NRCS, in conjunction with State soil and water conservation boards and agencies, to develop a strategy to exclude feral hogs from agricultural and urban areas at risk of damage from localized feral hog populations.

*Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.*—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb), of which at least \$8,000,000 shall be provided through State allocations as competitive grants to diverse partnerships, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and their organizations, to provide technical assistance to producers for grazing planning and implementation, conferences and other education, demonstrations, producer networks, workforce training, research, and outreach projects to improve agricultural resilience. NRCS is directed to provide at least \$2,000,000 through a cooperative agreement with a national grazing lands conservation coalition to establish diverse State-based coalitions and to undertake grazing education.

*Innovative Water Conservation.*—The Committee recognizes the devastating impacts wrought by severe and prolonged drought across many regions of the country. The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) made several updates to address water conservation and drought mitigation, including eligibility changes for water conservation and irrigation efficiency practices. NRCS is encouraged to work with eligible entities, including but not limited to producers, States, irrigation districts, and acequias, to help implement critical innovative drought resiliency and mitigation efforts, which maintain strong rural and agriculture communities while protecting natural resources.

*Land Grants and Acequias.*—The Committee recognizes that Section 2304(e) of Public Law 115–334 allows acequias and land grant mercedes to apply directly to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP], which provides Federal funding and technical assistance to farmers throughout the Nation. The Committee appreciates that there are hundreds of acequias and dozens of land grants in New Mexico that can now gain direct access to this important conservation program. The Committee urges USDA to develop EQIP guidance that ensures timely input from local communities, including listening sessions with land grants and acequias.

*National Resources Inventory.*—In reinstating the National Resources Inventory in Alaska, the Committee expects NRCS to take into account sample design, data collection software, and data processing capability in order to collect and produce scientifically credible information on the status, condition, and trends of Alaska’s lands, soils, waters, and related resources.

*Private Land Conservation.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of providing private land owners with ready access to the many Federal, State, and local government and private resources available to support conservation efforts on private lands. The Committee directs NRCS to implement a multi-year cooperative agreement with appropriate funding support to an organization that can make conservation solutions and best practices accessible daily to private land owners. This organization should also support

efforts to conserve the lesser-prairie chicken and implement carbon sequestration conservation programs nationwide.

*Soil Health.*—The Committee recognizes that improving soil health on agricultural lands is key to achieving both meaningful conservation and economic benefits for producers. The Committee is pleased to see strong stakeholder interest in the new on-farm conservation innovation trials to test new or innovative conservation approaches and the soil health demonstration trial, which provides incentives to producers to implement practices that improve soil health and increase carbon levels in the soil. The Committee encourages the Secretary to dedicate more technical assistance funds to establish standard protocols for measuring and testing carbon levels to evaluate gains in soil health that will help producers to create positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes through ecosystem service markets. The Committee believes the Secretary should provide additional technical assistance related to healthy soil planning, soil carbon sequestration, and conservation activity planning. NRCS is urged to support the expansion of existing State soil health programs and to assist interested States in establishing new State soil health programs.

*SNOTEL.*—The Committee continues to be concerned by documented changes in winter weather across the country, and the impact of those changes on local ecologies and economies. The Committee continues to fund the NRCS Snow Telemetry Network and looks forward to the forthcoming report on feasibility of expansion to the Northeast.

*Streamlined Conservation Planning.*—The Committee directs NRCS to develop a streamlined conservation planning and application process for small acreage operations to reduce the time and effort required by both the applicant and local NRCS staff to process conservation program applications.

*Technical Assistance.*—The Committee directs NRCS to maintain a record of total technical assistance dollars for the past 3 years and annually in the future and to provide the data to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry. This report should differentiate between mandatory and discretionary allocations.

*Technical Service Providers.*—The Committee urges NRCS to reevaluate the current matching requirements for the Technical Service Provider program supporting State and Tribal soil health programs.

*Western States Conservation Partnership Initiative.*—The Committee recognizes the value of collaborative, locally-led conservation practices and remains concerned about the ongoing extreme drought and related water issues in the American West. NRCS is encouraged to explore the creation of a partnership initiative, similar to the recently created Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, to allow Western States and partners to leverage financial and technical assistance to address regional water issues and help build resilience to drought. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, NRCS is directed to brief the Committee on the feasibility of such an initiative, as well as efforts undertaken to this end.

*Western Water and Working Lands.*—The Committee welcomes the recently announced Western Water and Working Lands Frame-

work for Conservation Action, and encourages NRCS to dedicate financial and technical assistance resources to support the framework, with a priority on projects with multiple benefits. The Secretary is directed to keep the Committee apprised of progress toward this end, beginning with a briefing 90 days after enactment of this act.

*Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands.*—The Committee recognizes that conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands is essential for the recovery of many threatened and endangered species. While Federal programs that provide direct conservation assistance can be important contributors to species recovery efforts, such programs might not be available to, or appropriate for, all private landowners. Private landowners interested in habitat conservation must be empowered with access to the full range of conservation resources that exist across the Federal government, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private entities. The Committee encourages NRCS to provide grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, non-profit organizations with expertise and experience in amalgamating and providing public access to information and resources pertaining to the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

*Working Lands for Wildlife.*—The Committee recognizes the role of the Working Lands for Wildlife model in conservation efforts to enhance both wildlife habitat and productivity on working landscapes. In addition, the Committee is worried about the concerning population figures for the lesser prairie-chicken and the need to protect its habitat, particularly in times of drought. NRCS is directed to make every effort to strengthen and expand the work of the Working Lands for Wildlife model and the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative.

#### WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$75,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	175,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	90,405,000

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83–566) (16 U.S.C. 1000–1005, 1007–1009) provides for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions in a program to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds or rivers and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and the conservation and proper utilization of land in authorized watersheds.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$90,405,000 for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program [WFPO], of which the Committee provides \$20,405,000 for congressionally directed projects, as specified in the table at the end of the report, for new and ongoing watershed and flood prevention activities.

The Committee recognizes the critical challenges facing rural water resource management and protection and supports needed investments in watershed operations. These Federal-State-local partnerships are uniquely positioned to identify critical watershed

protection and flood prevention needs in rural communities and implement projects that deliver multiple streams of benefits for homes, businesses, transportation infrastructure, and natural resources. In selecting projects for funding, the Committee expects the agency to balance the needs of addressing the project backlog, remediation of existing structures, and new projects.

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].*—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding and must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Multiple Benefit Projects.*—The Committee continues to support funding for projects that provide multiple benefits, including reduction of drought impact, improvement of water quality, and increased fish or wildlife habitat. NRCS is directed to keep the Committee apprised of streamlining and modernization efforts, and of efforts to coordinate with stakeholders to ensure that this program is utilized in a manner to maximize its effect.

*Technical Assistance Flexibility.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide greater flexibility to State Conservationists to be able to utilize technical assistance dedicated for certain WFPO funds for administration and planning Statewide for all WFPO projects.

#### WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$2,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	10,009,000
Committee recommendation .....	2,000,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

The Committee recognizes the large backlog of community infrastructure projects eligible for financial and technical assistance from the Watershed Rehabilitation Program to address safety concerns, public health, and environmental impacts of aging dams. NRCS is urged to prioritize the rehabilitation of dams that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

#### CORPORATIONS

##### FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$15,395,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	14,695,301,000
Committee recommendation .....	14,695,301,000

The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), authorizes the payment of expenses, which may include indemnity payments; loss adjustment; delivery expenses; program-related research and development; startup costs for implementing this legislation, such as studies, pilot projects, data processing improvements, and public outreach; and related tasks and functions.

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated to be \$14,695,301,000 in fiscal year 2024, for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund.

#### COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

The Commodity Credit Corporation is a wholly owned Government corporation created in 1933 to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; to help maintain balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities, including products, foods, feeds, and fibers; and to help in the orderly distribution of these commodities. CCC was originally incorporated under a Delaware charter and was reincorporated June 30, 1948, as a Federal corporation within USDA by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), approved June 29, 1948.

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

Corporation activities are primarily governed by the following statutes: the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), as amended; the Agricultural Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–439), as amended (1949 Act); the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Public Law 75–430), as amended (the 1938 Act); the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198), as amended (1985 Act); the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246); the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79); and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

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

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

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

#### REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$16,832,185,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	10,612,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	10,612,000,000

##### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2024 to be \$10,612,000,000, for the payment to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for reimbursement for net realized losses.

*CRP Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Enhancement.*—The Committee notes that agricultural commodity crops, if left unharvested, may help reduce degradation of wetlands and improve sediment trapping, surface and ground water supply, erosion control, and wildlife habitat while providing winter food for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Committee directs CCC, within 60 days of enactment of this act, to amend its program policies and guidelines for CRP conservation practices CP23 and CP23A, to provide that current and future participants are permitted to plant, but not harvest, agricultural commodity crops as wildlife food plots on up to 10 percent of the enrolled land to enhance waterfowl and upland bird food and habitat.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

##### (LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

Limitation, 2023 .....	\$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	15,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	15,000,000

The CCC's hazardous waste management program is intended to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96-510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94-580). The CCC funds operations and maintenance costs as well as site investigation and cleanup expenses. Investigative and cleanup costs associated with the management of CCC hazardous waste are also paid from USDA's hazardous waste management appropriation.



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$15,000,000 for the Commodity Credit Corporation's hazardous waste management program.

TITLE III  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,620,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,653,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,620,000

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,620,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

*Persistent Poverty Areas.*—The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas, particularly in persistent poverty counties, and directs the Department to complete the report requested on this matter, which is now several years overdue. The report shall include both the historic data requested in the original directive as well as data for fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation .....	351,087	527,182	351,087

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account .....	412,254	412,254	412,254
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program Account .....	33,270	33,270	33,270
Rural Development Loan Program Account .....	4,468	4,468	4,468
Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses .....	801,079	977,174	801,079

These funds are used to administer the loan and grant programs of RHS, RBS, and RUS, including reviewing applications, making and collecting loans, providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers, and assisting in extending other Federal programs to people in rural areas.

Under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508), administrative costs associated with loan programs are appropriated to the program accounts. Appropriations to the salaries and expenses account will be for costs associated with grant programs.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$801,079,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development, including a direct appropriation of \$351,087,000.

*Cloud use.*—The Committee remains interested in Rural Development’s efforts to modernize the agency’s information technology systems in an effort to provide better assistance to the communities it serves. In compliance with the Federal Government’s Cloud Smart strategy, RD is directed to provide a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 180 days after enactment of this act with an assessment of the time, effort and cost of moving off on-prem and transitioning and modernizing in the cloud.

*Information Technology.*—The Committee remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development and directs the Department to continue to update or retire legacy systems. Furthermore, the Committee still awaits the report listing the programs that still require paper applications and the estimated cost to develop online portals, and continues to direct the Department to submit monthly updates on making improvements to the systems listed above and any other IT development.

*Staffing.*—The Committee continues to direct the Department to provide a report that breaks out staffing by program, including current levels and end of year goals within 30 days of enactment of this act and monthly reports to the Committee with hiring updates thereafter.

*Rural Partners Network.*—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for the Rural Partners Network.

#### RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

The Rural Housing Service was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354).

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 (budget authority) .....	\$527,357,000
Budget estimate, 2024 (budget authority) .....	813,849,000
Committee recommendation (budget authority) .....	558,986,000

This fund was established in 1965 (Public Law 89–117) pursuant to section 517 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). This fund may be used to insure or guarantee rural housing loans for single-family homes, rental and cooperative housing, farm labor housing, and rural housing sites. Rural housing loans are made to construct, improve, alter, repair, or replace dwellings and essential farm service buildings that are modest in size, design, and cost. Rental housing insured loans are made to individuals, corporations, associations, trusts, or partnerships to provide low-cost rental housing and related facilities in rural areas. These loans are repayable in terms up to 30 years. The Multi-family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program [MPR] includes revitalization tools for maintenance of existing units. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the Rural Housing Insurance Fund [RHIF] program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2024, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$146,732,000, excluding the transfer of funds, for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2023 levels and the 2024 budget request:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
<b>Loan Levels:</b>			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct .....	1,250,000	1,500,000	850,000
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot .....	7,500	12,000	7,500
Guaranteed .....	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Housing repair (sec. 504) .....	28,000	50,000	28,000
Direct rental housing (sec. 515) .....	70,000	200,000	60,000
Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538) .....	400,000	400,000	400,000
Site development loans (sec. 524) .....	5,000	5,000	5,000
Credit sales of acquired property .....	10,000	10,000	10,000
Self help land development loans (sec. 523) .....	5,000	5,000	5,000
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514) .....	20,000	50,000	25,000
<b>Total, loan levels .....</b>	<b>31,795,500</b>	<b>32,232,000</b>	<b>31,390,500</b>
<b>Loan Subsidies and Grants:</b>			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct .....	46,375	205,950	62,637
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot .....	2,468	5,491	3,432
Housing repair (sec. 504) .....	2,324	8,675	4,858
Direct rental housing (sec. 515) .....	13,377	69,960	20,988
Site development loans (sec. 524) .....	208	477	477

## RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Self help land development loans (sec. 523) .....	267	637	637
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514) .....	4,084	17,405	8,703
Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516) .....	10,000	18,000	10,000
Multi-Family housing revitalization demonstration .....	36,000	75,000	35,000
Total, loan subsidies and grants .....	115,103	401,595	146,732
Administrative Expenses .....	412,254	412,254	412,254
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses .....	527,357	813,849	558,986

*Fair Housing Protections.*—The Committee supports efforts to strengthen the protections of the Fair Housing Act, but understand that more action is needed to ensure these protections reach every community. The Committee requests information on what resources are needed to ensure Rural Development has the resources to collaborate with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to conduct outreach and raise awareness of the rights and protections under the Fair Housing Act for all protected classes.

*Multifamily Housing Inspections.*—The Committee directs the Department to better collaborate with HUD on Multifamily housing inspections, especially for properties financed by both USDA and HUD, and to provide clarifying guidance on the acceptability of either a USDA or HUD inspection to avoid duplication.

*Relending Program.*—The Committee provides \$7,500,000 for the Section 502 Direct Tribal Relending Pilot, and to the extent practicable, encourages the Rural Housing Service to expand the current pilot to the Southwest and to Native CDFIs that are partnered with Regional Housing Authorities which receive block grant funds under Public Law 104–330. The Committee recognizes that there is a tremendous need for safe and affordable housing in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and Native American CDFIs have deep ties to the local communities they serve, and are better equipped to more effectively reach potential homebuyers.

*Single Family Housing Efficiency Concerns.*—The Committee is concerned that there are unnecessary impediments facing individuals who utilize Single Family Housing Direct Loans and the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program to purchase homes or property in rural areas. The Committee awaits the report on the current appraisal requirements for these homes and whether these requirements are adopted from requirements used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,487,926,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,688,109,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,608,000,000

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). The objective of the pro-

gram is to reduce rents paid by low-income families living in RHS-financed rental projects and farm labor housing projects. Under this program, low-income tenants will contribute the higher of: (1) 30 percent of monthly adjusted income; (2) 10 percent of monthly income; or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency.

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

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,608,000,000 for the Rental Assistance Program.

Housing vouchers continue to be addressed in the Rural Housing Voucher Account.

*Applicant Rental Experience.*—The Committee understands that the Rural Development Civil Rights Office previously administered a testing program to examine the rental experience of applicants in rural housing services. The Committee requests information on why the testing program ended, what resources would be needed to restart the program, and how the program should be updated to ensure it captures the needs of communities protected by the Fair Housing Act, who are particularly at-risk of housing instability.

*Decoupling of Rental Assistance.*—The Committee accepts the Department's proposal to decouple the rental assistance program from Section 515 direct loans. This strategy should only be used when all other methods of preservation are exhausted. In implementing this policy, the Committee directs the Department to have strong stakeholder engagement and to provide the Committee with monthly updates on the implementation of this policy.

*Rental Assistance Priority.*—The Secretary is encouraged to prioritize multi-family housing properties acquired by means of a section 515 loan within the current fiscal year when determining current rental assistance needs.

#### RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$48,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	
Committee recommendation .....	48,000,000

The Rural Housing Voucher Program was authorized under the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81-171) to assist very low-income families and individuals who reside in rental housing in rural areas. Housing vouchers may be provided to residents of rental housing projects financed by section 515 loans that have been pre-paid or paid off after September 30, 2005. Voucher amounts reflect the difference between comparable market rents and tenant-paid rent prior to loan pre-payment. Vouchers allow tenants to remain in existing projects or move to other rental housing.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$48,000,000 for the Rural Housing Voucher Program.

## MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$32,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	40,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	32,000,000

The Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants Program is authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). Grants are made to local organizations to promote the development of mutual or self-help programs under which groups of usually six to 10 families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor. Funds may be used to pay the cost of construction supervisors who work with families in the construction of their homes and for administrative expenses of the organizations providing the self-help assistance.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$32,000,000 for Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants.

## RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$48,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	70,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	48,000,000

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

*Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants.*—The Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants Program is authorized under section 504 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The rural housing repair grant program is carried out by making grants to very low-income families to conduct necessary repairs to their homes in order to make such dwellings safe and sanitary and to remove hazards to the health of the occupants, their families, or the community.

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

No assistance can be extended to any one individual in the form of a loan, grant, or combined loans and grants in excess of \$7,500,000, and grant assistance is limited to persons or families headed by persons who are 62 years of age or older.

*Supervisory and Technical Assistance Grants.*—Supervisory and technical assistance grants are made to public and private non-profit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing as-

sistance under sections 502, 504, 514/516, 515, and 533 of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The assistance is directed to very low-income families in underserved areas where at least 20 percent of the population is below the poverty level and at least 10 percent or more of the population resides in substandard housing. In fiscal year 1994, a Homebuyer Education Program was implemented under this authority. This program provides low-income individuals and families with education and counseling on obtaining and/or maintaining occupancy of adequate housing and supervised credit assistance to become successful homeowners.

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

*Rural Housing Preservation Grants.*—Rural housing preservation grants (section 533) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (Public Law 98–181) authorizes the Rural Housing Service to administer a program of home repair directed at low- and very low-income people.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$48,000,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program.

The following table compares the grant program levels recommended by the Committee to the fiscal year 2023 levels and the budget request:

#### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Very low-income housing repair grants .....	32,000	40,000	32,000
Housing preservation grants .....	16,000	30,000	16,000
Total .....	48,000	70,000	48,000

#### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$341,490,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	86,745,000
Committee recommendation .....	253,134,000

Community facility loans were created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419) to finance a variety of rural community facilities. Loans are made to organizations, including certain Indian Tribes and corporations not operated for profit and public and quasi-public agencies, to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. Such facilities include those providing or sup-



porting overall community development, such as fire and rescue services, healthcare, transportation, traffic control, and community, social, cultural, and recreational benefits. Loans are made for facilities which primarily serve rural residents of open country and rural towns and villages of not more than 20,000 people. Healthcare, fire and rescue facilities, and educational facilities are the priorities of the program and receive the majority of available funds.

