

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2023

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE BILL

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

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

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

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

In the context of overall pressures on spending and the competing priorities that the Committee faces, this bill as reported provides the proper amount of emphasis on agricultural, rural development, and other programs and activities funded by the bill. It is consistent with the Subcommittee's allocation for fiscal year 2023.

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 2022 levels cited in this report reflect amounts enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 116–260) and do not include fiscal year 2022 supplemental appropriations. Accordingly, any comparisons to fiscal year 2022 do not reflect fiscal year 2022 supplemental appropriations. Fiscal year 2022 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 2022 enacted	Committee recommendation
Title I: Agricultural programs	\$8,068,381	\$8,855,065
Title II: Farm Production and Conservation programs	29,557,920	29,895,344
Title III: Rural economic and community development programs	3,971,535	4,372,785
Title IV: Domestic food programs	173,936,320	146,451,286
Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs	2,217,456	2,302,010
Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration	3,698,933	3,545,283
Title VII: General provisions	– 425,347	92,950
Other Appropriations	13,425	.....
Total, new budget (obligational) authority	\$233,664,397	\$195,057,922

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

Appropriations, 2022	\$54,710,000
Budget estimate, 2023	81,010,000
Committee recommendation	68,423,000

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 \$68,423,000 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 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary	7,203	10,623	7,471
Office of Homeland Security	1,353	2,306	1,402
Office of Tribal Relations	2,215	6,450	5,190
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	7,044	10,525	7,280
Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration	1,649	1,747	1,726
Departmental Administration	23,282	33,300	31,136
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	4,480	4,671	4,609
Office of Communications	7,484	11,388	9,609
Total	54,710	81,010	68,423

Alcohol Research for Dietary Guidelines.—The Committee directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of HHS, to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NAS] to conduct a study of the eight research topics related to alcohol consumption that were not examined by the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee [DGAC]. Specifically, the NAS shall examine the relationship between alcohol consumption and (1) growth, size, body composition, and risk of being overweight and obesity; (2) risk of cardiovascular disease [CVD]; (3) risk of cancer; (4) neurocognitive health; (5) infant developmental milestones, including neurocognitive development (lactation); (6) post-partum weight loss (lactation); (7) human milk composition and quantity; and (8) alcohol consumption and all-cause mortality. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 in a general provision for the NAS to carry out this study.

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.

Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach Program.—Creating and expanding new farming opportunities and supporting farmer training and technical assistance are critical to the future of American agriculture and our food system. The Committee notes that significant funding was included in the fiscal year 2022 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act for the Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach Program [FOTO]. The Secretary is urged to support new and established training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of the next generation of farmers and ensure they have access to USDA credit, commodity, conservation, and other programs and services.

Hemp.—The Committee is concerned that the level of allowable THC content in hemp may be arbitrary and pose a burden on hemp producers that is not supported by scientific evidence. The Committee directs USDA to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Drug Enforcement Administration to study and report to Congress on whether there is scientific basis

for the current limit of 0.3 percent THC in hemp and suggest alternative levels if necessary.

The Committee is concerned that producers of high value, horticultural hemp are being prevented from accessing USDA programs designed for specialty crops, including the Specialty Crop Block Grants and crop insurance. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the Secretary to establish a dual designation for hemp as a specialty crop based on the manner and purpose for which it is grown.

Institute for Rural Partnerships.—The Committee recognized the unique challenges faced by rural communities when it provided funding in fiscal year 2022 for the establishment of 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 \$15,000,000 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.

Local Agriculture Market Program.—Creating and expanding new and better markets is critical to the future of American agriculture and our food system. The Committee notes that substantial funding was included in the fiscal year 2022 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act for both the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program [FMLFPP] and the Value-Added Producer Grant Program [VAPG]. The Secretary is urged to continue to find innovative ways to help further diversify and increase on-farm income to strengthen our rural communities.

Pay Costs.—The Committee provides the requested pay cost increase to support annualization of the 2022 pay raise and a 4.6 percent pay raise for fiscal year 2023.

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.

Plastic Alternative.—The Committee recognizes the need for bio-based and U.S.-grown alternatives. The Committee directs the department to explore U.S.-based hemp as a robust and dependable plastic alternative and issue a report to the Committee on how to best facilitate its cost-efficient use in government-produced or funded materials within 180 days of the passage of this act.

Scholars Programs.—The Committee applauds the Department's efforts to strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and 1890 and 1994 Land Grant Institutions to increase the number of students studying, graduating, and pursuing careers in food, agriculture, natural resources, and other related fields of study. Building a diverse and strong pipeline of future agricultural scientists and professionals in public service can help to bring new

ideas and perspectives that will benefit agriculture and society as a whole. The Committee encourages USDA to further expand the work of the two Scholars Programs to allow for the selection of a greater number of scholars and supports the participation of more agencies in this effort in order to recruit talented students into public service.

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, 2022	\$27,199,000
Budget estimate, 2023	32,012,000
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.

Policy Research.—The Committee provides \$8,000,000 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, \$3,000,000 is provided for the Department to focus efforts on entities that have developed models, databases, and staff necessary to conduct in-depth analysis of impacts of agriculture or rural development policy proposals on rural communities, farmers, agribusiness, taxpayers, and consumers. The Department is encouraged to fund regional and State-level baseline projections in addition to currently available national and international outlooks.

Study of U.S. Biobased Economy.—The Committee recognizes the global scope of the bioeconomy and its importance to our Nation's long-term economic strength and competitiveness, so directs the Department to study the U.S. bioeconomy's size and scope in comparison with other nations according to available data on direct/indirect jobs and average wages, economic output, tax contributions,

and investment. Additionally, the study should examine the benefits per dollar of new and private investment in expanding plant-based product production in rural America, including how investments in worker training programs, infrastructure, and public services could positively impact local and State economies. Further, it should address the opportunities and barriers to biofuels companies expanding into advanced fuels, bioproducts or additional byproduct or value-added production. In coordination with the Forest Service, it should include an analysis of the potential economic integration between forest products, pulp, and woody biomass and markets for annual or perennial biomass. The Report should include an analysis of market transparency in the sales of these commodities and its impact on farmers and forest managers who harvest feedstocks to further production sites. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report detailing the Department's findings to the Congressional Committees on Appropriations not later than 1 year after the date of enactment.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Appropriations, 2022	\$16,173,000
Budget estimate, 2023	16,743,000
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, 2022	\$11,337,000
Budget estimate, 2023	25,738,000
Committee recommendation	15,667,000

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 \$15,667,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Appropriations, 2022	\$84,746,000
Budget estimate, 2023	97,547,000
Committee recommendation	93,284,000

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 \$93,284,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

*USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Platform & Toolset [EDAPT].—*The committee directs USDA to continue to drive enterprise-wide implementation and expansion of the USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Platform & Toolset [EDAPT] to harness the power of USDA’s data to drive administration’s priorities.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Appropriations, 2022	\$7,118,000
Budget estimate, 2023	7,374,000
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, 2022	\$1,426,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,530,000
Committee recommendation	1,527,000

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 \$1,527,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2022	\$35,328,000
Budget estimate, 2023	31,696,000
Committee recommendation	36,737,000

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 \$36,737,000 for the Office of Civil Rights.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	\$108,397,000
Budget estimate, 2023	134,827,000
Committee recommendation	341,610,000

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 \$341,610,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	\$7,540,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,586,000
Committee recommendation	7,581,000

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 \$7,581,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

Appropriations, 2022	\$23,306,000
Budget estimate, 2023	25,528,000
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, 2022	\$106,309,000
Budget estimate, 2023	112,061,000
Committee recommendation	112,061,000

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 \$112,061,000 for the Office of Inspector General.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Appropriations, 2022	\$57,268,000
Budget estimate, 2023	57,645,000
Committee recommendation	59,037,000

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 \$59,037,000 for the Office of the General Counsel.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

Appropriations, 2022	\$4,277,000
Budget estimate, 2023	5,544,000
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, 2022	
Budget estimate, 2023	\$15,939,000
Committee recommendation	15,075,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$15,075,000 for the Office of Information Affairs.

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

Appropriations, 2022	\$3,327,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,376,000
Committee recommendation	3,384,000

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 \$3,384,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Appropriations, 2022	\$87,794,000
Budget estimate, 2023	99,552,000
Committee recommendation	96,064,000

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 \$96,064,000 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.

Honeybee Economist.—The Committee provides \$500,000 and directs USDA to establish a honeybee economist position at ERS to adequately inform USDA disaster, conservation, forage, research, and other programmatic efforts to support the specialty crop and honey industry supply chains.

Incentives for Voluntary Carbon Sequestration.—The Committee directs ERS to provide, within 1 year of the enactment of this Act, a report on incentive programs for encouraging the voluntary adoption various agricultural management practices that increase carbon sequestration in soil. ERS is encouraged to consider how alternative policies or voluntary programs would manage the tradeoff between incentivizing new adopters and rewarding and sustaining existing adopters of techniques that sequester soil carbon, regional and geographic differences in incentive programs, social and behavioral obstacles, and the differences across program designs.

Life Cycle Analysis [LCA] for Various Biobased Products.—The Committee recognizes the need for consumers and industry to have better information regarding the environmental benefits and impact of biobased products when compared with traditional products in the marketplace. This can be accomplished through a study detailing the most recent life cycle analyses of the main biobased products across the specific product areas of chemicals, plastics, and fibrous materials. The Committee therefore directs the Department to complete a study of existing life cycle analyses for key biobased chemicals, polymers, plastics, and fibrous materials and environmental impact data across various categories, and to make its findings publicly available for consumers and industry to access. The Secretary shall submit a report detailing the Department's findings to the Committee not later than 1 year after the date of enactment and provide an in-person briefing.

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 recognizes the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's [FORHP] use of Rural-Urban Commuting Area [RUCA] and the Frontier and Remote [FAR] codes, developed by ERS to define rural populations. However, neither of these codes are designed to measure rurality in mountainous regions, such as the Appalachian Mountains. The Committee appreciates ERS' ongoing efforts to identify census tracts with difficult

and mountainous terrain, and directs ERS to continue this research. The Committee further directs ERS to keep the Committee, and any other interested parties, regularly apprised of progress, and to make all efforts to expedite the report's completion while maintaining the integrity of the research.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2022	\$190,162,000
Budget estimate, 2023	217,474,000
Committee recommendation	213,576,000

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 \$213,576,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, of which \$66,413,000 is for the Census of Agriculture.

Barley Estimates.—The Committee is encouraged that NASS has reinstated acreage and production estimates for barley in States that were previously discontinued in 2016 and 2017. The Committee expects NASS to continue providing barley acreage and production estimates for those States.

Chemical Use Data Series.—The Chemical Use Data Series provides timely, valuable information on fertilizer and chemical use data on major field crops and selected specialty crops. The Committee encourages NASS to continue funding 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 the \$500,000 in funding provided in fiscal year 2022 for NASS to coordinate with Agricultural Marketing Service for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

Report Improvements.—The Committee is aware of concerns regarding recent NASS reports. The Committee provides funding for NASS to provide a customer-centric data collection dashboard for ease of use, improving the data-user experience with simplified access and increased usability, creating a reimagined operating model that equips the agency with the best tools and technology and allows the agency to recruit and retain top talent, and other initiatives that will allow NASS to meet future data needs. The Committee directs NASS to provide a report not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act on how the agency can improve report accuracy, including through new technology, enhancements to existing analytics technology, cloud migration strategies for legacy applications, updated methods, and better coordination with other USDA agencies and the private sector. Preference should be given to mission critical applications, projects that reduce long standing technical debt, and where pre-existing investments in (software, hardware etc.) can be leveraged.

Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey.—The Committee encourages NASS to reinstate the 5-year Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey and resume data collection and reporting so grape, wine, and juice producers can continue to remain competitive and respond to challenges in the industry.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,633,496,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,858,719,000
Committee recommendation	1,755,667,000

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 prob-

lems, 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 \$1,755,667,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2022 levels.

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 an additional \$1,500,000 for ARS to expand research into methods of mitigating the risk of aflatoxin, particularly regarding responsive agriculture, human nutrition, and food safety.

Agricultural Genomics.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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.—The Committee recognizes the advancement in agrioltaics and its potential in renewable energy and water efficiency. The Committee encourages 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. The Committee further encourages 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. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 to support this initiative.

AgTech Cooperative Agreements.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to establish cooperative agreements with land grant universities, non-profits and other entities 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 2022 level to sup-

port 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 2022 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 recognizes the importance of establishing a center of excellence for the Animal Health and Agro-Bio Defense science to advance integrated research for defending against bio- and agro-terrorism in economically important, large domestic animals and understands the need for developing programs and facilities with BSL-3 bio-containment capabilities to conduct research that supports the mission of the National Bio- and Agro- Defense Facility and other Federal programs in the animal agro-defense strategy. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level to continue to support the Animal Health and Agro/Bio Defense Program.

Appalachian Natural Products Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 an additional \$500,000 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 2022 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 an additional \$1,000,000 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.

Blueberry Breeding.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to continue a comprehensive national blueberry breeding research program to support research in the areas of physiology, horticulture, plant pathology, entomology, and fruit quality that complement breeding. The research will apply the latest tools in molecular breeding to blueberry improvement as well as developing cultivars suitable for machine harvesting.

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 2022 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 an additional \$3,500,000 for improvements to research capacity for ARS corn and soybean, and small grain genotyping work.

Center for Soil Health Research.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 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 an additional \$900,000 for research dedicated to the development of such test and research on pathways of transmission.

Citrus Breeding.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 to establish 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 \$5,000,000 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 2022 level to develop science-based management strategies, provide extension services, and research CLR resistant varieties of coffee.

Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.—The Committee continues to support USDA's many efforts to address the threat of foreign animal diseases and pests to prevent their introduction and spread in the U.S. ARS participates in these efforts by conducting research to develop improved animal diagnostic tests and vaccines, and the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for research with partners on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, which can have a mortality rate as high as 80 percent for infected cattle.

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 2022 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 2022 level to expand research in cotton ginning and innovation by existing laboratories.

Cotton Seed Bug.—The Cotton Seed Bug has been identified in certain areas of the west. The Cotton Seed Bug has been reported to cause reduction in yield, reduction in seed weight, and reduction

in oil content of seed. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to research further the effects of this bug.

Cotton Genetics Management and Fiber Quality Traits.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the domestic cotton industry and provides an additional \$1,350,000 to expand research associated with cotton fiber quality and yield traits. An additional \$2,000,000 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 2022 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 \$1,000,000 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 2022 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 an additional \$1,000,000 to support ARS activities in crop production systems and crop genetics in the mid-south region.

Dairy Forage Research.—The Committee an increase of \$700,000 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.

Improvements in Broiler Production.—The Committee recognizes that the broiler industry is currently experiencing a shift to antibiotic free poultry production which has led to an increase in the amount of parasitic infections, particularly from coccidia. Furthermore, the Committee understands that necessary steps need to be explored to improve vaccine strategies and products to specifically address indications that parasites, such as coccidia, and existing avian Reoviruses are acting synergistically to co-infect broiler products. As such, the Committee provides an additional \$3,000,000 and directs the 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.

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 2022 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.

Feed Enhancement.—The Committee recognizes the potential benefits of using Bromoform, currently produced by *Asparagopsis taxiformis* (red seaweed), as a cattle feed enhancement to reduce pollution. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for the Livestock Nutrient Management Research Unit to examine the applicability and potential benefits of Bromoform, whether produced by *Asparagopsis taxiformis* or an alternative method, as a cattle feed enhancement.

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 an additional \$1,500,000 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 an additional \$2,000,000 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. Of the amount provided, \$1,000,000 is to continue a pilot program to provide for an evaluation of improved food resource management and diet quality in populations not now served, including the elderly, households living below 185 percent of the poverty level, and low-income households with children of any age.

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 2022 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 \$5,000,000 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 an increase of \$1,500,000 to expand existing research focused on oat improvement.

Genomes to Fields.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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.

Healthy Soils Initiative.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 \$1,500,000 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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 recommendation includes \$1,000,000 to support the initiative.

High Performance Computing Support.—The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 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.

Hops Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 an increase of \$1,000,000 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 an additional \$3,000,000 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.

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 \$2,000,000 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 \$1,000,000 for research on detection and mitigation of the disease and the vector insects involved.

Livestock Genetic Research.—The Committee is aware of the promise that genetic engineering holds for addressing livestock animal diseases, welfare, and production. However, the inability to consistently produce genetically engineered “founder animals” in significant numbers represents the major bottleneck for many promising animal biotechnologies. While the National Institutes of Health [NIH] have invested in such facilities for human biomedical research activities that produced needed mice, rats, and pigs, the USDA has not supported similar scale efforts. As such, the Committee provides an additional \$2,500,000 to partner with a major university where genetic engineering expertise is already available and to contract for such services for swine models. The Committee encourages USDA to leverage existing investments in this area made by the NIH.

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 2022 level for this purpose.

Measurement and Monitoring Innovation Lab.—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 to establish the ARS Agricultural Measurement and Monitoring Innovation Lab that was requested in the President’s fiscal year 2023 budget proposal. The lab will focus on sensor design and deployment and data integration across the ARS field network. The lab, in conjunction with a University partner, will upgrade and expand current instrumentation, develop new instruments and low-cost sensor technologies, including the development of next generation Internet of Things (IoT), AI and Big Data capabilities and tools.

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 an additional \$2,000,000 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.

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, agriculture-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 2022 level to support climate science research at the NAL. Further, the Committee provides funding at the fiscal year 2022 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 the budget request level to continue stand-up activities and other initial costs to operate and maintain the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF].

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 2022 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.

Pay Costs.—The Committee provides \$31,221,000 for pay costs.

Pear Genetics and Genomics.—The Committee recognizes that research into pear genetics and genomics is needed to identify genetic sources of pest resistance and to contribute to improved, size-controlling rootstocks to enhance orchard efficiency and to otherwise improve cultivated pear research. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to support research into pear genetics and genomics.

Poultry Processing Research and Innovation.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 an additional \$3,000,000 to facilitate research in ionizing technology and its use to control various pathogens in vaccine development and other uses.

Poultry Research.—The Committee recognizes the important role of the poultry sector to the U.S. economy. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level to expand the research capacity for poultry production and health.

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 2022 level to continue the implementation of precision aquaculture in land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems.

Precision Viticulture for Premium Grapes.—The Committee recognizes the rapid growth in demand for premium wine and the industry's concurrent benefits with respect to helping numerous rural communities generate new tourism and tax revenue. Relevant stakeholders have identified precision viticulture and decision support systems as the preferred path to improving grape productivity and quality. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 level for a collaborative research program focused on precision viticulture for premium grapes and wine and to support existing ARS viticulture and enology research programs.

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 2022 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 patterns. As such, the Committee provides an additional \$5,000,000 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 no less than the fiscal year 2022 level 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 2022 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 no less than the fiscal year 2022 level 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 2022 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 an additional \$2,500,000 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 including 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 2022 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.

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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 \$1,000,000 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 2022 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 an additional \$500,000 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 2022 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 2022 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 an additional \$1,000,000 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 an additional \$1,000,000 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.

