



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

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SUMMARY
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies agreement provides total discretionary funding of \$23.493 billion, which is \$451 million above fiscal year 2019 and \$4.5 billion above the President’s budget request.

Key Points & Highlights – The President’s fiscal year 2020 budget request, if enacted, would have been devastating to an already struggling agriculture economy. The agreement provides targeted increases to programs and activities important to our farmers and ranchers, as well as nutrition assistance to help the most vulnerable populations.

Key USDA programs are described below:

Agricultural Research

Total funding for agricultural research is \$3.4 billion, which is the same as fiscal year 2019 and \$530 million above the President’s budget request.

- **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**: Total funding for ARS, USDA’s premiere in house research agency, is \$1.6 billion, of which \$1.414 billion is for salaries and expenses and \$193 million is for buildings and facilities. The bill does not allow for the termination of research programs or the closure of laboratories.

- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture**: Total funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture is \$1.527 billion, which is \$56 million more than fiscal year 2019 and \$136 million more than the President’s budget request. Included in this funding is \$425 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, \$315 million for Smith-Lever, \$37 million for the Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education Program, and \$10 million for a pilot program to address the high suicide rates among farmers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, agriculture has some of the highest suicide rates of any occupation, and farmer suicide is 50 percent greater now than during the

farm crisis of the 1980's. These funds will greatly assist those suffering from mental illness in our rural communities.

Agricultural Marketing Service

- The bill includes \$20 million for Dairy Business Innovation Centers, a \$2 million increase for the National Organic Program, and \$16.4 million for the implementation of the Hemp Production Program that was authorized in the 2018 farm bill. This funding will ensure Hemp farmers have certainty heading into the next planting season.

Farm Service Agency

- Farm Operating and Farm Ownership loans are essential for farmers and ranchers to be successful. Total funding for farm loans is sufficient to meet expected demand.
- Within the Farm Service Agency, \$35 million is provided for the hiring of farm loan officers, county office trainees, and county office staff. The bill does not allow for the closure of any Farm Service Agency county office.

Rural Development

The President's budget proposed to eliminate close to 35 programs benefiting small, rural communities and rural residents. These programs include all of the direct housing loan programs and most of the housing grant programs, most community facilities programs, most of the Rural Business Service, many Water and Waste Disposal (W&W) grants, and selected telecommunications grant programs.

The bill maintains funding for these vital programs and in some cases, funding is increased.

- Rural Utilities Programs: Water and Waste loans and grants are combined to fund clean water and sanitary waste disposal projects in small rural communities. Budget authority for these programs is \$659 million, which is \$111 million over fiscal year 2019 and \$114 million over the President's budget request.

The ReConnect Program is funded at \$555 million. This funding will continue to build off previous years funding and provide much needed broadband services to rural America.

- Rural Housing Programs: The President's budget request reduced rural housing programs by more than \$159 million. This bill does not reduce any program below the fiscal year 2019 level. Rental Assistance (rent subsidies for low and very low income rural households) is funded at \$1.375 billion. This funding will provide 280,532 contract renewals, including 1,396 contract re-renewals. Renewing all expiring contracts ensures that low income households are protected from untenable rent increases and possible eviction.

- Rural Business Programs: The President's budget request reduced rural business programs by more than \$750 million. The bill rejects those devastating cuts and fully funds the business needs of rural America.

Nutrition

The President proposed to drastically reduce nutrition programs that millions of American's rely on each day. This bill rejects those devastating cuts and continues to support the most vulnerable populations in the country.

- Child Nutrition Programs: Total funding for Child Nutrition Programs is \$23.615 billion. Included in this amount is \$30 million for school equipment grants and \$35 million for Summer EBT. For fiscal year 2020, this funding will provide over 31 million children with lunch during each school day.
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): The WIC program is funded at \$6 billion. Within that funding is \$90 million for breastfeeding peer counselors, an increase of \$30 million. This funding will ensure over 6 million women, infants, and children will receive the nutritional support they need.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Funding provided for SNAP will fully fund anticipated participation in 2020.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): The President's budget request proposed to eliminate CSFP. This important nutrition program ensures seniors over 60 receive supplemental food to maintain healthy lives. The bill provides an increase of \$23 million to serve all anticipated participants.

Foreign Food Aid

The President's budget once again proposed to eliminated two important food aid programs, PL 480 and McGovern-Dole. The agreement provides \$1.725 billion for PL 480, an increase of \$9 million and \$220 million for McGovern-Dole, and increase of \$10 million. These increases will mean millions of people around the world will receive lifesaving food.

Food and Drug Administration

Total discretionary funding for the Food and Drug Administration is \$3.159 billion, an increase of \$91 million over fiscal year 2019. Within this increase is \$78.9 million for medical product and food safety activities and \$12.1 million for critical infrastructure improvements. The bill also includes \$2 million for FDA to continue work on a regulatory framework for Cannabidiol.

Agriculture Disaster

An additional \$1.5 billion in emergency spending is included in order to continue to respond to natural disasters occurring in 2018 and 2019. Those areas of the country suffering from the most extreme drought will be eligible for additional support. Those producers that were affected by hurricanes and wildfires will also continue to be eligible for funding.

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