

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2021

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 2021.

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 explanatory statement.

The Committee is aware of the impact the COVID–19 pandemic has had on agency operations across the Federal government. To date, Congress has provided over \$2,900,000,000,000 in emergency supplemental relief in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19. The Committee continues to monitor agency needs directly related to COVID–19 and, to the extent necessary, will seek to address them in future supplemental appropriations vehicles. Accordingly, funding provided in the Committee’s regular fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill is focused on annual funding needs unrelated to the COVID–19 pandemic.

Fiscal year 2020 levels cited in this explanatory statement reflect amounts enacted in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94) and do not include fiscal year 2020 supplemental appropriations. Accordingly, any comparisons to fiscal year 2020 do not reflect fiscal year 2020 supplemental appropriations. Fiscal year 2020 supplemental appropriations are included in the comparative statement of new budget authority at the end of this explanatory statement under the heading “Other Appropriations”.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The Committee has, throughout this explanatory statement, 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 explanatory statement.

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 explanatory statement. Recommendations for individual appropriation items, projects and activities are carried in this explanatory statement under the appropriate item headings.

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Committee recommendation
Title I: Agricultural programs	7,567,113	7,500,867
Title II: Farm Production and Conservation programs	39,087,490	37,098,727
Title III: Rural economic and community development programs	3,240,612	3,121,168
Title IV: Domestic food programs	98,002,322	99,954,662
Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs	2,172,686	2,171,788
Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug	3,171,466	3,211,466
Title VII: General provisions	–30,773	–316,139
Other Appropriations	25,689,250	.....
Total, new budget (obligational) authority	178,900,166	152,742,539

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

Appropriations, 2020	\$46,139,000
Budget estimate, 2021	47,836,000
Committee recommendation	46,326,000

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 \$46,326,000 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 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary	5,051	5,143	5,118
Office of Homeland Security	1,496	1,336	1,328
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	6,211	1,957	6,234
Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration	875	887	883
Departmental Administration	21,376	27,161	21,483
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	3,869	3,941	3,921
Office of Communications	7,261	7,411	7,359
Total	46,139	47,836	46,326

Alternative Power Generation.—The challenges in achieving U.S. energy goals also present economic opportunities for rural America. A strategy for enhanced solar power generation not only helps strengthen U.S. energy independence but also holds potential for improved rural income, greater natural resource protection, expanded infrastructure, general rural prosperity, and other benefits. Given the broad range of USDA mission areas, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report, no later than March 1, 2021, on specific agency authorities and activities that could contribute to more robust solar power generation in rural areas, associated economic benefits for landowners and rural communities, and land use implications, including wildlife habitat and soil and water quality. The Secretary should also outline opportunities for collaboration with the Department of Energy on this strategy.

Animal Welfare.—The Committee recognizes the recent enactment of a domestic ban on the slaughter, transportation, possession, purchase, and sale of dogs and cats for human consumption. The Committee urges the Secretary to work to move forward with an international agreement to ban the trade of dog and cat meat worldwide. The Committee requests an update on steps taken within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Biocontrol Facility Feasibility Study.—The Committee is concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, the environment, human health, and national security. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 to conduct a comprehensive feasibility analysis of the construction and operation of invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment and rearing facilities in the Pacific region.

Collaborations.—The Committee is aware of informal collaborations among USDA agencies and State, local, and territorial governments in the insular Pacific to combat invasive species. These collaborations are essential in protecting local ecologies and preventing the introduction of additional invasive pests to the U.S. mainland. The Committee believes that these collaborations are mature enough to warrant formalizing them into memoranda of agreement and urges the Secretary to move forward with such agreements.

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.

Farm and Ranch Mental Health.—The Committee is concerned that as commodity prices dip and markets are uncertain, reports of farmer and rancher suicides are increasing. The Committee encourages the Secretary to formulate a national strategy for addressing farm and ranch mental stress and to establish best practices for State and community implementation. The Committee also encourages the Secretary to expand staff training pilot programs to ensure that all farmer-facing employees have access to voluntary suicide prevention training.

Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach Program.—The Committee appreciates the advancements made in the Agriculture

Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) combining the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program [BFRDP] and the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers program under an umbrella program called the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program, which provides permanent baseline funding for the 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 is aware that despite these farm bill advances, annual funding for BFRDP is actually lower than it was under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79). The Committee maintains its strong support for beginning farmer training and exploring ways to restore and increase program funding.

Hemp.—The Committee is concerned that the interim final rule entitled “Establishment of a Domestic Hemp Production Program” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on October 31, 2019 (84 Fed. Reg. 58522) creates roadblocks for farmers by requiring an unrealistic timeframe for testing, the use of Drug Enforcement Administration registered laboratories, the conversion of THCA into THC, a sampling of only flowering tops, and an arbitrary negligence threshold of 0.5 percent. The Committee directs USDA to propose amendments to the interim final rule to ensure that any final rule is based on science and will ensure a fair and reasonable regulatory framework for commercial hemp production in the United States. In addition, the Committee encourages the Secretary to utilize current Agricultural Research Service research to revise the hemp sampling and testing protocols.

Hemp Cultivation Sustainability.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to study the usage and impacts of energy and water in hemp cultivation and controlled environment agriculture and to make recommendations on best practices and standards in both sectors.

H-2A Visa Program.—The Committee understands the importance of maintaining public health safety during a public health emergency. The Committee recognizes the importance of the H-2A visa program in supporting U.S. agriculture and maintaining our food supply and urges the Secretary to coordinate with other relevant Departments to provide additional flexibilities to consulates and those involved with processing visas in a manner that protects public health while ensuring the H-2A visa application process moves forward.

Local Agriculture Market Program.—The Committee appreciates the advancements made in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) by combining the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program [FMLFPP] and the Value-Added Producer Grant program under an umbrella program called the Local Agriculture Market Program, which provides permanent baseline funding for the program. Creating and expanding new markets is critical to the future of American agriculture and our food system. The Committee is aware that despite the establishment of permanent baseline funding, annual funding for FMLFPP is actually lower than it was under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79). The Committee maintains its strong interest

in supporting local and regional market development and exploring ways to restore and increase program funding.

Multi-Agency Transparency.—The Committee expresses support for increasing transparency within all agencies of USDA. The agencies are encouraged to disclose costs associated with analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91–190).

National Finance Center.—USDA’s National Finance Center [NFC] is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider [SSP] that maintains and 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, the Committee has maintained and modified the current law general provision regarding the NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, functions, and reporting notifications. The Committee also directs USDA to provide quarterly reports to the Committee regarding full-time equivalent [FTE] levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, or functions as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer [OFCCO] and Office of the Chief Information Officer [OCIO] divisions, operations, or functions currently co-located with the NFC. These quarterly reports shall also include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OFCCO and OCIO functions compared to those during fiscal year 2018 (calendar year 2017).

One Health.—The Committee understands that complex problems affecting the health of humans, animals, and the environment are best solved through improved communication, cooperation, and collaboration. Within 120 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report detailing existing collaborative efforts between the FDA, USDA, and other agencies to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals and humans, as well as specific activities required to achieve a framework that builds upon, improves, or complements this collaboration. This may include, but is not limited to, competitive research grant programs; training and support for scientists, first responders, or medical personnel; engagement of nongovernmental entities; and participation in international collaboration and research to assist in establishing a One Health program.

Outreach to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers.—The Committee supports the efforts of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach to increase the accessibility of USDA programs to underserved constituents and notes that \$17,500,000 in mandatory funds is available to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches to meet the growing need for financial, production, management, and other assistance to those communities and address workforce shortages. Additionally, the Committee provides \$1,500,000 in discretionary funding for these activities.

Pay Costs and Federal Employees’ Retirement System [FERS].—The Committee provides the requested pay cost increase of 2.6 percent for October 2020 through December 2020 and a 1 percent increase for fiscal year 2021 for each agency within the Department.

In addition, the Committee provides the 1.3 percent increase for FERS benefits for fiscal year 2021.

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.

Staff Vacancies.—The Committee continues to be concerned with the number of staff vacancies within USDA. The Committee continues to provide substantial funding for many agencies at USDA, yet staffing levels continue to decline. This creates delays in the processing of applications and the release of important funding throughout the Department. The Committee expects the Secretary to staff agencies at the appropriated levels, not the budget request levels. The Committee reminds the Secretary of the report due to the Committee as required by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94).

State Rural Development Councils.—The Committee recognizes the successful work of State Rural Development Councils [SRDCs] and their role in advancing rural America and promoting strength and prosperity across the country and urges the Secretary to provide resources to help improve and expand the impact of SRDCs.

Wheat Grading.—The Committee is concerned about unfair wheat grading practices that negatively affect American wheat growers that export to Canada. Current Canadian wheat grading law and the varietal registration system automatically downgrades American wheat to the lowest quality designation, regardless of the type or quality of the wheat. In the United States, however, our grading system provides a fair examination for wheat imported from Canada, regardless of the seed variety. This discrepancy needs to be addressed to ensure our wheat growers are being treated fairly.

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, 2020	\$24,013,000
Budget estimate, 2021	20,857,000
Committee recommendation	23,751,000

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 ag-

riculture 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 \$23,751,000 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.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Appropriations, 2020	\$15,222,000
Budget estimate, 2021	15,533,000
Committee recommendation	15,448,000

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 \$15,448,000 for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Appropriations, 2020	\$9,525,000
Budget estimate, 2021	20,660,000
Committee recommendation	9,666,000

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 co-

ordination of the preparation and processing of regulations and legislative programs and reports.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,666,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Appropriations, 2020	\$66,580,000
Budget estimate, 2021	142,812,000
Committee recommendation	66,897,000

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 \$66,897,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer. This includes an increase of \$48,500,000 for enhanced cybersecurity activities.

Software Licenses.—The Committee encourages the Department’s Chief Information Officer to perform periodic automated inventories of software licenses in use across the Department. The Department should compare those usage numbers to its purchased licenses and seek to increase efficiency wherever it identifies discrepancies. The Department is to consider using this information to obtain Department-wide acquisitions as opposed to component-specific purchases of licenses.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Appropriations, 2020	\$6,028,000
Budget estimate, 2021	11,104,000
Committee recommendation	6,137,000

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.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,137,000 for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$901,000
Budget estimate, 2021	914,000
Committee recommendation	910,000

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 \$910,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$24,206,000
Budget estimate, 2021	20,633,000
Committee recommendation	20,497,000

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 \$20,497,000 for the Office of Civil Rights.

The Committee understands the Office of Civil Rights is proposing to cancel its existing building lease and relocate occupants and functions of the agency. The Committee accepts the proposed cost savings and expects the agency to continue this important work unencumbered.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$128,167,000
Budget estimate, 2021	152,830,000
Committee recommendation	131,688,000

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 \$131,688,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$4,503,000
Budget estimate, 2021	3,523,000
Committee recommendation	4,518,000

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 \$4,518,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

Appropriations, 2020	
Budget estimate, 2021	\$24,978,000
Committee recommendation	24,978,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$24,978,000 for the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2020	\$98,208,000
Budget estimate, 2021	100,389,000
Committee recommendation	99,791,000

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 \$99,791,000 for the Office of Inspector General.

The recommendation also includes funding for OIG to address violations of section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544) and to coordinate with State and local law enforcement personnel in this effort.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Appropriations, 2020	\$45,146,000
Budget estimate, 2021	45,878,000
Committee recommendation	45,938,000

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 \$45,938,000 for the Office of the General Counsel.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

Appropriations, 2020	\$4,136,000
Budget estimate, 2021	4,222,000
Committee recommendation	4,199,000

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 \$4,199,000 for the Office of Ethics.

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

Appropriations, 2020	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 2021	813,000
Committee recommendation	809,000

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 \$809,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

Hemp.—The Committee is aware of statements made by the Department acknowledging the eligibility of researchers participating in hemp pilot programs, as defined by Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), to compete for Federal funds awarded by the Department. The Committee directs the Department to work with and inform stakeholders of this eligibility and to support hemp research, as authorized by Section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) and Subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638).

Honeybee and Pollinator Research.—The Committee recognizes the important role of both native and managed pollinators within the U.S. agriculture sector and notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) called for enhanced coordination of honeybee and pollinator research. The Committee is aware that honeybees and pollinators continue to face mounting challenges, including disease and habitat loss, and the Committee believes that research and education are key to maintaining a healthy honeybee and pollinator population. The Committee directs the Secretary to prioritize research and work on pollinator health and to continue to gather data on an annual basis with respect to

the losses of such colonies, rising input costs, and pollinators’ overall economic value to the food economy.