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$253,134,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

#### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
<b>Loan Levels:</b>			
Community facilities direct loans .....	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Community facilities guaranteed loans .....	650,000	650,000	650,000
Total, loan levels .....	3,450,000	3,450,000	3,450,000
<b>Budget Authority:</b>			
Community facilities grants .....		52,000	32,000
Congressionally directed spending .....	325,490		205,134
Rural community development initiative .....	6,000	22,745	6,000
Tribal college grants .....	10,000	10,000	10,000
Rural Hospitals Pilot Program .....		2,000	
Total, budget authority .....	341,490	86,745	253,134

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].*—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Rural Community Facilities Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Income-based Matches.*—The Committee is concerned that the methodology used to calculate income-based matches for the Community Facilities Grant program and the Water and Wastewater Disposal Grant program inequitably considers State needs. The Committee directs the Department to conduct an analysis of this methodology and develop three alternative methodologies, and to brief the Committees no later than 60 days after enactment of the

Act. If warranted, the Department is directed to make changes to its methodology based on this analysis.

*Rural Community Development Initiative Grants.*—The Committee encourages the Department to increase the maximum grant amount for this program from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and to allow an advance of 25 percent of grant funds prior to a match being supplied.

#### RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

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

#### RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$86,520,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	103,600,000
Committee recommendation .....	77,728,000

The Rural Business and Industry Loan Program was created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419), and finances a variety of rural industrial development loans. Loans are made for rural industrialization and rural community facilities under Rural Development Act amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932 et seq.) authorities. Business and industrial loans are made to public, private, or cooperative organizations organized for profit; to certain Indian tribes; or to individuals for the purpose of improving, developing, or financing business, industry, and employment or improving the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. Such purposes include financing business and industrial acquisition, construction, enlargement, repair or modernization; financing the purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, and payment of startup costs; and supplying working capital.

Rural business development grants were authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) and can be made to governmental and nonprofit entities and Indian Tribes. Up to 10 percent of appropriated funds may be used to identify and analyze business opportunities; identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; assist in the establishment of new rural businesses and the maintenance of existing businesses; conduct economic development planning, coordination, and leadership development; and establish centers for training, technology, and trade. The balance of appropriated funding may be used for projects that support the development of business enterprises that finance or facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprise; the establishment, expansion, and operation of rural distance learning networks; the development of rural learning programs; and the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$77,728,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

## RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels .....	1,800,000	2,000,000	1,800,000
Total, loan levels .....	1,800,000	2,000,000	1,800,000
Budget Authority:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans .....	38,520	47,600	28,728
Rural business development grants .....	37,000	40,000	37,000
DRA, NBRC, ARC, and SWBRC .....	9,000	9,000	12,000
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants .....	2,000	7,000	.....
Total, budget authority .....	86,520	103,600	77,728

*Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities.*—The Committee recognizes that strong partnerships exist between RD and Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities. The Committee encourages RD to coordinate with the Regional Commissions to promote efficiency during the grant planning and review process. Additionally, the Committee encourages RD to ensure flexible processes are available for each Regional Commission as appropriate.

*Infant Formula Manufacturing.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that small infant formula manufacturing facilities located in rural areas are aware of their eligibility for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program.

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

The Committee directs that of the \$400,000 recommended for grants to benefit federally Recognized Native American Tribes, \$250,000 shall be used to implement an American Indian and Alaska Native passenger transportation development and assistance initiative. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Department to improve information sharing about Rural Development's business support programs with local small business advisory organizations.

## INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level .....	18,889	18,889	18,889
Direct loan subsidy .....	3,313	5,733	5,733
Administrative expenses .....	4,468	4,468	4,468
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses .....	7,781	10,201	10,201

The Rural Development Intermediary Relending Loan program was originally authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–452). The making of rural development loans by USDA was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

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

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 74–605) established the program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated in 2024, as well as administrative expenses.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$10,201,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund.

#### RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a loan program level of \$75,000,000 and \$15,000,000 in grants to be funded from earnings on the Cushion of Credit and fees on guaranteed underwriting loans made pursuant to section 313A of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901).

#### RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 level	Fiscal year 2024 request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level .....	75,000	75,000	75,000
Estimated grants .....	15,000	15,000	15,000

#### RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$28,300,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	29,800,000
Committee recommendation .....	28,300,000

Rural cooperative development grants are authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 113–79), as amended. Grants are made to fund the establishment and operation of centers for rural cooperative development with the primary purpose of improving economic conditions in rural areas. Grants may be made to nonprofit institutions or institutions of higher education. Grants may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of the project and associated administrative costs. The applicant must contribute at least 25 percent from non-Federal sources, except 1994 institutions, which only need to provide five percent. Grants are competitive and are awarded based on specific selection criteria.

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

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

The Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas [ATTRA] program was first authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198). The program provides information and technical assistance to agricultural producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly and lower production costs.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 level	Fiscal year 2024 request	Committee recommendation
Rural Cooperative Development Grants .....	5,800	7,000	5,800
Appropriate Technology Transfer .....	3,500	2,800	3,500
Grants to Assist Minority Producers .....	3,000	4,000	3,000
Value-Added Producer Grants .....	13,000	13,000	13,000
Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Grants .....	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Rural Cooperative Development Grants .....	28,300	29,800	28,300

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$28,300,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Of the funds recommended, \$3,500,000 is for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program.

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

*Agriculture Innovation Centers.*—The Committee recommends \$3,000,000 for Agriculture Innovation Center funding, as authorized in section 6402 of Public Law 107–171, to be available as grants to States authorized to host, and that have previously hosted, a USDA Agriculture Innovation Center and where the

State continues to demonstrate support and provide non-Federal grant funding to producers developing, producing, and marketing value-added agricultural and food products. Prior year or current grant awardees shall be eligible for these funds.

*Value-Added Producer Grants.*—The Committee directs that Value-Added Producer Grants be prioritized to support the production of value-added agricultural products, including dairy, with significant potential to expand production and processing in the United States.

#### RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$6,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	8,250,000
Committee recommendation .....	6,000,000

The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program is authorized under section 379E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s). This program provides direct loans and grants to microentrepreneur development organizations with the skills necessary to establish new rural microenterprises and provide technical assistance to maintain the successful operation of rural microenterprises.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,000,000 for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

#### RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$18,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	30,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	

The Rural Energy for America Program is authorized under section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171). This program may fund energy audits, direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses for the purchase of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvements.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee does not recommend a discretionary appropriation for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

#### RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level .....	20,000	50,000	50,000
Guaranteed loan subsidy .....	18		
Grants .....		30,000	

*Rural Energy for America Program [REAP].*—The Committee encourages the Department to focus a portion of funding on underserved renewable technologies.

The Committee also acknowledges the potential of the Rural Energy for America Program in helping rural agricultural producers and small businesses diversify on-farm income and promote energy efficiency through renewable energy production. However, the Committee recognizes financial barriers to program utilization by small agricultural producers and small businesses due to matching fund requirements and reimbursement-based grant funding. As such, the Committee encourages the Department to make REAP grants more accessible to socially disadvantaged groups and low income applicants to ensure the program's feasibility and accessibility for applicants of all demographics.

#### HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$3,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	5,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,000,000

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative is authorized under section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. This program provides financial and technical assistance to regional, State and local partnerships, and helps fund projects to improve access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved rural areas.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative and notes the funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

#### RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

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

#### RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$596,404,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	882,295,000
Committee recommendation .....	671,560,000

The water and waste disposal program is authorized by sections 306, 306A, 309A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87–128). This program makes loans for water and waste development costs. Development loans are made to associations, including corporations operating on a nonprofit basis, municipalities, and similar organizations generally designated as public or quasi-public agencies, that propose projects for the development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of domestic water or the collection, treat-

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

The solid waste grant program is authorized under section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87-128). Grants are made to public entities and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local and regional governments for the purpose of reducing or eliminating pollution of water resources and for improving the planning and management of solid waste disposal facilities.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$671,560,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends \$70,000,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, Hawaiian Homelands, and the Colonias. The Committee recognizes the special needs and problems for delivery of basic services to these populations and encourages the Secretary to distribute these funds in line with the fiscal year 2014 distribution to the degree practicable. In addition, the Committee makes up to \$25,000,000 available for the circuit rider program.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

#### RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans .....	1,400,000	1,500,000	850,000
Water and waste disposal direct zero percent loans .....			
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans .....	20,000	110,000	30,000
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans .....	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total, loan levels .....	1,470,000	1,660,000	930,000
Budget authority:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans .....		125,250	70,975
Water and waste disposal direct zero percent loans .....			
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans .....	2,724	29,645	8,085
Water and waste disposal grants .....	430,000	538,400	430,000
Solid waste management grants .....	4,000	4,000	4,000
Water well systems grants .....	5,000	5,000	5,000
Colonias, AK, HI and Native American grants .....	70,000	87,000	70,000
Water and waste water revolving funds .....	1,000	1,000	1,000
High energy cost grants .....	10,000	10,000	10,000
Circuit rider .....	21,180	25,000	25,000
Emergency community water assistance grants .....	15,000	15,000	10,000
Technical assistance grants .....	37,500	42,000	37,500
Total, budget authority .....	596,404	882,295	671,560

**Technical Assistance.**—The Committee provides \$37,500,000 for technical assistance and directs no less than \$1,000,000 to be used to support manufactured homes.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (Public Law 74–605) provides the statutory authority for the electric and telecommunications programs.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. An appropriation to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2024, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table reflects the Committee’s recommendation for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account, the loan subsidy and administrative expenses, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan authorization:			
Electric:			
Direct FFB .....	2,167,000	2,167,000	2,167,000
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate .....	4,333,000	4,333,000	4,333,000
Guaranteed underwriting .....	900,000	.....	900,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, Treasury Rate .....	690,000	690,000	690,000
Rural Energy Savings Program .....	110,898	192,845	60,000
Total, Loan authorization .....	8,200,897	7,382,845	8,150,000
Direct, Treasury Rate Telecomm Subsidy .....	3,726	7,176	7,176
Rural Energy Savings Program .....	11,500	34,500	10,734
Clean Energy Technical Assistance .....	.....	15,000	.....
Administrative Expenses .....	33,270	33,270	33,270
Total budget authority .....	48,496	89,946	51,180

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$466,504,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	476,337,000
Committee recommendation .....	195,721,000

The Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624), as amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127). This program provides incentives to improve the quality of phone services, provide access to advanced telecommunications services and computer networks, and improve rural opportunities.

This program provides the facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with more urban centers and other facilities, providing rural residents access to better healthcare

through technology and increasing educational opportunities for rural students. These funds are available for loans and grants.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$195,721,000 for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, as compared to fiscal year 2023 and the budget request levels:

#### DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan and grant levels:			
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program:			
Grants .....	60,000	65,000	60,000
Congressionally Directed Spending .....	4,991	.....	2,721
Broadband Program:			
Treasury rate loans .....	14,674	14,674	.....
Treasury rate loans budget authority .....	2,000	2,037	.....
Middle mile loans .....	15,873	.....	.....
Middle mile loans budget authority .....	1,000	.....	.....
Grants .....	35,000	35,000	35,000
Re-Connect .....	348,000	374,300	98,000
Congressionally Directed Spending .....	15,513	.....	.....
Total, DLT and Broadband Program level .....	30,547	14,674	.....
Total, DLT and Broadband budget authority .....	466,504	476,337	195,721

The Committee provides \$3,000,000 to address critical healthcare needs, as authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 115–334).

*Broadband Interagency Agreement.*—The Committee directs the Department to continue the interagency agreement between the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and USDA.

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].*—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*ReConnect.*—The Committee provides \$98,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), and again reminds USDA that funding should not be used in areas that are already largely served and should be focused in areas where at least 90% of households lack access. In doing so, the Committee intends that USDA should avoid efforts that could duplicate existing or planned broadband networks, including avoiding granting funding in areas where another provider already has received funding from another Federal, State or local funding program to build, has otherwise committed to a government entity to build, or has invested private risk capital to build in an area and has obtained necessary permits

to do so, even if construction is not yet complete. To achieve these goals, we urge USDA to continue coordinating closely with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission in a transparent manner to ensure that there is a common agreement about which areas are currently unserved, to utilize a common map to reach those conclusions that is updated each time a new funding decision is announced, and to have a clear and understandable challenge process.

To avoid waste, funding should be given only to applicants that can and will follow through with their commitments by prioritizing applications from applicants that have demonstrated the technical and financial experience required to construct and operate broadband networks. To incentivize participation, applications should be as streamlined as possible, including allowing all providers to offer proof of financial capability through bond ratings instead of submitting financial documentation, and to offer collateral for loans as well as security for performance under grants using alternate forms of security instead of providing a first lien on assets. Applications should only require the data strictly necessary to evaluate the application and post-award burdens should be minimized.

In addition, while the pilot is intended to be technology neutral, it is critical that federal broadband investments support projects that are both scalable and adequate for both current and future technological requirement and consumer needs. In carrying out the Reconnect program, the Committee directs USDA to support qualified projects that will provide the highest upload and download speeds possible to ensure rural America is receiving the same quality broadband services as their non-rural counterparts.

The Committee also remains concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty utilizing this program and directs the agency to report back to the Committee with recommendations to address these concerns.

*Satellite Service.*—The Committee still awaits the report on the feasibility and cost of utilizing satellite Internet service under its existing programs. The report must cover a cost comparison of fiber versus satellite costs with a focus on reaching rural areas. Additionally, USDA should report on any statutory barriers that prevent program dollars to go toward satellite Internet access.

## TITLE IV

### DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

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

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,376,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,416,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,376,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,376,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

*Application Process.*—The Committee is concerned that the application process for organizations which participate in both the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program diverts resources away from serving vulnerable populations. The Committee directs USDA to determine ways to streamline the application process to reduce the administrative burden to providers. USDA is specifically directed to consider allowing organizations in good standing for 3 years participating in both programs to file only one application to administer both programs each year.

*Meals-to-You.*—The Committee recognizes the benefits the Meals-to-You [MTY] demonstration program has had in reducing food insecurity, particularly for children and youth in rural and frontier areas who are unable to access congregate feeding sites. The Committee encourages FNS to continue providing meal delivery services through the MTY demonstration project through a grant or cooperative agreement to a non-profit provider that works with local service institutions to enroll eligible low-income children.

#### FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

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

*Child Nutrition Programs [CNP].*—The National School Lunch and School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food programs provide funding to the States, Puerto Rico, the

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

*Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC].*—This program safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, and infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and income by providing supplemental foods. The delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating State health agency may select. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP].*—This program seeks to improve nutritional standards of needy persons and families. Assistance is provided to eligible households to enable them to obtain a better diet by increasing their food purchasing capability, usually by furnishing benefits in the form of electronic access to funds. The program includes Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico [NAP]. The program also includes the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations [FDPIR], which provides nutritious agricultural commodities to low-income persons living on or near Indian reservations who choose not to participate in SNAP.

*Commodity Assistance Program [CAP].*—This program provides funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP], the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program [FMNP], Disaster Assistance, Pacific Island Assistance, and administrative expenses for the Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP]. CSFP provides supplemental foods to low-income elderly persons age 60 and over. TEFAP provides commodities and grant funds to State agencies to assist in the cost of storage and distribution of donated commodities. Nutritious agricultural commodities are provided to residents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Cash assistance is provided to distributing agencies to assist them in meeting administrative expenses incurred. CAP also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS's administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

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

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$28,545,432,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	32,030,897,000
Committee recommendation .....	32,032,897,000

Child Nutrition Programs, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Public Law 79-396) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642), provide Federal assistance to State agencies in the form of cash and commodities for use in preparing and serving nutritious meals to children while they are attending school, residing in service institutions, or participating in other organized activities away from home. The purpose of these programs is to help maintain the health and proper physical development of America's children. Milk is provided to children either free or at a low cost, depending on their family income level. FNS provides cash subsidies to States for administering the programs and directly administers the program in the States which choose not to do so. Grants are also made for nutritional training and surveys and for State administrative expenses. Under current law, most of these payments are made on the basis of reimbursement rates established by law and applied to lunches and breakfasts actually served by the States. The reimbursement rates are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for food away from home.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$32,032,897,000 for the Child Nutrition Programs.

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

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

Child nutrition programs	Committee recommendation
Special Milk Program .....	6,651
State Administrative Expenses .....	491,591
Commodity Procurement .....	1,948,518
Team Nutrition .....	20,162
Food Safety Education .....	4,378
Coordinated Review .....	10,000
Computer Support .....	34,912
Training and Technical Assistance .....	61,291
CNP Studies and Evaluation .....	21,876
Farm to School Team .....	9,533
Payment Accuracy .....	17,069
School Meal Equipment Grants .....	20,000
Child Nutrition Training .....	2,000
Farm to School Grants .....	10,000
Total .....	32,032,897

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

*Child and Adult Care Food Program [CACFP].*—The Committee encourages FNS to explore utilizing third-party services to deliver meals and snacks through CACFP in a non-congregate setting, particularly in school districts in which the poverty rate is higher than the National average. The Committee directs FNS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing steps taken and potential cost savings to school districts, States, and the Federal Government.

*Child Nutrition Meal Patterns.*—The Committee is pleased that, consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the Secretary included low-fat, flavored milk and reasonable sodium reduction standards for School Years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 in USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium. The Committee urges the Department in forthcoming rulemaking on child nutrition program meal pattern requirements to retain low-fat, flavored milk as a nutrient-rich option for the milk component and to consider the food safety and functional uses of sodium in cheese.

*Costs of Producing School Meals in Outlying Areas.*—The Committee is concerned that the per-meal reimbursement rates for schools meals in the outlying areas do not accurately reflect the high cost of producing and supplying school lunches and breakfasts, and that lower than needed reimbursements may result in a cost burden for school meals programs and lower child nutrition program participation. The Committee notes that USDA's calculation for the National average payment rate for the outlying areas has not been appropriately adjusted for increased costs since its original 1979 analysis based on data from the 1976 Thrifty Food Plan and the 1976 County Business Patterns. The Committee directs USDA to provide a temporary increase in the National average payment rate for the outlying areas at a rate at least equal to the National average payment rate for Alaska until the School Nutrition Cost Study II is completed and updated adjustments for school meal reimbursements for these areas are subsequently made, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1760(f). The Committee further directs USDA to provide necessary technical assistance and flexibility to school food authorities and school staff in the outlying areas to ensure the collection of complete and accurate data for the School Nutrition Cost Study II.

*Crediting System.*—The Committee recognizes that the current crediting system used by FNS in administering the School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program has not been updated to keep pace with products in the marketplace. Specifically, Greek yogurt receives the same protein crediting as other products with less protein. The Committee directs the Secretary to update the system of crediting high-protein yogurt to accurately reflect scientifically demonstrated higher protein content in strained yogurt.

*Farm to School Program.*—Successful implementation of Farm to School programs requires broad-based knowledge of best practices regarding coordination among farmers, processors, distributors, students, teachers, dietary and food preparation staff, and USDA professionals. Since the scope of some Farm to School projects has expanded in recent years, the Committee has included language to allow maximum grant amounts to increase to \$500,000. Of the

grant funds provided, the Committee directs the Secretary to use \$500,000 to form at least one cooperative agreement with an established entity, such as regional a Farm to School institute, for the creation and dissemination of information on farm to school program development and to provide practitioner education, training, ongoing school year coaching, and technical assistance.