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 \$1,000,000 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 2022 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 an additional \$5,000,000 for plant disease research to improve the quality of sugar beet production.

Sugarcane Variety Development.—The Committee provides an additional \$2,000,000 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 2022 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 an additional \$3,000,000 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 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 recharging. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 an additional \$500,000 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 2022 level to develop science-based pest management strategies.

Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Precision Agriculture Applications.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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 \$3,000,000 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 2022 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.

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 an additional \$1,000,000 to continue this research.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2022	\$127,805,000
Budget estimate, 2023	45,405,000
Committee recommendation	166,387,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$166,387,000 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, 2022	\$1,046,244,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,213,315,000
Committee recommendation	1,086,754,000

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 \$1,086,754,000 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	43,000
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	7 U.S.C. 3222	80,000
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)	28,500
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222a	10,000
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	15,000
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156	4,500
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	7,000
Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas.	7 U.S.C. 3362 and 3363	2,000
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	3,500
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	4,000
Research Equipment Grants	7 U.S.C. 3310	5,000
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	14,500
Alfalfa Forage and Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	4,500
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	7 U.S.C. 5924	3,000
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	1,000
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository	Sec. 757 of division A of P.L. 117-103.	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)	2,500
Total, Special Research Grants .....	.....	7,900
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System .....	.....	7,924
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.	.....	12,930
Total, Necessary Expenses .....	.....	20,854
Total, Research and Education Activities .....	.....	1,086,754

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, including 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 2023 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.

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 the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Program, and provides an increase of \$500,000 that will allow for an increase in both the consortium and individual grant components of the program.

Food Safety.—The Committee recommends that NIFA prioritize research funding for new food safety technologies relating to the Nation's meat supply that helps researchers, producers, and manufacturers.

Food Safety and Defense Technology.—The Committee is concerned that insufficient progress is being made in the development of detection technology in the food safety sector. The ability to rapidly, accurately, and cost effectively detect pathogens or contaminants throughout the food supply chain is critical to protecting the United States from food-borne illnesses and malicious acts. As such, the Committee encourages NIFA to increase research of novel biodetection technologies and the implementation of mobile biodetection platforms in real-world conditions. The Department should consider technologies currently in use or under development in other fields, such as medicine or homeland security, to determine whether the technology can meet the needs in either high volume food production or mobile food defense monitoring.

Foodborne Illness Prevention.—The Committee understands the significant threats to public health and to the economic viability of communities impacted by foodborne illness and believes that coordinated and targeted resources are needed to understand the risks and to develop effective strategies for control. The Committee continues to encourage NIFA, in coordination with the FDA, to establish a Center of Excellence for Foodborne Illness to coordinate a research program to reduce the risk of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

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.

Genomes to Phenomes.—The Committee is supportive of the multi-university crop research initiative known as Genomes to Phenomes 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 includes \$1,000,000 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, building, 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 2023 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, such as water usage or fertilizer and pesticide requirements.

Public Plant and Animal Breeding.—The Committee is concerned about the decline in public plant and animal breeding programs at our Nation’s land-grant universities [LGUs] over the last 25 years and encourages LGUs to take steps to foster the next generation of public plant and animal breeders by placing a higher priority on the development of publicly available, regionally adapted cultivars and breeds. For all regions of our Nation to optimize their productive capacity in an environmentally sustainable manner, it is crit-

ical that the farmers of the region have access to the most up-to-date cultivars and breeds to meet ever-changing conditions.

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.

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.

Sustainable Agricultural Systems.—The Committee applauds NIFA for its inclusion of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and predictive science in AFRI and encourages NIFA to prioritize the Sustainable Agricultural Systems program area, particularly

proposals that include a focus on digital agriculture and the digitally augmented food supply chain.

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, 2022	\$11,880,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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, 2022	\$550,605,000
Budget estimate, 2023	568,567,000
Committee recommendation	561,750,000

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 \$561,750,000 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	65,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	14,000
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222b	21,500
Renewable Resources Extension Act	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.	4,100
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	2,500
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	7 U.S.C. 5936	10,000
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)	8,500
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	4,000
Total, Section 3(d)		91,050

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES—Continued

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
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	561,750

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. As such, the Committee provides an additional \$5,000,000 for the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension, an additional \$4,500,000 for the Extension Services at 1994 Institutions, and an additional \$500,000 for the federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program.

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.

Farmer Stress.—The Committee notes that farmers and individuals who work in agriculture face highly stressful working conditions, which can contribute to serious behavioral health concerns. The Committee remains concerned that farmers and ranchers face highly stressful working conditions, which can contribute to serious behavioral health concerns, especially during downturns in the farm economy and trade uncertainty. The Committee continues to urge the Department to prioritize proposals from regions that have seen high levels of farm bankruptcies, auctions, and other signals of severe economic distress when reviewing award applications for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Program. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide annual reports to Congress detailing changes in the indicators of stress, data on effective stress response strategies, and emerging trends in rural economic and healthcare needs resulting from stress interventions, as well as any barriers to collecting or accessing information on farmers' men-

tal health. The report should also describe the impact of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network Program, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network-State Departments of Agriculture Program, and trends in rates of suicide and behavioral health concerns among farmers and ranchers.

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, 2022	\$40,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	39,000,000
Committee recommendation	42,500,000

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 \$42,500,000 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)	22,000

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

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Total, Integrated Activities	42,500

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 provides an increase of \$500,000 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, 2022	\$1,577,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,676,000
Committee recommendation	1,599,000

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 \$1,599,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Proposed User Fees.—The Committee continues to reject past proposals to administratively implement new user fees to cover the government's full cost for providing services to certain beneficiaries, including licenses for animal dealers, veterinary biologics product approval, regulatory review of genetically engineered organisms, checkoff programs, domestic hemp production, livestock dealers, and grain regulatory program. The Committee strongly believes that USDA should not propose new user fees without taking into account the full impact on farmers, ranchers, and beneficiaries who would be forced to contend with rapid changes in these programs and additional burdensome costs without prior notice.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,110,218,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,149,286,000
Committee recommendation	1,187,433,000

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 \$1,187,433,000 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 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance:			
Animal Health Technical Services	\$38,486	\$39,268	\$39,183
Aquatic Animal Health	2,306	2,370	5,000
Avian Health	63,833	65,071	64,930
Cattle Health	108,500	109,005	110,771
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	32,284	31,888	34,819
National Veterinary Stockpile	5,751	5,791	6,500
Swine Health	25,390	26,100	26,044
Veterinary Biologics	20,898	21,539	21,498
Veterinary Diagnostics	61,414	58,417	67,291
Zoonotic Disease Management	20,282	24,111	21,567
Subtotal, Animal Health	379,144	383,560	397,603
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)			
Cotton Pests	33,849	36,725	36,650
Field crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	14,725	13,980	15,950
Pest Detection	11,137	14,672	15,141
Plant Protection Methods Development	28,218	29,137	29,075
Specialty Crop Pests	21,217	21,854	23,557
Tree & Wood Pests	209,553	219,533	222,072
Subtotal, Plant Health	61,217	62,854	62,719
Subtotal, Plant Health	379,916	398,755	405,164
Wildlife Damage Management			
Wildlife Services Methods Development	116,312	116,139	121,060
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	23,363	24,998	25,944
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	139,675	141,137	147,004
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement			
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	16,697	18,759	17,222
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	19,262	19,733	19,691
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	35,959	38,492	36,913
Civilian Climate Corps			
Contingency Fund	491	514	514
Emergency Preparedness & Response	42,021	44,242	44,317
Subtotal, Emergency Management	42,512	50,794	44,831
Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response	977,206	1,012,738	1,031,515
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export	17,928	16,327	18,292
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	24,333	27,033	33,972
Subtotal, Safe Trade	42,261	43,360	52,264
Animal Welfare:			
Animal Welfare	32,256	33,377	33,306

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Horse Protection	3,040	2,100	3,096
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	35,296	35,477	36,402
Agency Management:			
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	4,251	7,451	7,451
Physical/Operational Security	5,163	5,193	5,182
Rent and DHS Security Payments	42,567	45,067	45,067
Subtotal, Agency Management	51,981	57,711	57,700
Congressionally Directed Spending	3,474	.....	9,552
Total, Direct Appropriation	1,110,218	1,149,286	1,187,433

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 \$36,650,000 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.

Aircrafts.—The Committee provides a \$1,000,000 increase for aircraft maintenance, repairs, and refurbishments.

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.

Asian Giant Hornet Eradication Effort.—The Committee recognizes the work that the Department is doing in coordination with the State of Washington to conduct research, outreach, and eradicate the Asian giant hornet. The Committee provides an additional \$1,750,000 for the continuation of these existing efforts and encourages an expanded focus incorporating work on improved monitoring tools, optimizing lure evaluation, utilizing modeling to guide response efforts, and building rapid response platforms.

Asian Longhorned Tick.—The Committee is concerned about the ongoing spread of the Asian Longhorned Tick [ALT], which has been identified in 17 States and represents a growing threat to domestic livestock populations. ALT is a known vector of several viral, bacterial and protozoan agents of livestock and human diseases abroad, and outbreaks of this invasive pest have compromised livestock welfare at a significant economic cost in other countries. In addition to monitoring the spread of ALT, APHIS should enhance collaboration with ARS, NIFA, State partners, local land-grant universities, and industry stakeholders to improve preparedness, surveillance, and response capabilities. Recognizing that public education and outreach will play an important role to reduce the spread of ALT, the Committee expects APHIS to increase outreach and education efforts to that end.

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 educate 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.

Cattle Fever Ticks.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2022 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 also notes that large dense stands of non-native Carrizo cane occupy the banks and floodplains of the Rio Grande River, providing favorable habitat for agriculturally damaging cattle fever ticks and threatening water supplies for agriculture due to its high evapo-transpiration capacity. The Committee understands APHIS has been working with ARS on biological controls and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection [CBP] for mechanical controls. 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. The Department is requested to keep the Committee apprised of progress made in this regard. A report shall be submitted to the Committee on these efforts within 60 days of enactment of this act.

Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].—The Committee provides no less than \$16,000,000 for cervid health activities. The Committee is concerned about the growing threat of CWD and its impact on free-ranging deer populations. Of the amount provided for cervid health activities, \$12,000,000 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. In allocating these funds, APHIS shall give priority to States that have experienced a recent incident of CWD, have a CWD monitoring and surveillance program, and have a diagnostic laboratory

system certified for CWD testing. Within the remaining \$4,000,000 provided, APHIS should give consideration to indemnity payments if warranted.

Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Development.—The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for Wildlife Services Methods Development for CWD work at the National Wildlife Research Center, and 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.

Cogongrass Management and Control.—The Committee remains concerned about the rapid spread of cogongrass and its impact on forest productivity, wildlife habitat, and private landowners. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for APHIS to partner with State departments of agriculture and forestry commissions in States considered to be the epicenter of infestations to assist with the control and treatment of cogongrass in order to slow the advancing front of this invasive plant-pest species.

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 provides \$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.

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 2022. The Committee encourages APHIS to allocate sufficient resources in order to continue vital management, control, and asso-

ciated 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 2022 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.

Imported Dogs.—The Committee is aware that the USDA issued a report that showed that over one million dogs are imported into the United States each year. Of that number, however, less than 1 percent are subject to thorough health screenings to show that they are healthy, vaccinated and free of disease prior to entering the country. The limited health requirements and inspection has resulted in the importation of animals that arrive in poor health, as well as the importation of animals carrying various diseases from rabies to canine influenza to leptospirosis, among others. Diseases such as canine rabies have cost millions of dollars to eradicate in the United States and unscreened animal imports threaten to undo that progress while threatening public health. Therefore, the Committee directs APHIS to strengthen its oversight of imported dogs, including stronger interagency coordination to better protect animal and public health.

Interagency Coordination.—The Committee recognizes the crucial need for the Federal Government to improve its interagency coordination efforts on food safety, particularly as it pertains to patho-

gens and outbreaks. The Committee directs USDA and FDA to continue to work together and with other Federal, State, and industry partners to develop strategies to prevent and respond to foodborne outbreaks.

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 2022 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.

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.

Mink STAMP Program.—The Committee is concerned about the low level of state and industry participation in the new Mink SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Avoidance and Monitoring Plan (Mink STAMP) program, designed to monitor for SARS-CoV-2 infection on mink farms and minimize risk of transmission of the virus between mink, humans, and other animals on and around mink farms.

As such, the Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide a written report within 90 days delineating State agencies and mink farms that are currently participating and what proactive steps are being taken or should be taken to encourage greater state and industry participation in the Mink STAMP program. Additionally, the report shall explain what education, incentives, infrastructure support, surveillance activities, multimedia resources, and herd management recommendations are being provided to mink farmers as part of the Mink STAMP program. Finally, the report shall describe what steps the Department will take to ensure comprehensive SARS-CoV-2 monitoring at mink farms if only partial participation by States and farmers is achieved. The report should include any corresponding documentation indicating that the above steps and actions were taken.

Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Control.—In light of continued drought conditions over the past 2 years, the Committee is concerned about the significant increase in Mormon cricket and grasshopper populations in States vulnerable to damage from outbreak-level populations of these insects. An additional \$500,000 is provided to ensure that adequate funding remains available to mitigate and control the spread and associated economic damages and public safety risks.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network.—The Committee provides an additional \$5,000,000 for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 to support the implementation of the 2022–2024 National Aquaculture Health Plan and the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards 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.

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.

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 \$3,500,000 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.

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.

Risk Assessment for Motile Aeromonad Septicemia [MAS].—The Committee is concerned about the risk of introduction off foreign animal diseases associated with the importation of farm-raised Siluriformes fish, such as catfish. Chronic infectious diseases such as MAS pose a significant economic risk to the long-term health of the domestic farm-raised fish industry, and the Committee notes that MAS outbreaks like those from virulent *Aeromonas hydrophila* in the U.S. have been linked back to farmed fish in China and Southeast Asia. The Committee also notes that, while FSIS regulates the processing of catfish under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, there are no USDA–Veterinary Services regulations for MAS, nor do FSIS regulations apply regarding MAS. The Committee is displeased with the length of time it has taken APHIS to complete its ongoing MAS risk assessment, and directs APHIS to complete it within 30 days of enactment of this act.

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 2022 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 continue to utilize existing resources to implement swabbing and other proven objective science-based inspection tools such as radiology for its horse soring inspection protocol.

Spotted Lanternfly [SLF].—The Committee directs APHIS to consider options for expanding environmental documentation for SLF treatments in areas outside the states currently included in APHIS' environmental analysis as well as the cost of such treatments and to provide a report on these topics 90 days after the enactment of this act.

Sterile Insect Release Facility.—The Committee directs APHIS to consult with the Department of Defense on plans for repairs, improvements, maintenance, and construction of the Sterile Insect

Release Facility at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, California and to provide the Committee with a report no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

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 2022 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.

Wildlife Damage Management.—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides \$121,060,000 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 2022 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 2022 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 an additional \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 level in support of APHIS' efforts to decrease these invasive pests' damage and risk to agriculture, natural resources, and property.

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, 2022	\$3,175,000
Budget estimate, 2023	3,175,000
Committee recommendation	3,175,000

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

Appropriations, 2022	\$226,657,000
Budget estimate, 2023	232,960,000
Committee recommendation	245,458,000

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 \$245,458,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service. This includes a total increase of \$4,756,000 for pay. In addition to that increase, the Committee provides the following increases: \$500,000 for the Acer Access and Development Program; \$1,000,000 for the Cattle Contract Library; and \$5,000,000 for oversight and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The Committee includes in this account \$25,000,000 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives and \$3,000,000 for the Microgrants for Food Security Program.

Acer Access and Development.—The Committee provides \$7,500,000 for the Acer Access and Development Program. The Committee is concerned that, in recent years, an increasing number of grants have gone to regions with no or little prospect for commercially viable maple syrup production. 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. The Secretary shall prioritize proposals from regions with sufficient distribution of *Acer saccharum* to support commercially viable maple syrup industry.

Dairy Business Innovation.—The Secretary is encouraged to find ways to apply this successful model to other agriculture sectors, including meat processing, in a manner that avoids the interruption of the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives. The harsh economic losses dairy farmers have experienced in recent years have driven thousands of farmers out of business and delayed economic recovery for the few that remain. Given this urgency, the Committee encourages the Secretary to use all available resources to help these struggling farmers to diversify, innovate, and reduce risk.

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.

Milk Pricing Concerns.—The Committee appreciates the Department’s work to reimburse dairy producers for unintended losses in 2020 resulting from a milk pricing change made in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and pandemic-related market disruptions. The Committee is concerned that the per-producer limitation of five million pounds resulted in larger producers being reimbursed for only minimal portions of their losses. The Department is encouraged to evaluate possible measures to ensure more wholesome reimbursement under future programs.

National Organic Program.—The Committee provides \$22,261,000 for the National Organic Program [NOP]. A healthy market for organic products requires a clear product distinction backed by a trusted, verified, and enforced label. The Committee recognizes that the NOP, which enforces the organic regulations and ensures they evolve to keep pace with consumer expectations, is essential. In light of recent reports of inadequate enforcement of organic standards, 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 standards development. In addition, the Committee requests that the National Organic Program provide a full report outlining the breakdown of key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities and standards development, as well as 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 \$500,000 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 practices. 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, 2022	\$61,786,000
Budget limitation, 2023	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, 2022	\$20,817,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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 2022–2023:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—
FISCAL YEARS 2022–2023

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation (30% of Customs Receipts)	21,685,752	27,123,378	27,123,378
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service	– 19,968,083	– 25,199,767	– 25,199,767
Commerce Department	– 253,669	– 362,611	– 362,611
Total, Transfers	– 20,221,752	– 25,562,378	– 25,562,378
Budget Authority, Farm Bill	1,464,000	1,561,000	1,561,000
Appropriations Temporarily Reduced—Sequestration	– 72,789	– 77,691	– 77,691
Budget Authority, Appropriations Act	1,391,211	1,483,309	1,483,309
Less Obligations:			
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commodities)	485,000	485,000	485,000
State Option Contract	5,000	5,000	5,000
Removal of Defective Commodities	2,500	2,500	2,500
Disaster Relief	5,000	5,000	5,000
Additional Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Purchases	206,000	206,000	206,000
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	187,000	198,000	198,000
Estimated Future Needs	443,084	523,130	523,130
Total, Commodity Procurement	133,584	1,424,630	1,424,630
Administrative Funds:			
Commodity Purchase Support	36,810	37,178	37,178
Marketing Agreements and Orders	20,817	21,501	21,501
Total, Administrative Funds	57,627	58,679	58,679
Total Obligations	1,391,211	1,483,309	1,483,309

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, 2022	\$1,235,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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, 2022	\$55,000,000
Budget limitation, 2023	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, 2022	\$1,077,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,176,000
Committee recommendation	1,099,000

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 \$1,099,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,108,664,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,226,148,000
Committee recommendation	1,173,066,000

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 \$1,173,066,000 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 2022 and budget request levels:

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Food safety inspection:			
Federal	989,767	1,103,562	1,051,688
State	66,875	68,317	67,131
International	17,442	18,997	18,975
PHDCIS	34,580	35,272	35,272
Total	1,108,664	1,226,148	1,173,066

Cooperative Interstate Shipment Report.—The Committee is still awaiting the report on the Cooperative Interstate Shipment [CIS] program as outlined in Section 764(e)(2) of division N of Public Law 116–260.