Silvopasture Research and Education.—The Committee recognizes the important role silvopasture farming has in stimulating farmer income, promoting local water retention and natural carbon sequestration, improving animal welfare conditions, and decreasing erosion. The Committee notes that USDA previously sponsored small-scale silvopasture efforts and therefore encourages the Secretary to prioritize funding for silvopasture research and education. The Committee also directs the Secretary to submit a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act evaluating the impact of current educational outreach on farmer utilization of silvopasture practices.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Appropriations, 2020	\$84,757,000
Budget estimate, 2021	62,109,000
Committee recommendation	85,703,000

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 \$85,703,000 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.

Feed Costs.—The Committee maintains funding provided in fiscal year 2020 for ERS to expand its current feed cost components surveys nationally.

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] codes, developed by ERS to define rural populations. While FORHP applies RUCA to Census Tracts inside Metropolitan counties and considers tracts with codes 4–10 rural, it does provide exceptions for tracts with codes 2 or 3. Currently, exceptions are added for tracts with large areas and sparse populations. The Committee directs ERS to coordinate with FORHP to conduct research on the feasibility of identifying tracts with dif-

ficult and mountainous terrain. For the purposes of this census tract exception, “difficult and mountainous terrain” means that when traveling between a rural hospital and any other hospital in the area, an individual is required to traverse at least 15 miles of roads located in mountainous terrain. Roads shall be deemed to be located in mountainous terrain if such roads are in areas identified as mountains on any official maps or other documents prepared for and issued to the public by the State agency responsible for highways or by the U.S. Geological Survey.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2020	\$180,294,000
Budget estimate, 2021	177,465,000
Committee recommendation	184,434,000

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 five 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 \$184,434,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, of which \$46,300,000 is for the Census of Agriculture.

The Committee does not accept any proposed eliminations or reductions of ongoing activities, including Acreage, Crop Production and Grain Stocks; the Bee and Honey Program; the Chemical Use Data Series; the Floriculture Crops Report; and Fruit and Vegetable Reports. The funding provided will allow NASS to resume or begin compilation of these reports at the frequency levels assumed in fiscal year 2020, and NASS is directed to resume all of these reports immediately upon enactment of this Act.

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 Committee believes that 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.

Floriculture Crops Report.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Floriculture Crops Report and provides an increase of \$500,000 for NASS to complete the report. In compiling the report, the Committee directs NASS to include data from Alaska.

Organic Data Initiative.—The Committee provides \$500,000 for NASS to coordinate with Agricultural Marketing Service for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2020	\$1,414,366,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,367,970,000
Committee recommendation	1,485,613,000

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,485,613,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Committee does not concur with the President's budget request regarding the termination of research programs and laboratory closures. The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2020 levels.

Advancing the Efficiency of Forage-based Beef Production.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory to conduct research and development of economically and environmentally sustainable forage-based beef production systems to increase the volume and efficiency of forage-based beef production.

Aerial Application Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the ARS Aerial Application Technology Program. The program conducts innovative research making aerial applications more efficient, effective, and precise. Research for aerial application serves the public good as a vital tool for the future as agriculture strives to meet the food, fiber, and bio-energy demands of a growing population.

Agricultural Genomics.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 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.

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 2020 level to support research focused on alfalfa improvement. Research should focus on using tools to accelerate and enhance existing breeding programs focused on improving yield and quality parameters; developing innovative harvesting and utilization systems; developing new markets for co-products; and quantifying environmental benefits from alfalfa-based systems.

Alternative Technologies for Animal Waste Utilization.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory to conduct research and development of technologies to recover phosphorus from manure, transform manure into secondary byproducts, and find alternative environmentally safe and economical usages of manure. The research may also explore environmentally safe methods and appropriate rates of manure application for growing crops and vegetables and the development of alternative feedstock for livestock by raising aquatic zooplanktons on manure wastewater.

Animal Health and Agro-/Bio-Defense Program.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 to ensure the development of human and technical resources needed for the establishment of a center of excellence for Animal Health and Agro-Bio Defense science to advance integrated research for defending against bio- and agro-terrorism in economically important, large domestic animals. The Committee recognizes the need for developing programs and facilities to con-

duct research that supports the mission of the National Bio- and Agro- Defense Facility and other Federal programs in the animal agro-defense strategy.

Aquaculture Seedstock.—The Committee remains concerned that vital seedstock to support the development of aquaculture in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will be sourced from foreign aquaculture producers. Domestic on-land recirculating aquaculture systems are highly capable of producing seedstock to support significant domestic on-land and offshore aquaculture industry growth, including through broodstock acquisition and care, spawning, and larval culture techniques. Therefore, the Committee encourages USDA to continue working collaboratively with U.S. aquaculture producers and research institutions that specialize in the development of aquaculture technologies and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for the development of aquaculture technology that will ensure a steady supply of warm water marine fish seedstock for the economic growth of the U.S. aquaculture industry.

Aquaponics System Development.—The Committee recognizes the need for improving the development of fresh food production technology to address domestic food security and safety demands. The Committee provides \$5,000,000 and directs ARS to coordinate with academic partners and industry to develop a model-controlled agriculture aquaponics system that is scalable and commercially viable with the purpose of advancing increased fresh food production, improved food safety, decreased water usage, improved nutrient utilization, and decreased negative environmental impacts.

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.

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 \$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 polli-

nators. The Committee provides \$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 2020 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.

Cattle Fever Ticks.—Cattle fever ticks pose a significant health threat to U.S. cattle and other species across the entire Southern region of the United States. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for research to address the spread of cattle fever ticks.

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 2020 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.

Ceratocystis Disease.—The Committee directs ARS to continue its study of *Ceratocystis* in the United States and implement actions and recommendations for response and management pursuant to Senate Report 115–131.

Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].—The Committee recognizes the importance of a live test for cervids potentially affected with CWD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for research dedicated to the development of such test and research on pathways of transmission.

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.

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 2020 level for re-

search with partners on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, which can have a mortality rate as high as 80 percent for infected cattle.

Contamination and Sanitation Inspection Tool.—The Committee supports ARS's continued effort to develop new technology that will allow for real-time inspection for contamination. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 for research and development of a hand-held inspection tool which enhances the ability of an on-site inspector to detect and communicate the presence of contamination on an object or in an area. The Committee recommends that priority be given to technology which also includes a means of recording, documenting, and wirelessly communicating the inspection process so that remotely located personnel can view the inspection and respond to the inspection findings in real time.

Cotton Blue Disease.—The Committee is aware that emerging Cotton Blue Disease identified in Southeastern States could have a devastating impact on the cotton industry if it continues to spread. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 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 the disease 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 2020 level to expand research in cotton ginning and innovation by existing laboratories.

Cover Crops and Cereal Grain Variety Selection.—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 to develop soil enhancement technologies and cereal grains for the northern climate.

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 no less than the fiscal year 2020 level 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 2020 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.

Dietary Manipulation to Improve Gut Health in Broiler Production.—The Committee recognizes the need for the development of alternative nutritional and managerial strategies in domestic poultry production as a result of broiler-fed antibiotic growth pro-

moters. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 to support cooperative research focused on ensuring broiler production remains nutritional and competitive in the global marketplace.

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 an additional \$1,000,000 for shellfish breeding research focused on the East Coast.

Emerging Cereal Rust Diseases.—The Committee is aware that emerging cereal rust diseases are a threat to domestic and world food supplies. Therefore, the Department should continue to dedicate funding to accelerate efforts to combat cereal rust disease, including development of Ug99-resistant wheat varieties.

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 2020 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 no less than the fiscal year 2020 funding level for ARS to support academic and Federal researchers to pursue efforts in crop protection, breeding, mechanization, and other areas through USDA's Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative.

Food Systems.—The Committee provides an additional \$6,000,000 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 this increase, \$1,000,000 is provided to establish 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.

Foodborne Pathogens.—Salmonella continues to cause serious disease in food animals and, via transmission through contaminated food products to people, remains the number one bacterial foodborne pathogen in humans. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to develop non-antibiotic interventions to inhibit environmental movement of Salmonella between food animal species and to reduce the pathogen load in food animals themselves through the use of Salmonella-targeted viruses called bacteriophages, as well as prebiotic and probiotic supplements.

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 2020 level to support research on wood product quality im-

provement and improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques. ARS shall conduct this research in consultation with the Forest Products Laboratory.

Fruit Fly and Exotic Pest Control.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to implement recommendations issued pursuant to Senate Report 115–131 to provide additional support and capacity to prevent the spread of fruit flies and other exotic pests to the United States mainland from the tropical Pacific.

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 \$500,000 to expand existing research focused on oat improvement.

Genomes to Fields.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 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 an additional \$1,000,000 to support the study of enhanced food nutritional quality through Healthy Soil-Healthy Food-Healthy People Initiatives.

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 2020 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 an increase of \$2,000,000 for this purpose. Research, engagement, and technology transfer shall be conducted in strict accordance with all applicable Federal and State authorities and regulations.

High Performance Computing Support.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to support high performance computing capability to address scientific needs and directs ARS to collaborate with appropriate partners with the technical capacity and scientific synergy to provide cost-effective high performance computing support.

Hops Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 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 gaps in current ARS research at the critical intersection between agriculture and human nutrition and health and directs ARS to report to the Committee on its efforts to support human nutrition research programs that address human health across the lifespan.

Impact of Harmful Algal Bloom [HAB] on Aquaculture.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for the support of cooperative projects working on the toxicology of HABs, including the algal species involved, the factors mediating toxin production or release, better detection methods, development of methods to predict release of toxins, and new biological or chemical approaches to manage harmful algal blooms in a cost-effective manner.

Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of plant genetics research in enhancing yields and reducing global food insecurity. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for one or more National Science Foundation Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers Program research consortium focused on acquiring, conserving, evaluating, and utilizing ancient crop plant ancestors to meet consumer demands and protect the global food supply.

Laboratory Staffing.—The Committee understands the budget request proposes to close ARS laboratories across the country. The Committee does not support laboratory closures and continues to provide funding to ensure the important research conducted continues. The Committee is concerned that although funding is provided to these labs, ARS is not hiring staff based on the assumption the lab would close. The Committee directs ARS to fully staff laboratories even if the laboratory is proposed to be closed in the budget request.

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 \$1,000,000 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 2020 level for this purpose.

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 \$1,000,000 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.—The Committee strongly encourages ARS to maintain its focus on agriculture-related legal issues within the National Agricultural Library. The Committee notes that as the agriculture sector faces increasing financial stress, there is a necessity that agriculture-related legal issues be addressed on an increasingly frequent basis. Further, agricultural-related legal issues are increasingly complex and the impact of these legal issues continues to broaden in scope. Therefore, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for the National Agricultural Library to support the Agricultural Law Information Partnership.

Further, the Committee does not concur with the previous reductions in administration budget requests, and, notwithstanding any future proposed reductions or eliminations contained in administration budget requests, 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 provides an additional \$8,000,000 to increase critical research efforts on foreign and emerging animal diseases and \$15,000,000 to continue stand-up activities and other initial costs to operate and maintain the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF].

Nutrition Research and Aging.—The Committee recognizes the critical importance of human nutrition research and its significance

for preventative healthcare and degenerative and age-related diseases. More research is needed to address the needs of all Americans, with a particular focus on the elderly, the fastest growing segment of the population. Therefore, ARS is directed to prioritize human nutrition research across the lifespan.

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 an increase of \$1,000,000 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.

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 2020 level to support research into pear genetics and genomics.

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 2020 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 2020 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 2020 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 Technology Development.—The Committee recognizes the need for advancement in poultry processing as a result of increased global competition. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to support cooperative research focused on advancing domestic poultry production and processing through the development of a technology-driven, multidisciplinary approach that will increase innovation and discovery, particularly around animal welfare, food safety, labor, and environmental protection.

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 2020 level to expand the research capacity for poultry production and health.

Precision Agriculture.—The Committee is encouraged by the efforts of ARS to develop precision agriculture research grants. These

grants increase the resilience of agricultural food systems by conducting research on data-driven sustainable farm management. The Committee encourages ARS to continue working collaboratively with research institutions to spur agricultural and technological innovation.

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 an additional \$1,000,000 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 2020 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 2020 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.