*Pulse Crops.*—The Committee recognizes the nutritional value of pulse crops for children and encourages FNS to support school food authorities in sourcing and serving pulse crops.

*Seafood Consumption in the National School Lunch Program.*—USDA is directed to submit to the Committee, within 120 days of enactment of this Act, a plan developed in coordination with the NOAA, to address factors limiting seafood consumption in school as recommended in GAO report “National School Lunch Program: USDA Could Enhance Assistance to States and Schools in Providing Seafood to Students” [GAO–23–105179].

*Summer Food Service Program.*—The Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act Explanatory Statement directed USDA to submit a report to the Committee “within 1 year of enactment of this Act describing the number of Summer Food Service Program grantees, the States in which they operate, the innovative methods of food delivery by non-congregate means and in non-congregate settings, and the number of additional youth served as a result.” The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has not yet completed this report. The Committee directs USDA to submit this report within 30 days of enactment.

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

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$6,000,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	6,300,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	6,300,000,000

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

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

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,300,000,000 for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.



The Committee recommendation fully funds estimated WIC participation in fiscal year 2024. The Committee provides \$90,000,000 for breastfeeding support initiatives and \$14,000,000 for infrastructure.

*Allergenic Foods.*—The Committee encourages the Secretary to issue regulations to address the early introduction of potentially allergenic foods within the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to align with the most recent edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

*Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Recommendations.*—WIC designated Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome [NAS] as a nutrition risk factor in 2017, and WIC agencies across the country actively screen for symptoms of substance use, referring mothers who may be struggling with substance use disorder to appropriate services. The Committee encourages USDA to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services on the development of uniform, evidence-based nutrition education materials in order to best serve WIC-eligible pregnant women and caregivers to infants impacted by NAS. Uniform materials will enhance WIC's ongoing efforts to screen and support infants exhibiting symptoms of NAS.

*WIC Food Package.*—The Committee is pleased that the Department issued regulations for public comment to update the WIC food package. The Committee encourages FNS to pay particular attention to comments received regarding the inclusion of low-mercury fish.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$153,867,723,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	122,133,239,000
Committee recommendation .....	122,141,239,000

SNAP attempts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among low-income persons by increasing their food purchasing power. Eligible households receive SNAP benefits with which they can purchase food through regular retail stores.

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

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

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

*State Antifraud Activities.*—Under the provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), States are eligible to be reimbursed for 50 percent of the costs of their fraud investigations and prosecutions.

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$122,141,239,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Of the amount recommended, \$3,000,000,000 is made available as a contingency reserve.

*FDPIR Pilot Program.*—The Committee is concerned that FNS has prohibited tribes and Tribal organizations that participate in the FDPIR pilot program from including traditional food items unless such items replace a USDA-provided item, and prohibited such substitutions unless the producer of the traditional food is able to provide sufficient quantities for all FDPIR participants nationwide. Allowing tribes participating in the pilot to source new traditional foods from small, indigenous producers without requiring a substitution will result in the inclusion of more traditional foods and help small, indigenous producers to expand. The Committee therefore directs FNS to allow tribes participating in the pilot program to include traditional foods without substitutions and to allow participating tribes to purchase traditional foods from producers that may not be able to provide sufficient quantities to serve all participating tribes across the Nation.

*National Accuracy Clearinghouse.*—The Committee supports the full implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse [NAC] that uses a third-party electronic data matching system, data analytics, and public data to determine the correct state to issue SNAP benefits. The Committee encourages FNS to expand NAC to all SNAP agencies. In addition, the Committee reiterates that States must administer a robust appeals process to ensure individuals are not automatically removed from receiving benefits.

*SNAP Fraud.*—The Committee remains concerned about data discrepancies that allowed retailers to provide benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials, as outlined in a January 2017 OIG report. The Committee encourages FNS, as part of their work to implement controls to address these problems, to consider how advanced analytics is used to improve analysis across multiple systems mentioned in the report. This could include integrating data mining and machine learning into source systems such as STARS and ALERT, applying computer vision to enhance FNS investigations, and deploying new predictive analytics to help detect emerging fraud schemes. The Committee requests USDA to continue to update Congress on its progress in addressing the issues outlined in the report.

#### COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$457,710,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	517,070,000
Committee recommendation .....	501,070,000

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

*The Commodity Supplemental Food Program.*—Authorized by section 4(a) of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), as amended in 1981 by Public Law 97–98 and in 2014 by Public Law 113–79, this program provides supplemental food to low-income senior citizens and, in some cases, low-income infants and children up to age six and low-income pregnant and postpartum women. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) discontinued the admission of new pregnant and postpartum women and children into the program. Those already in the program can continue to receive assistance until they are no longer eligible.

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

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

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

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

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$501,070,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to distribute Commodity Assistance Pro-

gram funds equitably among the States, based on an assessment of the needs and priorities of each State and the State's preference to receive commodity allocations through each of the programs funded under this account.

*Commodity Supplemental Food Program.*—The Committee recommends \$390,000,000 for CSFP.

*Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.*—The Committee is aware that FMNP provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income mothers and children, benefiting not only WIC participants, but local farmers as well. Therefore, the Committee recommends 20.0 million for FMNP and directs the Secretary to obligate these funds within 45 days of enactment of this act.

*The Emergency Food Assistance Program.*—The Committee provides \$90,000,000 in discretionary funding for TEFAP transportation, storage, and program integrity. In addition, the Committee recommendation grants the Secretary authority to transfer up to an additional 20 percent from TEFAP commodities for this purpose and urges the Secretary to use this authority.

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

#### NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$189,348,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	221,193,000
Committee recommendation .....	184,348,000

The Nutrition Programs Administration appropriation provides for most of the Federal operating expenses of FNS, which includes CNP, the Special Milk Program, WIC, SNAP, NAP, and CAP.

The major objective of Nutrition Programs Administration is to efficiently and effectively carry out the nutrition assistance programs mandated by law. This is to be accomplished by the following: (1) giving clear and consistent guidance and supervision to State agencies and other cooperators; (2) assisting the States and other cooperators by providing program, managerial, financial, and other advice and expertise; (3) measuring, reviewing, and analyzing the progress being made toward achieving program objectives; and (4) carrying out regular staff support functions.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$184,348,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN  
AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$932,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,035,000
Committee recommendation .....	932,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's international affairs (except for foreign economic development). The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$932,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

*Food Chain Systems.*—The Committee is aware that the lack of comprehensive cold food chain systems is one of the main causes of food loss and results in a significant percentage of food spoilage from farm-to-market. Preventing food loss and implementing a robust cold food chain results in substantial benefits such as increased nutrition, a safer food supply, greater economic opportunity, and increased resilience. In order to maximize the benefit investment in the agricultural productivity of the developing world, the Committee encourages the Department to give strong consideration to the use of cold chain technologies and include the development of appropriate cooling technologies in programs, policies, and strategic plans aimed at hunger prevention and food security in developing agricultural markets.

*International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program [IAEFP].*—The Committee urges USDA to prioritize IAEFP grants to multi-year programs or to continue existing programs, including programs previously awarded IAEFP funds. Further, the Committee is concerned about regional limitations on eligible programs in previous funding opportunities and encourages USDA to avoid limiting eligibility of applicants to specific countries or regions.

*Market Access Program [MAP] and Foreign Market Development Program [FMD] Reporting.*—The Committee directs the Department to publish an annual report describing the recipients of funds, including the quantity and specific uses of such funding awards, granted through MAP and FMD for the purpose of promoting agricultural sales in Cuba, to ensure compliance with Sec. 3201 of Public Law 115–334.

*Peanut Exports.*—The Committee remains concerned with persistent non-tariff trade barriers faced by the domestic peanut industry when attempting to export peanuts to the European Union. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize interagency coordination with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and industry engagement in order to develop effective and lasting solutions that will allow increased market access for domestic peanuts into the European Union.

*Pecan Exports.*—The Committee directs the Department to prioritize interagency coordination and industry engagement to develop effective strategies to allow for increased market access of domestic pecans into India.

*Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Foods [RUTF].*—The Committee notes that there has been a global spike in cases of child wasting as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and persisting and emerging humanitarian crises. There is also a significant global deficit in the availability of therapeutic food treatments. RUTF is a proven intervention to address global hunger and childhood malnutrition, and up to 90 percent of children treated with RUTF recover. The Committee directs USDA to work with USAID to support the scale up of U.S. production and procurement of RUTF, and to develop a multi-year strategy to support this effort. The Committee further directs USDA to report on this strategy within 90 days of enactment of this act.

#### OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$4,922,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	5,009,000
Committee recommendation .....	4,922,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,922,000 for the Office of Codex Alimentarius.

#### FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from loan accounts	Total
Appropriations, 2023 .....	237,330	6,063	243,393
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	256,149	6,063	262,212
Committee recommendation .....	237,330	6,063	243,393

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

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

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

The General Sales Manager was established pursuant to section 5(f) of the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation and 15 U.S.C. 714–714p. The funds allocated to the General Sales Manager are used for conducting the following programs: (1) CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102), including facilities financing guarantees; (2) Food for Peace; (3) section 416b Overseas Donations Program; (4) Market Access Program; and (5) programs authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 87–155) including barter, export sales of most CCC-owned commodities, export payments, and other programs as assigned to encourage and enhance the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$243,393,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service, including a direct appropriation of \$237,330,000.

*Borlaug Fellows Program.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. This program provides training for international scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The fellows work closely with U.S. specialists in their fields of expertise and apply that knowledge in their home countries. The Committee recognizes the importance of this program in helping developing countries strengthen their agricultural practices and food security.

*Cochran Fellowship Program.*—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level for the Cochran Fellowship Program. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to provide additional support for the program through the CCC Emerging Markets Program.

#### FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$1,750,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	1,800,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,800,000,000

*Commodities Supplied in Connection with Dispositions Abroad (Title II) (7 U.S.C. 1721–1726).*—Commodities are supplied without cost through foreign governments to combat malnutrition and to meet famine and other emergency requirements. Commodities are also supplied for non-emergencies through public and private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations. The CCC pays ocean freight on shipments under this title and may also pay overland transportation costs to a landlocked country, as well as internal distribution costs in emergency situations. The funds appropriated for title II are made available to private voluntary organizations and cooperatives to assist these organizations in meeting administrative and related costs.

*Quarterly Reports.*—The Secretary is directed, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, to provide to the Committee a

quarterly report on obligations and current balances of Food for Peace Title II grants. This report should also include any supplemental funding.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,800,000,000 for Food for Peace title II grants.

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

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$243,331,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	243,331,000
Committee recommendation .....	248,331,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$248,331,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

*Local and Regional Procurement.*—The Committee provides an appropriation of \$24,800,000 for efforts to build long-term agriculture sustainability and establish a local investment in school feeding programs. With direct U.S. commodity contributions, projects supported by the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program have significantly improved the attendance, nourishment, and learning capacity of school-aged children in low-income countries throughout the impoverished world. New funding authorities would enable school feeding programs to proactively transition from direct commodity assistance to locally sourced agriculture products. The Committee directs the Secretary to conduct the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Project Program in accordance with the priorities of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

*McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.*—The Committee notes that nearly one billion people experienced food insecurity in food deficit nations around the globe. The Committee encourages the Department to work with voluntary organizations, cooperatives, and intergovernmental organizations in supporting and utilizing all tools of the program.



## COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT [LOANS]

## CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Guaranteed loan levels
Appropriations, 2023 .....	6,063
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	6,063
Committee precommendation .....	6,063

In 1980, the CCC instituted the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) under its charter authority. With this program, CCC guarantees, for a fee, payments due U.S. exporters under deferred payment sales contracts (up to 36 months) for defaults due to commercial as well as noncommercial risks. The risk to CCC extends from the date of export to the end of the deferred payment period covered in the export sales contract and covers only that portion of the payments agreed to in the assurance agreement. Operation of this program is based on criteria which will assure that it is used only where it is determined that it will develop new market opportunities and maintain and expand existing world markets for U.S. agricultural commodities. The program encourages U.S. financial institutions to provide financing to those areas where the institutions would be unwilling to provide financing in the absence of the CCC guarantees. CCC also provides facilities financing guarantees.

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

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

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

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

In January 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act [FSMA] (Public Law 111–353) was signed into law. This law enables the FDA to better protect public health by strengthening the food safety system. It enables the FDA to focus more on preventing food safety and feed problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides the FDA with new enforcement authorities designed to achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention- and risk-based food and feed safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gives the FDA important new tools to hold imported food and feed to the same standards as domestic food and feed and directs the FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with State and local authorities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Appropriations, 2023 .....	3,530,150	3,032,643	6,562,793
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	3,896,028	3,074,880	6,970,908

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Committee recommendation .....	3,550,150	3,074,880	6,625,030

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,550,150,000 for salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration.

The Committee also recommends \$3,074,880,000 in definite user fees, including: \$1,336,525,000 in Prescription Drug user fee collections; \$331,273,000 in Medical Device user fee collections; \$33,500,000 in Animal Drug user fee collections; \$25,000,000 in Animal Generic Drug user fee collections; \$712,000,000 in Tobacco Product user fee collections; \$594,150,000 in Generic Drug user fee collections; and \$42,432,000 in Biosimilar user fee collections. The Committee recommendation does not include permanent, indefinite user fees for the Mammography Quality Standards Act; Color Certification; Export Certification; Priority Review Vouchers Pediatric Disease; Food and Feed Recall; Food Reinspection; Voluntary Qualified Importer Program; the Third Party Auditor Program; Outsourcing Facility; or Over-the-Counter Monograph. The Committee includes bill language that prohibits the FDA from developing, establishing, or operating any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701. The Committee recommendation does not include proposed user fees requested in the President's budget for food facility registration and inspection, food import, food contact substance notification, cosmetics, and international courier imports. None of these user fee proposals have been authorized by Congress. The Committee will continue to monitor any action by the appropriate authorizing Committees regarding these proposed user fees.

The Committee expects the FDA to continue all projects, activities, laboratories, and programs as included in fiscal year 2023 unless otherwise specified. The Committee provides a net increase of \$7,000,000 for Cosmetics, \$3,750,000 for Food Safety activities, \$3,750,000 for Drug Device Shortages and Supply Chain, \$3,000,000 for Neuroscience, and \$2,500,000 for ALS.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2023 and budget request levels:

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Centers and related field activities:			
Foods .....	1,196,097	1,348,852	1,198,263
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN] .....	401,867	508,623	416,242
Field Activities .....	794,230	840,229	782,021
Human Drugs .....	760,494	775,446	720,963
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] .....	551,493	560,040	515,745
Field Activities .....	209,001	215,406	205,218
Biologics .....	271,515	277,570	266,015
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER] .....	223,465	228,128	218,886
Field Activities .....	48,050	49,442	47,129
Animal Drugs .....	230,093	257,689	231,378
Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM] .....	148,141	172,423	150,532
Field Activities .....	81,952	85,266	80,846

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2023 enacted	Fiscal year 2024 budget request	Committee recommendation
Medical and Radiological Devices .....	449,297	477,990	447,604
Center for Devices and Radiological Health .....	356,062	380,952	355,738
Field Activities .....	93,235	97,038	91,866
National Center for Toxicological Research .....	76,919	80,154	77,388
Other Activities .....	224,940	301,264	237,126
Rent and related activities .....	154,509	220,377	207,377
Rental payments to GSA .....	166,286	156,686	166,286
Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority .....	3,530,150	3,896,028	3,550,150

*Acetaminophen.*—The Committee continues to be concerned that labeling for over-the-counter [OTC] single-ingredient acetaminophen does not contain weight-based dosing instructions for children ages 6 months to 2 years despite the recommendations of the FDA Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee [NDAC] and Pediatric Advisory Committee in 2011 that data supported this information being added to the label. The Committee is concerned that the lack of dosing information for this vulnerable population may lead to dosing errors, adverse events, and inadequate treatment of fever and pain. While the Committee is encouraged that FDA has included this important issue among its annual forecast of planned monograph activities, this list is nonbinding and the issue remains pending after multiple decades despite its importance for public health. As such, the Committee directs FDA to provide to the Committee an update no later than 30 days after the enactment of this act on the timing of amending the monograph label for acetaminophen to include weight-based dosing instructions for children ages 6 months to 2 years.

*Alzheimer's Disease.*—There are more than 6 million Americans aged 65 and over living with dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, and that number is predicted to double by 2050. FDA has approved Alzheimer's therapies through the accelerated approval pathway that could benefit a subset of these patients living with early Alzheimer's disease, adhering to the same standards for establishing safety and efficacy as medicines receiving a traditional FDA approval. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103) explanatory statement noted the contributions of the accelerated approval pathway in expediting access to critical therapies for patients with cancer and certain rare diseases and encouraged FDA to clarify the use of the pathway to ensure it remains available for these patients and also encourage its use for other serious conditions that are unmet medical needs. Further, Congress gave FDA the authority to ensure that the accelerated approval pathway continues to ensure early access to safe and effective new therapies for individuals with serious or life-threatening illnesses. The Committee supports FDA's authority to approve therapies under the accelerated approval pathway based on surrogate endpoints or intermediate clinical endpoints and remains concerned about other HHS agencies discouraging the use of the pathway and thus patient access, particularly related to Alzheimer's disease therapies.

*ALS.*—The Committee recognizes the FDA’s Orphan Drug Program is one of the few agencies in the Federal Government that funds phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials for new ALS therapies. In addition, FDA-sponsored research can expedite ALS drug development through innovative trial designs that can speed the FDA regulatory processes for new ALS treatments. The Committee provides an increase of \$2,500,000 to implement the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (Public Law 117–79), including implementation of the act for ALS Action Plan, operation of the Public Private Partnership, and supporting the FDA Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program which is authorized to provide grants for clinical trials for ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. Funding for this program will further scientific knowledge to inform product development to allow more ALS patients to participate in the clinical testing process and have access to experimental therapies.

*Animal Biotechnology.*—The Committee encourages the FDA to expand upon its flexibility in regulation of the DNA of animals containing gene edits that could have occurred naturally or resulted from conventional breeding as animal drugs. The Committee directs FDA to consider how it can use its authorities in a flexible manner to these innovations and to continue consulting with the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure FDA’s regulation is coordinated with USDA’s approach to these technologies.

*Animal Food Ingredients.*—Animal food ingredients are subject to review and approval by the Center for Veterinary Medicine before they can enter the interstate marketplace to be sold for consumption by either livestock or pets. The Committee is concerned about the time associated with the ingredient review and approval process. To address these concerns, the Committee directs the Center for Veterinary Medicine to improve animal food ingredient reviews to enable innovation and address challenges and opportunities in the animal food industry.