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.

Information Technology.—The Committee provides an additional \$5,300,000 for information technology investments.

Poultry Slaughter Good Commercial Practices.—The Committee recognizes that the humane handling of birds at slaughter according to Good Commercial Practices [GCPs] reduces the occurrence of adulterated poultry products in the marketplace and can improve the treatment of birds at slaughter. The Committee awaits the Department's briefing requested in the fiscal year 2022 report on documented instances where establishments lost control of their processes for handling birds, and consequently were not operating in accordance with GCPs.

Reduced User Fees.—The Committee provides an increase of \$20,000,000 to continue the reduced user fees for small and very small establishments as established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022.

TITLE II
 FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
 OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND
 CONSERVATION

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,687,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,792,000
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.

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, 2022	\$238,177,000
Budget estimate, 2023	261,783,000
Committee recommendation	259,948,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$259,948,000 for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.

Business Center Report.—The FPAC Business Center was created by the Secretary in 2018 with the goal of consolidating administrative functions within the newly created FPAC mission area, with assurances given that this would lead to reduced inefficiencies and increased customer service. However, the Committee is aware of reports of prolonged delays in filling critical that has led to delays in the deployment of important disaster assistance, conservation, and commodity programs. The Committee once again reminds

FPAC that the detailed report required by S. Rpt. 116–110, which was due February 2022, regarding the FPAC Business Center’s efficiencies gained, metrics, hiring plan, and potential reorganization, is now long overdue.

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, 2022	1,173,070	294,114	1,467,184
Budget estimate, 2023	1,231,697	305,803	1,537,500
Committee recommendation	1,221,307	305,803	1,527,110

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 \$1,527,110,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of \$1,221,307,000.

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 re-

main 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.

Acresage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative [ACRSI].—The Committee has long recognized the potential of ACRSI to reduce the time and burden of Federal crop reporting requirements on farmers by allowing farmers to report electronically and securely to both the Risk Management Agency and the Farm Service Agency. The Committee again reminds USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–220 directed FSA to allocate all necessary resources to identify the software options necessary to ensure that ACRSI technology would be adopted and deployed within 120 days of enactment of the act. The USDA failed to respond to this directive; therefore, the Committee directs USDA to brief the Committee on the status of ACRSI implementation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

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 wildlife 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 Loses.—For purposes of administering the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program for honeybees, the Secretary is di-

rected 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.

Inaccurate Estimates.—The Committee directs the Farm Service Agency to brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on actions being taken to correct the accounting error that caused National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program [OCCSP] and other Farm Bill program reimbursements to be cut below mandated levels.

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, 2022	\$7,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,914,000
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, 2022	\$6,500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,500,000
Committee recommendation	10,000,000

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 \$10,000,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2022	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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 2023 to be \$500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

PFAS Contamination.—The Committee appreciates the revisions to the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program made by the Farm Service Agency in December 2021, which authorizes cow indemnification for farmers that are depopulating and permanently removing cows after discovery of synthetic chemical residues permanently affecting the commercial marketing of milk, such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS]. The Committee is aware of payments made to some farmers who have depopulated their herd due to PFAS contamination, but that no payments have been made to Maine farmers who have depopulated their herd as a result of contamination. The Committee encourages USDA to provide indemnification to those farmers who have depopulated their herds due to PFAS contamination. Furthermore, the Committee recognizes that DIPP is not sufficient in providing support to affected farmers, as it only provides indemnification for dairy farmers. The Committee directs USDA to evaluate the resources they are able to provide to all farmers facing PFAS contamination, and to inform this subcommittee on the additional resources needed to provide relief to all impacted farmers.

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Appropriations, 2022	\$3,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023 .....	.....
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 \$10,652,312,000 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 2022 and the budget request levels:

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct	2,800,000	3,100,000	3,100,000
Guaranteed	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Farm Operating:			
Direct	1,633,333	1,633,333	1,633,333
Guaranteed unsubsidized	2,118,482	2,118,491	2,118,491
Emergency Loans	37,668	4,062	4,062
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	61,425	61,426	61,426
Total, Loan Authorizations	10,385,908	10,652,312	10,652,312

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 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Operating:			
Direct	40,017	23,520	23,520
Guaranteed unsubsidized	16,524	11,228	11,228
Emergency Loans	267	249	249
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	407	894	894
Relending Program	5,000	10,983	10,983
Total, Loan Subsidies	62,215	46,874	46,874
ACIF Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses	294,114	305,803	305,803
Administrative Expenses	20,658	20,658	20,658
Total, ACIF Expenses	314,772	326,461	326,461

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2022	\$62,707,000
Budget estimate, 2023	75,443,000
Committee recommendation	71,076,000

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 \$71,076,000 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 understands that administrative and operating expense reimbursements to pay for the sales and servicing of crop insurance and the adjustment of claims have not increased since 2015 despite inflation over

the past 7 years. The Committee also understands that the reduction factor applied by the Risk Management Agency each year to keep total Administrative and Operating (A&O) under the 2015 cap has a disproportionate adverse impact on specialty crop policies. Specifically, when row crop prices increase, A&O on specialty crop policies is reduced, sometimes drastically. The Committee believes that the Risk Management Agency has authority to provide for an inflation adjustment to all A&O in a manner similar to the inflation adjustment from 2011 through 2015. Although the 2014 Farm Bill requires any renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement [SRA] to be generally budget neutral relative to A&O, the inflation adjustments made in 2011 through 2015 were not a part of the SRA but rather in a manager's bulletin and informational bulletins so re-implementation of inflation adjustments may be done without a renegotiation of the SRA. The Committee also believes that it is within RMA's authority to make adjustments in an inflation adjustment in order to provide equitable relief with respect to specialty crop policies since RMA crafted previous inflation adjustments out of whole cloth, with broad discretion in their development. The Committee encourages the Risk Management Agency to consider reestablishing an inflation adjustment, including equitable relief in regard to specialty crop policies.

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.

Crop Insurance.—The Committee understands that a federal court recently issued a ruling in a case involving Federal Crop Insurance and whether farmers may harvest their crop in a manner other than the way in which they insured or reported it. Producers are provided flexibility on the manner of harvest based on agronomic consideration for the farm. The Committee appreciates the importance of producer flexibility and is concerned that the court order holding otherwise could create legal uncertainty with respect to all other producers of crops that may be harvested in more than one way. The Committee understands the value in producer flexibility as outlined in RMA's "UPDATED Coarse Grains Crop Provisions FAD-294", and encourages the agency to stay apprised of the issue and, if necessary, to consider further clarifying agency rules to ensure legal certainty going forward if necessary.

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.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.—The Committee remind USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 116–260 directed RMA to submit a report on the steps being taken by the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider the feasibility of the proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.

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, 2022	\$904,396,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,001,101,000
Committee recommendation	926,599,000

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 \$926,599,000 for NRCS Conservation Operations. The Committee provides \$86,757,000 for Soil Surveys; \$12,699,000 for Snow Survey and Water Forecasting; \$10,751,000 for Plant Materials Centers; \$8,500,000 for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program; and \$807,892,000 for Conservation Technical Assistance, including an increase of \$3,000,000 for soil testing and remediation, an increase of \$7,000,000 for climate-smart agriculture, and \$14,000,000 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.

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 and was pleased by the recent USDA announcement of investments in water quality improvements in the Chesapeake Bay. The Committee encourages NRCS to leverage increased financial and technical assistance to protect natural resources in this area and to focus efforts on practices that improve water quality, increase carbon storage, and build on-farm resilience as part of the initiative.

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 suffi-

cient 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 is particularly concerned about the severe and prolonged drought in the West and applauds the passage of the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans. The Committee appreciates NRCS's efforts to increase efficiencies in current water use and expects NRCS to utilize all available opportunities to assist producers, irrigators, and irrigation districts in implementing area-wide plans to address drought resiliency and mitigation in a way that maintains strong rural and agriculture communities and protects our natural resources. In providing this assistance, the Committee further expects NRCS to prioritize support for implementation of Drought Contingency Plans, agreements, or programs that would conserve surface or ground water, improve drought resiliency, and address current and anticipated conservation needs and severe 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 \$14,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb), of which at least \$12,000,000 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.

Multiple Benefit Projects.—The Committee encourages NRCS to prioritize annual funding for projects that provide multiple benefits, including for drought response and wildlife. The Committee is also aware of streamlining and modernization recommendations developed by NRCS, in collaboration with outside stakeholders, which have not been implemented. The Committee directs NRCS to brief the Committee on efforts underway to implement these recommendations.

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.

Program Duplication.—The Committee directs NRCS to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act on actions it will take to eliminate program duplication as identified in IG Audit Report 10601–0004–KC and IG Audit Report 10601–0001–32.

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 pro-

vides 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 is concerned about documented changes in winter weather across the country, and the impact of those changes on local ecologies and economies. The Committee provides an increase of \$3,000,000 to expand NRCS Snow Telemetry Network to better understand the impacts of changing winter weather.

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.

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, 2022	\$100,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	125,000,000
Committee recommendation	195,591,000

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 \$195,591,000 for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program [WFPO],

of which the Committee provides \$20,591,000 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.

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, 2022	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	10,000,000
Committee recommendation	10,000,000

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 \$10,000,000 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, 2022	\$12,281,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	13,243,000,000
Committee recommendation	13,243,000,000

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 \$13,243,000,000 in fiscal year 2023, 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, 2022	\$14,401,896,000
Budget estimate, 2023	13,571,261,000
Committee recommendation	13,571,261,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2023 to be \$13,571,261,000, 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, 2022	\$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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, 2022	\$1,580,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,679,000
Committee recommendation	1,602,000

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 \$1,602,000 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.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation	300,285	504,066	451,856
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

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Rural Development Loan Program Account	4,468	4,468	4,468
Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses	750,277	954,058	901,848

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 \$901,848,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development, including a direct appropriation of \$451,856,000.

Information Technology.—The Committee remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development and provides an increase of \$50,000,000 to continue making improvements and retiring legacy systems. This increase shall be used to update or retire the following systems: UniFi/SURPASS, Hyperion Reports, PLAS, OneRD Guaranteed, and a tool to improve the distribution and management of rental assistance. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Department to provide a report listing the programs that still require paper applications and the estimated cost to develop online portals, as well as monthly updates on making improvements to the systems listed above and any other IT development.

Staffing Increases.—The Committee provides \$35,016,000 to hire additional staff for the mission area. The Committee directs 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 \$10,000,000 for the Rural Partners Network and still awaits the report that includes key performance measures to evaluate the success of this new initiative.

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, 2022 (budget authority)	\$75,296,000
Budget estimate, 2023 (budget authority)	208,562,000
Committee recommendation (budget authority)	150,729,000

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 2023, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$150,729,000 for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2022 levels and the 2023 budget request:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot		20,842	20,842
Guaranteed	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	28,000	50,000	30,000
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	50,000	200,000	100,000
Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538)	250,000	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)	28,000	50,000	35,000
Total, loan levels	31,626,000	32,240,842	32,105,842
Loan Subsidies and Grants:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	23,250	55,650	55,650
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot		6,857	6,857
Housing repair (sec. 504)	484	4,150	2,490
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	4,470	38,220	19,110
Site development loans (sec. 524)	206	208	208
Self help land development loans (sec. 523)	55	267	267
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	2,831	10,210	7,147
Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516)	10,000	18,000	14,000
Multi-Family housing revitalization demonstration	34,000	75,000	45,000
Total, loan subsidies and grants	75,296	208,562	150,729
Administrative Expenses	412,254	412,254	412,254

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	487,550	620,816	562,983

Relending Program.—The Committee applauds the initial success of the Single Family Housing Direct relending loan program and provides \$20,842,000 in loan level to expand the pilot to other States, particularly in the southwestern United States.

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 reminds the Department that efficient review and approval of these applications is essential to the success of these programs, especially in the current housing market. Additionally, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report, within 60 days of enactment, 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.

Multifamily Technical Assistance Report.—The Committee reminds the Department that the fiscal year 2017 Appropriations Act required the Department to conduct research and identify policy, program reforms, and incentives for preserving rural rental housing and a report summarizing those findings to be submitted to the Committee 2 years later. The report is now 3 years overdue and the Committee directs the Department to submit the completed report within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,450,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,601,926,000
Committee recommendation	1,487,926,000

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). The objective of the program 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 \$1,487,926,000 for the Rental Assistance Program.

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

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, 2022	\$45,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	
Committee recommendation	50,000,000

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 \$50,000,000 for the Rural Housing Voucher Program.

Multi-Family Housing Preservation.—The Committee still awaits the report estimating the cost of providing rural housing vouchers to all low-income households currently receiving USDA rental assistance and residing in a property financed with a Section 515 loan that are set to mature in the subsequent fiscal year and subsequent 10 fiscal years.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

Appropriations, 2022	\$32,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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 ten 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, 2022	\$48,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	75,000,000
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 nonprofit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing assistance 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 2022 levels and the budget request:

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Very low-income housing repair grants	32,000	45,000	32,000
Housing preservation grants	16,000	30,000	16,000
Total	48,000	75,000	48,000

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2022	\$239,448,714
Budget estimate, 2023	74,000,000
Committee recommendation	319,284,000

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 supporting overall community development, such as fire and rescue services, healthcare, transportation, traffic control, and community, social, cultural, and recreational benefits. Loans are made for facilities which primarily serve rural residents of open country and rural towns and villages of not more than 20,000 people. Healthcare, 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 con-

tribution 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 \$319,284,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2022 and budget request levels:

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Community facilities direct loans	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Community facilities guaranteed loans	650,000	500,000	650,000
Total, loan levels	3,450,000	3,300,000	3,450,000
Budget Authority:			
Community facilities grants	40,000	52,000	100,000
Congressionally directed spending	183,449	.....	202,284
Rural community development initiative	6,000	12,000	7,000
Tribal college grants	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total, budget authority	239,449	74,000	319,284

Community Facilities Eligibility.—The Committee is concerned by the ineligibility of projects under the Community Facilities Grant program located in significantly rural and low-income areas that are defined as distressed but do not qualify for grant funding under this program. The Department is required to evaluate the program’s income and service area-based eligibility standards and identify ways to approve community access to these grants, including whether basing eligibility on national rather than state median household income could benefit areas located in predominantly poor, rural States.

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.

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, 2022	\$73,125,000
Budget estimate, 2023	83,100,000
Committee recommendation	83,100,000

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 \$83,100,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2022 and budget request levels:

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total, loan levels	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Budget Authority:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	25,125	32,100	32,100
Rural business development grants	37,000	37,000	37,000
DRA, NBRC, and ARC	9,000	9,000	9,000
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants	2,000	5,000	5,000
Total, budget authority	73,125	83,100	83,100

Coordinating Federal Resources.—The Committee is aware of GAO’s recent report, GAO–21–579, which issued recommendations to the USDA, Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], and the Economic Development Agency [EDA] to better leverage complementary Federal community and economic development funds. The Committee encourages USDA to improve collaboration with HUD and EDA to help communities maximize and more effectively utilize Federal economic development resources.

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.

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy [RISE] Grants.—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for the RISE grant program enacted as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334). These grants have the potential to help struggling communities by funding jobs accelerators in low-income rural areas. The Committee recommends funding be prioritized for entities leveraging next generation gigabit broadband service to promote entrepreneurship and entities based in geographical areas with established agriculture and technology sectors which are focused on the development of precision and autonomous agriculture technologies as a way to strengthen rural economies and create jobs.

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

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

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	18,889	18,889	18,889
Direct loan subsidy	1,524	3,313	3,313
Administrative expenses	4,468	4,468	4,468
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	5,992	7,781	7,781

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 2023, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,781,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund.

Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account
[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 level	Fiscal year 2023 request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	50,000	75,000	75,000

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 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 COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Appropriations, 2022	\$27,600,000
Budget estimate, 2023	30,700,000
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 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.

Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development.—The Committee is still awaiting the report on implementation of Section 6306 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334), including a projected timeline for full implementation of this provision.

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, 2022	\$6,500,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,000,000
Committee recommendation	6,500,000

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 appropriations of \$6,500,000 for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2022	\$12,920,000
Budget estimate, 2023	30,018,000
Committee recommendation	15,018,000

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 recommends an appropriation of \$15,018,000 for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2022 and budget request levels:

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	20,000	20,000	20,000
Guaranteed loan subsidy	420	18	18
Grants	12,500	30,000	15,000

Rural Energy for America Program [REAP].—The Committee encourages the Department to focus a portion of funding on under-served 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, 2022	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	5,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,000,000

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 part-

nerships, and helps fund projects to improve access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved rural areas.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

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, 2022	\$653,307,000
Budget estimate, 2023	726,553,000
Committee recommendation	720,448,000

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

The solid waste grant program is authorized under section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (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 \$720,448,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends \$75,000,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, 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 2022 and budget request levels:

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Water and waste disposal direct zero percent loans		70,000	
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans		70,000	40,000
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total, loan levels	1,450,000	1,590,000	1,490,000
Budget authority:			
Water and waste disposal direct zero percent loans		16,961	
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans		9,534	5,448
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	45		
Water and waste disposal grants	490,000	511,901	540,000
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Water well systems grants	5,000	5,000	5,000
Colonias, AK, and Native American grants	70,000	93,000	75,000
Water and waste water revolving funds	1,000	1,000	1,000
High energy cost grants	10,000	10,000	10,000
Circuit rider	20,762	20,157	25,000
Emergency community water assistance grants	15,000	15,000	15,000
Technical assistance grants	37,500	40,000	40,000
Total, budget authority	653,307	726,553	720,448

Small-Scale Water and Wastewater Technologies Pilot Program.—The Committee recognizes that small and rural communities located within Central Appalachia can lack access to reliable water and sanitation because they do not have the capacity or population bases to support centralized water systems. Within the funds provided for the Rural Water and Wastewater Disposal program, the Committee encourages the Department to fund pilot projects intended to provide decentralized small-scale water and wastewater services to communities in distressed counties within Central Appalachia.