Pulse Crop Quality.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS wheat quality laboratories in researching and advancing the quality and overall utilization of wheat and pulse crops. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 to further these efforts for pulse crops by establishing quality analysis standards, developing innovative production processes, and evaluating crop varieties for product functionality and market suitability.

Pulse Health Initiative.—The Committee supports the expansion of pulse crop research and provides an additional \$1,000,000 to enhance scientific research into the health and nutritional benefits of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans.

Rangeland Precision Livestock Management.—The Committee recognizes the opportunity for precision livestock management strategies and tools to promote economically efficient and environmentally responsive livestock production systems for the Western rangeland. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 to develop precision nutrition strategies for rangeland-based livestock as well as technology-based rangeland and livestock management strategies to optimize the health and productivity of both Western rangeland-based livestock and the rangeland ecosystem. Further, the Com-

mittee 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 2020 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.

Research Assistance.—The Committee encourages ARS to provide direct, place-based assistance to 1862 Institutions in States that do not have ARS facilities to address the research priorities of such States, such as invasive plant species and insects that cause significant impacts to agriculture, aquaculture, and communities in such States and to assist in the development of specialty and horticultural crops to increase food security and expand marketing opportunities for small farmers. The Committee directs ARS to submit a report on the prospective options of such assistance.

Research Facilities.—The Committee understands the importance of ARS laboratories and the need for continued improvement. The Committee directs ARS to evaluate its capital asset requirements for necessary coordination with ongoing and emerging research opportunities. As part of this evaluation, ARS should provide opportunity for public comment in order to incorporate the priorities of all interested stakeholders, including ARS and other scientists, and users of ARS data.

The Committee also understands the important collaboration between ARS and universities and the impact that aging facilities have on new research opportunities. The Committee directs ARS to submit a report that includes information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and other 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 2020 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.

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 ARS to continue to work with APHIS and stakeholders to develop an integrated management program for control of the Roseau cane scale insect pest infestation.

Sclerotinia.—The Committee is aware of the economic importance of controlling sclerotinia, which affects sunflowers, soybeans, canola, edible beans, peas, and lentils and provides an increase of \$1,000,000 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 2020 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 2020 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 no less than the fiscal year 2020 level 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 2020 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 increase of \$1,500,000 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 2020 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 provides \$1,500,000 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 Genetic Database.—The Committee recognizes the importance of phenotyping and genotyping that allows breeders to understand which genes are responsible for improvements in pest resistance, drought tolerance, and yield. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to further facilitate the partnership between ARS and the Department of Energy on sorghum genome mapping, particularly the creation of an easily-accessible database to house the information generated from the ongoing genetic sequencing research which will facilitate further crop development efforts, especially in combating the sugarcane aphid, a new and devastating invasive pest.

Southern Regional Research Center [SRRC].—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for the SRRC's activated food program to conduct collaborative research by exploring the value-added enhancement of State-grown crops such as sugarcane, rice, and soybeans to produce activated foods focused on enhanced nutrition and health relevance. This shall be achieved through research on dietary micronutrients and activated foods and their impact on food safety and value with the goal of defining and implementing delivery of nutraceutical and dietary micronutrient products, diet interventions, education, and community outreach. This research initiative shall be conducted by a consortium that includes the SRRC, a research university, and a minority-serving institution which will develop and utilize novel model cell systems and screening approaches for food safety threat identification and benefit transformation with the goal of improving healthy diet interventions and recommendations. This research shall utilize a farm-to-family approach focusing on urban population engagement and education towards enhanced food safety and nutrition.

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 2020 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 \$1,500,000 for plant disease research to improve the quality of sugar beet production.

Sugarcane Variety Development.—The Committee recognizes the devastating impact wrought by invasive pests on the domestic sugarcane industry and provides an additional \$1,000,000 to support the development of new pest and disease-resistant varieties.

Sustainable Aquaculture.—The Committee notes that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 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 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 an additional \$500,000 for research to improve the recharge capabilities of the Alluvial Aquifer and to develop new conservation and irrigation techniques to reduce water usage in agriculture production.

Tree Fruit Post-Harvest Research.—The Committee recognizes that tree fruit production, including pear and cherry, is a predominant supplier for domestic and international markets. The Committee further recognizes that the tree fruit industry faces significant economic vulnerability from variations in post-harvest quality control. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level for pear and cherry tree fruit research to optimize yield and post-harvest quality, extend storage life, and promote enhanced resiliency from endemic and emerging diseases.

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

Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Precision Agriculture Applications.—The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to support efforts utilizing UAS in crop production operations and to address the challenges associated with data capture, transfer, and analysis.

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 2020 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 2020 level to facilitate the advancement of technologies that improve the efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of warmwater aquaculture production.

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 2020 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 increase of \$1,000,000 to continue this research.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2020	\$192,700,000
Budget estimate, 2021	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	24,500,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$24,500,000 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, 2020	\$962,864,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,067,986,000
Committee recommendation	971,624,000

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 \$971,624,000 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	259,000
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7	36,000
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	7 U.S.C. 3222	67,000
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	534(a)(1) of Public Law 103-382 ..	4,000
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	23,009
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222a	5,000
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3241	11,200
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156	3,194
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	536 of Public Law 103-382	3,801
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	7 U.S.C. 3319i	5,000
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)	435,000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	7 U.S.C. 3151a	8,000
Veterinary Services Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 3151b	3,000
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	7 U.S.C. 3195	4,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	7 U.S.C. 3319d	1,000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institutions Challenge Grants.	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	9,500
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	7 U.S.C. 3152(j)	900
Aquaculture Centers	7 U.S.C. 3322	5,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832.	40,000
Farm Business Management	7 U.S.C. 5925f	2,000
Sun Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 8114	3,000
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	11,913
Alfalfa Forage and Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	3,000
Special Research Grants:		
Global Change/UV Monitoring	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	1,405
Potato Research	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	2,750
Aquaculture Research	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	2,000
Total, Special Research Grants		6,155
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System		7,924
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.		12,028

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

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Total, Necessary Expenses	19,952
Total, Research and Education Activities	971,624

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 \$435,000,000 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 2021 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.

Alfalfa and Forage 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.

Binational Agricultural Research and Development [BARD].—The Committee is supportive of the activities carried out BARD and recognizes that this collaboration is of mutual benefit to the United States and Israel. BARD research projects have contributed significantly to both the U.S. and Israeli economies. The Committee is aware that NIFA signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with BARD in December 2018, which establishes the framework under which the participants will cooperate to promote collaboration among U.S. and Israeli scientists and engineers. The Committee encourages NIFA to leverage all possible funding streams to support BARD activities.

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.

Community Food Projects.—The Committee is concerned that large grocer recruitment remains a problem for many communities, particularly those experiencing higher rates of abandoned or vacant homes, and encourages the Department to explore innovative approaches to address access to nutritional food options in urban food deserts. The Committee encourages NIFA to explore the development of community-wide urban agriculture projects that assist in eliminating vacant properties while providing the communities with much-needed fresh produce.

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.

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 program will help with developing advanced genome engineering tools for integrated optimization of crop yield and livestock feed for improved animal reproduction and nutrition, as well as mitigation of environmental impacts from crop and livestock production.

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.

New Beginning for Tribal Students.—The Committee provides funding for the New Beginning for Tribal Students program. The Committee directs the Secretary to take such steps as may be necessary to implement this program as quickly as possible and to report to the Committee on the Department’s actions.

Oak Mites.—The Committee directs NIFA to study the recent infestation of oak mites and focus on suppression and eradication possibilities.

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 2021 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 critical 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.—The Committee supports the recent expansion of the Risk Management Education Program to include educating farmers and providing technical assistance on a wide range of farm viability and risk management activities. The Committee notes the increase in mandatory funding provided by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) for this program, and, in light of this increase, encourages NIFA to raise the maximum grant size in order to accommodate a wider range of project types and scopes. The Committee also urges NIFA to develop a process to support regional, multi-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 oil-seed 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, identifying and addressing threats to pollinators from pests and diseases and 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 the Secretary to support professional development program activities such as training, grants, and resources for agricultural professionals to build their awareness, knowledge, and skills related to soil health and carbon sequestration.

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.

Unmanned Aerial Systems in Agriculture.—The Committee encourages USDA to support regional institutes focused on the development of UAS and fostering new innovations in agriculture and cybersecurity. UAS is a tool to obtain data in a wide variety of application areas including energy, agriculture, power infrastructure, and transportation, all critical to rural States. The Committee encourages NIFA to support the research, development, and expansion of the use of UAS and high performance computing.

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.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2020	\$11,880,000
Budget estimate, 2021	11,857,000
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, 2020	\$526,557,000
Budget estimate, 2021	484,832,000
Committee recommendation	529,262,000

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 \$529,262,000 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.	315,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3221	57,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	8,000
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222b	20,500

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES—Continued

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Renewable Resources Extension Act	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 2662(i)	4,000
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	400
Food Safety Outreach Program	7 U.S.C. 7625	10,000
Food and Agriculture Service Learning	7 U.S.C. 7633	2,000
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	7 U.S.C. 5936	10,000
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):		
Food and Nutrition Education	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	69,000
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)	1,550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	8,395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	3,200
Total, Section 3(d) .....	.....	87,145
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities:		
Agriculture in the K–12 Classroom .....	.....	552
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities.	.....	8,105
Total, Necessary Expenses .....	.....	8,657
Total, Extension Activities .....	.....	529,262

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, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. The Committee rejects proposed cuts to Extension Activities and notes the increased importance of extension given the extraordinary stresses placed on farmers, ranchers, rural businesses and communities, and the food supply chain by trade and market uncertainty and the current economic downturn.

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 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 urges the Department to prioritize proposals from regions that have seen high levels of farm bankruptcies, auctions, and other signals of severe economic distress. The Secretary is directed

to provide quarterly reports to the Committee detailing the indicators of stress, data on stress response strategies, and emerging trends in rural economic and healthcare needs resulting from these stress interventions.

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 \$4,000,000 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 directs 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, 2020	\$38,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	38,000,000
Committee recommendation	38,000,000

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 \$38,000,000 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	6,000
Regional Rural Development Centers	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	2,000
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	7 U.S.C. 3351	8,000
Crop Protection/Pest Management	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	20,000
Total, Integrated Activities .....	.....	38,000

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.

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, 2020	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 2021	914,000
Committee recommendation	809,000

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 \$809,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Proposed User Fees.—The Committee rejects the Administration’s proposal 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

Appropriations, 2020	\$1,042,711,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,032,988,000
Committee recommendation	1,057,100,000

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 \$1,057,100,000 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 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance:			
Animal Health Technical Services	37,857	42,285	38,167
Aquatic Animal Health	2,253	2,289	2,278
Avian Health	62,840	63,517	63,331

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Cattle Health	104,500	97,797	105,441
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	26,500	21,129	27,739
National Veterinary Stockpile	5,725	5,744	5,739
Swine Health	24,800	25,200	25,090
Veterinary Biologics	17,417	20,694	18,618
Veterinary Diagnostics	57,340	52,063	57,054
Zoonotic Disease Management	16,523	16,699	16,651
Subtotal, Animal Health	355,755	347,417	360,108
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	32,330	33,350	33,070
Cotton Pests	11,520	11,659	12,621
Field Crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	13,826	12,037	13,979
Pest Detection	27,446	27,967	27,824
Plant Protection Methods Development	20,686	21,045	21,946
Specialty Crop Pests	192,013	183,079	191,812
Tree & Wood Pests	60,000	56,336	60,600
Subtotal, Plant Health	357,821	345,473	361,852
Wildlife Damage Management	109,756	109,991	111,928
Wildlife Services Methods Development	18,856	19,199	21,106
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	128,612	129,190	133,034
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	16,224	16,542	16,455
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	18,875	27,638	19,066
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	35,099	44,180	35,521
Contingency Fund	470	484	480
Emergency Preparedness & Response	40,966	41,512	41,363
Subtotal, Emergency Management	41,436	41,996	41,843
Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Re- sponse	918,723	908,256	932,358
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export	15,599	15,822	15,761
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	24,115	24,265	24,224
Subtotal, Safe Trade	39,714	40,087	39,985
Animal Welfare:			
Animal Welfare	31,310	31,947	31,772
Horse Protection	1,000	721	1,012
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	32,310	32,668	32,784
Agency Management:			
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	4,251	4,251	4,251
Physical/Operational Security	5,146	5,159	5,155
Rent and DHS Security Payments	42,567	42,567	42,567
Subtotal, Agency Management	51,964	51,977	51,973
Total, Direct Appropriation	1,042,711	1,032,988	1,057,100

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.—The Committee recognizes that the prevention of infestations of pests and diseases is signifi-

cantly more cost effective than subsequent control or eradication. This is an important Federal responsibility, and the Committee provides \$33,070,000 for the agricultural quarantine inspections [AQI] function, including pre-departure and interline inspections.