*Animal Product Terminology.*—The Committee is concerned about the increase of products, which do not include meat or egg products, that are labeled and marketed using animal food product terminology and related iconography. The Committee directs the FDA to conduct a study to better understand consumers’ attitudes, beliefs, motivations, and perceptions relative to product composition, health attributes, and labeling. The FDA shall assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit to the Committee, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

*Animal Testing for Cosmetics.*—The Committee acknowledges the FDA’s increased authority to regulate the safety substantiation of cosmetic products under Public Law 117–328 in the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act of 2022. The Committee reiterates the sense of Congress that animal testing should not be used for the purposes of safety testing on cosmetic products and should be phased out. The Committee is encouraged by progress made to replace cosmetic animal testing with modern nonanimal approaches, and understand that many companies already substantiate cos-

metic safety without the use of animals. The Committee urges the FDA to continue supporting the development and testing of cosmetic products without the use of animal testing.

*Antimicrobial Research.*—The Committee maintains fiscal year 2023 levels for biofilms and the regulatory science of biofilms associated with FDA work on medical devices, drug delivery, and public health. The funding increase will help the FDA meet its objectives to reduce healthcare associated infections as described in the FDA CDRH Regulatory Science Priorities report, and support the domestic manufacture and use of medical devices, drugs, and biological products.

*Autoantibody Qualification.*—The appearance of certain islet autoantibodies in the serum of individuals increases the chance of developing type 1 diabetes at some point in the future. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to continue working with the Type 1 diabetes community on the assessment of potential diabetes biomarkers related to islet autoimmunity, which might help inform the design of clinical studies.

*Botanical Dietary Supplements.*—The Committee encourages the FDA to further invest in the science base for regulatory decisions on botanical dietary supplements. Expanding outreach and broadening safety evaluations of botanical supplements will help further that work. Studies of the interactions between botanical supplements and prescription drugs would help further patient safety and help inform the FDA's scientific review of botanical dietary supplements.

*Botanical Drugs and Drug Interactions.*—The Committee encourages FDA to further invest in research to identify potential drug interactions with botanical drugs.

*Cell Cultured Products.*—The Committee is aware that FDA has completed its first pre-market consultation for a human food made from cultured animal cells, the first such action completed under the Formal Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Food Safety (the "Formal Agreement") announced on March 7, 2019. The Committee is interested in the internal FDA protocols related to pre-market consultations for cell-cultured protein products, and specifically whether or not there are special or unique considerations made for these products in pre-market consultation processes under the Formal Agreement. The Commissioner is therefore directed to submit a report no later than 60 days following the enactment of this act to the Committee outlining the pre-market consultation process for cell-cultured protein products, noting any special accommodations made to comply with the Formal Agreement, and any Agency plans to coordinate with its counterparts at the Department of Agriculture on further action regarding the same products.

*Cellular Immunity.*—The Committee encourages FDA to better understand how the cellular components of the immune response contribute to the effectiveness, and duration of effectiveness, of vaccines, boosters, and therapeutics for COVID-19 and other diseases. FDA is encouraged to support collaborative research with NIH, universities, and industry comprehensively evaluate the immune response of clinical trial participants. FDA is further encouraged,

when relevant, the collection of cellular immunity data, in addition to serology data, in its evaluation of such medical products. FDA is directed to report on collaborative research within 1 year of the enactment of this act.

*Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Centers of Excellence.*—The Committee is aware of the important contribution of the FDA CFSAN Centers of Excellence [COEs] program in supporting critical basic research as well as facilitating FSMA implementation. The Committee encourages the agency to continue to fully utilize the COEs to accomplish these goals and instructs that it enhance its level of support for FDA FSMA activities.

*Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN] Petitions.*—The Committee is concerned about CFSAN’s delays in evaluating State and local petitions for exemption from preemption by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act’s nutrition and menu labeling standards. The Committee directs the FDA to report to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this act on the number of pending exemption petitions before the FDA and the length of time these petitions have been pending. The Committee further directs the Agency to update the Committee on FDA’s efforts to explore strategies to improve the preemption exemption petition process.

*Clinical Trial Operations.*—The Committee recognizes that the COVID–19 pandemic further increased the staffing shortages already present at clinical research sites, exacerbating longstanding challenges to the timely collection and efficient reporting of clinical trial data in cancer research. The burden of data collection, entry, and verification is high and rests primarily with site staff, who most often input data manually. Meanwhile, the data fields requested for developing a given drug class have become increasingly numerous and may be complex. The Committee urges the FDA to provide guidance to cancer trial sites, sponsors, and contractors that both defines necessary data elements and streamlines data entry and verification processes. Such guidance will be foundational in maximizing clinical trial efficiency through a targeted reduction of the administrative burden currently placed upon research staff.

*Cloud.*—The Committee notes the increased adoption of cloud-based technologies by FDA-regulated companies, and appreciates FDA’s interest in accelerating use of modern systems to facilitate innovation and improve patient care. To further cloud adoption, the Committee encourages FDA to finalize guidance to medical product sponsors, including drug and medical device sponsors, on the use of cloud to meet and exceed regulatory requirements. The Committee further encourages FDA to continue to explore mechanisms to support cloud adoption, including looking at critical areas such as record-keeping, data integrity, and other regulatory requirements. The agency should ensure the collection of robust public input, including from regulated companies and cloud technology vendors.

*Data Systems.*—The Committee is aware of a recent review of FDA’s Human Foods Program that found, among other issues, a significant need to modernize data systems at FDA. Specifically, the report recommended that “FDA should consider the feasibility,



resource requirements, and potential benefits of connecting existing IT systems or developing a single system to receive, track and process information and ensure timely notification of appropriate personnel of potential signals of significant public health threats.” This ability is critical to address safety and supply chain issues associated with regulated high-risk products. Currently, tracebacks are time and labor intensive and frequently limited by inadequate and disparate records and comingling of product in distribution.

The Committee notes the increased adoption of cloud-based technologies by FDA-regulated companies, and appreciates FDA’s interest in accelerating use of modern systems to facilitate innovation and improve patient care. To further cloud adoption, The Committee encourages the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition to implement an end-to-end system of data management and analytics designed to work in any cloud environment. This system should provide food safety regulators across the human foods program the analytical tools to more proactively identify or prevent threats to regulated product safety and quality; provide capability for FDA to receive information via a digital chain of trust systems for high-risk products; and support public health response activities.

*Developing Products to Treat Rare Diseases.*—The Committee is aware of the increasing number of therapeutics in development for rare disease patients, but there still remain significant gaps with 95 percent of rare diseases not having a FDA-approved treatment. As such, the Committee recognizes the importance of the Orphan Products Grant Program which supports development of products to treat orphan or rare diseases including the programs to support clinical trials, natural history studies, and the new authority to fund grants addressing regulatory science challenges. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to reflect the critical need to support this program and the documented economic burden of all rare diseases.

*Device Remanufacturing Safety and Awareness.*—The Committee recognizes that FDA has authority over remanufacturing of devices but is concerned that the agency needs to increase public awareness of the requirements applicable to device remanufacturing, consistent with the agency’s mission to protect and promote public health. The Committee recognizes that the agency plans to publish a final guidance document on the remanufacturing of devices in fiscal year 2023. Within 30 of the issuance of the final guidance document, the Committee directs the agency to provide a briefing to the Committee on the guidance and the agency’s plans to promote public awareness of the applicable requirements and related compliance.

*Drug Approvals.*—The Committee asserts that FDA’s authority to approve medications should be based on sound science and devoid of political or economic considerations.

*Drug and Device Shortages.*—The Committee remains concerned about continued reports of supply shortages for critical medications and devices, especially cancer drug shortages, which continue to pose a significant challenge, affecting patient access to vital treatments. The Committee provides an additional \$3,750,000 and directs the FDA to leverage all available authorities to proactively

address this crisis and ensure a consistent supply of essential medications and devices for patients in need.

*Enforcement of Nicotine Vapor Products.*—The Committee is concerned that vapor use amongst youth is largely being driven by products that are not authorized or under review by the FDA in accordance with FDA’s 2020 guidance. While the Committee is aware of recent enforcement action, the Committee strongly encourages the FDA to prioritize enforcement, including providing a public listing of vapor products that have been under review since 2020 so that distributors and retailers are aware of products that may be sold until FDA renders a decision on those applications; updating FDA’s guidance to align disposal vapor products with pod-based vapor products; steps to improve the FDA’s ability to identify unauthorized products on the market; and pursue all legally authorized remedies to ensure that all products being sold unlawfully are removed from the marketplace. The Committee directs the FDA to report back to the Committee in writing on a quarterly basis the enforcement actions the Agency has undertaken; the status of its review of vapor pre-market applications; and other steps the Agency has taken to ensure compliance with products that have not applied for pre-market review.

*Essential Medicines.*—The Committee is concerned about Americans’ access to essential medicines, as defined by the FDA’s October 2020 essential medicines and medical countermeasures list. As the agency in charge of approving prescription drugs, reporting drug shortages, and protecting public health, the Committee directs the FDA to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] and report on current domestic manufacturing of drugs on HHS’s Critical Drug List and dependence on international supply chains. The review may account for non-viability of certain components domestically.

*FDA Advisory Committee Conflicts of Interest.*—The Committee remains concerned with the Food and Drug Administration’s conflict of interest rules as it pertains to advisory committees. The 2023 External Review of FDA Regulation of Opioid Analgesics Final Report noted the need for the FDA to address “concerns about inappropriate industry influence on agency decision-making”. Current conflict of interest guidance is intended to show FDA’s policies behind financial interests held by advisory committee membership and Government employees participating in advisory committee meetings. They do not specifically address industry influence, impact of this guidance on participation in meetings, or enforcement ability of conflict of interest guidance.

For this reason, the Committee directs the Government Accountability Office, to issue a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act detailing: how the FDA reviews and enforces conflicts of interest among invited speakers and advisory committee members; how the FDA discloses conflicts of interest to advisory committees, including but not limited to participation in the Initiative on Methods, Measurement, and Pain Assessment in Clinical Trials [IMMPACT] meetings; current FDA conflict of interest rules and transparency associated with communicating these rules to meeting participants and the general public; how the FDA chooses invited speakers to advisory committee meetings, including their de-

cisions on expertise on the issues being considered; impact of conflict of interest rules on the FDA's ability to invite subject matter experts to advisory committee meetings; the FDA's ability to enforce conflict of interest rules and guidance and adherence to these policies.

*FDA Study on Opioid Prescribing.*—The Committee remains concerned with the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic, and effort to provide treatment for those impacted. As such, the Committee directs the FDA to review current opioid prescribing practices, including the total number of opioids prescribed in a calendar year. The purpose of the study is to show the number of opioids prescribed, excluding opioids prescribed for treatment of pain related to cancer or cancer treatment, patients participating in hospice, or a patient with respect to whom the prescriber of the applicable opioid determines that other non-opioid pain management treatments are inadequate or inappropriate.

*Food Labeling Accuracy.*—The Committee supports evaluating whether artificial intelligence [AI] driven audit tools can effectively assess food labeling accuracy and facilitate greater Federal labeling compliance. CFSAN is responsible for assuring that foods sold in the United States are safe and properly labeled. The Committee believes that AI-driven tools will accelerate CFSAN's goal of ensuring the accuracy of food labeling consistent with the Agency's obligation under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to monitor and ensure that food labels are truthful and not misleading. The Committee directs CFSAN to report to the Committee by on the status of its evaluation.

*Food Safety Modernization Act Outreach to Small Farmers.*—The Committee expects FDA to adequately fund its programs to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to educate small farmers on compliance with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and rules for agricultural water. The Committee expects CFSAN to continue support for the cooperative agreement established for this purpose. The Committee encourages FDA to support critical outreach and training services to small farmers until the Produce Safety Rule is fully implemented, including enforcement and compliance of Subpart E (agricultural water) and Subpart F (biological soil amendments of animal origin) for farms and businesses of all sizes.

*Field Based Prevention Strategies.*—The Committee directs the FDA Center for Excellence to continue to dedicate funds as necessary to develop field-based prevention strategies for the fresh produce industry.

*Foreign Approved Drugs.*—The Committee supports efforts to increase the tools available to FDA to ensure the timely approval of lifesaving drugs and encourages FDA to examine opportunities to facilitate submission of marketing applications by manufacturers of drugs with marketing authorization in countries listed in 21 USC 382, Federal, Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 802(b), but which are not approved in the United States.

*FSMA Clarification for Small Farms.*—The Committee directs FDA to continue working with small farms to clarify requirements for compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act, including information on the qualified exemptions available to small and very small farms and the actions required to achieve compliance under

these exemptions. The Committee urges FDA to communicate (including through appropriate guidance), offer technical assistance, and provide other resources to assist small farms with compliance.

*Healthy Rule.*—The Committee directs FDA to consider all data and information submitted during the open public comment period before publishing rules or regulations for updating the implied nutrient content claim healthy.

*Heavy Metals in Baby Food.*—The Committee is concerned that lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury are often present in dangerous quantities in foods intended for consumption by infants and toddlers and encourages the FDA to coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that a wide variety of healthy nutritious foods remain available to participants of Federal nutrition programs.

*Homeopathy.*—The Committee understands the importance of homeopathic medicines for millions of users. Consumers access and safety to these products are best ensured by implementing a legal pathway that includes homeopathic specific standards for the regulation of these medicines. The Committee understands FDA is limited to enforcing pharmaceutical specific standards when taking enforcement action against products labeled as homeopathic. The FDA's interpretation of the law that all homeopathic medicines are unapproved new drugs that are illegally marketed has created confusion both for the homeopathic community and enforcement officials. The Committee directs the FDA to work with the homeopathic community with regards to the regulation of these medicines.

*Imported Shrimp Safety and Inspection Pilot Program.*—The Committee commends and supports FDA's ongoing efforts to implement and increase its oversight and the regulation of the safety of shrimp products imported into the United States. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2023 funding levels to implement the program. FDA's report to Congress emphasized the importance of increased sampling of import shipments, investment in laboratory capabilities, data analytics, and the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements with the top three countries exporting shrimp to the U.S. The Committee encourages FDA to continue the full development and implementation of the shrimp pilot program including finalizing the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements.

*Infant Formula.*—The 2023 CAA provided the FDA with additional authorities and requirements to protect infants and improve the U.S. formula supply, including the development of a national strategy on infant formula; annual inspections of each infant formula manufacturer; monitoring of supply disruptions; and a study from the National Academies on challenges in supply, market competition, and regulation of infant formula in the U.S. The Committee directs the FDA to work expeditiously to implement the infant formula provisions of the 2023 CAA, and directs the FDA to brief the Committee on such efforts on a semi-annual basis.

*Innovative Glass Packaging.*—The Committee directs the FDA to work with glass packaging suppliers and pharmaceutical manufacturers to evaluate and promote streamlined approval requirements designed to expedite the adoption and use of innovative glass pack-

aging technologies with the capacity to improve product quality, reduce product recalls, reduce drug shortages, and protect public health. Such streamlined approval requirements should address stability testing and other relevant types of data to be submitted in support of product approval.

*International Mail Facilities.*—The Committee remains concerned about the opioid epidemic that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans and support the FDA’s continued investments in International Mail Facilities and Ports of Entry to prevent illicit drugs, including unapproved and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, from entering the United States.

*Islet Therapies.*—The agreement encourages FDA to engage with the diabetes community on potential cures for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, including islet therapies. The Committee remains concerned about ongoing delays in research and development to potential cures for diabetes, including islet therapies, and encourages FDA to engage with stakeholders, including advocates, researchers and manufacturers, on advancing transformative diabetes treatments and cures.

*Listeria.*—The Committee recognizes that developing the Compliance Policy Guide [CPG] for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods is a complex process, and directs the FDA to work with stakeholders to ensure that the CPG outlines a policy that is reflective of the current scientific evidence and is practical to implement.

*Lupus.*—The Committee is aware of barriers that have long affected the development of therapeutics for lupus, a disease that primarily targets women. A chronic and complex autoimmune disease, lupus can affect the joints, skin, brain, lungs, kidneys, and blood vessels, causing widespread inflammation and tissue damage in the affected organ. The Committee is pleased that FDA participated in an externally-led patient-focused drug development meeting with the lupus community and identified some of these barriers and that potential treatments are now in clinical trials. The Committee urges FDA to expedite its ongoing work with the lupus community to develop solutions to identified barriers that will accelerate development of new therapies.

*Medical Foods.*—The Committee recognizes the unique role medical foods play in the nutritional management of inborn errors of metabolism and encourages a flexible regulatory process that would enhance access to safe medical foods for individuals with serious or life-threatening inborn errors of metabolism. The Committees encourages the FDA to continue focusing on this issue.

*Medical Gas.*—The Committee is concerned that healthcare providers, consumers, and medical gas manufacturers have been waiting for 45 years for the FDA to follow through on its commitment to issue separate regulations for medical gases since it first committed to doing so in the 1978 final rulemaking on current good manufacturing practices. The Committee is encouraged that FDA recently issued proposed regulations in response to the statutory deadlines for medical gas rulemaking required in section 1112 of Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112–144) and section 756 of the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 115–31). However, the Committee is significantly concerned that despite its directive in the Joint Ex-

planatory Statement accompanying the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117–328) that final regulations on medical gases be issued by March 31, 2023 the agency has indicated a projected delay of 19 months for publication to October 2024. The Committee directs the FDA to issue the final separate regulations required by the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 115–31) as soon as possible. Should the FDA not issue final regulations by September 30, 2023, the agency shall submit a written report to Committee every 30 days thereafter with an accompanying in-person briefing, including explaining the status of the rulemaking and reasons for delay.

*Menthol Cigarettes.*—The Committee commends the FDA for issuing proposed rules to set product standards prohibiting the use of characterizing menthol flavors in cigarettes and all non-tobacco characterizing flavors in cigars. These actions hold the potential to dramatically reduce smoking rates, mortality, and healthcare spending in current and future generations. The Committee notes that despite the clear science and recommendations from its own Advisory Committees, the FDA has failed to finalize such regulations to date despite several opportunities. The Committee directs FDA to expeditiously complete the rulemaking processes regarding product standards that ban characterizing menthol flavors in cigarettes and all non-tobacco characterizing flavors in cigars in order to protect public health.

*Metastatic Cancer.*—The Committee recognizes FDA for ongoing efforts to gather input and patient-focused feedback from the metastatic cancer community. The Committee notes the ongoing challenge identified by patients of needing access to multiple therapeutic option and various sites of care due to the fact that patients with metastatic cancer often progress through multiple therapies, and encourages FDA to continue working to ensure multiple safe and effective therapeutic options with varying delivery mechanisms are available.

*Minimal (or Measurable) Residual Disease.*—To expedite the development and safe patient access to new therapeutics, FDA is encouraged to support collaborative research with the National Institutes of Health, universities, and industry, regarding the utilization of Minimal (or Measurable) Residual Disease [MRD] testing to assess response to therapy and predict patient outcomes in its evaluation of therapeutic products. The Committee directs FDA to report within 1 year of the enactment of this act on advances in the science and development of products directed to the determination of MRD, that might soon enable the utilization of MRD to serve as an exploratory endpoint for clinical trial evaluations.