Technical Assistance.—The Committee provides a \$2,500,000 increase for technical assistance and directs no less than \$1,000,000 of the increase 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 2023, 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 2022 and budget request levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan authorization:			
Electric:			
Direct FFB		2,167,000	2,167,000
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate	6,500,000	4,333,000	4,333,000
Guaranteed underwriting	750,000	.....	1,000,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, Treasury Rate	690,000	690,000	690,000
Direct, FFB			
Rural Energy Savings Program	208,333	254,002	125,362
Total, Loan authorization	8,148,333	7,444,002	8,315,362
Direct, Treasury Rate Telecomm Subsidy	2,070	3,726	3,726
Electric Loan Modifications .....	.....	300,000	.....
Rural Energy Savings Program	11,500	26,340	13,000
Telecomm. Treasury Modification .....	.....	25,000	.....
Clean Energy Technical Assistance .....	.....	15,000	.....
Administrative Expenses	33,270	33,270	33,270
Total budget authority	46,840	403,336	49,996

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2022	\$536,387,000
Budget estimate, 2023	697,000,000
Committee recommendation	502,991,000

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 \$502,991,000 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 2022 and the budget request levels:

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan and grant levels:			
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program:			
Grants	60,000	60,000	60,000
Congressionally Directed Spending	2,510	.....	4,991
Broadband Program:			
Treasury rate loans	11,869	14,674	14,674
Treasury rate loans budget authority	1,772	2,000	2,000
Middle mile loans budget authority	500	.....	1,000
Grants	35,000	35,000	35,000
Re-Connect	400,000	600,000	400,000
Congressionally Directed Spending	36,605	.....	.....
Total, DLT and Broadband Program level	11,869	14,674	14,674
Total, DLT and Broadband budget authority	536,387	697,000	502,991

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 \$400,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141). The Committee continues to direct the Secretary to allow entities of any structure, including partnerships and infrastructure applications, to apply provided sufficient assurances are given that broadband service will be provided to the subject area through contractual arrangements. The agreement encourages the Department to continue to update the program and review process to make ReConnect more efficient, including collaborating with the Rural Electric Division to ensure that all utilities and broadband technologies are treated equally in the application process. In addition, the burdens of applying for funding and participating in the program should be as minimal 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. To maximize the reach of funding, projects should not be funded if another broadband provider has begun a network build or is subject to an enforceable commitment, either through a Federal, State, or local funding program or other binding obligation to a government entity, to serve the pro-

posed service area. In addition, the Committee reminds USDA to avoid efforts that could duplicate existing networks built by private investment or those built leveraging and utilizing other Federal programs and to coordinate with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure wherever possible that any funding provided to support deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure is targeted to areas that are currently unserved. In any areas, study areas, or census blocks outside an area where a Tribal government has jurisdiction, and where a provider is already subject to a build-out obligation of 25/3 Mbps or greater for fixed terrestrial broadband pursuant to a commitment to another government entity, RUS Telecommunications Program should take that funding into account to prevent the duplication of services financed by Federal support. Entities subject to such existing commitment applying for ReConnect funds to bring service offerings to the ReConnect build-to speed should be given a scoring preference by RUS. This shall include areas pending FCC final approval of an award of High-Cost USF funds for 2 years after the applicable Long Form application deadline. Further, the Committee encourages the agency to prioritize projects financed through public-private partnerships and projects where Federal funding will not exceed 50 percent of the project's total cost. The Committee also supports efforts to increase transparency and encourages the Secretary to follow the notice and comment rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (Public Law 79-404) with respect to all program administration and activities, including publishing a written decision on RUS' website of how challenges were decided and the agency's reasons for such decision. In addition, the Committee intended the pilot to be technology neutral and encourages the Secretary to eliminate or revise the awarding of extra points under the ReConnect program based on commercial status, or to applicants from States without restrictions on broadband delivery by utilities service providers in order to ensure this criteria is not a determining factor for funding awards. The Committee also encourages the Department to allow service areas that received CAF II funds to allow other entities to apply for ReConnect funding for the same service area if the CAF II funds supported satellite deployment and the entity that received CAF II funds cannot provide terrestrial broadband. In addition, the Committee is concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty participating with the USDA broadband programs, and encourages the Secretary to consider grants or loans for satellite, or other technologies, if such middle mile infrastructure predominantly serves a "rural area" as defined in section 601(b) and do not lead to overbuilding. 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 Department is required to submit a report within 90 days 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 reach-

ing rural areas. Additionally, USDA should report on any statutory barriers that prevent program dollars to go toward satellite internet access.

Rural in Character.—The Committee is concerned that the current weighting scale for the ReConnect program disadvantages rural households and communities that are not necessarily located on farms. In addition, the Committee is concerned that providing preference to 100mbps symmetrical service also unfairly disadvantages these communities by limiting the deployment of other technologies capable of providing service to these areas. Further, the Committee is concerned that the current program does not effectively recognize the unique challenges and opportunities that different technologies, including satellite, provide to delivering broadband in noncontiguous States or mountainous terrain.

TITLE IV
DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

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

Appropriations, 2022	\$1,327,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,426,000
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. USDA is further directed to provide a report to the Committee on steps they have taken to address this issue, including any additional streamlining actions the agency would recommend but lacks the authority to execute.

Mobile Food Services Support.—The Committee applauds the work that the department has done during the COVID–19 pandemic to address the increase in need for emergency food assistance. The Committee urges FNS to focus efforts on providing support to States with high levels of food insecurity, including high density vulnerable populations in areas without adequate transportation most affected by unemployment due to the pandemic. The Committee encourages FNS to assess gaps in current feeding programs in order to reduce inadequacies that lead to nutrition gaps.

Nutrition Security Metrics.—The Committee directs USDA to formalize metrics for evaluating nutrition security. This definition should be developed in consultation with other Federal agencies, researchers, and public health organizations. Within 1 year of enactment of this Act, the Committee requests a report, to be posted publicly on USDA’s website and submitted to the Senate and

House Appropriations Committees, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and the House Committee on Agriculture, on this definition.

Food Security in Frontier Communities.—The Committee appreciates the intent of FNS to focus on implementing locally-designed initiatives to increase food security in frontier communities within its area of responsibility. Helping these communities adapt to changing growing conditions and subsistence food availability and develop the capacity to grow more food locally will improve their tenuous food security and provide opportunities for economic development in extremely low-income regions. Therefore, the Committee strongly encourages FNS to continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders in States with frontier communities to support activities and policies that will result in increased food security. The Committee directs FNS to collaborate with AMS in implementing Micro-Grants for Food Security.

Nutrition Program Efficiency.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to focus process and technology improvement grants within FNS to expand public-private partnerships to increase food security in a cost-efficient and accountable manner.

Online Purchasing.—The Committee recognizes that online purchasing provides flexibility to low-income families who lack access to reliable transportation and is an important option to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. USDA should make every effort to expand the acceptance of program benefits through online transactions, including at virtual farmers' markets and farm stores, to all States across the Nation as quickly as possible.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] Eligibility.—The Committee understands that there are frequent changes to SNAP eligibility criteria to best serve those most in need. The Committee is concerned about the effects specific changes in SNAP eligibility can have on children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and rural and poor communities that are not always looked at on a State-by-State level. The Committee encourages the Secretary to include these State-by-State demographic profiles in the regulatory impact analysis for any newly proposed or currently pending eligibility criteria changes.

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 Spe-

cial 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, 2022	\$26,883,922,000
Budget estimate, 2023	28,587,957,000
Committee recommendation	28,613,957,000

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 \$28,613,957,000 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
School Lunch Program	15,043,315
School Breakfast Program	6,044,892
Child and Adult Care Food Program	4,531,212
Summer Food Service Program	604,987
Special Milk Program	7,817
State Administrative Expenses	339,000
Commodity Procurement	1,788,389
Team Nutrition	20,162
Food Safety Education	4,196
Coordinated Review	10,000
Computer Support	28,238
Training and Technical Assistance	45,996
CNP Studies and Evaluation	21,005
Farm to School Team	6,433
Payment Accuracy	12,315
School Meal Equipment Grants	35,000
Summer EBT Demonstration	50,000
Child Nutrition Training	3,000
Farm to School Grants	15,000
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	3,000
Total	28,613,957

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 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 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 estab-

lished 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.

Summer Food Service Program.—The Committee directs USDA to submit the report on the Summer Food Service Program as required by the Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116–260) within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

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

Appropriations, 2022	\$6,000,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	6,000,000,000
Committee recommendation	6,000,000,000

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 \$6,000,000,000 for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

The Committee recommendation fully funds estimated WIC participation in fiscal year 2023. The Committee provides \$90,000,000 for breastfeeding support initiatives and \$14,000,000 for infrastructure.

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.—In revising the WIC food package, the Committee encourages USDA to retain milk, yogurt, and cheese as core components, as they are sources of high-quality protein and essential nutrients as defined by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans [DGAs]. The Committee also urges USDA to include lower-mercury seafood consistent with the recommendations of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM], without a rotating substitution with legumes and peanut butter. The Committee strongly encourages the Department to continue to allow States to submit cultural food package proposals to respond to the cultural preferences of WIC participants in States like Alaska.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2022	\$140,440,868,000
Budget estimate, 2023	138,977,369,000
Committee recommendation	111,180,895,000

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 \$111,180,895,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Of the amount recommended, \$3,000,000,000 is made available as a contingency reserve.

Data Matching.—The Committee continues to support the full implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse [NAC] to prevent duplicative issuances of SNAP benefits and improve pro-

gram integrity. The Committee reiterates its previous direction that the Department allow States to use a blended workforce including contractors and subcontractors that have the capability to use data analytics and public data to determine the correct State to issue SNAP benefits. In addition, the Committee reiterates that States must administer a robust appeals process to ensure individuals are not automatically removed from receiving benefits.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Food Package.—The Committee directs USDA to submit the report on FDPIR food packages as required by the fiscal year 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116–260) within 30 days of enactment of this act.

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.

Military Food Insecurity.—The Committee is very concerned about the high rates of food insecurity among our nation’s active duty service members, particularly in rural and remote areas. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs FNS to submit a report on steps taken to address food insecurity in military communities, including efforts to identify eligible individuals, outreach efforts on military bases, and resources available to military families.

SNAP-Ed.—When administering SNAP-Ed, the Committee encourages FNS and NIFA to prioritize evidence-based interventions that include hands-on cooking paired with nutrition education to yield higher impacts on household cooking and healthy eating behaviors and to deliver community-based nutrition education to SNAP-eligible families to help households maximize their food budgets and prepare healthier meals.

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.

SNAP Payment Integrity.—The Committee is encouraged by FNS’ recent efforts to solicit information for a national contract for SNAP verification from third party databases. The data matching solution should be made available to all States and territories, to assist with the verification of each SNAP applicant’s earned income at certification and recertification, as required by law. The Committee encourages FNS to continue efforts to enter into an agreement in fiscal year 2022 to make a third-party income database electronic data matching solution available to all 53 SNAP agencies in fiscal year 2023, with a single negotiated price that reduces costs by taking advantage of economies of scale, and will facilitate greater efficiency and streamlined service delivery at the State level.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2022	\$440,070,000
Budget estimate, 2023	464,210,000
Committee recommendation	465,710,000

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 \$465,710,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to distribute Commodity Assistance Program funds equitably among the States, based on an assessment of the needs and priorities of each State and the State's preference to receive commodity allocations through each of the programs funded under this account.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program.—The Committee recommends \$338,640,000 for CSFP. This amount fully funds participation in fiscal year 2023.

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 \$26,000,000 for FMNP and directs the Secretary to obligate these funds within 45 days of enactment of this act.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program.—The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) provides \$399,750,000 for TEFAP commodities to be purchased with SNAP funds. The Committee provides \$100,000,000 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 filets for distribution to local agencies.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2022	\$170,133,000
Budget estimate, 2023	238,670,000
Committee recommendation	189,348,000

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 \$189,348,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration. The Committee provides funding of \$6,168,000 for pay costs; \$7,300,000 to ensure the scientific integrity of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans [DGA]; \$2,000,000 for technical assistance for tribal communities; \$3,300,000 for expanded staffing needs; and \$447,000 for rent and security.

TITLE V
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Appropriations, 2022	\$908,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,018,000
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.

Food for Progress.—The Committee is concerned with the recent fiscal year 2022 Food for Progress award, which granted \$100,000,000 to a single entity. Granting the entirety of funding to a single entity runs counter to Congressional intent, is detrimental to the continuity of the international value chain development, and could prevent the global objectives of the Food for Progress program from being fully realized. The Committee urges USDA to ensure this does not set a precedent for future awards and to report on steps the Department will take for future awards to ensure this anomaly does not set a precedent.

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 Com-

mittee 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 inter-agency 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.

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.

Tariffs.—The Committee is concerned about the long-term impacts of tariffs on the domestic farm economy. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, USDA is directed to submit a report that examines the impact that tariffs imposed pursuant to sections 232 and 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and associated retaliatory tariffs are having and have had on: (1) the rate at which farms, particularly small and medium sized operations, go into bankruptcy; (2) the ability of farmers and ranchers to receive loans; and (3) the overall size of the agriculture workforce. The report should include projections on each of these impacts should these tariffs continue without relief for the next 5 years, an assessment of how much market share has been lost by the American agriculture sector as a result of ongoing trade disputes, and how long USDA expects it will take to reestablish export markets that have been lost or diminished due to the imposition of tariffs.

OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Appropriations, 2022	\$4,841,000
Budget estimate, 2023	4,978,000
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, 2022	228,644	6,063	234,707
Budget estimate, 2023	240,663	6,063	246,726
Committee recommendation	240,093	6,063	246,156

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 \$246,156,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service, including a direct appropriation of \$240,093,000.

The Committee provides \$880,000 for International Cooperative Administrative Support Services; \$1,767,000 for Capital Security Cost Sharing; \$6,269,000 for pay costs; \$1,533,000 for information technology; and \$1,000,000 for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program.

Borlaug Fellows Program.—The Committee provides \$3,500,000 for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. This program provides training for international scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The fellows work closely with U.S. specialists in their fields of expertise and apply that knowledge in their home countries. The Committee

recognizes the importance of this program in helping developing countries strengthen their agricultural practices and food security.

Cochran Fellowship Program.—The Committee provides \$6,500,000 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, 2022	\$1,740,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	1,740,000,000
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, 2022	\$237,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	230,112,000
Committee recommendation	250,000,000

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 \$250,000,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Local and Regional Procurement.—The Committee provides an appropriation of \$25,000,000 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.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT [LOANS]

CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Guaranteed loan levels
Appropriations, 2022	6,063
Budget estimate, 2023	6,063
Committee recommendation	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, 2022	3,304,145	2,791,737	6,095,882
Budget estimate, 2023	3,642,328	2,837,461	6,479,789

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Committee recommendation	3,514,495	2,837,461	6,351,956

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,514,495,000 for salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration.

The Committee also recommends \$2,160,296,000 in definite user fees, including: \$1,224,132,000 in Prescription Drug user fee collections; \$248,342,000 in Medical Device user fee collections; \$32,238,000 in Animal Drug user fee collections; \$29,459,000 in Animal Generic Drug user fee collections; \$712,000,000 in Tobacco Product user fee collections; \$550,449,000 in Generic Drug user fee collections; and \$40,841,000 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 2022 unless otherwise specified. The Committee provides a net increase of \$34,000,000 for pay costs; \$22,050,000 for infrastructure; \$15,000,000 for Data Modernization and Enhanced Technology [DMET]; \$7,000,000 for New Era for Smarter Food Safety; \$5,500,000 for Animal Food Safety Oversight; \$8,500,000 for Maternal and Infant Health; \$7,500,000 for Emerging Chemical and Toxicology Issues; \$2,000,000 for Standards of Identity; \$10,000,000 for Device Shortages and Supply Chain; \$800,000 for Medical Product Supply Chain; \$2,000,000 for Drug Safety Surveillance and Oversight; \$20,000,000 for Opioids; \$4,500,000 for Predictive Toxicology Roadmap; \$5,000,000 for DMET Medical Product Safety; \$2,500,000 for Premarket Animal Drug Review; \$5,000,000 for Medical Device Cybersecurity; \$20,000,000 for DMET Enterprise Wide; \$15,000,000 for Inspections; \$2,500,000 for Laboratory Safety; \$3,000,000 for the Office of the Chief Counsel; \$8,000,000 for Essential Services; \$2,500,000 for Reducing Animal Testing Methods; \$5,000,000 for ALS; and \$3,000,000 for Neurology Drug Program.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2022 and budget request levels:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2022 enacted	Fiscal year 2023 budget request	Committee recommendation
Centers and related field activities:			
Foods	1,133,176	1,220,082	1,185,539
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN]	369,537	420,169	399,489
Field Activities	763,639	799,913	786,050
Human Drugs	713,888	789,728	761,769
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER]	517,675	580,624	554,484
Field Activities	196,213	209,104	207,285
Biologics	260,118	275,103	269,980
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]	215,321	225,175	222,024
Field Activities	44,797	49,928	47,956
Animal Drugs	201,792	242,644	227,084
Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM]	129,406	155,206	146,810
Field Activities	72,386	87,438	80,274
Medical and Radiological Devices	419,543	466,029	450,115
Center for Devices and Radiological Health	332,055	370,701	357,844
Field Activities	87,488	95,328	92,271
National Center for Toxicological Research	70,348	78,910	77,146
Cancer Moonshot		20,000	
Other Activities	205,568	228,037	269,514
Rent and related activities	133,426	155,509	107,062
Rental payments to GSA	166,286	166,286	166,286
Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority	3,304,145	3,642,328	3,514,495

501(k) Guidance.—The Committee expresses concern that the 510(k) guidance for menstrual products has not been updated since 2005. The Committee directs the FDA to update its guidance, and if necessary, to publish new guidance inclusive of additional categories of menstrual products. This guidance should include recommendations that intentionally added ingredients, including fragrances, for menstrual products covered under the guidance be disclosed on the label; that products be tested for common contaminants, and that steps be taken to eliminate sources of contamination when found; and to implement testing to assess the impact of product use on the body and microbiomes, including through testing methods recognized or recommended by the agency. The Committee also directs FDA, no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, to brief the Committee on its plans to update the 510(k) guidance for menstrual products.

Accelerated Approval.—The Committee recognizes the value of FDA’s accelerated approval pathway in providing patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses earlier access to safe and effective therapies. The accelerated approval pathway maintains FDA’s gold standard of safety and effectiveness, while providing for an approval to be based on a “surrogate” marker, such as a biomarker or clinical marker that can be measured at an earlier point in time than the type of endpoints that may be used in a traditional approval. For products approved under this pathway, post-market studies are required to verify the intended clinical benefit of the therapy. Accelerated approval helps support patient access to life-saving treatments years in advance of what would otherwise be possible. The Committee is aware of the substantial contribution of the accelerated approval pathway in expediting access to critical therapies for patients with cancer and certain rare diseases. The

Committee encourages FDA to clarify the use of the pathway to help make treatment options available for more patients.

Added Sugar Labeling.—The Committee remains concerned about potential consumer confusion over FDA nutritional labeling requirements and guidelines for added sugar for single ingredient products like maple syrup and honey, where sugar is naturally occurring in the product rather than added to the product. The Committee notes that the FDA issued guidance to the industry on June 18, 2019, to verify that the phrase “added sugar” is not required in the regulated portion of the nutrition facts label for these products. This guidance instructed producers that the percent daily value would be required to appear on the label and allowed for the voluntary use of a footnote to explain that this refers to a percent daily value of “added sugar.” The Committee is concerned, and industry-conducted consumer studies suggest, that continued use of the term “added sugar” in relation to percent daily value will mislead consumers to think that sugar has been added to a pure single-ingredient maple or honey product, and directs the FDA to continue working with impacted industries to ensure clear and appropriate labeling.