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.

Agro-Defense Data Collection and Analysis.—The Committee encourages USDA to support data collection and analytics, including university-led research, in support of a program to detect, aggregate, and analyze man-made and naturally occurring disruptive events, both domestically and abroad, to assist in developing policy to better secure agricultural infrastructure.

Animal Welfare.—The Committee reminds APHIS that Section 788 of Public Law 116–94 remains in effect and directs USDA to continue to comply.

Asian Giant Hornets.—The Committee is aware that USDA has confirmed the detection of Asian giant hornets in Washington State. The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 for the Plant Protection Methods Development account to continue to support detection surveys, outreach, and methods development for detection and response tools to prevent the establishment of the Asian giant hornet in the United States.

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

Cattle Fever Ticks.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 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.

Chronic Wasting Disease.—The Committee provides no less than \$10,000,000 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, \$6,000,000 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.

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.

Coffee Rust.—The Committee urges USDA to consider providing emergency response resources, such as a funding set aside from the Plant Protection Act (Public Law 106-224) Section 7721 program, to rapidly respond to pest emergencies of high economic consequence in Hawaii. The Committee also urges USDA to assist with coordination, support, and other available tools and resources to State, academic, and coffee industry stakeholders.

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.

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 Wild Horse Management.—The Committee recognizes the importance of discovering collaborative, science-based solutions for feral wild horse animal management. The Committee encourages APHIS to study the control of large feral animal populations that pose health and safety risks.

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 2020. The Committee encourages APHIS to allocate sufficient resources in order to continue vital management, control, and associated activities to address citrus greening. The disease, for which there is no cure, has caused a reduction in citrus production by over 60 percent since 2007 in Florida alone. All citrus producing counties in Texas are under quarantine, and California has detected the disease in some backyard trees in the Los Angeles basin. The spread of this disease has called the domestic citrus industry's future into question, costing thousands of jobs and millions in lost revenue and increased production costs per acre. In addition, the agency is encouraged to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB-MAC group which will benefit the citrus industry. The agency should appropriately allocate resources based on critical need and maximum effect to the citrus industry. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2020 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 cit-

rus 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.

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. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 level to support the implementation of the Lacey Act within the Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance program.

National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.—The Committee supports the Department’s decision to develop a new National Aquaculture Health Plan in accordance with Executive Order 13921—Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. The Committee directs APHIS to collaborate with State and land-grant university partners in the development of the new plan and further directs the Department to report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act on its efforts in this regard.

National Bio- and Agro-Defense Human Capital Development.—The Committee notes that significant resources have been invested in NBAF and is concerned about projected staffing shortages of qualified veterinary diagnosticians and scientists for NBAF, which is slated for full operation in 2022. 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 Clean Plant Network-Berries.—Of the funds made available for the National Clean Plant Network [NCPN], the Committee provides \$500,000 for equipment purchases to ensure the establishment of an additional diagnostic and therapy center for the NCPN-Berries. Further, no less than the fiscal year 2019 level should be

available for the NCPN–Berries diagnostic center. The Committee encourages APHIS to continue establishing adequate diagnostic, therapeutic, and foundation capacity for the NCPN-supported Berries program.

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 \$1,380,000 for Wildlife Services to hire personnel exclusively to promote and implement non-lethal livestock-predator conflict deterrence techniques in interested 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.

Online Dog Dealers.—The Committee is concerned about online dog dealers that are continuing to sell animals without the necessary USDA licenses pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89–544). The Committee encourages APHIS to continue to conduct robust oversight and enforcement of this statute and the 2013 rule requiring online dealers who are selling animals to consumers sight-unseen to have the necessary license.

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 2020 level to develop an integrated management program for control of the Roseau cane scale insect pest infestation.

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 2020 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.

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

Wildlife Damage Management.—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides \$111,928,000 for wildlife damage control to maintain priority initiatives, including preventing the transport of invasive snakes and other harmful species. No less than the fis-

cal year 2020 level should be available 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 2020 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 2020 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.

Given the shared and complementary goals of Wildlife Damage Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to sustainably integrate wildlife into natural habitats while protecting livestock, the Secretary is directed to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on innovative strategies to provide predator management and reduce predator-livestock conflict. The Secretary is further directed to report to the Committee on how the two agencies can work together to improve wildlife management.

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.

Wildlife Services Methods Development.—The Committee is aware of the development of control methods and research activities related to CWD, including the development of a live test for identifying CWD infected animals, as well as efforts to develop mechanisms for identifying and removing prions from CWD infected environments at the Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center. However, the Committee believes that additional research is needed to address improved diagnostics, management, treatment, and transmission pathways of CWD. Further, the Committee is concerned about the growing threat of CWD in the Southeastern United States and the potential for conflicts between people and cervids nationwide. The Committee notes that while CWD has the potential to reduce populations long-term and cause major socio-economic impacts, its zoonotic potential lacks a definitive conclusion, among other unknowns. Therefore, the Committee provides

an additional \$2,000,000 to expand the mission area of Wildlife Services and its National Wildlife Research Center to include CWD-related research, including activities to prevent future conflicts between humans and cervid populations.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2020	\$3,175,000
Budget estimate, 2021	2,574,000
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, 2020	\$186,936,000
Budget estimate, 2021	150,933,000
Committee recommendation	187,074,000

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 \$187,074,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Acer Access and Development.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2020 funding level for the Acer Access and Development Program and encourages AMS to prioritize proposals that support the promotion of research and education, natural resource sustainability, and market development and promotion.

Dairy Business Innovation.—The Committee recognizes the severe stress facing the Nation's dairy farmers, as well as the need to update dairy product offerings for a rapidly changing marketplace. 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.

Local Agriculture Market Program.—The Committee recognizes that the current economic climate has had a severe, negative impact on local food systems. The Committee encourages AMS to prioritize funding applications that increase the resilience and adaptability of local food systems and ensure compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (Public Law 111–353).

National Organic Program.—The Committee provides \$18,094,000 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. The Committee provides an increase of \$2,000,000 to support proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and standards development.

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 Certification for Wild Seafood.—The Committee is aware of interest in developing organic production, handling, and labeling standards for wild caught seafood as provided for in Section 6506 of the Organic Foods Production Act (7 U.S.C. 6506(c)). The Committee urges USDA to reestablish the Wild Caught Working Group under the National Organic Standards Board to evaluate wild capture aquatic animal production systems and assess the feasibility and appropriateness of developing organic production and handling

standards for their certification. USDA is directed to provide a report to the Committee on the status of discussions with interested parties, including the wild caught seafood industry and the organic community, regarding the feasibility and framework for establishing organic standards for wild-caught seafood.

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 continue to resolve inconsistencies in enforcement and interpretation of regulations, including those relating to the transition of livestock to organic dairy production and dry matter intake during the grazing season. AMS shall continue to conduct critical risk-based oversight, particularly for large, complex dairy operations.

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. Additionally, the Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee within one year of enactment of this Act detailing the Department’s current collection and publication of organic data and identifying gaps in the reporting or collection of organic-specific data. The Committee provides \$500,000 for AMS to coordinate with NASS for activities related to expanding organic price reporting and organic data collection.

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.

Rulemaking Delay.—The Committee is disappointed that USDA has not yet finalized a rule for the National Organic Program regarding the Origin of Livestock as directed by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94). The Committee directs USDA to finalize the rule immediately.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2020	\$61,227,000
Budget limitation, 2021	60,982,000
Committee recommendation	61,227,000

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 \$61,227,000 on administrative expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

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

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$20,705,000
Budget estimate, 2021	20,705,000
Committee recommendation	20,705,000

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 \$20,705,000 for the formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2020–2021:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD— FISCAL YEARS 2020–2021

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation (30% of Customs Receipts)	15,123,425	22,696,566	22,696,566
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service	– 13,535,591	21,003,291	21,003,291
Commerce Department	– 183,834	262,275	262,275
Total, Transfers	– 13,719,425	21,265,566	21,265,566
Budget Authority, Farm Bill	1,404,000	1,431,000	1,431,000
Appropriations Temporarily Reduced—Sequestration	– 72,275	– 71,136	– 71,136
Budget Authority, Appropriations Act	1,331,725	1,359,864	1,359,864
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

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD—
FISCAL YEARS 2020–2021—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	179,000	183,000	183,000
Estimated Future Needs	392,667	415,913	415,913
Total, Commodity Procurement	1,275,167	1,032,413	1,032,413
Administrative Funds:			
Commodity Purchase Support	35,853	36,746	36,746
Marketing Agreements and Orders	20,705	20,705	20,705
Total, Administrative Funds	56,558	57,451	57,451
Total Obligations	1,331,725	1,359,864	1,359,864

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, 2020	\$1,235,000
Budget estimate, 2021	
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, 2020	\$55,000,000
Budget limitation, 2021	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, 2020	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 2021	813,000
Committee recommendation	809,000

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 \$809,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Appropriations, 2020	\$1,054,344,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,092,405,000
Committee recommendation	1,070,112,000

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 \$1,070,112,000 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 2020 and budget request levels:

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Food safety inspection:			
Federal	936,324	974,050	950,327
State	66,682	66,730	67,679
International	16,758	17,045	17,009
PHDCIS	34,580	34,580	35,097
Total	1,054,344	1,092,405	1,070,112

Brazilian Raw Beef Imports.—The Committee is concerned with the Department’s decision to lift the ban on Brazilian raw beef imports and directs FSIS to provide a report to the Committee no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act with strategies the agency is using to ensure that imports are meeting the set standards.

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.

Public Health Veterinarians.—The Committee remains concerned about persistently high levels of public health veterinary [PHV] vacancies within FSIS and directs the agency to provide a report to the Committee detailing overall PHV workforce needs, including positions that may be chronically hard to fill; the recruitment and retention programs implemented to-date, including a status of the funding spent on these initiatives and an estimate of when funding will be exhausted; additional actions taken to resolve the chronic and perpetual workforce issues; and a discussion of the agency’s efforts to address these workforce issues in the long-term.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

Appropriations, 2020	\$901,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,141,000
Committee recommendation	916,000

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 \$916,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

State Office Relocation.—The Committee recognizes that co-locating agency State offices within the FPAC mission area has the potential to improve customer service and operational efficiency. However, the Committee does not support the co-location of FPAC agency State offices into General Services Administration [GSA] locations if it is not in the best interest of USDA employees, customers, and taxpayers. Therefore, the Committee directs the Under Secretary for FPAC to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on proposed co-locations of FPAC agency State offices, the cost-savings benefits associated with each, and anticipated improvements in customer service associated with each proposed GSA location.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

Appropriations, 2020	\$203,877,000
Budget estimate, 2021	243,602,000
Committee recommendation	232,511,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$232,511,000 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 vacancies, which have led to delays in the deployment of important conservation and commodity programs. The Committee is also concerned by reports of additional functions and critical NRCS State staff positions being moved to the FPAC Business Center. The Committee reminds FPAC that the detailed report required by S. Rpt. 116–110, which was due February 2020, regarding the FPAC Business Center's efficiencies gained, metrics, hiring plan, and potential reorganization, is 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, 2020	1,122,837	291,377	1,414,214
Budget estimate, 2021	1,104,684	294,114	1,398,798
Committee recommendation	1,140,023	294,256	1,434,279

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 \$1,434,279,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of \$1,140,023,000.

The Committee supports the mission of FSA and the important services that they provide across the country. Therefore, the Committee does not accept the full decrease for information technology as proposed in the budget. The Committee provides \$20,400,000 for Farmer.gov enhancements.

Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative [ACRSI].—The Committee recognizes the significant potential of ACRSI to reduce the time and burden of Federal reporting requirements on farmers. The Committee notes that ACRSI was designed to allow farmers to report data electronically and securely with both RMA and FSA to automatically pre-populate forms, eliminate redundant reporting, and increase data integrity. However, the Committee recognizes that USDA's prioritization of ACRSI has been inadequate and therefore directs the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation to allocate all necessary resources to identify the software options necessary to ensure that ACRSI technology is adopted and deployed by RMA and FSA within 120 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 further directs 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.