*Neuroscience.*—The Committee is encouraged by the Agency's plans to hire additional staff with neurological expertise to the expand the Agency's efforts to address regulatory challenges in neurodegenerative drug development. As previously mentioned, the Committee provides an additional \$3,000,000 for the Agency's Medical Product Centers to build on current efforts to advance our scientific knowledge of neurological diseases.

*New Alternative Methods Program.*—The Committee directs FDA to efficiently and expeditiously utilize existing funds to reduce animal testing and advance alternative methods in a measurable and

impactful way. The Committee requests a report within 90 days of enactment that provides details on the status of forming the New Alternative Methods Program in the Commissioner's office, including but not limited to a description of program goals and staffing levels by position classification; FDA's priority areas for reducing animal use and advancing alternatives, including goals, timelines and funding associated with each of these identified priorities; the metrics the agency will use to measure impact; and how the agency will communicate information regarding acceptance of alternative methods to the regulated community.

*New Era of Smarter Food Safety.*—The Committee supports the FDA's efforts to bring together data from several agencies to identify and predict vulnerabilities in the Nation's food supply chain and enable the FDA to take a proactive approach to ensure food safety and supply chain continuity to prevent and respond to crises, such as the recent infant formula shortage. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2023 level to continue this initiative.

*New Prior Knowledge.*—The Committee is aware of certain issues with domestic drug manufacturing supply chains, and that the FDA has been previously encouraged to improve generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality of generic drugs domestically. The Committee urges FDA to establish a pilot program that will apply new tools to improve generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality. The program must be in collaboration with academic institutions that offer strengths in assessing and improving the generic drug supply chain to ensure the utilization of evidence-based best practices.

*Niemann-Pick Type C [NPC].*—The Committee encourages FDA to increase its understanding and focus on NPC, a rare progressive and universally fatal disease that impact children and young adults. The Committee encourages FDA to use its existing authorities and pathways to meet the urgent unmet medical need of the current generation of NPC patients, including preserving access to existing experimental therapies already in use. The Committee further encourages FDA to maximize the use of existing natural history data and real world evidence contributed by this small patient population through existing and past clinical studies and to continue to work with patients, scientists, and industry partners to bring to full fruition the work that is being accomplished through patient organizations, scientists, researchers, and other to fully benefit this generation of NPC patients.

*Office of Therapeutic Products.*—The Committee recognizes the FDA's efforts with regard to rare disease and oncology pilot programs and other positive initiatives, as well as recent increases to support staffing, especially within the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the Office of Therapeutic Products [OTP]. However, the Committee is concerned about the ability to consistently achieve the desired level of review timeliness and quality, and encourages the FDA to implement and apply modern approaches to keep pace with the science. Specifically, the Committee encourages OTP to facilitate reviewers' understanding of the current scientific consensus and disease-specific considerations for current and future programs through consultation with subject matter

experts, both internal and external to FDA. The Committee is also concerned about insufficient patient and expert input when weighing benefits and risks of potentially life changing or lifesaving new treatments. Further, the Committee is concerned that despite Congress recently reinforcing FDA's flexibilities and toolkit related to rare disease and unmet need, OTP is not fully utilizing these flexibilities and tools as Congress intended. The Committee notes the importance of use of these flexibilities and tools, as appropriate, and expects a report to the Committee on interim measures of progress within 1 year of enactment.

*Opioids.*—The Committee remains concerned with the FDA use of enriched enrollment, randomized, withdrawal [EERW] clinical trial designs. Whereas the FDA Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee [AADPAC] held a meeting reviewing EERW on extended release/long acting [ER/LA] opioids on the efficacy of EERW on showing efficacy, while no vote was held, the AADPAC noted perceived flaws in the clinical trial design. As such the Committee directs the FDA to immediately conduct its study on the EERW methodology for its use on new prescription opioid approvals, and review EERWs use in approving opioids currently on the market. The study should be completed within 90 days of the enactment of this Act. In addition, the FDA should carefully consider the broader public health effect of opioid analgesic drugs in making its approval decisions and in monitoring/considering new information about approved drugs, including the risks related to misuse, abuse, opioid use disorder, accidental exposure, and overdose, for both patients and others, as well as any properties of a drug expected to mitigate these risks.

The Committee applauds FDA for its ongoing efforts to combat opioid abuse and for prioritizing Agency actions to expand access to non-addictive treatments and encourages FDA to collaborate with DEA in situations where descheduling could be helpful to improving access to such non-addictive treatments, particularly for populations that have a high prevalence of insomnia and other high risk conditions that impact veterans, military service members and front line workers. Within 180 days, the Committee requests that FDA brief the committee on the status of any scientific and medical evaluation that may be in progress under the provisions of 21 U.S.C. 811.

*Opioid Packaging.*—The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act granted FDA new authority to require special packaging for opioids and other drugs that pose a risk of abuse or overdose. The Committee is pleased FDA issued a request for information on requiring fixed-quantity blister packaging for certain opioids and strongly urges the agency to finalize this requirement to promote safe opioid handling and reduce the risk of unintentional ingestion. Additionally, the Committee encourages FDA to consider expanding the scope of this requirement beyond immediate-release, commonly-prescribed opioid analgesics to cover all solid, oral dosage form opioids.

*Oversight Activities.*—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for the HHS Office of Inspector General specifically for oversight of FDA activities.



*Pasteurized Orange Juice.*—The Committee is concerned that pests, disease and hurricanes are having a devastating impact on Florida’s citrus growers and processors. These circumstances have resulted in a natural decline in the Brix level for Florida’s mature oranges, with no known adverse health consequences for consumers. The Committee believes it is necessary to provide for analytical deviation in the minimum Brix level for pasteurized orange juice to account for these naturally occurring growing conditions. The Committee strongly encourages both USDA and FDA to expedite work with Florida’s citrus growers and processors, and other stakeholders as necessary, to consider additional flexibility by modernizing requirements for pasteurized orange juice that better account for naturally-occurring Brix variation.

*Pathogen Reduction.*—The Committee supports FDA’s efforts to recommend an individual risk assessment for blood donor eligibility. The Committee encourages FDA to continue studying how to improve existing blood donation policies to advance a safe and adequate supply of blood and reduce stigma. Further, FDA must prioritize further investments in pathogen reduction technologies to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections and safeguard the blood supply.

*Patient Experience Data.*—The Committee supports the development of patient experience data to inform clinical research design and regulatory reviews under the patient-focused drug development process. Critical patient perspective insights have been generated by the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and other patient communities to ensure FDA has the benefit of this information for critical decisions including on potential gene therapies for this serious condition. The Committee encourages FDA to make every effort to incorporate all relevant patient experience data, including from patient advocacy organizations, across its regulatory obligations.

*Pediatric Device Consortia Grants.*—Pediatric Device Consortia grants provide funding to assist innovators in developing medical and surgical devices designed for the unique needs of children, needs that often go unmet by devices currently available on the market. The Committee is pleased that the FDA-funded Pediatric Device Consortia have assisted in advancing the development of more than 2,500 proposed pediatric medical device projects since 2009. The Committee encourages FDA to fund Pediatric Device Consortia grants at the authorized level in fiscal year 2024.

*PFAS in Cosmetics.*—The Committee is concerned about the presence of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl [PFAS] substances in cosmetics. The Committee directs the FDA to develop a plan outlining research needed to inform regulatory decisionmaking, including potential development of a proposed rule to ban intentionally added PFAS substances in cosmetics. Not later than 90 days after enactment, FDA will brief the committee on the research plan, potential regulatory options, and discuss considerations and anticipated challenges with issuing such a proposed rule.

*Pharmaceutical Marketing.*—The Committee is aware of promotional activities by pharmaceutical companies to physicians and acknowledges this practice can help inform providers of new treatments. The Committee notes that this can also lead to an increase in prescribing rates of newer, and potentially more expensive

brand-name medications. The Committee urges FDA to clarify the obligation of prescription drug and biological product sponsors with respect to promotional activities.

*Plant Based Alternatives.*—The Committee is concerned that the current labeling practices of some plant-based alternatives to animal-derived foods have the potential to cause consumer confusion. The Committee directs FDA to conduct a study to 1) better understand consumers' perceptions and motivations relative to product composition, health attributes, and other confusing labeling and marketing practices, and 2) assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

*Plant Based Product Labeling.*—The Committee supports FDA's case-by-case approach to evaluating product labels considering terms and representations used within the context of the entire label, including qualification of any statements or names with additional terms or information. The Committee urges FDA to apply this same approach to labeling in pending guidance on plant-based foods.

*Polycystic Ovary Syndrome [PCOS].*—The Committee recognizes that there have been no FDA-approved treatments specific to PCOS and commends the FDA for supporting the Externally-Led Patient-Focused Drug Development (EL-PFDD) meeting on PCOS. The Committee further encourages the FDA, based on the findings of the EL-PFDD meeting, to work with investigators, industry, patients, practitioners, and researchers to advance the development of safe new evidence-based therapies, diagnostics, devices, and that address the identified needs and treatment priorities of PCOS patients.

*Predictive Toxicology Roadmap Guideline Studies.*—The Committee supports activities to implement goals set in the Predictive Toxicology Roadmap. However, the Committee is concerned that funding intended to advance New Approach Methodologies [NAMs] and reduce animal testing for product development will be used to conduct new animal tests for comparative guideline studies. While it is important to ensure that novel methods can be relied upon for product development and regulatory decision-making, the Committee encourages FDA to first consider the use of human data or existing animal study data in this comparative assessment, when feasible, to remain aligned with the intentions of the Roadmap and animal testing reduction, refinement, and replacement goals. The Committee directs NCTR to prioritize use of existing human data, or existing data from animal tests conducted prior to enactment of this act when scientifically appropriate, when collaborating with other FDA Centers and the National Toxicology Program data if appropriate.

*Promoting Domestic Manufacturing.*—The Committee supports the Agency's work to promote the domestic manufacturing of drugs and biological products to help bolster supply chain resiliency, including consistent with Executive Order 13944. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase its efforts to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to expand and relocate drug manufacturing to the

United States. The Committee encourages FDA continue programs and policies that would encourage the pharmaceutical industry to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies, which could help prompt industry to relocated foreign manufacturing to the United States or expand current domestic manufacturing. The Committee encourages the FDA to use any additional resources to collaborate with academic institutions to support the advancement, development, and implementation of advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing.

*Seafood Product Labeling.*—The Committee continues to hear concerns with the labeling of certain foods as a fish or seafood product when the products are highly-processed plant-based foods rather than derived from actual fish or seafood, and the labeling of these products are misleading, deceptive, and confusing to consumers. The Committee is concerned the terms “plant-based” and “vegan” exempt the producer from describing the actual plant source as part of the product name, in opposition to other FDA guidance. The Committee directs the FDA to provide clarity around the labeling of these foods using seafood terminology to ensure they are held to the same standards as actual seafood products to avoid consumer confusion, and aligns with the structure it has applied to the draft guidance for the labeling of plant-based milk alternatives.

*Sodium.*—As the agency considers next steps in finalizing short-term sodium reduction guidance, the Committee urges FDA to monitor progress towards the short-term targets and engage with industry stakeholders on implementation of the guidance. The Committee acknowledges the investment and technology challenges that exist for food manufacturers in reaching the proposed long-term reduction targets, including those that jeopardize food safety and integrity of food products, and believes it is critical that FDA demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of the long-term targets before moving forward.

*Sponsor Communication.*—The Committee is concerned with FDA’s reliance on “Written Response Only” communication, in lieu of live interactions when responding to meeting requests from sponsors. While written response can be a useful tool, there are times where meaningful scientific exchanges between sponsors and FDA is required. The Committee urges FDA to offer face to face or teleconference meetings when the topic of the meeting requires face to face or teleconference interface, as discussed in FDA guidance documents.

*Sunscreen.*—The Committee is aware that FDA has issued a proposed sunscreen order in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Sunscreen Innovation Act and the CARES Act. The Committee encourages FDA to work with stakeholders to issue a final order that clarifies the status of currently marketed sunscreen ingredients, recognizing the benefit of currently marketed sunscreens as a proven preventative tool against skin cancer, the most common cancer in the United States. The Committee urges FDA to utilize its authorities provided under the CARES Act to evaluate new sunscreen ingredients already approved for use around the world and to educate stakeholders about the administrative order process to encourage research and development of new sunscreen technology.

*Synthetic Nicotine Products.*—The Committee is concerned that thousands of unauthorized non-tobacco nicotine products remain on the market despite provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103) that require these products to undergo premarket review by the FDA. Enforcement of this requirement is critical to address unauthorized nicotine products that appeal to youth, including flavored e-cigarettes. The Committee urges FDA to clearly communicate to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers which products can be lawfully sold; improve its ability to identify unauthorized products on the market; and pursue all legally authorized remedies to ensure that all products being sold unlawfully are removed from the marketplace. The Committee directs the FDA to report back on the status of its review of premarket applications for non-tobacco nicotine products, the enforcement actions it has taken against unauthorized non-tobacco nicotine products, and other steps the agency has taken to ensure compliance with the premarket review requirement.

*Tart Cherries.*—The FDA published a proposed rule, titled Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims; Definition of Term “Healthy” (Docket No. FDA–2016–D-2335), that, if implemented as proposed, would prevent tart cherries from utilizing the term “healthy” due to restrictive added sugar content limits. These limits fail to recognize that tart cherries require added sugars to meet consumer expectations for palatability and would place tart cherries at a competitive disadvantage to similarly situated fruit products that qualify as “healthy” despite those products containing higher levels of natural sugars. Therefore, the agency shall carefully consider all comments received on the proposed rule related to tart fruits, including tart cherries, and continue to engage with the tart fruit industry about their concerns with the proposed added sugar limits for the “healthy” nutrient content claim.

*Temporomandibular Disorder.*—The Committee encourages FDA to support the development and implementation of a Patient-Centered Coordinated Registry Network [CRN] for Temporomandibular Joint Disorder [TMD]. This Registry will be a critical component in the transformation of temporomandibular disorder research across other Government Agencies. The Committee supports collaborations among medical product centers related to the development of treatments for TMD and urges FDA to support implementing of a Temporomandibular Joint [TMJ] CRN, continuing the developmental work of the TMJ Patient-led RoundTable and its partners in successfully developing the Registry as an important tool in ongoing efforts to improve the treatment and management of TMD patients.

*Tobacco Issues.*—The Committee remains deeply concerned about data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showing that more than two million youth use e-cigarettes and urges FDA to use its full authority to address this serious public health problem. The Committee urges FDA to promptly complete its required premarket review of e-cigarettes and other deemed tobacco products that remain on the market and to deny authorization for any product that does not meet the statutory standard for “appropriate for the protection of the public health”. The Committee also urges FDA to take enforcement action against all products that failed to file a

premarket tobacco product application or received a negative action on a submitted application, including marketing denial order.

*Traceability Rule.*—The Committee notes the expanded scope and complexity for implementation of FDA’s final rule entitled “Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods” (21 CFR Part 1, Subpart S). The Committee recognizes that the FDA needs to develop a list of each commodity grouping subject to the rule; to make available educational materials for providers that are interested in developing cost-effective technology for purposes of rule implementation; and to publish a protocol detailing consistent investigation practices the agency will use to respond to foodborne illness and outbreak investigations.

*Traceback.*—The Committee recognizes that the ability to prevent, identify, and trace back contaminated products is critical to containing food safety outbreaks but that challenges associated with tracing these products consistently from the end-consumer through the supply chain continue to persist. To achieve this, the Committee recognizes the need to modernize data systems to receive, track, and process information and ensure timely notification of significant public health threats. This ability is critical to address safety and supply chain issues associated with regulated high-risk products to more proactively identify or prevent threats to regulated product safety and quality.

*Usher Syndrome.*—The Committee requests that the FDA immediately consider new technology and innovative measurements to determine effective treatments for rare ophthalmic diseases. Acceptable endpoint measurements must better reflect the slow progression and rare nature of Usher syndrome if potential treatments are ever going to be available to patients.

*Valley Fever.*—The Committee is encouraged by progress made toward producing a Valley Fever vaccine and recommends that FDA consult with the public and obtain input on the state of the science related to vaccines to prevent Valley Fever. The Committee further recommends that FDA draft and issue industry guidance for entities seeking approval under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) or licensure under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) of antifungal therapies to treat Valley Fever.

*Vibrio.*—The Committee is aware of the public health challenge related to the naturally occurring bacteria called *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* that can accumulate in shellfish and believes that more scientific research is necessary to develop proper controls that will reduce the risk to consumers and sustain a healthy domestic shellfish industry. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase funding for research into *Vibrio* illnesses associated with the consumption of raw molluscan shellfish, improve risk assessment models, and develop improved rapid detection methods for virulent *Vibrio* strains.

*Women in Clinical Research.*—Following recommendations by the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women, the Committee urges the agency to issue final regulations relating to the protection of human subjects, including parts 50 and 56 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, with the latest regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to

the inclusion of pregnant women as subjects in clinical research. The agency should consider further guidance about ethical issues to be considered and strategies for designing ethical studies, to inform the inclusion of pregnant women and lactating women in a clinical trial and facilitate their participation.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$12,788,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	18,788,000
Committee recommendation .....	12,788,000

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

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$12,788,000 for FDA buildings and facilities.

This funding shall be used to upgrade FDA facilities and laboratories which are currently below public safety standards and incapable of performing agency requirements. The Committee is aware that several FDA-owned facilities need significant renovations and repairs. The Committee understands that high-quality, reliable buildings are a necessity to support the FDA's mission-critical work.

#### FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2023 .....	\$50,000,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	50,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	50,000,000

The Committee recommends \$50,000,000 for the FDA as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255).

#### INDEPENDENT AGENCY

##### FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

##### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2023 .....	\$88,500,000
Budget estimate, 2024 .....	94,300,000
Committee recommendation .....	94,300,000

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

Activities of FCA include the planning and execution of examinations of Farm Credit System institutions and the preparation of examination reports. FCA also promulgates regulations, establishes

standards, enforces rules and regulations, and approves certain actions of the institutions.

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

The act provides for the farmer-owned cooperative system to make sound, adequate, and constructive credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives, rural residences, and associations and other entities upon which farming operations are dependent, and to modernize existing farm credit law to meet current and future rural credit needs.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233) authorized the formation of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation [FAMC] to operate a secondary market for agricultural and rural housing mortgages. FCA, under section 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–181), as amended, is assigned the responsibility of regulating this entity and assuring its safe and sound operation.

Expenses of FCA are paid by assessments collected from the Farm Credit System institutions and by assessments to the FAMC.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$94,300,000 on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

*Hemp-Based Products.*—The Committee recognizes the growing interest for U.S. hemp and hemp-based products for a variety of uses and directs FCA to work with the institutions under its jurisdiction to provide access to guaranteed loans for hemp producers and businesses.

## TITLE VII

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following provisions:

Section 701. This section includes language regarding passenger motor vehicles.

Section 702. This section includes language regarding the Working Capital Fund.

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

Section 704. This section includes language regarding indirect costs.

Section 705. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 706. This section includes language regarding new information technology.

Section 707. This section includes language regarding conservation programs.

Section 708. This section includes language regarding Rural Utilities Service program eligibility.