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 \$5,000,000 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 Food Ingredients.—The Committee is concerned about the time associated with the ingredient review and approval process, and uniform acceptance of animal food ingredients by the delegated authorities. The Committee is also concerned that the Center for Veterinary Medicine Policy and Procedures Manual Guide 1240.3605 has not been updated since 1998 and has not kept pace with science, prohibiting manufacturers of animal food ingredients from making certain marketing claims about the product’s use because the Guide’s outdated policy interpretation classifies the claim to be associated with an animal drug. The Committee directs the agency to review the Policy and Procedures Manual Guide 1240.3605 for solutions on how these ingredient claims can be regulated as animal food and report back to the Committee within 120 days with their findings.

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.

Autoantibody Qualification.—The appearance of certain islet autoantibodies in the serum of individuals predicts an increased chance of developing type 1 diabetes at some point in the future. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to work 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.

Blood Donation.—The Committee continues to recognize the importance of scientifically sound, evidence-based policy relative to FDA blood donor guidance for men. The Committee understands that FDA has adequate resources to complete ADVANCE study and the Committee encourages FDA to issue updated evidence-based blood donor guidelines that maintain the safety of the blood supply once FDA completes its review of the necessary scientific data that supports such update and considers public comment. The Committee directs FDA to report to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, on the status of the ADVANCE study.

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.

Cannabis and Cannabis Derivatives.—The Committee notes that budget did not request additional resources for Cannabis and Cannabis Derivatives activities, and therefore directs the FDA to maintain funding levels to support regulatory activities, including developing policy, and for the FDA to continue to perform its existing regulatory responsibilities, including review of product applications, inspections, enforcement, and targeted research for cannabis-derived substances, such as cannabidiol [CBD]. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the FDA shall issue a policy of enforcement discretion with regard to certain products containing CBD meeting the definition of hemp as defined by section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1964 (7 U.S.C. 1639). Such enforcement discretion shall be in effect until the FDA establishes a process for stakeholders to notify the FDA of use of CBD in products that include safety studies for intended use per product and 112 makes a determination about such product. In addition, the FDA is encouraged to consider existing and ongoing medical research related to CBD that is being undertaken pursuant to an Investigational

New Drug application in the development of a regulatory pathway for CBD in products under the jurisdiction of the FDA and to ensure that any future regulatory activity does not discourage the development of new drugs. The Committee also encourages the FDA to partner with an academic institution to expand sampling studies of CBD products currently on the market.

Cellular Immunity.—To better understand the role of the immune response on the effectiveness, and duration of effectiveness of vaccines for COVID-19 and other diseases, FDA is encouraged to support collaborative research with the National Institutes of Health, universities, and industry to comprehensively evaluate the immune response of clinical trial participants and is directed to encourage, 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 one year of the enactment of this act.

Cellular Therapies.—The Committee commends FDA for its continued efforts to accelerate the review and approval of cell and gene therapies for cancer, which have provided hope for many patients when more traditional treatments have failed. Research suggests that therapies that combine cellular products and other cancer drugs may prove more effective for some patients, including those who do not benefit from single-drug treatments. These combination treatments increase the complexity of trial design, especially regarding treatment sequencing and the number of treatment arms per trial. Therefore, the Committee urges FDA to work with and provide guidance to industry and the broader research community on how to standardize potency testing requirements for cellular therapies.

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.

Cloud.—The Committee notes the increased adoption of cloud-based technologies by FDA-regulated companies, the innovations facilitated via cloud to improved product development, and the value of additional FDA guidance on the use of cloud throughout the product lifecycle. The Committee encourages FDA to continue to explore mechanisms to support this shift, and shall ensure ro-

bust public input, including from regulated companies and cloud technology vendors.

Developing Products to Treat Rare Diseases.—The Committee is aware of the increasing number of therapeutics in development for rare disease patients. 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 and natural history studies.

Dietary Supplements.—The Committee supports FDA’s proposal to require that all products marked as dietary supplements be listed with FDA, including basic information about these products. Further, the Committee believes that the FDA’s authorities over products marketed as dietary supplements should be clarified to facilitate enforcement against unlawfully marketed products. This would allow FDA to know when new products are introduced to the market, quickly identify dangerous or illegal products on the market, and take action to protect consumers.

Domestic Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals.—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 drugs, reporting drug shortage information, and protecting public health, the Committee directs the FDA to provide a report 180 days after the enactment of this act on domestic and foreign manufacturing of drugs included on FDA’s list of Essential Medicines and Medical Countermeasures published in October 2020 pursuant to Executive Order 13944 based on the manufacturing amount data submitted, as of the date of enactment of this act, by manufacturers pursuant to section 510(j)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which was added by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; the Agency may use other data to which the Agency has access to supplement this report

Dosing Optimization Studies.—The Committee is concerned about the escalating cost of specialty cancer drugs and biologics. One issue is the common approach for sponsors to pursue labels at the maximum tolerated dose, despite the high cost, and which often results in significant side effects. The Committee notes that several studies have demonstrated cost savings from alternate dosing strategies for oncology medications, without impacting the efficacy of the treatment. The Committee acknowledges FDA’s recent pre-market dose selection efforts under Project Optimus, led by the Oncology Center of Excellence [OCE]. The Committee strongly encourages FDA to organize clinical trials, in collaboration with academic medical centers and other Federal agencies, of marketed cancer drugs and biologics to assess whether dosing and frequency adjustments may decrease the cost of care and/or toxicities of treatment without compromising efficacy.

Drug Compounding.—As the FDA reviews recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s report on the Clinical Utility of Compounded Hormones, the Committee encourages the Agency to work with stakeholders, including providers, patients, and compounders to consider the impact of limiting patient access.

Drug Repurposing.—The Committee is aware that predictive modeling and analytics can help FDA identify potential additional uses for FDA-approved drugs. Therefore, the Committee encourages CDER to utilize artificial intelligence and machine learning to enhance the review process for drug repurposing candidates by leveraging automated data collection, integration and advanced statistical methods. Ultimately, this work should be used to ensure the regulatory process enables labeling or supplements to currently authorized use of previously approved products. These new uses can be used to treat rare and infectious diseases and cancer, help prepare for future pandemic and other public health emergencies, and minimize public health disparities by closing gaps in populations with unmet therapeutic needs

Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy.—Some of the most promising therapies under development or approved are only viable for specific genetic mutations and impact a subset of the population. The Committee understands a treatment gap may be developing between Duchenne patients with a common mutation and those with less common mutations who may only be served by utilization of trial designs with very small sample sizes or n=1 trials. The Committee urges CDER, in coordination with CBER to consider efforts to facilitate the development of the full spectrum of genetic therapies, particularly those that lack the patient population to incentivize drug developers.

Eczema.—The Committee recognizes FDA for recent efforts to ensure innovative, safe, and effective eczema therapies become available for patients in need. The Committee applauds FDA for its leadership of the Patient Focused Drug Development Initiative and 2019 meeting on eczema. The Committee encourages ongoing collaboration with patient stakeholders and the broader eczema community to address gaps and scientific knowledge, clarify the pathways for eczema therapies, and otherwise sustain the progress in this important area.

Feed Additives.—The Committee encourages the FDA to consider an accelerated regulatory pathway for the review of articles intended for animal consumption that claim to have significant beneficial environmental impact. Today, generally, the FDA classifies as an animal drug any substance that is intended to cure, treat, prevent, or mitigate disease, or affects the structure or function of the body of animals. The Committee is concerned that the current regulatory framework limits the introduction of new and innovative animal food additives that offer significant environmental benefits in the production of animal protein, including but not limited to reducing enteric methane emissions, nitrous oxide emissions, ammonia emissions, and impacts to water quality and biodiversity through waste phosphorus and nitrogen runoff. The Committee directs FDA to make recommendations for the appropriate pathway for environmentally beneficial animal food additives and report back to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this act.

Food Mislabeling.—The Committee is concerned about the proliferation of products marketed using standards of identity for dairy products that do not contain dairy ingredients and the lack of enforcement of these products. The Committee directs the FDA to provide clarity around the appropriate naming of plant-based

dairy alternatives. The Committee further directs the FDA to implement an updated enforcement approach and report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on steps taken to enforce against dairy imitation products marketed using dairy names.

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.

FSMA Outreach for Small Farms.—The Committee expects FDA to prioritize efforts to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to farmers for compliance with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. The Committee expects CFSAN to provide funding for critical outreach and training services at not less than the fiscal year 2022 level as the Produce Safety Rule continues to be implemented.

Gene and Cell Therapy.—Gene and cell therapy has enormous potential to address a wide variety of genetic disorders with significant unmet needs. There are more than one thousand active gene therapy Investigational New Drug applications under consideration by the FDA. The Committee is concerned that despite two early approvals for rare disease gene therapies, there are a number of challenges limiting the widespread development of these treatments. The Committee encourages the Agency to facilitate innovative and flexible regulatory approaches, including expedited programs under section 506, authorities that allow for genetically targeted platform technologies, gene expression biomarkers, novel statistical approaches, external controls and a benefit-risk approach to evaluating manufacturing process requirements. Further, the Committee understands that the FDA is relying more heavily on written responses for meetings, as compared to face-to-face or video-conference and encourages the Agency to further these innovative therapies.

Geroscience.—The Committee understands that aging processes begin at birth and appear to be causal contributors to multiple disorders and diseases from childhood to advanced old age. Recent advances in geroscience suggest it is possible to prevent and treat a wide range of these disorders and diseases, including Alzheimer's, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and many others, by slowing or reversing certain genetic, molecular, and cellular hallmarks of aging. Despite the enormous promise of this field, private sector investment is limited by a lack of clinical or surrogate endpoints which would demonstrate that an intervention is safe and effective. Therefore, the Committee urges the FDA to develop clearer regu-

latory pathways for emerging aging treatments and to provide an update on its progress in the fiscal year 2024 congressional budget justification. The Committee also urges the FDA to increase support for regulatory science that can inform these pathways, including collaborations with the National Institutes of Health, industry, and academia on the discovery and validation of biomarkers.

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. As previously mentioned the Committee provided funding for Maternal and Infant Health, including an increase of \$7,000,000 for FDA's Closer to Zero plan. FDA is encouraged 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.

Human Donor Milk.—The Committee commends the FDA for its focus on the health and well-being of mothers, infants, and children and encourages the prioritization of regulator actions to address emerging concerns such as toxic elements in baby food, understaffed review capacity for premarket review of infant formula submissions to evaluate the safety and nutritional adequacy of infant formula. The Committee has previously encouraged FDA to regulate donor human milk given that most human milk banks rely on self-generated screening, production, safety, and quality guidelines. The Committee notes that donor human milk has been used for inpatient and outpatient infants with growth in recent years, despite being subject to rigorous or frequent inspection or oversight. Infant formula recalls and shortages are adding to the increased use of donor human milk while regulatory options remain limited. The Committee directs FDA to address regulation of donor human milk and donor human milk derived products and banks.

Human Drug Review Committee.—The Committee encourages the FDA to work diligently to include no less than two members with an expertise in the indication for which the drug is intended to treat or other relevant rare diseases on each Advisory Committee when that Committee is reviewing a drug that has been designated as an Orphan Drug. The Committee also requests that the FDA report the percentage of recommendations made by Advisory Committees with respect to orphan drugs that include at least two members with expertise in the indication the drug is intended to treat or other relevant rare diseases.

Imported Poppy Seeds.—The Committee is concerned with reports of positive drug tests, addiction, overdose, and death related to contaminated imported poppy seeds, and directs the agency to establish a maximum permissible threshold of opiate alkaloid content for poppy seeds and carry out appropriate regulatory or enforcement measures to ensure the safety of poppy seeds.

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 \$6,000,000 to implement the program. FDA's report to Congress emphasized the importance of increased sampling of import shipments, investment in laboratory capabilities, data ana-

lytics, 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.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease [IBD] Clinical Trials.—The Committee commends the FDA’s efforts to improve diversity and patient-centricity in clinical trials and encourages the agency to pursue this work in the area of IBD. The Committee recognizes that people with IBD often face barriers to clinical trial participation, including requirements to stop using an existing treatment before and during a trial period. The Committee encourages FDA to continue dialogue with the IBD community to address this and other barriers to trial participation, including challenges around overall cost and compensation to support patients who volunteer for trials.

Infant Formula.—The Committee is concerned by the fragility of the infant formula supply chain and the detrimental health impacts that can arise from shortage of these regulated products, particularly specialty formulas. Following broad disruptions in supply chain networks and increases in product demand, a recent recall of infant formula manufactured at a single production facility resulted in significant and widespread shortages in this essential source of nutrition. The Committee recognizes that the recall was initiated because multiple infants who consumed this formula were hospitalized, but that the following shortage, resulting from an insufficiently responsive and robust supply chain, also resulted in the hospitalization of infants whose caregivers were unable to access the infant formula these children required. As such, the Committee provides an increase of \$1,500,000 to support additional staffing within Material and Infant Health and Nutrition. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs FDA to submit a report, prepared in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, assessing the risks and resilience of domestic supply chains of infant formula, including specialty formula, and identifying potential solutions to address vulnerabilities. This assessment should cover the full “farm to bottle” supply chain, including ingredient production, processing, and manufacturing, and distribution, including the inputs and regulatory approval needed at each of these steps.

Further, the Committee directs the Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General to conduct a review of the FDA’s actions in response to complaints received pertaining to infant formula over the past 3 years, as well as the adequacy and efficacy of the FDA’s monitoring efforts for infant formula and related maternal and infant food products.

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 packaging 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.

Integrating Alternative Approaches.—The Committee supports FDA’s work to improve predictively of human and animal response to FDA-regulated products and publish its report “Advancing New Alternative Methodologies at FDA.” Further, the Committee is encouraged by the agency’s efforts to support the qualification of non-animal approaches within the Innovative Science and Technology Approaches for New Drugs [ISTAND] pilot program. The Committee supports efforts to qualify non-animal methods that can better protect public health, improve the safety and efficacy of drug development, and reduce animal testing through the IStand program, and to train staff on qualified non-animal approaches, in addition to other activities.

International Mail Facilities.—The Committee remains concerned about the opioid epidemic that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans. The Committee continues to support FDA’s investments in International Mail Facilities and Ports of Entry to prevent illicit drugs, including unapproved and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, from entering the United States.

Inspection Frequency.—The Committee is concerned that human food facilities are not inspected frequently enough to adequately identify and respond to risks. Under the Food Safety Modernization Act, high-risk domestic facilities must be inspected every 3 years and other domestic facilities must be inspected every 5 years. The Committee believes FDA should inspect human food facilities more frequently than the statutory minimum, and directs the Commissioner of the FDA, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, to increase the frequency of domestic human food inspections, where needed, and develop a report to identify operational changes and determine the resource implications of conducting inspections every 18 months for high-risk domestic facilities and every 3 years for non-high-risk domestic facilities.

Listeria.—The Committee emphasizes reducing incidence of foodborne illness as an important public health goal and believes that coordinated and targeted resources are required to appropriately assess and combat the public health risks of foodborne pathogens. The Committee is aware that FDA is in the process of finalizing industry guidance regarding *Listeria monocytogenes* (Lm) in foods under their jurisdiction. The Committee is also aware that FDA intends to issue a draft Compliance Policy, Guidance for FDA Staff, Sec. 555.320 *Listeria monocytogenes*. Accordingly, the Committee urges FDA to apply a risk-based approach and direct its regulatory efforts toward high risk ready-to-eat [RTE] foods, those which support the growth of Lm. Additionally, the Committee urges FDA to incorporate current scientific knowledge regarding the public health impact of foods that do not support growth of Lm to inform compliance policies in Sec. 555.320 prior to issuing the draft. Recently published scientific research from food safety and public health experts recommends a regulatory action level greater than zero for Lm for these low-risk foods. This regulatory approach will encourage industry to adopt quantitative Lm testing schemes and facilitate robust environmental monitoring programs, and ultimately result in reductions in disease incidence. The Committee encourages FDA to work with industry stakeholders to gather supporting information and data to assist with implementation of this

Lm approach. Policies reflecting these regulatory approaches align with other international regulatory standards and restore a level playing field for U.S. food processors in the global marketplace. Further, the Committee calls on FDA to define not-ready-to-eat foods in its guidance in a manner that aligns with the approach of FSIS and to ensure that this guidance is protective of public health, science-based and practical.

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 Committee encourages the FDA to continue focusing on this issue.

Medical Gas.—Committee is concerned that healthcare providers, consumers, and medical gas manufacturers have been waiting for 44 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). The Committee directs the FDA to issue the final separate regulations required by the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 115–31). Should the FDA not issue final regulations by March 31, 2023, the agency shall submit a written report to Committee every 30 days thereafter 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.

Nanotechnology.—The Committee recognizes the increased capabilities that the FDA has developed to study environment, health, and safety of nanomaterials within FDA’s Jefferson Laboratory Campus, including NCTR, and its consolidated headquarters at White Oak, Maryland. The Committee expects the FDA to continue to support collaborative research with universities and industry on the toxicology of nanotechnology products and processes in accordance with the 2021 National Nanotechnology Initiative Strategic Plan.

National Center for Toxicological Research [NCTR].—The Committee is concerned about the speed of progress in reducing the length and expense of preclinical drug safety evaluations. Animal testing is sometimes lengthy and expensive. The Committee recommends FDA explore opportunities available at NCTR to speed progress in this area through more interaction between existing Federal and industry data.

Neurology Drug Program.—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support and enhance the neurology drug program. Unprecedented progress in understanding the cellular and molecular processes that underlie human nervous systems holds the promise of vast improvements in our ability to prevent neurological disease, diagnose it at an earlier stage, and treat it more effectively through targeted therapies. The Committee urges FDA to use this funding to develop policies and guidance that keep pace with scientific discovery in these areas, particularly as they apply to the prevention and early detection of neurological disease.

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 an increase of \$7,000,000 to continue this initiative.

New Prior Knowledge.—The Committee encourages FDA to establish a pilot program that will apply new tools to improve generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality. The program should be in collaboration with academic institutions which offer strengths in assessing and improving generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality to ensure the utilization of evidence-based best practices.

Niemann-Pick Type C [NPC].—The Committee commends the FDA for convening a meeting early in 2022 on Niemann-Pick Type C, a rare progressive and universally fatal disease that impacts children and young adults. The Committee encourages FDA to continue to better understand this always fatal condition by improving collaboration with NPC patients and caregivers. The Committee also encourages the FDA to work in partnership with NPC experts, industry, and the patient community to ensure the viability of trials and clinical development and to apply patient and caregiver perspective when evaluating risk benefit of experimental therapies that are already in use in the NPC community. Further, the Committee is particularly interested in follow up to the FDA’s recommendation to the NPC community to work with the Critical

Path Institute. The Committee requests an update from the FDA on progress as well as the findings from the 2022 meeting.

Opioid Epidemic.—For the past two decades, the FDA has approved new drug applications for opioids following completion of clinical trials using enriched enrollment, randomized, withdrawal [EERW] designs. EERW studies exclude patients who do not tolerate or respond well to the investigational drug prior to randomization. After randomization, patients remain on the investigational drug or they are tapered to placebo. FDA should ensure that scientific experts have the opportunity to review the methodology EERWs use to approve new opioids for uses that are both safe and effective. The Commissioner is directed to conduct a study to review EERW study designs used in the approval of new prescription opioids for chronic pain.