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.—The Secretary is strongly encouraged, within the total acreage made available for enrollment in the conservation reserve program and without reducing the periodic availability of general sign-up, to enroll, to the maximum extent practicable, acreage for activities included in the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement practice or other similar administratively established wetland and habitat practices that benefit priority fish and wildlife species identified in State, regional, and national conservation initiatives, prioritizing initiatives that provide large blocks of cover ideal for wildlife nesting.

ELAP Farm-Raised Fish Assistance.—The Committee remains concerned about the economic impacts of avian predation and disease on the U.S. aquaculture industry and the lack of meaningful protections for producers against these losses. The Committee reminds USDA that the joint explanatory statement accompanying the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94) directed FSA to amend the existing regulations under 7 C.F.R. 1416 to ensure producers of farm-raised fish intended for human consumption are eligible to receive payments for death losses due to disease or avian predation within 180 days of enactment of that Act. The Committee expects FSA to carry out this congressional directive.

Inaccurate Estimates.—The Committee is concerned that the Department provided inaccurate estimates to Congress on the available unused funding for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program [OCCSP] during the development of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334). The overestimates have led to a funding gap that is leaving farmers with far less assistance for completing this expensive and essential step that is required to tap into the growing market for certified organic food in the United States. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report on how it will resolve inconsistencies in supplying Congress with estimates on funding available for the OCCSP and other Farm Bill programs.

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.

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, 2020	\$5,545,000
Budget estimate, 2021	6,914,000
Committee recommendation	6,914,000

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 \$6,914,000 for State Mediation Grants.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020	\$6,500,000
Budget estimate, 2021	
Committee recommendation	6,500,000

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,500,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2021	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 2021 to be \$500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

PFAS Contamination.—The Committee is aware that a small number of dairy farms are unable to sell their milk as a result of contamination from a family of synthetic chemicals, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, collectively known as “PFAS” chemicals. The Committee notes that USDA’s own research has shown that PFAS residues remain detectable in contaminated livestock even after an extended withdrawal period, which could result in potential human exposure. Therefore, the Secretary shall utilize the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program to purchase and remove PFAS contaminated cows from the market, rather than paying for prolonged monthly production indemnities. The Secretary shall utilize the established, applicable Livestock Indemnity Program average fair market value price to compensate for PFAS contaminated cows at affected dairies.

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 fractionated 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 \$9,853,176,000 for programs within the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

Loan Programs.—The Committee continues to support FSA loan programs that ensure farmers and ranchers have access to credit to maintain and improve their operations. The Committee is aware of the heightened operating loan activity in fiscal year 2020 and notes the statutory authority allowing program level increases that do not require additional budget authority. The Committee will continue to monitor program demand in the coming months and directs FSA to provide timely estimates for future needs.

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 2020 and the budget request levels:

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct	1,875,000	2,119,000	2,500,000
Guaranteed	2,750,000	2,750,000	3,300,000
Farm Operating:			
Direct	1,550,133	1,633,333	1,633,333
Guaranteed unsubsidized	1,960,000	2,118,482	2,118,482
Emergency Loans	37,668	37,668	37,668
Indian Tribe Land Acquisition	20,000	20,000	20,000
Conservation Loans:			
Guaranteed	150,000	150,000	150,000
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	10,000	.....	.....
Boll Weevil Eradication	60,000	.....	60,000
Relending Program	18,215	18,215	33,693
Total, Loan Authorizations	8,431,016	8,846,698	9,853,176

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 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Operating:			
Direct	58,440	38,710	38,710
Guaranteed unsubsidized	20,972	23,727	23,727
Emergency Loans	2,023	207	207
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	2,745	.....	.....
Boll Weevil Eradication	60	.....	.....

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Relending Program	5,000	2,703	5,000
Total, Loan Subsidies	89,240	65,347	67,644
ACIF Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses	290,917	294,114	294,114
Administrative Expenses	10,070	13,230	13,230
Transfer to FPAC Business Center	16,081	.....	.....
Total, ACIF Expenses	317,068	307,344	307,344

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2020	\$58,361,000
Budget estimate, 2021	59,440,000
Committee recommendation	60,373,000

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), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

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 \$60,373,000 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.

Corn Test Weight.—The Committee is aware of concerns over whether discount tables used by FSA and RMA accurately reflect market conditions. The Committee directs the agency, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to study and update corn test weight discount tables to improve the accuracy of these discount factors.

Haying and Grazing of Cover Crops.—The Committee recognizes that planting cover crops is one of the best ways farmers can build soil health, improve crop health, and protect water quality. Therefore, the Committee directs RMA to provide flexibility to producers wishing to hay or graze cover crops on prevented planting acreage

before November 1. The Committee further directs RMA to study alternatives to a nationwide haying and grazing date in order to avoid primary nesting and the potential impact of eliminating penalties for haying and grazing after the primary nesting season. RMA shall report the results of this study to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

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.

Malting Barley Endorsement.—The Committee is aware of concerns regarding the effectiveness of the malting barley endorsement as a risk management tool for barley growers. The Committee directs RMA to work with stakeholders to make improvements to the malting barley endorsement to ensure that it is providing producers with an effective risk management tool.

Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Pilot Program.—While the Committee supports efforts to ensure that crop insurance programs are actuarially sound and reflect the value of the commodities, the Committee is concerned by recent adjustments to the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Pilot Program that have resulted in significant fluctuations to the county base values. The Secretary is directed to ensure that future adjustments to the county base value be phased in or made gradually in order to avoid the dramatic changes that some producers have experienced in recent years. The Committee expects the Secretary to provide policyholders with adequate notification of any such changes well in advance of the sales closing date.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.—The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) directed the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider treating the different growth stages of aquaculture species as separate crops for the Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan. RMA is directed to report to the Committee regarding the steps taken by the Board to consider the feasibility of this proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.

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, 2020	\$829,628,000
Budget estimate, 2021	830,186,000
Committee recommendation	831,906,000

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 \$831,906,000 for Conservation Operations. The Committee provides \$736,921,000 for Conservation Technical Assistance, \$75,911,000 for Soil Surveys, \$9,515,000 for Snow Survey and Water Forecasting, and \$9,559,000 for Plant Materials Centers. The Committee provides an increase of \$2,500,000 for the Farmer.gov Customer Experience Portal program.

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.

Critical Conservation Areas.—The Committee is pleased that NRCS has maintained the status of the Mississippi River Basin [MRB], including the Ohio River Basin, and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed [CBW] as Critical Conservation Areas under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program [RCPP] and has included insufficient water and drought as priority resource concerns for the Klamath River Basin as part of the new Western Waters [WW] Critical Conservation Area and water quality degradation in the new Northeast Forests and Waters [NFW] Critical Conservation Area. The Committee directs NRCS to include MRB, CBW, WW, and NFW States as priority areas for Critical Conservation Area

funding under RCPP. 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. The Committee believes additional Conservation Technical Assistance is warranted in these Critical Conservation Areas as conservation planning capacity is often a limiting factor in achieving critical conservation goals.

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.

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.

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 Inspector General reports.

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.

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.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2020	\$175,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	
Committee recommendation	175,000,000

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 \$175,000,000 for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program [WFPO].

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.

Project Delays.—The Committee is concerned about ongoing delays with some WFPO projects and the impact such delays have on local communities, especially those projects aimed at supplying drinking water to rural communities. Such delays can force undue costs on local communities that must find alternative temporary sources of water. The Committee urges the Secretary to address these issues to complete projects in a timely manner and encourages the Secretary to consider all costs related to the use of other water sources resulting from delays in project completion as in-kind service eligible for credit as non-Federal contribution.

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, 2020	\$10,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	
Committee recommendation	

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 does not recommend an appropriation for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

CORPORATIONS

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

Appropriations, 2020	\$9,959,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	8,716,000,000
Committee recommendation	8,716,000,000

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 \$8,716,000,000 in fiscal year 2021, 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, 2020	\$26,309,033,000
Budget estimate, 2021	25,553,096,000
Committee recommendation	25,553,096,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2021 to be \$25,553,096,000, 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, 2020	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	15,000,000
Committee recommendation	5,000,000

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 \$5,000,000 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, 2020	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,036,000
Committee recommendation	812,000

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 \$812,000 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 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 DEVELOPMENT
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)
(In thousands of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation	247,835	483,480	257,289
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account	412,254	240,000	412,254
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program Account	33,270	38,000	33,270
Rural Development Loan Program Account	4,468	.....	4,468
Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses	697,827	761,480	707,281

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 \$707,281,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development, including a direct appropriation of \$257,289,000.

Information Technology.—The Committee remains concerned about IT systems within Rural Development and directs the Secretary to report back on the status of retiring the Program Loan Accounting System and the Automated Multi-family Accounting System as well as on the Department's efforts to allow for the direct endorsement option for qualified lenders of the Single Family Loan Guarantee Program as authorized by section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87-171).

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, 2020 (budget authority)	\$538,939,000
Budget estimate, 2021 (budget authority)	280,000,000
Committee recommendation (budget authority)	492,274,000

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 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 2021, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$492,274,000 for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2020 levels and the 2021 budget request:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	1,000,000	.....	1,000,000
Guaranteed	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	28,000	—	28,000
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	40,000	.....	40,000
Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538)	230,000	230,000	230,000
Site development loans (sec. 524)	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
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	28,000	.....	28,000
Total, loan levels	25,346,000	24,240,000	25,346,000
Loan Subsidies and Grants:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	90,000	.....	55,400
Housing repair (sec. 504)	4,679	.....	2,215
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	12,144	40,000	6,688
Site development loans (sec. 524)	546	.....	355
Self help land development loans (sec. 523)	577	.....	269
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	8,739	.....	5,093
Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516)	10,000	.....	10,000
Total, loan subsidies and grants	126,685	40,000	80,020
Administrative Expenses	412,254	240,000	412,254
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	538,939	280,000	492,274

Housing Preservation.—The Secretary is directed to develop a bi-annual comprehensive multi-family housing preservation plan describing how the Department intends to preserve all viable Section 514 and 515 properties in the portfolio. This report shall also include a comprehensive description of the decision-making process, including any incentives offered, relating to any Section 514 or 515

property that exited the Rural Development portfolio during the preceding 24 months.

Relending Program.—The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committee regarding the status and initial outcomes of the Section 502 Tribal relending program in South Dakota, including program structure, management, and general demographic information on the loan recipients.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020	\$1,375,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	1,450,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,410,000,000

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). The objective of the 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 \$1,410,000,000 for the Rental Assistance Program.

Housing vouchers are addressed in the Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account.

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.

MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2020	\$60,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	62,000,000
Committee recommendation	62,000,000

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 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.

The Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program includes funding for housing vouchers and a demonstration program for the

preservation and revitalization of affordable multi-family housing projects. Rural Development’s multi-family housing portfolio faces dual pressures for loan pre-payments and repair/rehabilitation stemming from inadequate reserves resulting in deferred property maintenance.

Provisions of affordable rental housing can be accomplished more economically by revitalizing existing housing stock rather than funding new construction. The Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program includes revitalization tools for maintenance of existing units and vouchers to protect tenants in those projects that pre-pay. Flexibility is provided to allow RD to utilize funding to meet the most urgent local needs for tenant protection and project revitalization.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$62,000,000 for the Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program, including \$34,000,000 for vouchers and \$28,000,000 for a housing preservation demonstration program.

Multi-Family Housing Preservation.—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report within 120 days of enactment of this Act to estimate 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. In addition, the Secretary is directed to provide quarterly reports to the Committee on transfers between vouchers and the housing preservation demonstration program within the Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$31,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	.....
Committee recommendation	31,000,000

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 \$31,000,000 for Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$45,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	45,000,000
Committee recommendation	45,000,000

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, and grant assistance is limited to persons or families headed by persons who are 62 years of age or older.

Supervisory and Technical Assistance Grants.—Supervisory and technical assistance grants are made to public and private non-profit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing 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 ten 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 \$45,000,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program.