Section 709. This section includes language regarding information technology expenses.

Section 710. This section includes language regarding first-class travel.

Section 711. This section includes language regarding the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Section 712. This section includes language regarding advisory committees.

Section 713. This section includes language regarding information technology systems.

Section 714. This section includes language regarding section 32 activities.

Section 715. This section includes language regarding user fee proposals without offsets.

Section 716. This section includes language regarding the reprogramming of funds and notification requirements.

Section 717. This section includes language regarding fees for the guaranteed business and industry loan program.

Section 718. This section includes language regarding the appropriations hearing process.

Section 719. This section includes language regarding pre-packaged news.

Section 720. This section includes language regarding details and assignments of Department of Agriculture employees.

Section 721. This section includes language regarding spending plans.



Section 722. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 723. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 724. This section includes language regarding loans and loan guarantees.

Section 725. This section includes language regarding credit card refunds.

Section 726. This section includes language regarding SNAP.

Section 727. This section includes language regarding housing loan programs.

Section 728. This section includes language regarding new user fees.

Section 729. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding FSIS.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding APHIS inspections.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 733. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 734. This section includes language regarding domestic preference.

Section 735. This section includes language regarding lobbying.

Section 736. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 737. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 738. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 739. This section includes language regarding a NIFA pilot program.

Section 740. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 741. This section includes language regarding hemp.

Section 742. This section includes language regarding matching funds.

Section 743. This section includes language regarding a pilot program.

Section 744. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 745. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 746. This section includes language regarding the Food for Peace program.

Section 747. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 748. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 749. This section includes language regarding biotechnology risk assessment.

Section 750. This section includes language regarding agency relocation.

Section 751. This section includes language regarding watershed programs.

Section 752. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 753. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank program.

Section 754. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 755. This section includes language regarding mitigation banking.

Section 756. This section includes language regarding labeling requirements.

Section 757. This section includes language regarding REAP Zones.

Section 758. This section includes language regarding a working group.

Section 759. This section includes language regarding the Institute for Rural Partnership.

Section 760. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 761. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 762. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 763. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 764. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 765. This section includes language regarding bison.

Section 766. This section includes language regarding the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Section 767. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 768. This section includes language regarding APHIS.

Section 769. This section includes language regarding the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Section 770. This section includes language regarding toxicants.

Section 771. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 772. This section includes language regarding Child Nutrition Programs.

Section 773. This section includes language regarding sodium in cheese.

Section 774. This section includes language regarding Single Family Housing.

Section 775. This section includes language regarding Housing Vouchers.

Section 776. This section includes language regarding horse slaughter.

## PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2024, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), the following information provides the definition of the term “program, project, and activity” for departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The term “program, project, and activity” shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, and the report.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 to all items specified in the explanatory notes submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in support of the fiscal year 2024 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition:

For the Agricultural Research Service the definition shall include specific research locations as identified in the explanatory notes.

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities which currently lack authorization for fiscal year 2024:

- Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program
- Broadband Telecommunications Grants
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Summer Food Service Program

- National School Lunch Act—Information Clearinghouse
- School Meals Program—Compliance and Accountability
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Livestock Mandatory Reporting

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

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on June 22, 2023, the Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 2131) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that any amendment increasing budget authority be offset by a reduction of equal or greater budget authority, by a recorded vote of 28–0, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas

Nays

Chair Murray  
 Mrs. Feinstein  
 Mr. Durbin  
 Mr. Reed  
 Mr. Tester  
 Mrs. Shaheen  
 Mr. Merkley  
 Mr. Coons  
 Mr. Schatz  
 Ms. Baldwin  
 Mr. Murphy  
 Mr. Manchin  
 Mr. Van Hollen  
 Mr. Heinrich  
 Mr. Peters  
 Ms. Collins  
 Mr. McConnell  
 Ms. Murkowski  
 Mr. Graham  
 Mr. Moran  
 Mr. Hoeven  
 Mr. Boozman  
 Mrs. Capito  
 Mr. Kennedy  
 Mrs. Hyde-Smith  
 Mr. Hagerty  
 Mrs. Britt  
 Mrs. Fischer

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

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the Committee.”

In compliance with this rule, changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

**TITLE 12—BANKS AND BANKING**

**CHAPTER 38—MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE**

**§ Definitions**

As used in this chapter—

(1) . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

(10) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development *and the Secretary of Agriculture*.

**TITLE 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**CHAPTER 8A—SLUM CLEARANCE, URBAN RENEWAL, AND FARM  
HOUSING**

**SUBCHAPTER III—FARM HOUSING**

**§ 1490c. Mutual and self-help housing**

**(a) Purpose**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(b) Contract authority; establishment of Self-Help Housing  
Land Development Fund; authorization to make loans;  
conditions of loan**

In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) is authorized—

(1)(A) . . .

(B) to establish the Self-Help Housing Land Development Fund, referred to herein as the Self-Help Fund, to be used by the Secretary as a revolving fund for making loans, on such terms and conditions and in such amounts as he deems necessary, to public or private nonprofit organizations and to Indian tribes for the acquisition and development of land as

building sites to be subdivided and sold to families, nonprofit organizations, and cooperatives eligible for assistance under section 1715z or 1715z-1 of title 12 or section 1490a of this title. Such a loan, with interest at a rate not to exceed 3 percent per annum, shall be repaid within a period not to exceed ~~two years~~ *five years* from the making of the loan, or within such additional period as may be authorized by the Secretary in any case as being necessary to carry out the purposes hereof: *Provided*, That the Secretary may advance funds under this paragraph to organizations receiving assistance under clause (A) to enable them to establish revolving accounts for the purchase of land options and any such advances may bear interest at a rate determined by the Secretary and shall be repaid to the Secretary at the expiration of the period for which the grant to the organization involved was made;

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 1490d. Loans to nonprofit organizations to provide building sites for eligible families, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and cooperatives; interest rates; factors determinative in making loan**

(a)(1) *In general*.—The Secretary may make loans, on such terms and conditions and in such amounts he deems necessary, to public or private nonprofit organizations and to Indian tribes for the acquisition and development of land as building sites to be subdivided and sold to families, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and cooperatives eligible for assistance under any section of this subchapter or under any other law which provides financial assistance for housing low- and moderate-income families. Such a loan shall bear interest at a rate prescribed by the Secretary taking into consideration a rate determined annually by the Secretary of the Treasury as the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the average maturities of such loans, adjusted to the nearest one-eighth of 1 per centum, and shall be repaid within a period not to exceed ~~two years~~ *five years* from the making of the loan or within such additional period as may be authorized by the Secretary in any case as being necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 1490r. Rural housing voucher program**

**(a) In general**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(b) Coordination and limitation**

In carrying out the rural housing voucher program under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate activities under this section with activities assisted under sections 1485 and 1490m of this title; and

(2) enter into contracts for assistance for not more than ~~5,000~~ *10,000* units in any fiscal year.

## CHAPTER 13—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

### § 1758. Program requirements

#### (a) Nutritional requirements

\* \* \* \* \*

#### (h) Food safety

##### (1) In general

\* \* \* \* \*

##### (3) Audits and reports by States

**For fiscal year 2023** *For fiscal year 2024*, each State shall annually—

\* \* \* \* \*

##### (4) Audit by the Secretary

**For fiscal year 2023** *For fiscal year 2024*, the Secretary shall annually audit State reports of food safety inspections of schools submitted under paragraph (3).

\* \* \* \* \*

### § 1769g. Information clearinghouse

#### (a) In general

\* \* \* \* \*

#### (d) Funding

Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Secretary to provide to the organization selected under this section, to establish and maintain the information clearinghouse, \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 and 1996, \$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$100,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004, and \$250,000 for each of fiscal years **2010 through 2024** *2010 through 2025*. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAPTER 119—HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

### SUBCHAPTER IV—HOUSING ASSISTANCE

#### PART D—RURAL HOUSING STABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### § 11408a. Use of **[FMHA]** *USDA* inventory for transitional housing for homeless persons and for turnkey housing

#### (a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall, on a priority basis, lease or sell **[program and nonprogram]** inventory properties held by the Secretary under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 [42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.]—

(1) to provide transitional housing; and

(2) to provide turnkey housing for tenants of such transitional housing and for eligible families.

**[(b) Priority]**

The priority uses of inventory property under this section shall not have a higher priority than—

(1) the disposition of such property by sale to eligible families; or

(2) the disposition of such property by transfer for use as rental housing by eligible families.】

*(b) PRIORITY.—The priority uses of inventory property under this section shall be given priority equal to or higher than the disposition of such property in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary as necessary to protect the best interests of the Federal Government.*

### BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

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

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount in bill	Committee allocation	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with the subcommittee allocation for 2024: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies:				
Mandatory .....	174,241	174,241	169,505	<sup>1</sup> 169,505
Discretionary .....	25,993	25,993	27,894	<sup>1</sup> 27,894
Defense .....				
Non-defense .....	25,993	25,993	27,894	27,894
Projection of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2024 .....				<sup>2</sup> 178,126
2025 .....				7,072
2026 .....				1,918
2027 .....				974
2028 and future years .....				694
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2024 .....	NA	56,226	NA	<sup>2</sup> 46,950

<sup>1</sup> Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

NOTE.—Pursuant to section 1002(b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255), \$50,000,000 in budget authority and the resulting outlays do not count for the purposes of estimates under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Pursuant to section 4112(b) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, \$7,045,000,000 in budget authority and the resulting outlays do not count for the purposes of section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.



## DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

The Constitution vests in the Congress the power of the purse.<sup>u</sup> The Committee believes strongly that Congress should make the decisions on how to allocate the people's money. As defined in Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator, providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative, formula-driven, or competitive award process. For each item, a Member is required to provide a certification that neither the Member nor the Member's immediate family has a pecuniary interest in such congressionally directed spending item. Such certifications are available to the public on the website of the Senate Committee on Appropriations (<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending-requests>). Following is a list of congressionally directed spending items included in the Senate recommendation discussed in this report, along with the name of each Senator who submitted a request to the Committee of jurisdiction for each item so identified. Neither the Committee recommendation nor this report contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV.

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	IL	Capital Improvements, Peoria, IL .....	ARS, Peoria .....	1,269,000	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	IL	Capital Improvements, Urbana, IL .....	ARS, Urbana .....	1,220,000	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	LA	USDA Sugarcane Research Unit .....	American Sugar Cane League .....	5,000,000	Cassidy
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	ME	New England Plant, Soil, and Water Research Laboratory Expansion.	USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory.	10,000,000	Collins
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	NC	Central Crops Research Station .....	North Carolina State University .....	1,475,000	Tillis
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	NE	ARS National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture.	SDA Agricultural Research Service co-located facility with University of Nebraska-Lincoln.	25,000,000	Fischer
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	SC	Vegetable Research Capabilities at Coastal Research and Education Center.	Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center.	500,000	Graham
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities .....	WA	ARS Upgrades in Prosser, WA .....	USDA-ARS .....	3,000,000	Murray
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	CT	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Monitoring Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens.	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	239,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	CT	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Beech Leaf Disease Surveillance.	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	300,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	HI	Kukui Forest Wildlife Damage Management .....	Hawaii Land Trust .....	1,097,000	Hirono, Schatz
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	LA	West Nile Virus Wildlife Conservation Research	LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries .....	500,000	Cassidy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	MS	Wildlife Damage Management—Mississippi Fish-Eating Bird Control Program.	APHIS-MS .....	1,000,000	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	MS	Wildlife Services Methods Development—Rabies Surveillance in Mississippi.	APHIS-MS .....	40,000	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	MS	Wildlife Damage Management—Mississippi WHCP.	Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.	500,000	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	NM	New Mexico Department of Agriculture for AgPrep Agriculture Disaster Preparedness and Response.	New Mexico Department of Agriculture .....	200,000	Heinrich, Luján
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	NM	New Mexico Department of Agriculture for Invasive Toxic Plant Detection and Eradication.	New Mexico Department of Agriculture .....	100,000	Heinrich, Luján
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	NM	New Mexico Department of Agriculture for Veterinary Diagnostic Services Equipment.	New Mexico Department of Agriculture .....	150,000	Heinrich, Luján
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	RI	Aquatic Diagnostics Laboratories .....	Roger Williams University .....	1,950,000	Reed
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	SC	Contaminant Field Facility for Guava Root-knot Nematode.	Clemson University .....	1,200,000	Graham
APHIS Salaries and Expenses .....	SC	Veterinary Diagnostic Center .....	Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health .....	7,000,000	Graham

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program .....	AR	Arkansas Digital Interventions for Care .....	Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture .....	1,000,000	Boozman
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program .....	IL	Rural Telemedicine Initiative, Eastern Illinois .....	OSF HealthCare .....	750,000	Durbin
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program .....	MS	Mississippi Rural Health Workforce and Grant Development Program .....	Mississippi Rural Health Association .....	731,000	Hyde-Smith
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program .....	NJ	Abilities Incredible People .....	Abilities of Northwest Jersey Inc. ....	127,000	Booker
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program .....	OR	Grant County CyberMill Expansion .....	Grant County CyberMill .....	113,000	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AK	Heavy Equipment to Support Rural Maintenance Needs .....	Alaska Municipal League .....	4,023,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AK	Craig Firehall/ EMS Building Construction .....	City of Craig, Alaska .....	4,125,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AK	Haines Community Safety and Training Center .....	Haines Borough .....	5,000,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AK	Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety, Fire, and Rescue Facilities .....	Northwest Arctic Borough .....	2,629,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AL	Good Hope Community Center and Storm Shelter .....	City of Good Hope .....	1,313,000	Tuberville
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AL	Heflin Police Department Headquarters .....	City of Heflin .....	2,325,000	Tuberville
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AL	Ashland Courthouse ADA Compliance Upgrades and Repairs .....	Clay County Commission .....	1,200,000	Tuberville
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AR	City of Wilson Fire and Public Safety Building .....	City of Wilson .....	1,500,000	Boozman
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AZ	Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat .....	Gila County .....	333,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AZ	Pinetop Wildland Fire Response Station .....	Pinetop Fire District .....	3,274,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	AZ	Huachuca City Fire Protection .....	Town of Huachuca City .....	336,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CA	Snow Removal and Natural Disaster Heavy Equipment .....	San Bernardino County Fire Protection District .....	1,680,000	Feinstein
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CA	Las Casitas de Lola Domestic Violence Shelter .....	City of Huron .....	53,000	Feinstein, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CA	Southern Inyo Fire Protection District Fire Stations .....	County of Inyo .....	1,500,000	Feinstein, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CA	Wawona Ambulance Bay .....	County of Mariposa .....	375,000	Feinstein, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CA	El Nido Fire Station Rehabilitation .....	County of Merced .....	781,000	Feinstein, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CO	Regional Workforce Center for Career and Technical Training .....	Build Pagosa .....	1,000,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CO	Holyoke Community Childcare Initiative .....	Holyoke Community Childcare Initiative .....	1,000,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CO	Kiowa County Hospital Replacement Facility: Phase 1 .....	Kiowa County Hospital District .....	1,917,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CT	Adelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services for Facility Improvements .....	Adelbrook Behavioral and Developmental Services .....	380,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CT	Town of Madison for Academy Community Center .....	Town of Madison .....	3,625,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	CT	Town of Winchester for Fire House Addition .....	Town of Winchester, CT .....	1,980,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	DE	CHEER, Inc. administrative service facility .....	CHEER Inc. ....	1,000,000	Carper, Coons

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	City of Harrington for roadway and water access expansion.	City of Harrington	3,345,000	Carper, Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Nanticoke Indian Association community center	The Nanticoke Indian Association Inc	600,000	Carper, Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Town of Milton public works facility	Town of Milton	2,048,000	Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Reopening Cuthbert's Hospital—Randolph County Hospital.	Randolph County Hospital Authority	4,000,000	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Dawson Farmers Market and Community Center	City of Dawson	100,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	South Georgia Food Bank	Second Harvest of South Georgia, Inc.	2,000,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	The Villages' Tiny Home Project for Women and Children in Recovery.	Shane's Crib	440,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Education and Cultural Learning Center Waheehe Refuge.	Hawaii Land Trust	1,500,000	Hirono, Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Hoa Aina O Makaha Capital Improvement Project.	Hoa Aina O Makaha	96,000	Hirono, Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Palikea Agroforestry Training Baseyard	Waianae Community Re-Development Corp. DBA MA70 Organic Farms.	567,000	Hirono, Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Camp Maluhia Dining Hall	Boy Scouts of America Maui Nui District	1,000,000	Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	West Hawaii Community Kitchen	KUA O Kanaeue	488,000	Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Dixon Family YMCA- Early Childhood Education and Childcare Center.	Dixon Family YMCA	1,000,000	Duckworth
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Event Center	Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	900,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Medical Clinic	Clay County Hospital and Medical Clinics	800,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Fire Station	Village of Carrier Mills	375,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Republic County Courthouse	Republic County	250,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	Livingston Parish Courthouse Renovations	Town of Livingston	800,000	Cassidy
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Camp Apex Capital Improvements	Community YMCA of Greenfield	427,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Chiller Replacement	Quabbin Regional School District	223,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Deerfield 1888 Building Town Administrative Office Project.	Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts	4,000,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Adkins Arboretum Site Amenities	Adkins Arboretum	260,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Bloomington Fire Company Building Expansion	Bloomington Fire Co	150,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Garrett County Utilities Infrastructure Equipment.	Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County.	525,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Building African American Minds (BAAM) Academic Center.	Building African American Minds, Inc	525,000	Cardin, Van Hollen

Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	HOPE Center	Foundation of HOPE, Inc.	630,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Hampstead Fire Station and Emergency Shelter	Hampstead Volunteer Fire Engine & Hose Company No. 1.	2,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Tri-Towns Emergency Medical Services Building Restoration.	Tri-Towns Emergency Medical Services	150,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Brownfield Public Safety Building	Town of Brownfield	2,898,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Franklin County Emergency Operations Center	Franklin County Commissioner's Office	2,035,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Hartland Irving Tanning Community Center	Irving Tanning Community Center	238,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Kennebec Valley Community College Plumbing Training Facility.	Kennebec Valley Community College	803,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Little Saplings Childcare Center	Little Saplings Childcare Center	641,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Sinclair Fire Station	North Lakes Fire & Rescue	2,250,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Patten Lumbermen's Museum Building Replacement.	Patten Lumbermen's Museum	107,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Carmel Municipal Facility Renovation and Expansion.	Town of Carmel	937,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Union Hall Restoration	Town of Columbia Falls	17,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Hancock Fire Station	Town of Hancock	1,567,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Howland Road Salt/Sand Facility Relocation	Town of Howland	1,200,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Southwest Harbor Public Works Facility	Town of Southwest Harbor	2,415,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Springfield Fire Station and Municipal Facility	Town of Springfield	750,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	University of Maine Presque Isle Auditorium Renovation.	University of Maine System	4,000,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Rangeley Region Childcare Facility	Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund for Children	750,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Bath Fire and EMS Station	City of Bath	1,750,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Addison Community Center Renovation	Friends of the Church on the Hill	750,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Stonington Wharf Renovation	Isle au Haut Boat Services	1,835,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Maine Public Emergency Signal Expansion	Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation	3,421,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Millinocket Library ADA Access	Millinocket Memorial Library	115,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Orono Public Library Expansion	Orono Public Library Foundation	3,600,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Porter Memorial Library ADA Accessibility Upgrades.	Porter Memorial Library Association	820,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Hollis Municipal Facility	Town of Hollis	2,000,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Randolph Fire Station	Town of Randolph	2,600,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	St. Agatha Municipal Building	Town of St. Agatha	450,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Waldo Community Action Partners Facility Construction.	Waldo Community Action Partners	2,000,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Hand in Hand—Rayitos de Sol Bilingual Childcare Expansion.	Mano en Mano / Hand in Hand	831,000	King