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. The appropriateness of expanding the scope of the requirement should take into consideration: the need to preserve flexibility to manage the needs of patients with complex or varying conditions (e.g., certain patients with dexterity issues may have difficulty accessing medication contained in blister packs); potential impact on patient adherence in various settings of care; the need for a phased in approach with adequate measures that help ensure unintended consequences are identified and adjudicated; and cost burdens on the healthcare system to help ensure patient access issues are mitigated.

Organ Preservation Solution Shortages and Transplant.—The Committee is aware that certain solutions utilized within organ perfusion and preservation devices, also known as preservation solutions, are critical to ensure the viability of transplantable organs through the process of transport and storage. The Committee is aware of a significant shortage in the availability of such solutions that arose during 2021 and that continues to present challenges to obtaining necessary supplies of such solution in order to maximize the successful transportation of organs for transplantation. These solution shortages also have significant repercussions for organ research activities. The Committee commends CDRH's activities to increase the supply of these solutions through various interventions and requests that the Center provide a written report within 90 days of enactment of this act on the status of preservation solution supply in the U.S. and additional authorities, if any, that may be required to ensure their continued supply.

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 and Deferral Policies for Blood Donation.—The Committee is pleased that FDA plans to continue to expand its use of real-world evidence, including the Transfusion Transmissible Infections Monitoring System [TTIMS], and encourages greater investment in real-world evidence to inform its policies concerning blood donor deferral policies and the safety of the U.S. blood supply. The Committee also encourages FDA to prioritize further investments in pathogen reduction technologies to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections and safeguard the blood supply.

Patient Experience Information.—The Committee supports the FDA’s efforts to implement policies to promote public access to information about how patient experience information is factored into the review of approved products. The Committee requests that within 60 days of enactment of this Act, FDA submit to the Committee a report providing an update on the agency’s efforts to develop and issue guidance documents to provide uniform methodologies to capture and measure patient experiences in clinical trials, as required under

SEC. 3004 of Public Law 114–255. The Committee urges the FDA to expedite the completion and release of all relevant guidance documents. The Committee directs the FDA to collaborate with stakeholders by holding no less than two stakeholder meetings within 90 days from the enactment of the act to identify specific tools for screening, identification, reporting, consideration, and labeling of patient experience data in clinical trials of a drug or biological product.

Not later than 1 year after enactment of this Act, the FDA shall submit to the Committee a report describing FDA’s efforts to engage stakeholders and solicit feedback on patient experience data in research, including the current definition of patient experience data used by industry; patient experience measures that are acceptable to the FDA; the extent to which patient experience data informs clinical trial design, trial endpoint development and selection, and regulatory reviews; and the feasibility and impact of requiring the inclusion of patient experience data in clinical trials of a drug or biological development.

Pay Costs.—The Committee provides the requested amount of \$34,000,000 for pay costs.

Pediatric Device Consortia Grants.—Pediatric Device Consortia grants fund consortia to assist innovators in developing medical

and surgical devices designed for the unique needs of children, which 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 1,400 potential pediatric medical devices since 2009. The Committee encourages the FDA to fund the program at its authorized level in fiscal year 2023.

Pediatric Labeling.—The Committee continues to be concerned that 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 Non-prescription Drugs Advisory Committee and Pediatric Advisory Committee in 2011 that data supported this information being added to the labeling. 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 an update to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this act on the timing of amending the monograph label for acetaminophen-include weight-based dosing instructions for children ages 6 months to 2 years.

Pesticide Residues in Imported Foods.—The Committee is concerned that imported human food continues to have significantly higher pesticide violation rates than domestically produced food. The most recent FDA report for fiscal year 2019 found that violation rates for imported food were approximately 8 times higher than domestic food, which is consistent with fiscal years 2012–2019 trends and is an outcome of FDA targeting specific commodities and countries that might warrant special attention based upon historically high violation rates and trends. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue to partner with State inspection services and increase use of emerging technologies to enhance imported food sampling efforts. Additionally, the FDA shall treat products that are among those that are more likely to have pesticide violations as warranting special attention with higher priority for increased inspections. The Committee notes that, while some imported products may not have the 10 percent violation rate that may cause FDA to identify the commodities as warranting special attention in the future, certain imported products in the 2019 report had disproportionately higher violation rates than domestic products. In its fiscal year 2023 sampling plan, FDA shall increase sampling of imported products noted in its 2019 supplemental analysis as having higher rates of foreign violations compared to domestic violations, consistent with FDA's risk-based approach to sampling.

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.

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome [PCOS].—The Committee understands the need for FDA to support an externally-led Patient-Focused Drug [PFDD] meeting, to engage patients, practitioners, scientists, and industry addressing the disorder to gain a fuller perspective on the needs and state of the field of PCOS, and to support incentives that would encourage industry to advance new, safe, and evidence-based therapies, diagnostics, devices, and technologies for PCOS. The lack of treatment options for PCOS is leading to negative outcomes and high rates of dissatisfaction among patients and physicians. A PFDD meeting could provide the FDA and industry with critical perspectives from patients about their needs and priorities for the development of new PCOS treatments while reducing the financial and administrative burden on the agency.

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 drug and biological products and encourages the FDA to increase its efforts to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies that have the potential to improve product quality. The Committee directs the FDA to brief the Committee on its efforts to promote advanced manufacturing technologies.

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. The Committee is concerned by the assertions being made that labeling of these prod-

ucts are misleading, deceptive, and confusing to consumers. 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.

Shellfish Safety.—The Committee urges the FDA to complete the single laboratory validation of the liquid chromatography mass spectrometry [LC–MS]-based method for detecting brevetoxins association with neurotoxic shellfish poisoning in molluscan shellfish. The Committee further urges the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to adopt the FDA’s proposal for the LC–MS method for brevetoxin testing of shellfish as an Approved Method under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

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.

Sunscreen Regulations.—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 grant meeting requests with sponsors in accordance with the law to evaluate and affirm the GRASE status of currently marked sunscreen ingredients and directs the agency to affirm a process for holding confidential meetings under the CARES Act. The Committee encourages FDA to educate stakeholders about its administrative order process and ensure that any final order related to sunscreen ingredients balances the value of currently marketed sunscreens as a proven skin cancer prevention tool. The Committee urges FDA to publicly clarify its sole jurisdiction over the regulatory status of sunscreen ingredients and requests an update on the status of these activities within 90 days of enactment of this act.

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.

Traceback Rule.—The Committee is concerned that FDA has not yet finalized its proposed rule “Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods” 85 Fed. Reg. 59984 (September 23, 2020). The Committee encourages the Commissioner,

not later than 1 year after enactment of this act to finalize such rule.

Valley Fever.—The Committee recommends that FDA consult with the public, and obtain input on the state of the science related to vaccines to prevent Valley Fever. FDA is directed to 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.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2022	\$12,788,000
Budget estimate, 2023	30,788,000
Committee recommendation	30,788,000

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 \$30,788,000 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, 2022	\$50,000,000
Budget estimate, 2023	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, 2022	\$84,200,000
Budget estimate, 2023	89,120,000
Committee recommendation	88,500,000

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 \$88,500,000 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 a rescission of funds.

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 dried spent grain products.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding FSIS.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding APHIS inspections.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 733. This section includes language regarding animal welfare.

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 Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services.

Section 743. This section includes language regarding a study.

Section 744. This section includes language regarding matching requirement.

Section 745. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 746. This section includes language regarding fluid milk.

Section 747. This section includes language regarding potable water.

Section 748. This section includes language regarding the Food for Peace program.

Section 749. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 750. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 751. This section includes language regarding biotechnology risk assessment.

Section 752. This section includes language regarding pollinator research.

Section 753. This section includes language regarding watershed programs.

Section 754. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 755. This section includes language regarding the Good-fellow facility.

Section 756. This section includes language regarding horse slaughter.

Section 757. This section includes language regarding paper inserts.

Section 758. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 759. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank program.

Section 760. This section includes language regarding REAP Zones.

Section 761. This section includes language regarding mitigation banking.

Section 762. This section includes language regarding labeling requirements.

Section 763. This section includes language regarding a working group.

Section 764. This section includes language regarding the Institute for Rural Partnership.

Section 765. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 766. This section includes language regarding foreign landholding.

Section 767. This section includes language regarding a farm bill program.

Section 768. This section includes language regarding a water and waste pilot.

Section 769. This section includes language regarding a labeling requirement.

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2023, 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, 2023, and the explanatory statement.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2023 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 2023 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 2023:

- Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program
- Broadband Telecommunications Grants
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Child Nutrition Program State Administrative Expenses

- Summer Food Service Program
- Access to Local Food: Farm to School 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 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 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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 2022] *For fiscal year 2023*, each State shall annually—

* * * * *

(4) Audit by the Secretary

[For fiscal year 2022] *For fiscal year 2023*, 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 2023】** *2010 through 2024*. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

The Constitution vests in the Congress the power of the purse.^μ 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	WI	Marshfield Agricultural Research Station Dairy Facilities.	University of Wisconsin-Madison	\$6,000,000.	Baldwin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	AR	Waste Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation ...	Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center ..	117,000.	Boozman
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	ME	University of Maine System—Seawater Supply Lines.	University of Maine System	3,500,000.	Collins, King
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	IL	Capital Improvements, Peoria, IL	ARS, Peoria	3,500,000.	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	IL	Capital Improvements, Urbana, IL	ARS, Urbana	500,000.	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	NM	Maintenance of the Range Management Research Unit—Southwest Climate Hub.	USDA-ARS Range Management Research Unit	2,831,000.	Henrich, Lujan
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OK	Grazinglands Research Laboratory Improvements.	USDA ARS—Grazinglands Research Laboratory	1,260,000.	Inhofe
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OK	Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit Facilities Improvements.	USDA ARS—Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit	3,254,000.	Inhofe
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OK	Southern Plain Range Research Station (SPRRS) Facilities Improvements.	USDA-ARS, Southern Plains Range Research Station	1,544,000.	Inhofe
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OK	Wheat, Peanut, and Other Field Crops Research Unit Facility Improvements.	Wheat, Peanut, and Other Field Crops Research Unit	4,177,000.	Inhofe
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	AZ	Agricultural Research Service Facility Upgrades	Agricultural Research Service—Tucson	698,000.	Kelly, Sinema
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	AZ	U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center ...	U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center	1,478,000.	Kelly, Sinema
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OR	Burns ARS Station	Agricultural Research Service	408,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	OR	Pendleton ARS Station	Agricultural Research Service	700,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	WA	ARS Deferred Maintenance in Wenatchee, WA ..	USDA-ARS	400,000.	Murray
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	GA	The Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory Infrastructure Improvements.	U.S. National Poultry Research Center	1,000,000.	Osoff, Warnock
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	HI	Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center	Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center	1,215,000.	Schatz
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	CT	Monitoring Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	206,000.	Blumenthal, Murphy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	LA	West Nile Virus Wildlife Conservation Research	LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	500,000.	Cassidy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	ME	Tick-Borne Disease Prevention in Northern New England.	University of Maine System	2,500,000.	Collins
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	NV	Nevada Department of Agriculture—Wild Horse Management.	Nevada Department of Agriculture	500,000.	Cortez Masto, Rosen
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	HI	Invasive Pest Management for Nursery Exports	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	850,000.	Hirono, Schatz
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	MS	Veterinary Diagnostics—One Health Surveillance in Mississippi.	Mississippi State University	735,000.	Hyde-Smith

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
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 Damage Management—Mississippi WHCP.	Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.	2,000,000.	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	NH	Enhancing Quality and Capacity at the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.	University of New Hampshire	1,261,000.	Shaheen
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	LA	Expanding Telehealth Services, Evangeline Parish, LA.	Acadiana Planning Commission	400,000.	Cassidy
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	IL	Mobile Rural Telemedicine Initiative	Blessing Health System	710,000.	Durbin
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	IL	Rural Telemedicine Expansion	Carle Eureka Hospital	163,000.	Durbin
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	IL	Rural Telemedicine Initiative	OSF Healthcare System dba Saint Anthony Medical Cc.	218,000.	Durbin
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	NM	Western New Mexico University: Distance Learning.	Western New Mexico University	500,000.	Henrich
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	MS	Covington County Hospital	Covington County Hospital	1,000,000.	Hyde-Smith
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	MS	Magee General Hospital	Magee General Hospital	1,000,000.	Hyde-Smith
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	MS	Simpson General Hospital	Simpson General Hospital	1,000,000.	Hyde-Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Adams County Fire District	Adams County Fire District	34,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Boys & Girls Club of Barron County New Building Project.	Boys & Girls Club of Barron County	500,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area	Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area	500,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Brandon Public Library	Friends of the Brandon Public Library	473,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	City of Burlington Fire Department	City of Burlington Fire Department	880,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	City of Viroqua Fire Station	City of Viroqua	5,250,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	College of Menominee Nation Neopit Partnership Site.	College of Menominee Nation	1,425,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Door County Granary	Sturgeon Bay Historical Society	3,300,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Fire Department Ladder Truck Replacement	City of Monroe	825,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Expansion	Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College	5,000,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Lakes Country Public Library	Lakes Country Public Library	500,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Laona Rescue Building for Shared Towns 911 Ambulance Service.	Laona Rescue Unit	2,083,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County	Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County	5,000,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Oregon Public Library	Village of Oregon	1,000,000.	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Riverwood Rural Development Project	Riverwood Nature Center	950,000.	Baldwin

Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Sister Bay & Liberty Grove Fire Department	Sister Bay & Liberty Grove Fire Department	Baldwin	900,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Southwest Wisconsin Regional Childcare	Southwest Health	Baldwin	2,585,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	St. Croix Valley Food Bank	St. Croix Valley Food Bank	Baldwin	4,319,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	CO	Haxtun Health Main Street Clinic	Haxtun Hospital District	Bennet, Hickenlooper	2,000,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	CO	Lincoln Community Critical Access Hospital	Lincoln Community Hospital	Bennet, Hickenlooper	3,000,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	East Windsor Municipal Multi-Service Center Addition and Renovation.	Town of East Windsor	Blumenthal, Murphy	2,750,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Town of Winchester Public Works Garage	Town of Winchester	Blumenthal, Murphy	2,530,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	MO	Fisher Delta Research Center Improvements	Fisher Delta Research Center	Blunt	1,425,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	NI	Clayton Fire Department Ladder Truck	Borough of Clayton	Booker, Menendez	715,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	NI	Facility for Meals on Wheels of Salem County	Meals on Wheels of Salem County	Booker, Menendez	380,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	NI	Mount Holy Municipal Courthouse Project	Township of Mount Holly	Booker, Menendez	330,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Emerald Necklace	Village of Somerset	Brown	125,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Federal Valley Resource Center Roof Replacement.	Federal Valley Resource Center	Brown	594,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Fremont Community Recreation Center	City of Fremont	Brown	265,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	New Concord Fire Emergency Support	Village of New Concord	Brown	625,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Somerset Builder's Club	The Somerset Builder's Club	Brown	563,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Township Road Maintenance Equipment	Milton Township	Brown	99,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	NC	Sampson Community College Improvements	Sampson Community College	Burr	2,369,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	NC	Zebulon Fire Station Co-Location	Town of Zebulon, NC	Burr	7,500,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	McDowell County Commission Facility	McDowell County Commission	Capito	5,468,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Meadow Bridge Community Building Improvement.	Meadow Bridge	Capito	435,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Wayne County Courthouse Renovations	Wayne County Commission	Capito	1,087,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	City Hall Renovations	City of Montgomery	Capito, Manchin	833,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	City of Princeton Multi-Use Community Center	City of Princeton	Capito, Manchin	2,200,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Marmet Ambulance Station	Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority.	Capito, Manchin	557,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Town of Rainelle Sidewalk Repair and Rehabilitation.	Town of Rainelle	Capito, Manchin	1,763,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Charlestown Town Hall Addition and Restoration.	Town of Charlestown, Maryland	Cardin	34,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Talbot County Free Library ? St. Michaels Branch Library Expansion and Renovation.	Talbot County Free Library	Cardin	70,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Eastern Shore Farm to Freezer Project	Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC)	Cardin, Van Hollen	985,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Town of Midland Town Hall Replacement	Town of Midland, Maryland	Cardin, Van Hollen	375,000.
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Capital Improvements to Historic Milton Theatre.	Calliope Project Inc.	Carper	100,000.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Farm Incubator Module	Delaware Department of Agriculture & Del. State U.	866,000.	Carper, Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Learning Lamp Child Care Facility	The Learning Lamp, Inc.	227,000.	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Lewisburg YMCA at the Miller Center Child Care Expansion Project.	The Miller Center for Recreation and Wellness	1,680,000.	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	NuVisions Center—Mushroom Farm & Community Space.	NuVisions Center	1,000,000.	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	Coushatta Tribe Education Facility	Coushatta Tribe	3,000,000.	Cassidy
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	Town of Farmerville Teen Center and Facility Improvements.	Town of Farmerville	713,000.	Cassidy
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Animal Shelter Improvements	Responsible Pet Care of Oxford Hills, Inc.	100,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Bethel District Exchange and Food Pantry	The Bethel District Exchange and Food Pantry	273,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Bradford Municipal Fire Station	Town of Bradford	1,387,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Island Village Childcare Expansion	Island Village Childcare	75,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Milo Public Safety Building	Town of Milo	6,375,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Newburgh Fire and Rescue Station	Town of Newburgh	1,000,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Patten Library Revitalization	The Friends of Veterans' Memorial Library	3,900,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Plymouth Fire Station	Town of Plymouth	800,000.	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Belfast Public Safety Building	City of Belfast	1,500,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Greenville Public Safety Building	Town of Greenville	902,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Healthy Acadia—Downeast Restorative Harvest	Healthy Acadia	270,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Kennebec Valley Community College Harold Alford Roofing Improvements.	Kennebec Valley Community College	515,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Norway Police and Community Space	Town of Norway	850,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Town of Van Buren—Fire Station and Training Center.	Town of Van Buren	2,177,000.	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Fallon—Fixed Based Operations Facility	City of Fallon	825,000.	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Storey County—Fire Station 71	Storey County	3,750,000.	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Storey County—Virginia City Fairgrounds	Storey County	615,000.	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Clay County Hospital Flora Clinic Project	Clay County Hospital and Medical Clinics	2,505,000.	Duckworth
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Library Renovation	Dixon Public Library	210,000.	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	Mount Baldy Fire Station	San Bernardino County Fire Protection District	3,750,000.	Feinstein
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	Guadalupe Union Early Childhood Education Center.	Guadalupe Union School District	2,000,000.	Feinstein, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Great Futures Start Here	Awesassne Boys & Girls Club	1,000,000.	Gillibrand, Schumer

Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Childcare Center.	Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority	2,100,000.	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	The Neighborhood Depot	Racker Center	750,000.	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Town of Pomfret New Town Hall Building	Town of Pomfret, NY	440,000.	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Rural Volunteer Fire Departments	Aiken County	413,000.	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	YMCA Innovative Child Care Center and Training Facility.	Kershaw County Family YMCA	1,100,000.	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Arch Volunteer Fire Department ? Fire Engine.	Arch Volunteer Fire Dept. Roosevelt County	375,000.	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Denning Fire Department—Fire Engine	City of Deming Fire Department	190,000.	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Rowe Volunteer Fire Department—Fire engine	Rowe Volunteer Fire Department	338,000.	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Tularosa Volunteer Fire Department ? Fire Engine.	Tularosa Volunteer Fire Department	165,000.	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Village of Cuba Volunteer Fire Department—Fire Engine.	Village of Cuba Volunteer Fire Department	413,000.	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	City of Belen—Fire Engine.	City of Belen	266,000.	Henrich, Lujan
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Hatch Valley Schools—Animal Science Facility Lab.	Hatch Valley Public Schools	200,000.	Henrich, Lujan
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Village of Reserve—New Fire Station	Village of Reserve	750,000.	Henrich, Lujan
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Moloe'a AINA Center Food Hub	Malama Kauai	492,000.	Hirono, Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Tazewell County Fire Station Development	Town of Tazewell	617,000.	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Theatre Guild of Buchanan County Community Arts Mainstage Courtyard.	The Courtyard at The CAM	188,000.	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Goshen Multi-use Community Center	Town of Goshen	255,000.	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Virginia Community Telehealth Access Network Pilot Program.	Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundat.	375,000.	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Tubac Fire District	Tubac Fire District	2,000,000.	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Piscataquis Regional Food Center—Community Kitchen Incubator.	Piscataquis Regional Food Center	92,000.	King
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Brainerd Family YMCA-child care supply solutions.	Brainerd Family YMCA	600,000.	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Ely Area Ambulance Service and Ely Emergency Iron Range Childcare	City of Ely	1,300,000.	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Luverne Childcare Center	United Way of Northeastern Minnesota	1,200,000.	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Public Infrastructure Development Project	City of Luverne	2,608,000.	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Upper Valley Haven Shelter and Community Resource Center.	Biwabik Township	900,000.	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Questa Library Repair	Upper Valley Haven	2,000,000.	Leahy
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Burnsville Public Library	Village of Questa	175,000.	Lujan
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	City of Beckley Public Works Equipment	Burnsville Public Library	51,000.	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV		City of Beckley	139,000.	Manchin

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Keyser Senior Center	Aging and Family Services of Mineral County, Inc.	127,000.	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Pendleton County Courthouse Annex	Pendleton County Commission	1,541,000.	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Franklin County Volunteer Responder Digital Pagers.	Franklin Regional Council of Governments	450,000.	Marley, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Year Round Farming Education for Children	Kisiner Foundation Inc. dba Red Gate Farm	150,000.	Marley, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Anahuac Farm & Cultural Center Infrastructure Build.	Capaces Leadership Institute	412,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Mosier Community Center and Fire Station	City of Mosier	975,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Hodgeman County Courthouse	County of Hodgeman	544,000.	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Larned Fire & Emergency Response	City of Larned	1,142,000.	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Anviq Training Center	TKC Fish Wheel	221,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Family Promise Childcare Facility	Family Promise Mat-Su	17,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Ilisagvik College Campus Improvements	Ilisagvik College	5,000,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Kenai Boys & Girls Club Facility Construction	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula	4,675,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Norton Sound Health Childcare Facility	Norton Sound Health Corporation	2,265,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Triumvirate Theater Construction	Alaska Childrens Institute for the Performing Arts.	1,000,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	University of Alaska Fairbanks Chukchi Campus Modernization.	University of Alaska	825,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Yuat Eitinaurviat Campus Expansion	Yuat Eitinaurviat	9,997,000.	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Colville Public Library Facility Improvements	Libraries of Stevens County Foundation	300,000.	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Jefferson County Child Care Expansion	Jefferson County	1,375,000.	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Union Gap Library and Community Center	Friends of Union Gap Library and Community Center.	1,000,000.	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Improvements to Allentown Fire Station	City of Allentown	455,000.	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	New Dublin Fire Station	City of Dublin, Georgia	1,820,000.	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Town of Danville Fire Truck	Town of Danville, Georgia	59,000.	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	Streets Repaving Project in the Community of Tranquility.	County of Fresno	1,000,000.	Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Alpena County Regional MRF, Multi-Stream Recycling Facility.	County of Alpena	2,700,000.	Peters, Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	City of Munising—Washington Street Streetscape.	City of Munising	2,000,000.	Peters, Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Town of Warren-Police Station	Town of Warren	2,200,000.	Reed

Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Barre Municipal Auditorium Upgrades	City of Barre	3,451,000.	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Tinker Child Enrichment Center	Copley Health Systems	1,500,000.	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Hana Fresh Farm	Hana Health	1,500,000.	Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Kohala Food Hub	Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture	435,000.	Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Lanakila Pacific Food Hub	Lanakila Pacific	1,000,000.	Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Cheshire Center for Agriculture and Conservation	County of Cheshire	112,000.	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Dorchester Highway Sand Shed	Town of Dorchester	121,000.	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Gale School	Lakes Region Community Developers	391,000.	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Littleton Waterfront Commons	Town of Littleton	300,000.	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Newport Community Center	Town of Newport	4,785,000.	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Little Colorado Area Irrigation Efficiency and Conservation Project	Foundation for Little Colorado Reitalization	2,069,000.	Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Cass County Facilities Project	Tri-County Council for Child Development, Inc.	1,000,000.	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Huron County Community Foundation Community Hub Project	Huron County Community Foundation	783,000.	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Straits Area Cultural Center	Michilimackinac Historical Society	1,000,000.	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers Preschool Site Air Quality Improvement	Chritchlow Adkins Children's Centers	21,000.	Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Frostburg Childcare Center	City of Frostburg	444,000.	Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Baconton Senior Citizens Van	City of Baconton, Georgia	20,000.	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Community Veterinary Education and Training at Fort Valley State University	Fort Valley State University Foundation, Inc.	1,545,000.	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Fannin County Fire Department Equipment	Fannin County Board of Commissioners	1,202,000.	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Tennille Pedestrian Bridge	City of Tennille	777,000.	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Waverly Hall City Hall Repairs	Town Of Waverly Hall	110,000.	Warnock
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NI	Kennedy Lake Dredging Project Proposal	City of Burlington	55,000.	Booker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NI	Pine Brook Stream De-Slagging and Stabilization	Township of West Caldwell	55,000.	Booker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NY	Town of Brunswick Van Derheyden Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Project	Town of Brunswick	55,000.	Gillibrand, Schumer
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Mississippi Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NRCS Mississippi	5,000,000.	Hyde-Smith
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	WV	Town of Newburg Dam Rehabilitation	Town of Newburg	55,000.	Manchin
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NI	Whippany River Regional Improvement Initiative	Township of Hanover	55,000.	Menendez
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	OR	East Fork Irrigation District Authorized Watershed Plan	East Fork Irrigation District	2,500,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	OR	Lone Pine Irrigation District Authorized Watershed Plan	Lone Pine Irrigation District	2,548,000.	Merkley, Wyden
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	KS	Floodwater Dam #11	Doyle Creek Watershed Joint District 86	2,100,000.	Moran

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	WA	Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project	Clallam County	2,728,000.	Murray
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MI	Huron Dam Stormwater Management	City of Houghton	55,000.	Peters
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MI	Midland County Flood Plain Reconnection and Enhancement Project	County of Midland	55,000.	Peters
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	RI	Pocasset River Watershed Flood Mitigation Project	Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts	5,000,000.	Reed
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Choctaw County Lake	Choctaw County Board of Supervisors	55,000.	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	City of Canton Watershed and Drainage Improvement Initiative	City of Canton	55,000.	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	City of Columbus Stormwater Rehabilitation Program	City of Columbus	55,000.	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	City of West Point Stormwater Rehabilitation	City of West Point	55,000.	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Clalborne County Comprehensive Watershed Management Program	Clalborne County	55,000.	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Jones County Flood Prevention Project	Pat Harrison Waterway District	55,000.	Wicker

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Processing, Research, and Marketing					
Staff Offices					
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Secretary	7,203	10,623	7,471	+ 268	- 3,152
Office of Homeland Security	1,353	2,306	1,402	+ 49	- 904
Office of Tribal Relations	2,215	6,450	5,190	+ 2,975	- 1,260
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement ²	7,044	8,525	7,280	+ 236	- 1,245
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	1,649	1,747	1,726	+ 77	- 21
Departmental Administration	23,282	33,300	31,136	+ 7,854	- 2,164
Subtotal	24,931	35,047	32,862	+ 7,931	- 2,185
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	4,480	4,671	4,609	+ 129	- 62
Office of Communications	7,484	11,388	9,609	+ 2,125	- 1,779
Total, Office of the Secretary	54,710	79,010	68,423	+ 13,713	- 10,587
Executive Operations					
Office of the Chief Economist	27,199	32,012	30,181	+ 2,982	- 1,831
Office of Hearings and Appeals	16,173	16,743	16,703	+ 530	- 40
Office of Budget and Program Analysis ²	11,337	20,738	15,667	+ 4,330	- 5,071
Subtotal	54,709	69,493	62,551	+ 7,842	- 6,942
Office of the Chief Information Officer	84,746	97,547	93,284	+ 8,538	- 4,263
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	7,118	7,374	7,367	+ 249	- 7
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	1,426	1,530	1,527	+ 101	- 3

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Office of Civil Rights	35,328	31,696	36,737	+ 1,409	+ 5,041
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection	23,306	25,528	21,800	- 1,506	- 3,728
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities	108,397	134,827	341,610	+ 233,213	+ 206,783
Hazardous materials management	7,540	6,586	7,581	+ 41	+ 995
Office of Inspector General	106,309	112,061	112,061	+ 5,752	.....
Office of the General Counsel	57,268	57,645	59,037	+ 1,769	+ 1,392
Office of Ethics	4,277	5,544	5,556	+ 1,279	+ 12
Office of Information Affairs .....	.....	15,939	15,075	+ 15,075	- 864
Total, Executive Operations	490,424	565,770	764,186	+ 273,762	+ 198,416
Total, Staff Offices	545,134	644,780	832,609	+ 287,475	+ 187,829
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	2,327	1,426	2,384	+ 57	+ 958
Office of the Chief Scientist	1,000	4,950	1,000	.....	- 3,950
Subtotal	3,327	6,376	3,384	+ 57	- 2,992
Economic Research Service	87,794	99,552	96,064	+ 8,270	- 3,488
National Agricultural Statistics Service	190,162	217,474	213,576	+ 23,414	- 3,898
Census of Agriculture	(46,850)	(66,413)	(66,413)	(+ 19,563)	.....
Agricultural Research Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,633,496	1,858,719	1,755,667	+ 122,171	- 103,052
Buildings and facilities	65,405	45,405	133,805	+ 68,400	+ 88,400
Congressionally Directed Spending	62,400	.....	32,582	- 29,818	+ 32,582
Subtotal	127,805	45,405	166,387	+ 38,582	+ 120,982

Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,761,301	1,904,124	1,922,054	+ 160,753	+ 17,930
National Institute of Food and Agriculture					
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,046,244	1,213,315	1,086,754	+ 40,510	- 126,561
Research and education activities	(11,880)	(11,880)	(11,880)		
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund	550,605	568,567	561,750	+ 11,145	- 6,817
Extension activities	40,000	39,000	42,500	+ 2,500	+ 3,500
Integrated activities					
Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,636,849	1,820,882	1,691,004	+ 54,155	- 129,878
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	1,577	1,676	1,599	+ 22	- 77
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	1,106,744	1,149,286	1,177,881	+ 71,137	+ 28,595
Salaries and expenses	3,474		9,552	+ 6,078	+ 9,552
Congressionally Directed Spending					
Subtotal	1,110,218	1,149,286	1,187,433	+ 77,215	+ 38,147
Buildings and facilities	3,175	3,175	3,175		
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	1,113,393	1,152,461	1,190,608	+ 77,215	+ 38,147
Agricultural Marketing Service					
Marketing Services	226,657	232,960	245,458	+ 18,801	+ 12,498
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(61,786)	(62,596)	(62,596)	(+ 810)	
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent, Section 32	1,391,211	1,483,309	1,483,309	+ 92,098	
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from Section 32)	(20,817)	(21,501)	(21,501)	(+ 684)	
Payments to States and Possessions	1,235	1,235	1,235		
Limitation on inspection and weighing services	(55,000)	(55,000)	(55,000)		
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service program	1,735,889	1,835,100	1,847,598	+ 111,709	+ 12,498
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	1,077	1,176	1,099	+ 22	- 77
Food Safety and Inspection Service	1,108,664	1,226,148	1,173,066	+ 64,402	- 53,082

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs	8,068,381	8,792,153	8,855,065	+ 786,684	+ 62,912
(By transfer)	(20,817)	(21,501)	(21,501)	(+ 684)	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(116,786)	(117,596)	(117,596)	(+ 810)	.....
TITLE II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs					
Farm Production Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation	1,687	1,792	1,727	+ 40	- 65
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center	238,177	261,783	259,948	+ 21,771	- 1,835
(by transfer from CCC)	(60,228)	(60,228)	(60,228)	.....	.....
Total, FPAC Business Center (including transfers)	298,405	322,011	320,176	+ 21,771	- 1,835
Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses	1,173,070	1,231,697	1,221,307	+ 48,237	- 10,390
(by transfer from ACIF)	(294,114)	(305,803)	(305,803)	(+ 11,689)	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers)	1,467,184	1,537,500	1,527,110	+ 59,926	- 10,390
State mediation grants	7,000	6,914	7,000	.....	+ 86
Grassroots source water protection program	6,500	6,500	10,000	+ 3,500	+ 3,500
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers	3,000	.....	4,000	+ 1,000	+ 4,000
Dairy indemnity program	500	500	500	.....	.....
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency	1,190,070	1,245,611	1,242,807	+ 52,737	- 2,804

Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund [ACIF] Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	(2,800,000)	(3,100,000)	(3,100,000)	(3,100,000)	(+ 300,000)
Guaranteed	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	
Subtotal	(6,300,000)	(6,600,000)	(6,600,000)	(6,600,000)	(+ 300,000)
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	(1,633,333)	(1,633,333)	(1,633,333)	(1,633,333)	
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(2,118,482)	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	(+ 9)
Subtotal	(3,751,815)	(3,751,824)	(3,751,824)	(3,751,824)	(+ 9)
Emergency loans	(37,668)	(4,062)	(4,062)	(4,062)	(- 33,606)
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	
Boll weevil eradication loans	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	
Relending program loans	(61,425)	(61,426)	(61,426)	(61,426)	(+ 1)
Total, Loan authorizations	(10,385,908)	(10,652,312)	(10,652,312)	(10,652,312)	(+ 266,404)
Loan subsidies:					
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	40,017	23,520	23,520	23,520	- 16,497
Unsubsidized guaranteed	16,524	11,228	11,228	11,228	- 5,296
Subtotal	56,541	34,748	34,748	34,748	- 21,793
Emergency Loans	267	249	249	249	- 18
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	407	894	894	894	+ 487
Relending program loans	5,000	10,983	10,983	10,983	+ 5,983
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	62,215	46,874	46,874	46,874	- 15,341
ACIF administrative expenses:					
Administrative Expenses	314,772	326,461	326,461	326,461	+ 11,689
(Program Loan Cost Expenses)	(20,658)	(20,658)	(20,658)	(20,658)	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
(Transfer out to FSA Salaries and expenses)	(- 294,114)	(- 305,803)	(- 305,803)	(- 11,689)	.....
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account	376,987	373,335	373,335	- 3,652	.....
(Loan authorizations)	(10,385,908)	(10,652,312)	(10,652,312)	(+ 266,404)	.....
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,567,057	1,618,946	1,616,142	+ 49,085	- 2,804
Risk Management Agency					
RMA Salaries and Expenses	62,707	75,443	71,076	+ 8,369	- 4,367
Total, Farm Production Programs	1,869,628	1,957,964	1,948,893	+ 79,265	- 9,071
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Private Lands Conservation Operations	884,785	1,001,101	926,599	+ 41,814	- 74,502
Congressionally Directed Spending	19,611	.....	.....	- 19,611	.....
Subtotal	904,396	1,001,101	926,599	+ 22,203	- 74,502
Farm Security and Rural Investment Program:					
Administrative expenses—FPAC Business Center (transfer out)	(- 60,228)	(- 60,228)	(- 60,228)	.....	.....
Total, Conservation operations	904,396	1,001,101	926,599	+ 22,203	- 74,502
Watershed flood and prevention operations	76,725	125,000	175,000	+ 98,275	+ 50,000
Congressionally Directed Spending	23,275	.....	20,591	- 2,684	+ 20,591
Subtotal	100,000	125,000	195,591	+ 95,591	+ 70,591

Watershed rehabilitation program	1,000	10,000	10,000	+ 9,000	.....
Healthy forests reserve program .....	.....	20,000	.....	.....	- 20,000
Urban Agriculture Program .....	.....	13,469	.....	.....	- 13,469
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	1,005,396	1,169,570	1,132,190	+ 126,794	- 37,380
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:					
Federal crop insurance corporation fund	12,281,000	13,243,000	13,243,000	+ 962,000	.....
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:					
Reimbursement for net realized losses	14,401,896	13,571,261	13,571,261	- 830,635	.....
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	.....	.....
Total, Corporations	26,682,896	26,814,261	26,814,261	+ 131,365	.....
Total, title II, Farm Production and Conservation Programs	29,557,920	29,941,795	29,895,344	+ 337,424	- 46,451
(By transfer)	(354,342)	(366,031)	(366,031)	(+ 11,689)	.....
(Transfer out)	(- 354,342)	(- 366,031)	(- 366,031)	(- 11,689)	.....
TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	1,580	1,679	1,602	+ 22	- 77
Rural Development					
Rural development expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	300,285	504,066	451,856	+ 151,571	- 52,210
(by transfer from RHF)	(412,254)	(412,254)	(412,254)	.....	.....
(by transfer from RDLFP)	(4,468)	(4,468)	(4,468)	.....	.....
(by transfer from RETLP)	(33,270)	(33,270)	(33,270)	.....	.....
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts	449,992	449,992	449,992	.....	.....
Total, Rural development expenses	750,277	954,058	901,848	+ 151,571	- 52,210
Rural Housing Service					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	(1,250,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(+ 250,000)	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes		(20,842)	(20,842)	(+ 20,842)	
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)	(30,000,000)		
Subtotal, Single family	31,250,000	31,520,842	31,520,842	+ 270,842	
Housing repair (Sec 504)	(28,000)	(50,000)	(30,000)	(+ 2,000)	(- 20,000)
Rental housing (Sec 515)	(50,000)	(200,000)	(100,000)	(+ 50,000)	(- 100,000)
Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec 538)	(250,000)	(400,000)	(400,000)	(+ 150,000)	
Site development loans (Sec 524)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		
Single family housing credit sales	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)		
Self-help housing land development housing loans (Sec 523)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		
Farm Labor Housing (Sec514)	(28,000)	(50,000)	(35,000)	(+ 7,000)	(- 15,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	31,625,000	32,240,842	32,105,842	+ 479,842	- 135,000
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	23,250	55,650	55,650	+ 32,400	
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes		6,857	6,857	+ 6,857	
Housing repair (Sec 504)	484	4,150	2,490	+ 2,006	- 1,660
Rental housing (Sec 515)	4,470	38,220	19,110	+ 14,640	- 19,110
Multi-family housing revitalization program	34,000	75,000	45,000	+ 11,000	- 30,000
Farm labor housing (Sec514)	2,831	10,210	7,147	+ 4,316	- 3,063
Self-Help Land Development Housing Loans (Sec523)	55	267	267	+ 212	
Site Development Loans (Sec524)	206	208	208	+ 2	
Total, Loan subsidies	65,296	190,562	136,729	+ 71,433	- 53,833
Farm labor housing grants	10,000	18,000	14,000	+ 4,000	- 4,000
RHF administrative expenses	412,254	412,254	412,254		