The following table compares the grant program levels recommended by the Committee to the fiscal year 2020 levels and the budget request:

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Very low-income housing repair grants	30,000	30,000	30,000
Housing preservation grants	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total	45,000	45,000	45,000

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$49,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	60,000,000
Committee recommendation	58,000,000

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 contribution through these grants with a maximum contribution of 75 percent of the cost of developing the facility.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$58,000,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2020 and budget request levels:

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Community facilities direct loans	2,800,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Community facilities guaranteed loans	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total, loan levels	3,300,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Budget Authority:			
Community facilities grants	32,000	30,000	32,000
Economic initiative grants	6,000	.....	6,000
Rural community development initiative	6,000	.....	6,000
Tribal college grants	5,000	10,000	5,000
Non-conforming subsidy .....	.....	20,000	9,000
Total, budget authority	49,000	60,000	58,000

Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program.—The Committee directs USDA to submit a report that includes loan processing times and strategies to make the loan review process more efficient for the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan program.

Rural Community Facilities Program Priorities.—The Committee recognizes the important role that the Rural Community Facilities program can play in addressing the Nation's opioid epidemic. Community Facilities programs have previously supported efforts to address substance use disorders through projects such as mobile treatment clinics and telemedicine services. The Committee encourages the Secretary to make funds available through the Rural Community Facilities program to provide prevention, treatment, or recovery services for individuals with substance use disorders. Additionally, the Committee recognizes that rural communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, including wildfires, tornadoes, floods, landslides, and other extreme weather events and that these communities often lack the resources necessary to prepare for and respond to these occurrences. The Committee also encourages the Secretary to prioritize projects that will enhance the ability of rural communities to recover from or prepare for a natural disaster.

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

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$66,500,000
Budget estimate, 2021	7,400,000
Committee recommendation	48,630,000

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 ten 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 \$48,630,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2020 and budget request levels:

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels	1,000,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Distressed Loans		250,000	100,000
Total, loan levels	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,350,000
Budget Authority:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	20,500		
Distressed Loans		7,400	2,630
Rural business development grants	37,000		37,000
DRA, NBRC, and ARC	9,000		9,000

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Total, budget authority	66,500	7,400	48,630

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.

Regional Food Hubs.—The Committee encourages USDA to partner with States and other interested partners to build and refurbish food hub and food distribution centers that serve rural farmers but are located in urban areas.

Rural Business Development Grants.—The Committee recognizes the dynamic nature of our rural coastal economies that are often economically diminished by the loss of natural resource-related jobs and have been the first to feel the negative effects of a changing climate. As new agriculture-related economic opportunities continue to present themselves to these rural communities, such as value-added seafood processing, the Committee encourages the use of Rural Business Development Grants in rural coastal communities to support innovation and job growth within all sectors, particularly in the case of public-private partnerships and cross-jurisdictional efforts. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for National Scenic Areas that were devastated by wildfires and are in need of economic development assistance.

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 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	18,889	.....	18,889
Direct loan subsidy	5,219	.....	2,939
Administrative expenses	4,468	.....	4,468
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	9,687	.....	7,407

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 2021, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,407,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(In thousands of dollars)

	Estimated loan level
Fiscal year 2020 level	50,000
Fiscal year 2021 request	50,000
Committee recommendation	50,000

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 \$50,000,000, 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, 2020	\$26,600,000
Budget estimate, 2021	3,000,000
Committee recommendation	26,600,000

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 \$26,600,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Of the funds recommended, \$2,800,000 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 requests that the Department submit a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act 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.

Rural Cooperative Development Grants.—The Committee recognizes the important role that cooperatives play in the Nation's rural economy and the continued need to fund established and successful development centers throughout the country. The Committee also recognizes the importance of economic development in rural communities and the unique challenges to business growth in these areas. The Committee directs USDA to evaluate the feasibility of awarding multi-year Rural Business Development Grants

and to report to Congress within 1 year of enactment of this Act on the barriers to implementing such a proposal.

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

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020	\$706,000
Budget estimate, 2021	
Committee recommendation	392,000

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 \$392,000 for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2020 and budget request levels:

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	20,000	.....	20,000
Guaranteed loan subsidy	706	.....	392

Rural Energy for America Program.—The Committee recommends that \$10,000,000 is reserved for underserved renewable technologies.

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, 2020	\$659,480,000
Budget estimate, 2021	614,070,000
Committee recommendation	553,217,000

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. Develop-

ment 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 \$553,217,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends \$68,000,000 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 \$20,157,000 available for the circuit rider program.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2020 and budget request levels:

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	1,400,000	1,270,000	1,400,000
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	50,000	58,333	50,000
Total, loan levels	1,450,000	1,328,333	1,450,000
Budget authority:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	63,840	.....	.....
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	70	70	60
Water and waste disposal grants	443,000	463,350	400,000
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Water well systems grants	5,000	1,000	5,000
Colonias, AK and Native American grants	68,000	68,000	68,000
Water and waste water revolving funds	1,000	1,000	1,000
High energy cost grants	10,000	.....	10,000
Circuit rider	19,570	19,000	20,157
302A(i)(2) grants	15,000	15,000	15,000
Emergency community water assistance grants .....	.....	2,650	.....
Technical assistance grants	30,000	40,000	30,000
Total, budget authority	659,480	614,070	553,217

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS 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 2021, 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 2020 and budget request levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan authorization:			
Electric:			
Direct FFB	5,500,000	.....	5,500,000
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate .....	.....	5,500,000	.....
Guaranteed underwriting	750,000	.....	750,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, Treasury Rate	345,000	690,000	345,000
Direct, FFB	345,000	.....	345,000
Total, Loan authorization	6,940,000	6,190,000	6,940,000
Total budget authority	37,065	42,554	35,547

Rural Energy Savings Program.—The Committee encourages the Department to expand its list of energy efficiency measures to include manufactured homes if they are certified as ENERGY STAR®, as well as including cost-effective energy efficiency measures or small-scale renewable energy services in its definition of retail electric services.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan and grant levels:			
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program:			
Grants	50,000	44,000	50,000
Broadband Program:			
Treasury rate loans	11,179	.....	11,869
Treasury rate loans budget authority	2,000	.....	2,000
Grants	35,000	30,000	35,000
Re-Connect .....	.....	250,000	.....

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Total, DLT and Broadband Program level	96,179	324,000	96,869
Total, DLT and Broadband budget authority	87,000	324,000	87,000

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 \$87,000,000 for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program.

Funds recommended for the RUS broadband program are intended to promote broadband availability in those areas where there is not otherwise a business case for private investment in a broadband network. The Committee encourages RUS to focus expenditures on projects that bring broadband service to currently unserved households.

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 on Tribal Lands.—The Committee is aware that the Department continues to implement the recommendations published in the Government Accountability Office [GAO] report GAO–18–682. The Committee requests an update on the status of implementation within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

Mountainous Terrain.—The Committee is concerned that States with challenging, mountainous terrain incur higher costs when it comes to broadband deployment. The Committee recognizes the importance of the Community Connect Program and its ability to bring much needed broadband to rural America and requests that the Secretary prioritize awarding funding in areas with mountainous terrain.

ReConnect.—The Committee provides \$400,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141). While supportive of the pilot program, the Committee acknowledges that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) included new authorities for rural broadband programs that garnered broad stakeholder support as well as bipartisan, bicameral agreement in Congress. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on how the Department plans to transition from the ReCon-

nect Pilot to the Farm Bill programs. Until the transition is completed, the Committee directs the Secretary to continue to use the pilot to explore options to increase broadband connectivity to rural communities. Specifically, the Committee is concerned that the current application process creates barriers to participation and directs 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. 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. 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 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.

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.

Telehealth.—The Committee continues to support Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband program grants that assist rural communities in connecting to the rest of the world and overcoming health disparities that effect rural communities. The Committee urges the Secretary to continue supporting the utilization of existing telehealth networks to provide additional access through the use of telemedicine through partnerships with hub medical cen-

ters. The Committee also encourages focus on tele-Emergency Medical Services and Tele-EKG for use in building sustainable models for advanced critical care of populations in rural areas by improving critical care interventional outcomes and decreasing the wait time between original access and treatment for rural populations.

TITLE IV
DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

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

Appropriations, 2020	\$800,000
Budget estimate, 2021	813,000
Committee recommendation	809,000

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 \$809,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

The Committee provides funding for nutrition programs based on the latest participation and cost assessments available. The Committee understands that while a mid-session review is not available, the cost for these programs may increase later this year. The Committee is committed to providing the necessary funding to ensure all eligible participants receive these benefits.

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.

Best Practices.—The Committee is aware that providing adequate time to eat healthy school meals increases the consumption of fruits and vegetables and minimizes food waste. The Committee encourages the Secretary to collaborate with the Department of Education to develop best practices to ensure school schedules provide students adequate time to eat healthy school meals.

Bison Meat.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to incorporate and utilize tribally-raised bison meat into Tribal food dis-

tribution programs to address the health concerns of American Indians.

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 Special Milk Program, assistance is provided to the States for making

reimbursement payments to eligible schools and child care institutions which institute or expand milk service in order to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation and transfer from section 32.

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

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

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

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

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$23,615,098,000
Budget estimate, 2021	25,040,911,000
Committee recommendation	25,111,440,000

Child Nutrition Programs, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Public Law 79-396) and the Child Nu-

trition 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 \$25,111,440,000 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	13,539,797
School Breakfast Program	5,039,086
Child and Adult Care Food Program	4,015,116
Summer Food Service Program	551,944
Special Milk Program	7,309
State Administrative Expenses	317,044
Commodity Procurement	1,460,769
Team Nutrition/HUSSC/CMS	18,004
Food Safety Education	2,988
Coordinated Review	10,000
Computer Support	19,366
Training and Technical Assistance	34,214
CNP Studies and Evaluation	15,299
Farm to School Team	4,077
Payment Accuracy	11,427
School Meal Equipment Grants	30,000
Summer EBT Demonstration	35,000

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

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

Farm to School Program.—Successful implementation of Farm to School programs requires broad-based knowledge of best practices regarding coordination among farmers, processors, distributors, students, teachers, dietary and food preparation staff, and USDA professionals. Since the scope of some Farm to School projects has expanded in recent years, the Committee has included language to allow maximum grant amounts to increase to \$500,000. Of the grant funds provided, the Committee directs the Secretary to use \$500,000 to form at least one cooperative agreement with an established entity, such as regional a Farm to School institute, for the creation and dissemination of information on farm to school program development and to provide practitioner education, training, ongoing school year coaching, and technical assistance.

Lunch Shaming.—The Committee remains concerned with the practice of lunch shaming, when students with unpaid school meal fees are treated unfairly. The Committee reminds the Secretary of the directive from fiscal year 2020 and expects the Secretary to provide additional guidance to program operators to address the ongoing issue of shaming school children for unpaid school lunch fees. Such guidance should include identifying approaches that protect children from public embarrassment; encouraging all communications about unpaid school lunch fees be directed to the parent or guardian, not the child; and encouraging schools to take additional steps to ensure that all students who qualify for free and reduced meals are efficiently enrolled to receive them.

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.

School Breakfast Commodities.—Of the \$485,000,000 appropriated for Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities under Section 714 of this Act, \$20,000,000 shall be proportionally offered to States based on the number of breakfasts served in the preceding school year.

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer [EBT].—The Committee understands that Summer EBT has been proven to lower food insecurity among children during the summer months when school is not in session. The Committee is displeased that the Secretary changed the methodology for funding this program in fiscal year 2020. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to fund this program in fiscal year 2021 in the same manner, including the same States and tribal organizations, as it was funded in fiscal year 2018.

Summer Food Service Program.—The Committee recognizes that in many rural and frontier areas of the country where homes are widely scattered, children and youth are unable to access congregate feeding sites that participate in the Summer Food Service Program and that existing mobile food delivery efforts are not able to meet the need. The Committee supports FNS allowing State Agencies to enable Summer Food Service Program service institutions that serve such areas where eligible children and youth have barriers to access or limited access to a congregate feeding site to use their customary reimbursement payments to develop and implement innovative methods to deliver or otherwise make available foods to eligible children and youth by non-congregate means or in

non-congregate settings. In addition, the Committee requests USDA submit a report within one year of enactment of this Act describing how many Summer Food Service Program grantees, in which States, put in place innovative methods of food delivery by non-congregate means and in non-congregate settings, what innovative methods were used, and how many additional youth were served as a result.