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Alpena Community College Student Housing Community Facility.	Alpena Community College	1,750,000	Peters
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Briggs District Library	City of Saint Johns	598,000	Peters, Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Proposal for a New Ionia Community Library	Ionia Community Library	2,100,000	Peters
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Increasing Access to Care Through a Health-Focused Community Hub in Greenville, Michigan.	Cherry Health	2,575,000	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	City of Raymond Community Facilities	City of Raymond	1,186,000	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Early Childhood Hub in Pope County	Lakes Area Enrichment Center	1,875,000	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Lil' Chomper's Chomper's Child Care project	Lil' Chomper's Child Care	1,000,000	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MS	Kemper County Library	East Central Planning and Development District.	600,000	Wicker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NC	Mount Airy Downtown Franklin Street Revitalization Project.	City of Mount Airy	522,000	Tillis
Rural Community Facilities Program	NC	Expansion of the Marianna Black Library	Marianna Black Library	1,000,000	Tillis
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Ashland Elementary School Net Zero Project	Ashland Elementary School	1,353,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Carroll County Annex Project	Carroll County	2,000,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Warren Village School Net Zero Project	School Administrative Unit 23	1,147,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Creating a Center for Food, Farming and the Environment to Foster a Resilient, Robust, Equitable and Climate-Smart Local Food System in NJ.	Foodshed Alliance A NJ Nonprofit Corporation	260,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Hunterdon County Emergency Services Training Center Phase 2 and 3.	Hunterdon County	3,192,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Acquisition of a New Pumper Truck	Township of Quinton	746,000	Booker, Menendez
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Rural Transportation Relief	Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County	291,000	Booker, Menendez
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Aztec Public Library Roof Replacement	Aztec Public Library	81,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	City of Anthony Public Safety Building	City of Anthony	825,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Rescue Engine for Portales Fire Department	City of Portales Fire Department	495,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	New Fire Station for Costilla Volunteer Fire Department.	Costilla Volunteer Fire District Taos County Fire and EMS.	1,500,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Expansion of EMS Building in Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County	300,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Hozho Voices of Healing Center Native Seed Bank.	Hozho Voices of Healing Center	49,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	New Ambulance for Logan Ambulance Service	Logan Ambulance Service	289,000	Henrich

Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Garage for Pueblo of Santa Ana Emergency Vehicles.	Pueblo of Santa Ana	375,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Pueblo of Tesque Community Farm Building and Equipment.	Pueblo of Tesque	749,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Roosevelt County Detention Center Electrical and Plumbing Upgrades.	Roosevelt County	275,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	San Juan County Fire and Rescue Department—Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses.	San Juan County	605,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Sunrise Clinics—Property Purchase to Expand Mental Health Care in Frontier Burn Communities.	Sunrise Clinics	151,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Taos County Fire and EMS—Wildland Fire Engine.	Taos County Fire and EMS	234,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Town of Red River Public Works and Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility.	Town of Red River	2,171,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Town of Springer Fire Department Sub Station	Town of Springer	1,575,000	Heinrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Village of Reserve—Village Hall, Library & Community Center Renovation.	Village of Reserve	750,000	Lujan
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Amargosa Valley Library—Library Extension	Amargosa Valley	750,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe—Community Building.	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	512,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone—Indian View Heights Road Reconstruction.	Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone.	940,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Storey County—McCarran Sheriff's Office Substation.	Storey County	450,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	SUNY Morrisville Robotic Dairy Milker	Morrisville College Foundation	1,360,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Nelliston School Daycare	Village of Nelliston	300,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Finger Lakes Community College Horticulture Education Complex Project.	Finger Lakes Community College	1,000,000	Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Finger Lakes Museum Capital Project	Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum.	2,000,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Rural Community Outpatient Clinic	Keuka College	1,600,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Big Walnut Joint Fire District Fire Station	Big Walnut Joint Fire District	1,320,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Canfield Township Public Work Garage Expansion Project.	Canfield Township	263,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Marietta College Planetarium	Marietta College	181,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Cooper Community Resource Center	Oberlin Community Services Council	1,286,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Shawnee Fire Department New Truck	Village of Shawnee	375,000	Brown

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Wells Township Police Department Cruiser Garage.	Wells Township Police Department	159,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Condon Library Theatre Restoration	Condon Arts Council	250,000	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Community Mental Health Facility Repairs in Lane County.	South Lane Mental Health Services, Inc.	76,000	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Armstrong Conservation District—Education Center at Armsdale.	Armstrong Conservation District	594,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Child Hunger Outreach Partners—Building Expansion & Improvements.	Child Hunger Outreach Partners	750,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Lock Haven Police Building	City of Lock Haven	1,000,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Perry County Literacy Council Education Expansion Project.	Perry County Literacy Council	900,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	The Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park—Maxwell Distance Learning Center.	The Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park	138,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	City of Clairton Public Library	City of Clairton	564,000	Casey, Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Creating a Safer and More Efficient Clarion County Courthouse.	Clarion County Commissioners	1,898,000	Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Oil City Library Theater Restoration	Oil Region Library Association	494,000	Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Public Safety Complex	Town of New Shoreham	3,500,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Richmond Radio Tower	Town of Richmond	165,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Senior Center Elevator	Town of Richmond	55,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Orangeburg County Law Complex	County of Orangeburg	886,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Robert Davidson Community Center	Dorchester County	250,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Irmo Town Hall Project	Town of Irmo	1,980,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center Expansion.	Ballad Health Foundation	522,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Blue Ridge Discovery Center Visitor Center	Blue Ridge Discovery Center	366,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck	Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck	1,000,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Historic Masonic Theatre Preservation Foundation Door Replacement Project.	Masonic Theatre Preservation Foundation	94,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Nelson County Child Development Center and Community Health Worker Training Program Facility.	The Millennium Group	575,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Cedar Bluff Dump Truck Replacement	Town of Cedar Bluff, Virginia	90,000	Kaine, Warner



Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Tazewell (EMS) Building Renovation and Expansion.	Town of Tazewell	354,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Northfield Senior Center Expansion	Greater Northfield Seniors	151,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Canaan Cooperative Child Development Center	Northeast Kingdom Community Action	75,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Rochester High School Repurposing Project	Town of Rochester	2,329,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department Emergency Services Building.	Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department	1,125,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Brandon Public Library Safety and Accessibility Improvements.	Brandon Public Library	1,000,000	Weich
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	New Town Garage	Town of Vershire	750,000	Weich
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Village of Johnson Utility Maintenance Garage	Village of Johnson	824,000	Weich
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	City of Elma Community Policing and Emergency Operations Center.	City of Elma	1,288,000	Cantwell
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Darrington Food Bank Expansion	Darrington Food Bank Foundation	425,000	Cantwell
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Quinault Boom Truck	Quinault Indian Nation	135,000	Cantwell
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Roslyn Old City Hall Renovation	City of Roslyn	1,400,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Public Safety Answering Point—First Responder Interoperable Communications Project.	Kittitas County	1,050,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Public Safety Radio Network Improvement	Okanogan County	3,000,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute Revitalization Center.	Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute	5,000,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Western Wisconsin Health Expansion	Western Wisconsin Health	1,000,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Belmont Water Treatment Plant Roof Replacement.	City of Belmont	75,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Meadow River Valley Local Foodway	God's Way Home, Inc	100,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Clendenin Municipal Complex Upgrade	Town of Clendenin	563,000	Capito
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Princeton City Hall Complex Phase III	City of Princeton	657,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Tucker County New Visitors Center	Tucker County	1,260,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Arnettville Community Center Roof Replacement.	Arnettville Community Association	150,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Elkins Library Renovation & Expansion	Elkins-Randolph County Public Library	2,200,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Gilmer County Courthouse Annex Elevator	Gilmer County Commission	191,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Fayetteville Historic Fayette Theater Renovations Project.	Historic Fayette Theater	372,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Summersville New Beginnings Resource Center Refrigerated Truck.	New Beginnings Resource Center	51,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Randolph County Conference and Event Center	Randolph County Development Authority	1,250,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Morgan County Senior Life Services HVAC System Replacement.	Senior Life Services of Morgan County, Inc.	487,000	Capito, Manchin

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College Community Learning Commons.	Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College.	1,275,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Bethany Community Center Roof Replacement	Town of Bethany .....	23,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Reedsville Historic Town Hall Restoration & Expansion Project.	Town of Reedsville .....	234,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Ridgeley Town Hall and Police Department .....	Town of Ridgeley .....	1,200,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Wardensville Community Center Stabilization and Renovation Project.	Town of Wardensville .....	1,121,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Weston Historic Landmark Commission for Cultural Center Restoration Project.	Weston Historic Landmark Commission .....	750,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	African American Community Association Fishermen's Hall Amphitheater Project.	African American Community Association of Jefferson County.	67,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Blackwater Ministries Food Pantry Building .....	Blackwater Ministerial Association, Inc. ....	132,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Charles Town Opera House Roof & HVAC Replacement.	Old Opera House Theatre, Inc. ....	209,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Wirt County Committee on Aging Disability and Improvement & Senior Accessibility Project.	Wirt County Committee on Aging .....	57,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program .....	WV	Worthington Volunteer Fire Department Tanker Project.	Worthington Volunteer Fire Department .....	214,000	Manchin
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	AZ	Colorado City Flood Control Project .....	Town of Colorado City .....	55,000	Kelly, Sinema
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	MS	Mississippi Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.	NRCS Mississippi .....	9,050,000	Hyde-Smith
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	MS	Choctaw County Lake .....	Choctaw County Board of Supervisors .....	2,000,000	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	MS	Big and Little Cedar Creeks Flood Prevention .....	George County .....	55,000	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	MS	Jones County Flood Prevention Project .....	Pat Harrison Waterway District .....	2,000,000	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	NV	Douglas County—Hot Springs-Buckbrush Flood Control.	Douglas County .....	55,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	NV	Douglas County—Smelter Creek Tributary Flood Control.	Douglas County .....	55,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	OH	McConnell Run Streambank Restoration .....	Village of McConnelsville .....	55,000	Brown
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	OR	Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Resiliency and Modernization Project.	Arnold Irrigation District .....	3,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	OR	North Unit Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project.	North Unit Irrigation District .....	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	RI	Pocasasset River Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. Clemson Experiment Station .....	RI Association of Conservation Districts .....	2,025,000	Reed
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	SC	Clemson Experiment Station .....	Clemson University Experiment Station .....	55,000	Graham

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024  
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
<b>TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS</b>					
Processing, Research, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary	7,432	34,713	7,432		-27,281
Office of Homeland Security	1,396	2,396	1,396		-1,000
Office of Tribal Relations	5,190	6,533	5,190		-1,343
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	9,280	10,357	9,280		-1,077
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	1,706	1,742	1,706		-36
Departmental Administration	26,716	35,627	26,716		-8,911
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	4,609	4,727	4,609		-118
Office of Communications	8,738	16,539	8,738		-7,801
Total, Office of the Secretary	65,067	112,634	65,067		-47,567
<b>Executive Operations</b>					
Office of the Chief Economist	28,181	35,597	30,181	+2,000	-5,416
Office of Hearings and Appeals	16,703	17,494	16,703		-791
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	14,967	21,135	14,967		-6,168
Office of the Chief Information Officer	92,284	95,061	92,284		-2,777
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	7,367	9,108	7,367		-1,741
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	1,466	1,486	1,466		-20
Office of Civil Rights	37,595	38,617	37,595		-1,022
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities	40,581	124,628	36,081	-4,500	-88,547
Hazardous materials management	7,581	7,630	6,586	-995	-1,044
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection	21,800	22,020	21,800		-220
Office of Inspector General	111,561	125,893	111,561		-14,332
Office of the General Counsel	60,537	65,646	60,537		-5,109
Office of Ethics	5,556	6,958	5,556		-1,402



COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued  
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	1,174,246	1,191,963	1,189,142	+ 14,896	- 2,821
Agricultural Marketing Service					
Marketing Services .....	237,695	254,605	229,891	- 7,804	- 24,714
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected) .....	(62,596)	(62,596)	(62,596)		
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent, (Section 32) .....	1,483,309	1,573,666	1,573,666	+ 90,357	
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from Section 32)	(21,501)	(21,501)	(21,501)		
Payments to States and Possessions .....	1,235	1,235	1,235		
Limitation on inspection and weighing services expenses .....	(55,000)	(55,000)	(55,000)		
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service .....	1,839,835	1,947,102	1,922,388	+ 82,553	- 24,714
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety .....	1,117	1,146	1,117		- 29
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,158,266	1,290,419	1,205,009	+ 46,743	- 85,410
Lab accreditation fees .....	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)		
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs .....	8,394,410	9,204,229	8,579,816	+ 185,406	- 624,413
(By transfer) .....	(21,501)	(21,501)	(21,501)		
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(117,596)	(117,596)	(117,596)		
TITLE II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs					
Farm Production Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation .....	1,727	1,780	1,727		- 53
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center .....	248,684	265,825	249,684	+ 1,000	- 16,141
(by transfer from CCC) .....	(60,228)	(60,228)	(60,228)		

Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses .....	1,215,307	1,262,353	1,215,307	.....	—47,046
(by transfer from ACIF) .....	(305,803)	(321,621)	(321,621)	(+ 15,818)	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers) .....	1,521,110	1,583,974	1,536,928	+ 15,818	—47,046
State mediation grants .....	7,000	7,000	7,000	.....	.....
Grassroots source water protection program .....	7,500	7,000	7,500	.....	+ 500
Dairy indemnity program .....	500	500	500	.....	.....
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers .....	4,000	4,000	4,000	.....	.....
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund [ACIF] Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Guaranteed .....	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	.....	.....
Direct .....	(3,100,000)	(3,100,000)	(3,100,000)	.....	.....
Subtotal .....	(6,600,000)	(6,600,000)	(6,600,000)	.....	.....
Farm operating loans:					
Unsubsidized guaranteed .....	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	.....	.....
Direct .....	(1,633,333)	(1,633,000)	(1,633,000)	(— 333)	.....
Subtotal .....	(3,751,824)	(3,751,491)	(3,751,491)	(— 333)	.....
Emergency loans .....	(4,062)	(37,667)	(37,667)	(+ 33,605)	.....
Indian tribe land acquisition loans .....	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	.....	.....
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed .....	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	.....	.....
Relending program loans .....	(61,426)	(61,426)	(61,426)	.....	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans .....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	.....	.....
Boll weevil eradication loans .....	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations .....	(10,652,312)	(10,685,584)	(10,685,584)	(+ 33,272)	.....
Loan subsidies:					
Emergency Loans .....	249	3,507	3,507	+ 3,258	.....
Farm operating loans:					
Direct .....	23,520	27,598	27,598	+ 4,078	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
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[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Unsubsidized guaranteed .....	11,228	1,483	1,483	- 9,745	.....
Subtotal .....	34,997	32,588	32,588	- 2,409	.....
Relending program loans .....	10,983	19,368	19,368	+ 8,385	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans .....	894	1,577	1,577	+ 683	.....
Boll weevil eradication loans .....	.....	258	258	+ 258	.....
Total, Loan subsidies and grants .....	46,874	53,791	53,791	+ 6,917	.....
ACIF administrative expenses:					
Administrative Expenses .....	326,461	341,871	341,871	+ 15,410	.....
(Program Loan Cost Expenses) .....	(20,658)	(20,250)	(20,250)	( - 408)	.....
(Transfer out to FSA Salaries and expenses) .....	( - 305,803)	( - 321,621)	( - 321,621)	( - 15,818)	.....
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account .....	373,335	395,662	395,662	+ 22,327	.....
(Loan authorizations) .....	(10,652,312)	(10,685,584)	(10,685,584)	( + 33,272)	.....
Total, Farm Service Agency .....	1,607,642	1,676,515	1,629,969	+ 22,327	- 46,546
RMA Salaries and Expenses .....	66,870	77,897	66,870	.....	- 11,027
Risk Management Agency .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Farm Production Programs .....	1,924,923	2,022,017	1,948,250	+ 23,327	- 73,767
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation Operations 1/ .....	918,151	1,008,266	922,151	+ 4,000	- 86,115





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Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts .....	449,992	449,992	449,992		
Total, Rural development expenses (including transfers) .....	801,079	977,174	801,079		- 176,095
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Rural Housing Service					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec 502) .....	(1,250,000)	(1,500,000)	(850,000)	(- 400,000)	(- 650,000)
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes .....	(7,500)	(12,000)	(7,500)		(- 4,500)
Unsubsidized guaranteed .....	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)		
Subtotal, Single family .....	31,257,500	31,512,000	30,857,500	- 400,000	- 654,500
Housing repair (Sec 504) .....	(28,000)	(50,000)	(28,000)		(- 22,000)
Rental housing (Sec 515) .....	(70,000)	(200,000)	(60,000)	(- 10,000)	(- 140,000)
Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec 538) .....	(400,000)	(400,000)	(400,000)		
Single family housing credit sales .....	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)		
Self-help housing land development housing loans (Sec 523) .....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		
Site development loans (Sec 524) .....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		
Farm Labor Housing (Sec514) .....	(20,000)	(50,000)	(25,000)	(+ 5,000)	(- 25,000)
Total, Loan authorizations .....	31,795,500	32,232,000	31,390,500	- 405,000	- 841,500
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec 502) .....	46,375	205,950	62,637	+ 16,262	- 143,313
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes .....	2,468	5,491	3,432	+ 964	- 2,059
Housing repair (Sec 504) .....	2,324	8,675	4,858	+ 2,534	- 3,817
Self-Help Land Development Housing Loans (Sec523) .....	267	637	637	+ 370	
Site Development Loans (Sec524) .....	208	477	477	+ 269	
Rental housing (Sec 515) .....	13,377	69,960	20,988	+ 7,611	- 48,972