	(- 412,254)	(- 412,254)	(- 412,254)		
(transfer out to Rural Development)					
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program	487,550	620,816	562,983	+ 75,433	- 57,833
(Loan authorization)	(31,626,000)	(32,240,842)	(32,105,842)	(+ 479,842)	(- 135,000)
Rental assistance program:					
Rental assistance (Sec 521)	1,450,000	1,563,926	1,487,926	+ 37,926	- 76,000
Rural housing vouchers		38,000			- 38,000
Subtotal, Rental Assistance Program	1,450,000	1,601,926	1,487,926	+ 37,926	- 114,000
Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account:					
Rural housing voucher program					
Multi-family housing revitalization program	45,000		50,000	+ 5,000	+ 50,000
Rural Housing Vouchers	32,000	40,000	32,000		- 8,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants	48,000	75,000	48,000		- 27,000
Rural housing assistance grants					
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct	(2,800,000)	(2,800,000)	(2,800,000)		
Guaranteed	(650,000)	(500,000)	(650,000)		(+ 150,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	3,450,000	3,300,000	3,450,000		+ 150,000
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Non-conforming Subsidy					
Grants	40,000	52,000	100,000	+ 60,000	+ 48,000
Congressionally Directed Spending	183,449		202,284	+ 18,835	+ 202,284
Rural community development initiative	6,000	12,000	7,000	+ 1,000	- 5,000
Economic impact initiative grants					
Tribal college grants	10,000	10,000	10,000		
Subtotal, Loan subsidies and grants	239,449	74,000	319,284	+ 79,835	+ 245,284
Total, grants and payments	319,449	189,000	399,284	+ 79,835	+ 210,284

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Rural Housing Service	2,301,999	2,411,742	2,500,193	+ 198,194	+ 88,451
(Loan authorization)	(35,076,000)	(35,540,842)	(35,555,842)	(+ 479,842)	(+ 15,000)
Rural Business—Cooperative Service					
Rural Business Program Account:	(1,250,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(+ 250,000)	.....
(Guaranteed business and industry loan authorization)	25,125	32,100	32,100	+ 6,975	.....
Loan subsidies and grants:	37,000	37,000	37,000	.....	.....
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy	9,000	9,000	9,000	.....	.....
Rural business development grants	2,000	5,000	5,000	+ 3,000	.....
Delta Regional Authority—Appalachian Regional Commission	73,125	83,100	83,100	+ 9,975	.....
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(18,889)	(18,889)	(18,889)	.....	.....
Loan subsidy	1,524	3,313	3,313	+ 1,789	.....
Administrative expenses	4,468	4,468	4,468	.....	.....
(transfer out to Rural Development)	(- 4,468)	(- 4,468)	(- 4,468)	.....	.....
Total, Intermediary Relending Program Account	5,992	7,781	7,781	+ 1,789	.....
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(50,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(+ 25,000)	.....
Limit cushion of credit interest spending	(50,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(+ 25,000)	.....
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:					
Cooperative development	5,800	5,800	5,800	.....	.....
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas	2,800	2,800	3,500	+ 700	+ 700

Grants to assist minority producers	3,000	4,100	3,000	.....	-1,100
Value-added agricultural product market development	13,000	15,000	13,000	.....	-2,000
Agriculture innovation centers	3,000	3,000	3,000	.....	.....
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants	27,600	30,700	28,300	+ 700	- 2,400
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	5,000	5,000	5,000	.....	.....
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(150,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(- 125,000)	.....
Loan subsidy and grants	6,500	6,000	6,500	.....	+ 500
Rural Energy for America Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(50,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(- 30,000)	.....
Loan subsidy and grants	12,920	30,018	15,018	+ 2,098	- 15,000
Total, Rural Business—Cooperative Service	131,137	162,599	145,699	+ 14,562	- 16,900
(Loan authorizations)	(1,518,889)	(1,638,889)	(1,638,889)	(+ 120,000)	.....
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural water and waste disposal program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct	(1,400,000)	(1,540,000)	(1,440,000)	(+ 40,000)	(- 100,000)
Guaranteed	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	1,450,000	1,590,000	1,490,000	+ 40,000	- 100,000
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Direct subsidy	45	26,499	5,448	+ 5,448	- 21,051
Guaranteed subsidy .....	.....	.....	.....	- 45	.....
Water and waste revolving fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....	.....
Water well system grants	5,000	5,000	5,000	.....	.....
Colonias and AK/HI grants	70,000	93,000	75,000	+ 5,000	- 18,000
Water and waste technical assistance	37,500	40,000	40,000	+ 2,500	.....
Circuit rider program	20,762	20,157	25,000	+ 4,238	+ 4,843
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000	.....	.....
High energy cost grants	10,000	10,000	10,000	.....	.....
Water and waste disposal grants	490,000	411,901	540,000	+ 50,000	+ 128,099
Lead service line replacement grants .....	.....	100,000	.....	.....	- 100,000
306A(1)(2) grants	15,000	15,000	15,000	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	653,307	726,557	720,448	+ 67,141	- 6,109
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, FFB	(6,500,000)	(2,167,000)	(2,167,000)	(+ 2,167,000)	.....
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate	(750,000)	(4,333,000)	(4,333,000)	(- 2,167,000)	.....
Guaranteed underwriting	(208,333)	(254,002)	(1,000,000)	(+ 250,000)	(+ 1,000,000)
Rural Energy Savings Program			(125,362)	(- 82,971)	(- 128,640)
Subtotal, Electric	7,458,333	6,754,002	7,625,362	+ 167,029	+ 871,360
Telecommunications:					
Telecomm Direct, Treasury	(690,000)	(690,000)	(690,000)	.....	.....
Direct, FFB .....				.....	.....
Subtotal, Telecommunications	690,000	690,000	690,000	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	8,148,333	7,444,002	8,315,362	+ 167,029	+ 871,360
Loan Subsidy:					
Rural electric modifications		300,000		.....	- 300,000
Rural Energy Savings Program	11,500	26,340	13,000	+ 1,500	- 13,340
Telecommunications Direct, Treasury Rate	2,070	3,726	3,726	+ 1,656	.....
Treasury telecommunications modifications		25,000		.....	- 25,000
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	46,840	403,336	49,996	+ 3,156	- 353,340
(Loan authorization)	(8,148,333)	(7,444,002)	(8,315,362)	(+ 167,029)	(+ 871,360)
Broadband Program:					
Loan authorizations:					
Broadband telecommunications	(15,220)	(14,674)	(14,674)	(- 546)	
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Grants	60,000	60,000	60,000		+ 4,991
Congressionally Directed Spending	2,510		4,991	+ 2,481	
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct	2,272	2,000	3,000	+ 728	+ 1,000
Grants	35,000	35,000	35,000		
Broadband E-Connect:					
Loan subsidies and grants	400,000	600,000	400,000		- 200,000
Community Project Funding	36,605			- 36,605	
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	536,387	697,000	502,991	- 33,396	- 194,009
Total, Rural Utilities Service	1,236,534	1,826,893	1,273,435	+ 36,901	- 553,458
(Loan authorization)	(9,613,553)	(9,048,676)	(9,820,036)	(+ 206,483)	(+ 771,360)
Total, title III, Rural Development Programs	3,971,535	4,906,979	4,372,785	+ 401,250	- 534,194
(By transfer)	(449,992)	(449,992)	(449,992)		
(Transfer out)	(- 449,992)	(- 449,992)	(- 449,992)		
(Loan authorizations)	(46,208,442)	(46,228,407)	(47,014,767)	(+ 806,325)	(+ 786,360)
TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	1,327	1,426	1,376	+ 49	- 50
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	26,788,922	28,507,957	28,507,957	+ 1,719,035	
School breakfast program equipment grants	30,000	35,000	35,000	+ 5,000	
Demonstration projects (Summer EBT)	45,000	45,000	50,000	+ 5,000	+ 5,000
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	6,000		3,000	- 3,000	+ 3,000
Farm to School	12,000		15,000	+ 3,000	+ 15,000
Child Nutrition Training	2,000		3,000	+ 1,000	+ 3,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Child nutrition programs	26,883,922	28,587,957	28,613,957	+ 1,730,035	+ 26,000
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000		
Supplemental nutrition assistance program: (Food stamp program)	137,436,870	108,176,897	108,176,897	- 29,259,973	
Reserve	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000		
FDIR nutrition education services	998	998	998		
Forward funding		27,795,474			- 27,795,474
Healthy Fluid Milk		1,000			- 1,000
Tribal Demonstration Projects	3,000	3,000	3,000		
Total, Food stamp program	140,440,868	138,977,369	111,180,895	- 29,259,973	- 27,796,474
Commodity assistance program:					
Commodity supplemental food program	332,000	338,640	338,640	+ 6,640	
Farmers market nutrition program	26,000	24,500	26,000		+ 1,500
Emergency food assistance program	81,000	100,000	100,000	+ 19,000	
Pacific island and disaster assistance	1,070	1,070	1,070		
Total, Commodity assistance program	440,070	464,210	465,710	+ 25,640	+ 1,500
Nutrition programs administration	170,133	238,670	189,348	+ 19,215	- 49,322
Congressional Hunger Center	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)		
Total, Food and Nutrition Service	173,934,993	174,268,206	146,449,910	- 27,485,083	- 27,818,296
Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs	173,936,320	174,269,632	146,451,286	- 27,485,034	- 27,818,346

TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs	908 4,841	1,018 4,978	932 4,922	+24 +81	-86 -56
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses	228,644 (6,063)	240,663 (6,063)	240,093 (6,063)	+11,449	-570
(By transfer from export loans)					
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers)	234,707	246,726	246,156	+11,449	-570
Food for Peace Title II Grants:					
Expenses	1,740,000	1,740,000	1,800,000	+60,000	+60,000
Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account:					
Administrative expenses	6,063	6,063	6,063		
Foreign Agriculture Service, Salaries and expenses (transfer out)	(-6,063)	(-6,063)	(-6,063)		
FPAC Business Center Salaries and expenses (transfer out)					
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account	6,063	6,063	6,063		
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants					
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs	237,000	230,112	250,000	+13,000	+19,888
(By transfer)	2,217,456 (6,063)	2,222,834 (6,063)	2,302,010 (6,063)	+84,554	+79,176
(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:	3,304,145 (-1,500)	3,642,328 (-1,500)	3,514,495 (-1,500)	+210,350	-127,833
Direct appropriation					
Transfer to OIG (transfer out)					
Spending from appropriated user fees:					
Prescription drug user fees	1,200,129	1,224,132	1,224,132	+24,003	
Medical device user fees	243,473	248,342	248,342	+4,869	
Human generic drug user fees	539,656	550,449	550,449	+10,793	
Biosimilar biological products user fees	40,040	40,841	40,841	+801	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Animal drug user fees	31,641	32,238	32,238	+ 597	.....
Animal generic drug user fees	24,798	29,459	29,459	+ 4,661	.....
Tobacco product user fees	712,000	712,000	712,000	.....	.....
Subtotal, user fees (appropriated)	2,791,737	2,837,461	2,837,461	+ 45,724	.....
Subtotal (including appropriated user fees)	6,095,882	6,479,789	6,351,956	+ 256,074	- 127,833
Mammography user fees	18,991	19,371	19,371	+ 380	.....
Export user fees	4,983	5,083	5,083	+ 100	.....
Color certification user fees	10,678	10,891	10,891	+ 213	.....
Food and Feed Recall user fees	1,522	1,552	1,552	+ 30	.....
Food Reinspection fees	6,805	6,942	6,942	+ 137	.....
Voluntary qualified importer program fees	5,624	5,737	5,737	+ 113	.....
Pharmacy compounding fees	1,613	1,646	1,646	+ 33	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) pediatric disease	8,156	8,320	8,320	+ 164	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) tropical disease	2,608	2,660	2,660	+ 52	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) medical countermeasures	2,608	2,660	2,660	+ 52	.....
Third party auditor	755	771	771	+ 16	.....
Over - the - Counter Monograph fees	28,968	30,356	30,356	+ 1,388	.....
Increased export certification fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	4,453	.....	.....	- 4,453
Expand tobacco products fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	100,000	.....	.....	- 100,000
Subtotal, spending from FDA user fees	2,885,048	3,037,903	2,933,450	+ 48,402	- 104,453
Total, Salaries and expenses (including user fees)	6,187,693	6,678,731	6,446,445	+ 258,752	- 232,286
HHS Office of Inspector General (by transfer)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	.....	.....
Buildings and facilities	12,788	30,788	30,788	+ 18,000	.....
FDA Innovation account	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)	6,201,981	6,711,019	6,478,733	+276,752	-232,286		
Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only)	6,201,981	6,606,566	6,478,733	+276,752	-127,833		
FDA user fees	-2,885,048	-3,037,903	-2,933,450	-48,402	+104,453		
Total, Food and Drug Administration (excluding user fees)	3,316,933	3,673,116	3,545,283	+228,350	-127,833		
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES							
Commodity Futures Trading Commission 1	382,000	249,000	.....	-382,000	-249,000		
CFTC fees (legislative proposal) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Commodity Futures Trading Commission	382,000	249,000	.....	-382,000	-249,000		
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(84,200)	(88,500)	(88,500)	(+4,300)	.....	
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	3,698,933	3,922,116	3,545,283	-153,650	-376,833		
TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS							
Farm to School .....	.....	12,000	.....	.....	-12,000		
VT National Farm to School Institute (Congressionally Directed Spending)	5,000	.....	.....	-5,000	.....	
Broadband Pilot Section 313 funds	(50,000)	.....	.....	(-50,000)	.....	
NIFA Military Veteran Grants	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000		
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	3,000	.....	5,000	+2,000	.....	
Pollinator Research Coordinator	400	.....	400	.....	+5,000		
Farm Opportunities Training and Outreach	4,000	.....	400	-4,000	+400		
Water Bank program	4,000	5,000	4,000	.....	-5,000		
Maturing mortgage pilot	2,000	.....	5,000	+3,000	+4,000		
WIC (rescission)	-621,672	-250,000	-232,650	+389,022	+17,350		
Mitigation banking	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000		
NOAA working group	500	.....	500	.....	+5,000		

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
Goodfellow facility	24,525	.....	29,700	+ 5,175	+ 29,700
Institute for Rural Partnership	30,000	.....	15,000	- 15,000	+ 15,000
VT Institute for Rural Partnership (Congressionally Directed Spending)	10,000	.....	.....	- 10,000	.....
Cogongrass Pilot	3,000	.....	.....	- 3,000	.....
Blue Ribbon Panel	300	.....	.....	- 300	.....
Farm of the Future	5,000	.....	.....	- 5,000	.....
Cattle Contracts Library	1,000	.....	.....	- 1,000	.....
Open Data Standards	1,000	.....	.....	- 1,000	.....
Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Services (CHIMP)	250,000	.....	250,000	.....	+ 250,000
Institute for Child Nutrition Training .....	.....	1,000	.....	- 1,000	- 1,000
NAS Study .....	.....	.....	1,000	+ 1,000	+ 1,000
Water and Waste Pilot .....	.....	.....	10,000	+ 10,000	+ 10,000
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities balances (rescission) .....	.....	.....	.....	+ 73,400	.....
Farm Loan balances (rescission)	- 73,400	.....	.....	+ 73,400	.....
PFAS	- 90,000	- 5,000	- 5,000	+ 85,000	.....
Cotton Classing Office Upgrades .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RMA A&O .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2022 Disasters .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Farm and Food Workers Relief .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, title VII, General Provisions	- 425,347	- 237,000	92,950	+ 518,297	+ 329,950
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS					
EXTENDING FUNDING AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117-43)					
DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022					
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
Agricultural Programs					
Office of the Secretary (emergency)	10,000,000	.....	.....	- 10,000,000	.....
Additional crop insurance (emergency)	20,000	.....	.....	- 20,000	.....

Natural Resources Conservation Service							
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations:							
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (emergency)	275,000						- 275,000
Total, Extending Funding and Emergency Assistance Act, 2022	10,295,000						- 10,295,000
THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (PUBLIC LAW 117-58) DIVISION J—APPROPRIATIONS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE							
Natural Resources Conservation Service							
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (emergency)	500,000						- 500,000
Watershed Rehabilitation Program (emergency)	118,000						- 118,000
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (emergency)	300,000						- 300,000
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	918,000						- 918,000
Rural Utilities Service							
Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program (emergency)	2,000,000						- 2,000,000
General Provisions—This Title							
NIFA Research and Education Activities (Sec 101) (emergency)	5,000						- 5,000
Appropriations available from prior year advances (emergency)		5,000					+ 5,000
Advance appropriations (emergency)			5,000				- 5,000
Total, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	2,928,000	5,000	5,000				- 2,923,000
Less prior year appropriations (emergency)				- 5,000			- 5,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023—Continued
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2022 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2022 appropriation	Budget estimate
UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022 (PUBLIC LAW 117-103) DIVISION N DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Foreign Agricultural Service General Provisions—This Act ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation	20,000		2,000	-20,000 +2,000	+2,000
Bill Emerson (BE) Humanitarian Trust (CHIMP) Commodity Credit Corporation, BE Humanitarian Trust (Se 601) (CHIMP)	13,243,000		2,000	-13,241,000	+2,000
Total, Other Appropriations					
Grand total	234,268,198 (224,695,318) (13,238,000)	223,818,509 (227,111,412)	195,516,723 (198,685,823) (2,000)	-38,751,475 (-26,009,495) (-13,236,000)	-28,301,786 (-28,425,589) (+2,000)
Appropriations	(5,000)			(-5,000)	
Emergency advance appropriations	(-2,885,048)	(-3,037,903)	(-2,933,450)	(-48,402)	(+104,453)
Emergency collections	(-785,072)	(-255,000)	(-237,650)	(+547,422)	(+17,350)
Offsetting collections	(1,622,294)	(1,645,672)	(1,645,672)	(+23,378)	
Rescissions	(50,000)			(-50,000)	
(By transfer)	(-1,622,294)	(-1,645,672)	(-1,645,672)	(-23,378)	
(By transfer) (emergency)	(56,594,350)	(56,880,719)	(57,667,079)	(+1,072,729)	(+786,360)
(Transfer out)	(215,986)	(221,096)	(221,096)	(+5,110)	
(Loan authorization)					
(Limitation on administrative expenses)					

¹ Funding for OFTC is included here for comparability Actual fiscal year 2023 appropriation will be provided in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.