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

Appropriations, 2020	\$6,000,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	5,451,501,000
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 2021. 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.—The Committee appreciates the work of the National Academies of Science to review and make recommendations for updating the WIC food packages to reflect current science and cultural factors. The Committee notes, however, that while all revised packages now allow some fish, the amounts remain low

and, in some cases, sporadic, compared to the recommendations of authoritative agencies such as the World Health Organization. The Committee strongly encourages the Department to prioritize the health and cultural benefits of fish consumption as regulations are revised to implement the NAS recommendations and to increase the amount of healthful fish above the amounts recommended by the NAS. The Committee also strongly encourages the Department to allow States to prioritize fish over legumes and peanut butter to respond to the cultural preferences of WIC participants in States like Alaska.

WIC Program Integrity and Infant Food Safety.—The Committee is aware that Federal law requires State agencies administering WIC to keep a list of authorized WIC wholesalers, distributors, retailers, and manufacturers and requires that vendors only purchase infant formula from that list of authorized suppliers. This is a critical requirement because the nutritional safety, quality, and integrity of infant formula, which is the sole source nutrition for some WIC participants, cannot be assured if it is purchased from unauthorized suppliers. However, the Committee is concerned that some State agencies may not adequately audit distributors and retailers to ensure compliance with these regulations. The Committee directs FNS to develop and disseminate a best practices document for State agencies to increase enforcement of the authorized supplier purchase requirements.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020	\$67,886,285,000
Budget estimate, 2021	68,281,364,000
Committee recommendation	68,322,639,000

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 par-

ticipating 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 \$68,322,639,000 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 provides \$5,000,000 for continued implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse [NAC]. The Committee is concerned that USDA has not met the deadline established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) to issue regulations providing guidance to States on the operations and use of the NAC or contracted with an independent entity to provide the data matching, call center, and other services necessary to implement the NAC. The Committee strongly urges the Department to move forward with the NAC to prevent duplicative issuances of SNAP benefits and improve program integrity. The Committee requests an update on the progress of the NAC within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Food Package.—The Committee commends the Department for convening the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group, which includes Tribal representatives and staff from FNS, to increase the amount and variety of traditional foods included in FDPIR food packages and to increase the amount of foods purchased from American Indian and Alaska Native producers and businesses. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report detailing its plans to include a greater variety of traditional foods as regular components of FDPIR food baskets; its plans to identify additional Native American and Alaska Native producers of traditional foods, including wild salmon, caribou, reindeer, elk, and other foods; and its plans to purchase additional traditional foods from a greater number of indigenous producers and businesses.

SNAP Eligibility for College Students.—The Committee is deeply concerned by the findings of the December 2018 GAO report titled “Food Insecurity-Better Information Could Help Eligible College Students Access Federal Food Assistance Benefits,” in which GAO found that students may be unaware or misinformed about their potential eligibility for SNAP. GAO found that FNS has not provided clear explanation that is easily accessible to students and college officials on SNAP eligibility requirements, and, as a result, students experiencing food insecurity may remain unaware that they could be eligible for SNAP. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this Act on its current outreach efforts to colleges and their students on potential eligibility. Further, the Department should coordinate with the Department of Education to improve outreach to eligible college students and report on its efforts within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

SNAP Fraud.—A January 2017 OIG report entitled “Detecting Potential SNAP Trafficking Using Data Analysis” found that FNS

lacked methods to reconcile data discrepancies across its administration systems and that retailers were providing benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials. The Committee directs FNS to provide an update on the implementation of controls to address these problems, as well as data demonstrating whether the controls have reduced error rates.

State SNAP Implementation.—The Committee is concerned about implementation of the SNAP program in certain States that are failing to meet the required deadlines for processing applications. USDA is encouraged to work closely with States to remedy program deficiency and aggressively combat any falsification of SNAP implementation data.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020	\$344,248,000
Budget estimate, 2021	80,700,000
Committee recommendation	362,248,000

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 \$362,248,000 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 \$263,000,000 for CSFP. This amount fully funds participation in fiscal year 2021.

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 \$18,548,000 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 \$322,500,000 for TEFAP commodities to be purchased with SNAP funds. The Committee provides \$79,630,000 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, 2020	\$155,891,000
Budget estimate, 2021	155,251,000
Committee recommendation	157,526,000

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 pro-

grams 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 \$157,526,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration.

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

Appropriations, 2020	\$875,000
Budget estimate, 2021	891,000
Committee recommendation	887,000

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 \$887,000 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.

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.

Nutrition Outcomes.—The Secretary is directed to publish a report on the nutrition outcomes achieved over the past 12 months by the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program and the Food for Peace Title II program. The report should be publicly available and track progress towards the 2025 World Health Assembly global targets on stunting, wasting, anemia, and breastfeeding.

OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Appropriations, 2020	\$4,775,000
Budget estimate, 2021	4,817,000
Committee recommendation	4,805,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,805,000 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, 2020	215,513	6,063	221,576
Budget estimate, 2021	193,703	6,063	199,766
Committee recommendation	214,573	6,063	220,636

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 \$220,636,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service, including a direct appropriation of \$214,573,000.

The Committee provides \$1,540,000 for International Cooperative Administrative Support Services; \$258,000 for Capital Security Cost Sharing; \$2,500,000 for pay costs for Locally Employed Staff;

\$727,000 for rightsizing; and does not include \$7,200,000 for Country Strategy Support as provided in fiscal year 2020.

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 I DIRECT CREDIT AND FOOD FOR PROGRESS
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020	\$142,000
Budget estimate, 2021	112,000
Committee recommendation	142,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$142,000 for administrative expenses to continue servicing existing Food for Peace title I agreements.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$1,725,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	.....
Committee recommendation	1,725,000,000

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.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,725,000,000 for Food for Peace title II grants.

McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD
NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

Appropriations, 2020	\$220,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	.....
Committee recommendation	220,000,000

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 \$220,000,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Local and Regional Procurement.—The Committee provides an appropriation of \$20,000,000 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	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2020	6,063	318
Budget estimate, 2021	6,063	318
Committee recommendation	6,063	318

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

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Appropriations, 2020	3,159,678	2,612,764	5,772,442
Budget estimate, 2021	3,206,564	2,690,735	5,897,299
Committee recommendation	3,197,678	2,690,735	5,888,413

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,197,678,000 for salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration.

The Committee also recommends \$2,690,735,000 in definite user fees, including: \$1,119,188,000 in Prescription Drug user fee collections; \$238,595,000 in Medical Device user fee collections; \$31,306,000 in Animal Drug user fee collections; \$20,609,000 in Animal Generic Drug user fee collections; \$712,000,000 in Tobacco Product user fee collections; \$526,039,000 in Generic Drug user fee collections; and \$42,998,000 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 2020 unless otherwise specified. The Committee does not support \$19,589,000 of the reductions requested in the President’s budget; however, it does accept a \$5,000,000 reduction for a one-time seafood machine pilot program.

The Committee provides a net increase of \$38,000,000 for cross cutting, medical product and food safety activities requested in the budget. Included in this funding is \$12,500,000 for Medical Device/Cyber Review Innovation activities; \$8,250,000 for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies; \$7,250,000 for Infrastructure Improvements; \$5,000,000 for Influenza Vaccine activities; \$5,000,000 for Cannabis and Cannabis Derivatives; \$2,000,000 for Compounding; \$2,000,000 for the Office of Chief Counsel; and \$1,000,000 for Foodborne Outbreaks.

The following table reflects the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2020 and budget request levels:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Centers and related field activities:			
Foods	1,088,881	1,099,206	1,094,381
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN]	341,966	351,084	343,466
Field Activities	746,915	748,122	750,915
Human Drugs	683,195	678,411	683,695
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER]	507,726	504,033	508,226
Field Activities	175,469	174,378	175,469

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2020 enacted	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Biologics	252,138	252,381	254,138
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]	210,132	210,657	212,132
Field Activities	42,006	41,724	42,006
Animal Drugs	190,869	190,081	191,369
Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM]	122,099	121,787	122,599
Field Activities	68,770	68,294	68,770
Medical and Radiological Devices	395,168	420,828	412,168
Center for Devices and Radiological Health	310,163	336,393	327,163
Field Activities	85,005	84,435	85,005
National Center for Toxicological Research	66,712	66,266	66,712
Other Activities	185,420	189,713	190,670
Rent and related activities	126,087	182,383	137,426
Rental payments to GSA	171,208	163,030	167,119
Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority	3,159,678	3,242,299	3,197,678

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. Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of the FDA shall submit to the Committee a report updating FDA’s June 18, 2019, guidance to the industry regarding the “Declaration of Added Sugars on Honey, Maple Syrup, Other Single-Ingredient Sugars and Syrups, and Certain Cranberry Products”. The report shall include multiple examples of factual and non-misleading statements describing the applicable percent daily value of sugar added to one’s diet that can be used by producers and processors of honey, maple syrup, other single-ingredient sugars and syrups, and certain cranberry products as optional explanatory statements to inform consumers of the meaning of this component of the nutrition facts panel.

Advanced Automated Microbial Detection.—The Committee is aware of the commercial availability of fully secure, automated microbial detection systems in healthcare manufacturing as a means of mitigating the increasing risks to the safety of the American drug supply due to expanding reliance on global supply chains. These systems can significantly improve safety and public health by rapidly and accurately detecting microbial contaminants in the manufacturing of drugs, biologics, consumer products, and medical devices while ensuring the integrity of the microbial test data in a secure, electronic format. The Committee encourages the FDA to

consider ways to accelerate more widespread adoption of these critical technologies.

Allergen Labeling.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA has failed to take further action to require labeling for sesame following the agency’s request for information on this allergen in 2018. Sesame allergy is more prevalent and severe than some of the major allergens currently required to be labeled in the United States, and a greater fraction of adults with sesame allergy report having made an emergency room visit related to food allergy in the past year than adults with any other major food allergy. Yet sesame is not labeled on food packages and can be hidden as a “spice” or “natural flavor.” The Committee urges the FDA to act swiftly to address this risk by requiring the same labeling for sesame as other major food allergens.

Animal Drug Compounding.—The Committee wants to ensure that Guidance for Industry [GFI] #256 on animal drug compounding, which the FDA issued on November 19, 2019, does not create the same issues that resulted in withdrawal of the previous draft guidance, GFI #230. The Committee expects that any finalized guidance on compounding for animal health will preserve treatment options available to veterinarians, reflect public input, and recognize the need for compounded medications by pet owners, animal shelters, zoos and other stakeholders.

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. As the FDA works to modernize standards of identity, the Committee encourages the agency to coordinate with USDA to prevent misleading labeling of these food products.

Animal Testing.—The Committee is aware that nonclinical approaches that do not involve the use of animals to evaluate new pharmaceuticals are being developed and might better predict some human outcomes and reduce animal testing. To help integrate these approaches, the Committee directs the FDA to review and modify regulations in 21 C.F.R. to clearly reflect the agency’s discretion to accept valid nonclinical approaches. This could be accomplished, for instance, by changing references to “animal” data to “nonclinical,” which encompasses in vivo, in vitro, and in silico approaches. The Committee also directs the FDA to consider expanding its Drug Development Tools Qualification Program to include a program for evaluating and integrating in vitro and computational approaches.

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

Bacterial Risk Control Strategies for Blood Collection.—The Committee notes that the FDA has finalized its guidance document on Bacterial Risk Control Strategies for Blood Collection Establishments and Transfusion Services to Enhance the Safety and Avail-

ability of Platelets for Transfusion, taking steps to address the greatest patient safety risk in blood transfusion medicine. The Committee remains concerned about this risk and urges the FDA to ensure future approvals and clearances consistent with this GFI are supported by strong patient safety data.

Biofilm Regulatory Science Research.—The Committee encourages the FDA to continue to invest in research to improve the understanding of biofilms and the regulatory science of biofilms associated medical devices (especially devices that may be used multiple times within a healthcare setting), drug delivery, and public health. The Committee encourages the FDA to meet its objectives to reduce healthcare associated infections as described in the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health Regulatory Science Priorities report and to continue to support the domestic manufacture of novel medical products that are safe and effective.

Botanical Dietary Supplements.—The Committee encourages the FDA to continue to 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 enhance further patient safety and help inform the FDA's scientific review of botanical dietary supplements.