Multi-family housing revitalization program .....	36,000	75,000	35,000	- 1,000	- 40,000
Farm labor housing (Sec514) .....	4,084	17,405	8,703	+ 4,619	- 8,702
Total, Loan subsidies .....	105,103	383,595	136,732	+ 31,629	- 246,863
Farm labor housing grants .....	10,000	18,000	10,000	.....	- 8,000
RHIF administrative expenses .....	412,254	412,254	412,254	.....	.....
(transfer out to Rural Development) .....	(- 412,254)	(- 412,254)	(- 412,254)	.....	.....
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program .....	527,357	813,849	558,986	+ 31,629	- 254,863
(Loan authorization) .....	(31,795,500)	(32,232,000)	(31,390,500)	(- 405,000)	(- 841,500)
Rental assistance program:					
Rental assistance (Sec 521) .....	1,487,926	1,688,109	1,608,000	+ 120,074	- 80,109
Subtotal, Rental Assistance Program .....	1,487,926	1,688,109	1,608,000	+ 120,074	- 80,109
Rural Housing Vouchers .....	48,000	.....	48,000	.....	+ 48,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants .....	32,000	40,000	32,000	.....	- 8,000
Rural housing assistance grants .....	48,000	70,000	48,000	.....	- 22,000
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct .....	(2,800,000)	(2,800,000)	(2,800,000)	.....	.....
Guaranteed .....	(650,000)	(650,000)	(650,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations .....	3,450,000	3,450,000	3,450,000	.....	.....
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Grants .....	.....	52,000	32,000	+ 32,000	- 20,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending .....	325,490	.....	205,134	- 120,356	+ 205,134
Rural community development initiative .....	6,000	22,745	6,000	.....	- 16,745
Tribal college grants .....	10,000	10,000	10,000	.....	.....
Rural Hospitals Pilot Program .....	.....	2,000	.....	.....	- 2,000
Subtotal, Loan subsidies and grants .....	341,490	86,745	253,134	- 88,356	+ 166,389

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
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Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, grants and payments .....	421,490	196,745	333,134	- 88,356	+ 136,389
Total, Rural Housing Service .....	2,484,773	2,698,703	2,548,120	+ 63,347	- 150,583
(Loan authorization) .....	(35,245,500)	(35,682,000)	(34,840,500)	( - 405,000)	( - 841,500)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:					
Rural Business Program Account:					
(Guaranteed business and industry loan authorization) .....	(1,800,000)		(1,800,000)		( + 1,800,000)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy .....	38,520	47,600	28,728	- 9,792	- 18,872
Rural business development grants .....	37,000	40,000	37,000		- 3,000
Delta Regional Authority , Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, and Southwest Border Regional Commission .....	9,000	9,000	12,000	+ 3,000	+ 3,000
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program .....	2,000	7,000		- 2,000	- 7,000
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants .....	86,520	103,600	77,728	- 8,792	- 25,872
Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account:					
(Loan authorization) .....	(18,889)	(18,890)	(18,889)		( - 1)
Loan subsidy .....	3,313	5,733	5,733	+ 2,420	
Administrative expenses .....	4,468	4,468	4,468		
(transfer out to Rural Development) .....	( - 4,468)	( - 4,468)	( - 4,468)		
Total, Intermediary Relending Program Account .....	7,781	10,201	10,201	+ 2,420	
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization) .....	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)		
Limit cushion of credit interest spending .....	(75,000)		(75,000)		( + 75,000)

Rural Cooperative Development Grants:					
Cooperative development .....	5,800	7,000	5,800	.....	-1,200
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas .....	3,500	2,800	3,500	.....	+700
Grants to assist minority producers .....	3,000	4,000	3,000	.....	-1,000
Value-added agricultural product market development .....	13,000	13,000	13,000	.....	.....
Agriculture innovation centers .....	3,000	3,000	3,000	.....	.....
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants .....	28,300	29,800	28,300	.....	-1,500
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program:					
(Loan authorization) .....	(25,000)	(4,777)	(20,000)	(-5,000)	(+15,223)
Loan subsidy and grants .....	6,000	8,250	6,000	.....	-2,250
Rural Energy for America Program:					
(Loan authorization) .....	(20,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(+30,000)	.....
Loan subsidy and grants .....	18	30,000	.....	-18	-30,000
Healthy Food Financing Initiative .....	3,000	5,000	1,000	-2,000	-4,000
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	131,619	186,851	123,229	-8,390	-63,622
(Loan authorizations) .....	(1,938,889)	(148,667)	(1,963,889)	(+25,000)	(+1,815,222)
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural water and waste disposal program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct .....	(1,420,000)	(1,610,000)	(880,000)	(-540,000)	(-730,000)
Guaranteed .....	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations .....	1,470,000	1,660,000	930,000	-540,000	-730,000
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Water and waste revolving fund .....	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....	.....
Water well system grants .....	5,000	5,000	5,000	.....	.....
306A(i)(2) grants .....	15,000	15,000	10,000	-5,000	-5,000
Colonias and AK/HI grants .....	70,000	87,000	70,000	.....	-17,000
Water and waste technical assistance .....	37,500	42,000	37,500	.....	-4,500
Circuit rider program .....	21,180	25,000	25,000	+3,820	.....
Solid waste management grants .....	4,000	4,000	4,000	.....	.....
Direct subsidy .....	2,724	154,895	79,060	+76,336	-75,835
High energy cost grants .....	10,000	10,000	10,000	.....	.....

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Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Water and waste disposal grants .....	430,000	538,400	430,000	.....	- 108,400
Total, Loan subsidies and grants .....	596,404	882,295	671,560	+ 75,156	- 210,735
<b>Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:</b>					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, FFB .....	(2,167,000)	(2,167,000)	(2,167,000)	.....	.....
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate .....	(4,333,000)	(4,333,000)	(4,333,000)	.....	.....
Guaranteed underwriting .....	(900,000)	.....	(900,000)	.....	(+ 900,000)
Rural Energy Savings Program .....	(110,898)	(192,845)	(60,000)	(- 50,898)	(- 132,845)
Subtotal, Electric .....	7,510,898	6,692,845	7,460,000	- 50,898	+ 767,155
Telecommunications:					
Telecomm Direct, Treasury .....	(690,000)	(690,000)	(690,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations .....	8,200,898	7,382,845	8,150,000	- 50,898	+ 767,155
<b>Loan Subsidy:</b>					
Telecommunications Direct, Treasury Rate .....	3,726	7,176	7,176	+ 3,450	.....
Rural Energy Savings Program .....	11,500	34,500	10,734	- 766	- 23,766
Rural clean energy initiative technical assistance grants .....	.....	15,000	.....	.....	- 15,000
RETLP administrative expenses .....	33,270	33,270	33,270	.....	.....
(transfer out to Rural Development) .....	(- 33,270)	(- 33,270)	(- 33,270)	.....	.....
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account .....	48,496	89,946	51,180	+ 2,684	- 38,766
(Loan authorization) .....	(8,200,898)	(7,382,845)	(8,150,000)	(- 50,898)	(+ 767,155)

Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program:						
Loan authorizations:						
Broadband telecommunications	(14,674)				(-14,674)	
Loan subsidies and grants:						
Distance learning and telemedicine:						
Grants	60,000	65,000		60,000		-5,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	4,991			2,721	-2,270	+2,721
Subtotal	64,991	65,000		62,721	-2,270	-2,279
Broadband telecommunications:						
Direct	3,000	2,037			-3,000	-2,037
Broadband Re-Connect:						
Loan subsidies and grants 1/	348,000	374,300		98,000	-250,000	-276,300
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	15,513				-15,513	
Community Connect Grants	35,000	35,000		35,000		
Subtotal	398,513	409,300		133,000	-265,513	-276,300
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	466,504	476,337		195,721	-270,783	-280,616
Total, Rural Utilities Service	1,111,404	1,448,578		918,461	-192,943	-530,117
(Loan authorization)	(9,685,572)	(9,042,845)		(9,080,000)	(-605,572)	(+37,155)
Total, title III, Rural Development Programs	4,080,503	4,862,967		3,942,517	-137,986	-920,450
(By transfer)	(449,992)	(449,992)		(449,992)		
(Transfer out)	(-449,992)	(-449,992)		(-449,992)		
(Loan authorizations)	(45,869,961)	(44,873,512)		(45,884,389)	(-985,572)	(+1,010,877)
TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS						
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services	1,376	1,416		1,376		-40
Food and Nutrition Service:						
Child nutrition programs	28,456,432	32,000,897		32,000,897	+3,544,465	
Farm to School	14,000			10,000	-4,000	+10,000
School breakfast program equipment grants	30,000	30,000		20,000	-10,000	-10,000
Summer EBT	40,000				-40,000	
Child Nutrition Training (Sec 735)	2,000			2,000		+2,000

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Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
School Breakfast Expansion Grants .....	3,000	.....	.....	- 3,000	.....
Total, Child nutrition programs .....	28,545,432	32,030,897	32,032,897	+ 3,487,465	+ 2,000
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC) .....	6,000,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	+ 300,000	.....
Supplemental nutrition assistance program:					
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program .....	150,859,725	119,125,239	119,132,241	- 31,727,484	+ 7,002
Reserve .....	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	.....	.....
FDPIR nutrition education services .....	998	998	998	.....	.....
Forward funding .....	.....	27,511,000	.....	.....	- 27,511,000
Healthy Fluid Milk .....	.....	3,000	3,000	+ 3,000	.....
Tribal Demonstration Projects .....	3,000	5,000	5,000	+ 2,000	.....
Total, Food stamp program .....	153,863,723	149,645,237	122,141,239	- 31,722,484	- 27,503,998
Commodity assistance program:					
Commodity supplemental food program .....	338,640	390,000	390,000	+ 51,360	.....
Farmers market nutrition program .....	26,000	26,000	20,000	- 6,000	- 6,000
Emergency food assistance program .....	92,000	100,000	90,000	- 2,000	- 10,000
Pacific island and disaster assistance .....	1,070	1,070	1,070	.....	.....
Total, Commodity assistance program .....	457,710	517,070	501,070	+ 43,360	- 16,000
Nutrition programs administration .....	189,348	221,193	184,348	- 5,000	- 36,845
Congressional Hunger Center .....	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	.....	.....
Total, Food and Nutrition Service .....	189,056,213	188,714,397	161,159,554	- 27,896,659	- 27,554,843



Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs .....	189,057,589	188,715,813	161,160,930	-27,896,659	-27,554,883
TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs .....	932	1,035	932		-103
Office of Codex Alimentarius .....	4,922	5,009	4,922		-87
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses .....	237,330	256,149	237,330		-18,819
(By transfer from export loans) .....	(6,063)	(6,063)	(6,063)		
Food for Peace Title II Grants:					
Expenses .....	1,750,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	+50,000	
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants .....	243,331	243,331	248,331	+5,000	
Commodity Credit Corporation Export (Loans):					
Credit Guarantee Program Account .....	6,063	6,063	6,063		
Foreign Agriculture Service, Salaries and expenses (transfer out) .....	(-6,063)	(-6,063)	(-6,063)		
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs .....	2,242,578	2,311,587	2,297,578	+55,000	-14,009
(By transfer) .....	(6,063)	(6,063)	(6,063)		
(Transfer out) .....	(-6,063)	(-6,063)	(-6,063)		
TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses					
Direct appropriation .....	3,530,150	3,896,028	3,550,150	+20,000	-345,878
Transfer to OIG (transfer out) .....	(-1,500)	(-1,500)	(-1,500)		
Spending from appropriated user fees:					
Prescription drug user fees .....	1,310,319	1,336,525	1,336,525	+26,206	
Medical device user fees .....	324,777	331,273	331,273	+6,496	
Human generic drug user fees .....	582,500	594,150	594,150	+11,650	
Biosimilar biological products user fees .....	41,600	42,432	42,432	+832	
Animal drug user fees .....	32,144	33,500	33,500	+1,356	
Animal generic drug user fees .....	29,303	25,000	25,000	-4,303	
Tobacco product user fees .....	712,000	712,000	712,000		

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				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Subtotal, user fees (appropriated) .....	3,032,643	3,074,880	3,074,880	+ 42,237	.....
Subtotal (including appropriated user fees) .....	6,562,793	6,970,908	6,625,030	+ 62,237	- 345,878
Mammography user fees .....	19,371	19,758	19,758	+ 387	.....
Export user fees .....	5,083	5,185	5,185	+ 102	.....
Color certification user fees .....	10,891	11,109	11,109	+ 218	.....
Food and Feed Recall user fees .....	1,552	1,584	1,584	+ 32	.....
Food Reinspection fees .....	6,942	7,079	7,079	+ 137	.....
Voluntary qualified importer program fees .....	5,737	5,852	5,852	+ 115	.....
Pharmacy compounding fees .....	1,646	1,679	1,679	+ 33	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) pediatric disease .....	8,320	8,486	8,486	+ 166	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) topical disease .....	2,660	2,713	2,713	+ 53	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) medical countermeasures .....	2,660	2,713	2,713	+ 53	.....
Third party auditor .....	771	787	787	+ 16	.....
Over-the-Counter Monograph fees .....	30,356	31,800	31,800	+ 1,444	.....
Increased export certification fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	5,000	.....	.....	- 5,000
Expand tobacco products fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	100,000	.....	.....	- 100,000
Subtotal, spending from FDA user fees .....	3,128,632	3,278,625	3,173,625	+ 44,993	- 105,000
Total, Salaries and expenses (including user fees) .....	6,657,282	7,173,153	6,722,275	+ 64,993	- 450,878
HHS Office of Inspector General (by transfer) .....	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	.....	.....
Buildings and facilities .....	12,788	18,788	12,788	.....	- 6,000
FDA Innovation account, Cures Act .....	50,000	50,000	50,000	.....	.....
Offset of appropriation pursuant to Section 1002 (b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (PL 114-255) .....	- 50,000	- 50,000	- 50,000	.....	.....
Spending of FDA innovation account (transfer) .....	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	.....	.....
Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals) .....	6,671,570	7,193,441	6,736,563	+ 64,993	- 456,878

Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only) .....	6,671,570	7,088,441	6,736,563	+ 64,993	— 351,878
FDA user fees .....	— 3,128,632	— 3,278,625	— 3,173,625	— 44,993	+ 105,000
Total, Food and Drug Administration (excluding user fees) .....	3,542,938	3,914,816	3,562,938	+ 20,000	— 351,878
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(88,500)	(94,300)	(94,300)	(+ 5,800)	.....
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration .....	3,542,938	3,914,816	3,562,938	+ 20,000	— 351,878
TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Richard B Russell National School Lunch Act (Sec 732) .....	.....	12,000	.....	.....	— 12,000
NFA Military Veteran Grants .....	5,000	.....	3,000	— 2,000	+ 3,000
Rural Hospital Technical Assistance .....	2,000	.....	.....	— 2,000	.....
Protecting Animals with Shelter Grants .....	3,000	.....	.....	— 3,000	.....
International Agricultural Education Fellowship .....	1,000	.....	.....	— 1,000	.....
Healthy Fluid Milk .....	4,000	.....	.....	— 4,000	.....
Pollinator Research Coordinator .....	400	.....	.....	— 400	.....
Farm Opportunities Training and Outreach .....	4,000	.....	.....	— 4,000	.....
Water Bank program .....	4,000	.....	.....	— 4,000	.....
Maturing mortgage pilot .....	2,000	.....	2,000	— 2,000	+ 2,000
WIC (rescission) .....	— 315,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
Mitigation banking .....	5,000	.....	.....	+ 315,000	.....
NOAA working group .....	500	5,000	2,000	— 3,000	— 3,000
Institute for Rural Partnership .....	15,000	.....	500	.....	+ 500
Bison Inspection Waiver .....	.....	.....	9,000	— 6,000	+ 9,000
Bison Marketing Pilot .....	.....	.....	700	+ 700	+ 700
NAS Study .....	1,300	.....	3,000	+ 3,000	+ 3,000
Farm Loan balances (rescission) .....	— 73,000	.....	.....	— 1,300	.....
PFAS .....	5,000	.....	.....	+ 73,000	.....
Cotton Classing Office Upgrades .....	4,000	.....	.....	— 5,000	.....
RMA A&O .....	25,000	.....	.....	— 4,000	.....
Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (rescission) .....	— 150,000	.....	.....	— 25,000	.....
Summer EBT (rescission) .....	— 80,000	.....	.....	+ 150,000	.....
Institute of Child Nutrition .....	.....	.....	.....	+ 80,000	.....
Broadband Treasury Rate Loan Program (rescission) .....	.....	2,000	.....	.....	— 2,000
Maturing Mortgage Pilot Program (rescission) .....	.....	— 9,156	— 9,156	— 9,156	.....
.....	.....	— 3,000	.....	.....	+ 3,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued  
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Rural Cooperative Development Grants (rescission) .....	.....	— 8,000 .....	— 8,000 .....	— 8,000 .....	.....
WFPD (rescission) .....	.....	.....	— 20,000 .....	— 20,000 .....	— 20,000 .....
NIFA Research and Education (rescission) .....	.....	.....	— 307,526 .....	— 307,526 .....	— 307,526 .....
Housing Repair Loans and Grants (rescission) .....	.....	.....	— 30,000 .....	— 30,000 .....	— 30,000 .....
Rural Housing Voucher (rescission) .....	.....	.....	— 3,000 .....	— 3,000 .....	— 3,000 .....
Total, title VII, General Provisions .....	— 536,800 .....	— 1,156 .....	— 355,482 .....	+ 181,318 .....	— 354,326 .....
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT					
(PL 117–58)					
DIVISION J—APPROPRIATIONS					
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency) .....	5,000 .....	.....	.....	— 5,000 .....	.....
Total, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act .....	5,000 .....	.....	.....	— 5,000 .....	.....
less prior year appropriations (emergency) .....	— 5,000 .....	.....	.....	+ 5,000 .....	.....
ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
(PL 117–128)					
TITLE VI					
General Provisions					
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Sec 601 (emergency) .....	2,000 .....	.....	.....	— 2,000 .....	.....
Total, Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 .....	2,000 .....	.....	.....	— 2,000 .....	.....



COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued  
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2023 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with ( + or - )	
				2023 appropriation	Budget estimate
Rural Utilities Service					
Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account (emergency) .....	325,000	.....	.....	—325,000	.....
General Provisions—This Title					
Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services (Sec 2102) (emergency) .....	125,000	.....	.....	—125,000	.....
Total, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 .....	5,366,715	.....	.....	—5,366,715	.....
Total, Other Appropriations .....	5,423,715	.....	.....	—5,423,715	.....
Grand total .....	247,390,665	237,568,394	207,458,404	—39,932,261	—30,109,990
Appropriations .....	(245,713,582)	(240,867,175)	(211,009,711)	(—34,703,871)	(—29,857,464)
Emergency appropriations .....	(5,423,715)	.....	.....	(—5,423,715)	.....
Emergency advance appropriations .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Offsetting collections .....	(—3,128,632)	(—3,278,625)	(—3,173,625)	(—44,993)	(+105,000)
Rescissions .....	(—618,000)	(—20,156)	(—377,682)	(+240,318)	(—357,526)
(By transfer) .....	(1,645,672)	(1,677,308)	(1,677,308)	(+31,636)	.....
(By transfer) (emergency) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Transfer out) .....	(—1,645,672)	(—1,677,308)	(—1,677,308)	(—31,636)	.....
(Loan authorization) .....	(57,522,273)	(55,559,096)	(56,569,973)	(—952,300)	(+1,010,877)
(Limitation on administrative expenses) .....	(221,096)	(226,896)	(226,896)	(+5,800)	.....
Grand total, excluding Other Appropriations .....	241,966,950	237,568,394	207,458,404	—34,508,546	—30,109,990