



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Passes FY 2006 Agriculture Spending Bill

Washington, D.C. – The full Senate today approved the fiscal year 2006 Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 97-2. Highlights of the \$100.158 billion bill are below.

Bill Highlights:

FY05 Funding Level: \$85.126 billion

FY06 President's Request: \$99.561 billion

FY06 Senate bill: \$100.158 billion

Of the total new budget authority recommended, \$17.348 billion is discretionary appropriations.

Title I – Agricultural Programs

- The bill provides \$1.044 billion for the Farm Service Agency Salaries and Expenses, an increase of \$44 million over the fiscal year 2005 level.
- The bill provides an estimated \$3.743 billion for farm loans, \$25.2 million more than the fiscal year 2005 level. Included in this amount is \$1.61 billion for farm ownership direct and guaranteed loans and \$2.03 billion for farm operating direct and guaranteed loans.
- Funding for the Food Safety and Inspection Service is \$836.818 million, a \$19.648 million increase from the fiscal year 2005 level.
- Agricultural research and extension programs are funded at \$2.43 billion in FY 2006. Appropriations recommended for the Agricultural Research Service total \$ 1.27 billion. For the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, \$1.167 billion is recommended, including \$652.2 million for research and education activities, \$453.4 million for extension activities, and \$55.8 million for integrated activities.
- The Animal Plant and Health Inspection Services is funded at \$807.768 million.
- The Agricultural Marketing Service is funded at \$76.643 million and the Grain Inspection, packers and Stockyards Administration is funded at \$38.443 million.

Title II – Conservation Programs

- Recommended funding for conservation operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is \$819.6 million.
- Watershed and flood prevention operations is funded at \$60 million.
- Watershed surveys and planning is funded at \$5.1 million.
- The watershed rehabilitation program is at \$27.3 million.
- The resource conservation and development program is funded at \$51.2 million.

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Title III – Rural Development Programs

- The total funded rural housing loan authorization level is \$4.9 billion, including \$4.6 billion for the single-family housing direct and guaranteed loans, \$90 million for rental housing loans, \$35 million for housing repair loans, and \$100 million for multi-family housing guaranteed loans.
- Funding for rural rental assistance is \$653 million.
- Funding for the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP), which includes funds for water and waste disposal loans and grants, solid waste management grants, community facility loans and grants, and rural business enterprise grants, is increased \$183.3 million from the budget request level to \$705 million.
- The bill funds a total rural electric and telecommunications loan level of \$6.195 billion, an increase of \$3 billion above the budget request level.
- A total of \$56.825 million is appropriated for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband program for grants and loan subsidy costs which supports a \$550 million loan level.

Title IV – Domestic Food Programs

- The bill appropriates \$12.422 billion for child nutrition programs.
- Funding for the Food Stamp Program totals \$40.711 billion. This amount includes a \$3 billion reserve, \$140 million for the emergency food assistance program, and \$1.522 billion for the nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico.
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is funded at \$5.257 billion, which includes a \$125 million reserve.
- The Commodity Assistance Program is funded at \$179.935 million. This includes \$20 million for the Farmers' market Nutrition Program.

Title V – Foreign Assistance Programs

- Funding for the Foreign Agriculture Service is \$147.868 million.
- Public Law 480 programs are funded at the following program levels: Title I - \$74.032 million credit level, the same as the budget request level; and Title II - \$1.150 billion, \$265 more than the budget request.
- The McGovern-Dole International Food for the Education and Child Nutrition Program is funded at \$100.0 million, an increase of \$13.2 million over the fiscal year 2005 level.

Title VI – Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

- Funding for salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration totals \$1.841 billion. This is \$64.9 million more than the fiscal year 2005 level, and includes an increases of \$20.9 million in prescription drug user fee collections, \$6.4 million in medical device user fees, \$2.9 million in animal drug user fees, \$5 million for drug safety, \$7.8 million for medical device review, and \$16.6 million for food safety.
- Funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is \$98.386 million, \$4.814 million more than the fiscal year 2005 level.
- The bill places a \$44.250 million limitation on expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

Title VII – General Provisions

- Total appropriations of \$2.5 million are appropriated for Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships through the Congressional Hunger Center.
- Limitations are established on mandatory funding for sections 2202, 2301, 2502, 2505, 6029, 6030, 6103, 6401, 6405, 9006, and 9010 of P.L. 107-171.
- The Committee bill also includes statutory language to exclude special pay for military personnel deployed to designated combat areas when determining food stamp eligibility.