Cancer Immunotherapy Clinical Trials.—The Committee is encouraged by the FDA's ongoing efforts to accelerate review and approval of cancer immunotherapies. This has greatly improved cancer patient outcomes by offering reduced toxicities and enhanced quality of life. As cancer treatment advances, the development of combination therapies relying on immunotherapy as a backbone may further enhance efficacy in patients that typically may not do well. Immunotherapy-based combination treatments, however, introduce many nuances, including the sequencing of involved agents and potential toxicities that can arise, that are difficult to compare across available data and trial designs. Therefore, in anticipation of an influx of new clinical trials involving combination regimens, the Committee urges the FDA to work with and provide guidance to the research community and pharmaceutical industry surrounding standardized clinical trial design considerations for immunotherapy-based combinations in order to help clinicians better select optimal treatment options for their patients, as well as to expedite regulatory review of novel regimens.

Cannabis and Cannabis Derivatives.—As previously noted, the Committee provides \$5,000,000 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

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.

Centers 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.

Complex Generics.—The Committee is aware of the challenges associated with the approval of complex generics and directs the FDA to provide an update on the agency's effort to expedite the approval of these products.

Co-prescribing Naloxone to Prevent Opioid Overdose.—In December 2018, an FDA joint advisory panel recommended the co-prescribing of naloxone with opioids as one of multiple recommendations to make naloxone more broadly available. Given the scope of the opioid crisis, the Committee urges the FDA to develop a comprehensive strategy on co-prescription of naloxone to reduce the rates of fatal opioid overdoses. The strategy should implement the recommendation of FDA's advisory panel to add labeling language recommending co-prescription of naloxone for those at increased risk of opioid overdose.

Corneal Crosslinking.—The Committee remains concerned about the marketing and use of unapproved drug and device products for corneal crosslinking procedures and directs the FDA to provide a briefing on the development of the 503B Bulks List and regulation of devices intended for corneal crosslinking procedures.

Decentralized Trials.—The Committee is encouraged by the development of novel health digital technologies to facilitate the use of virtual decentralized clinical trials [DCTs], sometimes referred to as virtual trials, that would make it easier for patients to participate in trials, regardless of where they live. Through telemedicine and digital health technologies, (e.g. connected sensors and direct data capture tools), DCTs are conducted geographically near the patient. Direct contact with the patient is still maintained remotely, but, when appropriate, reducing or eliminating on-site visits has the potential to increase patient convenience and operational efficiencies in trial conduct. The Committee recommends that the FDA develop the necessary policy to advance the use of DCTs while still maintaining quality data necessary for FDA approval.

Dietary Supplements.—The Committee applauds the FDA's inspection of and enforcement actions against manufacturers of dietary supplement products that are adulterated or misbranded but recognizes that more resources are needed to oversee products that are contaminated, either intentionally or unintentionally, with un-

safe ingredients. The Committee has been pleased with ongoing interagency collaborations and urges the FDA to continue working with the Department of Justice to remove illegal dietary supplements from the market. The Committee directs these increased resources toward enforcement of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–417), including inspection and enforcement activities. The FDA shall report to the Committee explaining how the agency carries out risk-based enforcement of dietary supplement product manufacturers and the resources it uses for these activities.

Donor Human Milk.—The Committee directs the FDA to continue to regulate human milk derived products that meet the statutory definition of infant formula and that are intended for consumption by low birth weight infants who otherwise have unusual medical or dietary problems as exempt infant formulas, as specified by the Infant Formula Act (Public Law 96–359).

Food Defense.—The Committee encourages the FDA to continue to work with industry to make Intentional Adulteration [IA] rule implementation as practical and flexible as possible while also protecting public health through compliance with IA rule requirements.

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.

Food Safety Mission.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA is implementing a one-size-fits-all regulatory framework for our diverse food production systems. FSMA emphasized the need for risk-based, flexible, and science-based regulations to fit varying business models and food production practices. The main focus of the FDA should be to prevent, mitigate, and, if necessary, communicate with the public regarding the roughly 48 million foodborne illnesses each year, not limit consumer choices. The FDA must report to the Committee on the metrics by which it measures any reductions in foodborne illnesses that have been found since FSMA was signed into law and how the FDA takes into account additional awareness of foodborne illnesses through new technology, such as whole genome sequencing. The Committee directs the FDA to report to the Committee all activities and resources for CFSAN that are not spent on implementing food safety programs and on preventing foodborne illnesses.

Foreign High Risk Inspections.—Ensuring that the global supply chain for products regulated by the FDA entering the United States is complying with U.S. laws and regulations related to safety and good manufacturing practices is a high priority. Due to limited resources, the Committee encourages the FDA to focus its inspection activities on the highest risk foreign suppliers. The Committee maintains funding for the evaluation of foreign high-risk

sites to allow the FDA to continue efforts to develop and utilize targeted, risk-based, and efficient models that incorporate commercially available information as appropriate, including onsite facility verification, about all foreign establishments for the purpose of regulatory compliance and surveillance of manufacturing practices. The FDA is directed to provide the Committee with an update on these efforts, including estimated efficiencies and concerns and plans to continue or expand these efforts in the future. The funding can be used to support the Centers' ongoing effort to improve the scientific evaluation of manufacturing for risk-based surveillance. The Committee expects this effort to provide the FDA with data-driven models that will help it target its overseas inspection activities in a global economy.

FSMA Clarification for Small Farms.—The Committee directs the FDA to continue working with small farms to clarify requirements for FSMA compliance, 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 also urges the FDA to communicate, including through appropriate guidance, offer technical assistance, and provide other resources to assist small farms with compliance.

FSMA Cooperative Agreements.—The Committee is aware that some States that have entered into cooperative agreements under the State Produce Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance have or are considering changing the State agency responsible for implementing these agreements. The FDA is directed to work with any State that designates a new implementing agency to ensure it can continue to receive funding under existing cooperative agreements without delay or loss of funding.

FSMA for Outreach to Small Farmers.—The Committee expects the FDA to adequately fund efforts to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to farmers with FSMA Produce Safety Rules. The Committee expects CFSAN to provide funding for critical outreach and training services at no less than the fiscal year 2020 level.

Gluten Free Labeling.—The Committee urges the FDA to prioritize publication of the final rule entitled “Food Labeling: Gluten-Free Labeling of Fermented or Hydrolyzed Foods” to provide certainty for food manufacturers and ensure people with celiac disease or other forms of gluten intolerance receive accurate information from hydrolyzed or fermented food products labeled as gluten-free.

Hepatitis B Drug Development.—The Committee appreciates the FDA's commitment to patient-focused drug development and its interest in an Externally-Led Patient-Focused Drug Development meeting focusing on the treatment-related needs and challenges of individuals infected with the Hepatitis virus to help inform the focus of new drug development and future clinical trials. The Committee urges the FDA to continue focusing on this issue.

Honey Imports.—The Committee recommends the FDA coordinate with Customs and Border Protection's [CBP] honey import testing program to detect economically motivated adulteration in imported honey and take appropriate enforcement actions, which

may include the issuance of import alerts if appropriate. The Committee further recommends that the FDA consult with domestic honey producers on its testing program and provide the Committee with a report on its progress on economically motivated adulteration testing of honey imports not later September 30, 2021.

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 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.

Import Officer Staffing Review.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that imports of agricultural products are inspected in a timely and efficient manner. The FDA plays a critical role in helping to safeguard the U.S. food supply, and agricultural import inspections are an important component of achieving the FDA's safety mission. The Committee is aware that agricultural import shipments can be delayed due to staffing challenges, including limited hours, at ports of entry. The Committee encourages the FDA to review its existing import office hours and provide the Committee an update should the agency determine that additional resources are necessary to ensure timely inspection of agricultural imports arriving at ports of entry.

Improving Import Review.—The Committee directs the FDA to report on how the agency is monitoring the impact of the reorganization under Program Alignment and whether such reorganization has improved the consistency of facility inspections.

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.

Insulin.—The Committee encourages the FDA to take steps to ensure the timely review of applications seeking licensure of proposed biosimilar and interchangeable insulin products, including chemically synthesized insulin products, should such an application be submitted. The Committee directs the FDA to report to Congress within one year of enactment of this Act on its approval process for biosimilar and interchangeable insulin products and to include any relevant examples of how the FDA has worked with biosimilar insulin applicants if any such applications have been approved. The Committee directs the FDA to publish revised draft or guidance on Clinical Immunogenicity Considerations for Biosimilar and Interchangeable Insulin Products order to give pharmaceutical companies greater clarity.

International Mail Facilities.—The Committee supports the FDA’s role at International Mail Facilities to reduce the entry of illicit and unapproved drugs and encourages collaboration with the U.S. Postal Service and CBP. The Committee also supports the work the FDA is conducting to improve facilities and upgrade laboratories, increase capacity for testing and storing substances, upgrade detection equipment and improve interoperability with CBP detection equipment where appropriate, and increase staffing. These steps and improvements are essential to strengthen FDA enforcement efforts to halt these illegal substances from entering the United States.

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.—The Committee is concerned that healthcare providers, consumers, and medical gas manufacturers have been waiting for 42 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 FDA has missed 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). Therefore, 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 proposed regulations by December 31, 2020, the agency shall submit a report to the Committee explaining the status of the rulemaking and reasons for delay.

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 National Nanotechnology Initiative Environment, Health, and Safety Research Strategy, as updated in October 2011.

National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System [NARMS].—The Committee provides \$11,300,000 for NARMS. The Committee directs that no less than \$500,000 shall be used to conduct one or more pilot studies to assess types and levels of antibiotic resistance in zoonotic bacteria on food products of species not currently tested by NARMS, such as imported seafood.

Nephrotic Syndrome.—The Committee recognizes the collaboration from the FDA in continuing to support key clinical trials for patients with nephrotic syndrome. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue collaborating with stakeholders on therapy access that has led to meaningful development of new treatments.

Olive Oil.—The Committee is particularly concerned with the number of different standards for olive oil and directs the FDA to

consult with domestic producers and importers of olive oil to develop a science-based Standard of Identity for the different grades (e.g. extra virgin, virgin, and refined) of olive oil and olive-pomace oils.

Opioid Epidemic.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about the opioid abuse epidemic that has taken the lives of more than 70,000 Americans and continues to support the FDA's investments with the International Mail Facilities initiative to stop illegal, illicit, unapproved, counterfeit, and potentially dangerous drugs from entering the United States. The Committee notes that 50 million Americans suffer from chronic pain and that living with chronic pain can be life-altering and deeply impact people on many levels. Management of chronic pain often requires both non-pharmacological treatment and medicines. Unfortunately, the current pharmacological options do not meet the needs of all patients and additional treatments are needed. Therefore, the Committee directs the FDA to comply with Section 3001 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities [SUPPORT] Act (Public Law 115–271), which directs the FDA to hold public meetings and issue guidance regarding the challenges of and barriers to developing non-addictive medical products intended to treat pain or addiction. The Committee expects the agency to comply with this directive.

The Committee also notes that the FDA has a responsibility to seek the advice of experts on the safety and efficacy of new opioid medications as required under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (Public Law 114–198). Therefore, the Committee continues its directive for the FDA to refer any drug application for an opioid to an advisory committee for their recommendations prior to approval, unless the FDA finds that holding such advisory committee is not in the interest of protecting and promoting public health. The Committee also supports the FDA's efforts to transition from the conventional opioid analgesic formulations that dominate the market today to safer products, including, but not limited to, more effective abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic formulations. The Committee directs the FDA to comply with Section 3032 of the SUPPORT Act (Public Law 115–271) and explore other safety-enhancing features, like special packaging or disposal options, that could assist with deterring abuse, misuse, and diversion. The Committee also encourages the FDA to continue to monitor the effectiveness of existing Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Mitigations Strategy to determine whether further modifications are necessary. The Committee is also aware of concerns pertaining to the use of opioid analgesics with ultra-high doses and directs the FDA to evaluate potential safety issues associated with higher dose opioid analgesics, as well as potential adverse or public health consequences associated restrictions on higher dose opioid analgesics.

Opioid Packaging.—The SUPPORT Act (Public Law 115–271) granted the FDA new authority to require special packaging for opioids and other drugs that pose a risk of abuse or overdose. The Committee is pleased that the FDA issued a request for information on requiring fixed-quantity blister packaging for certain opioids and urges the agency to consider finalizing this requirement to promote safe opioid handling and reduce the risk of unin-

tentional ingestion. Additionally, the Committee encourages the 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.

Oversight Activities.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for the HHS Office of Inspector General specifically for oversight of FDA activities.

Patent Information Related to Generic Drug Approval.—The Committee reminds FDA of the study required in Senate Report 116–110 and expects the agency to submit the required study in a timely manner.

Patient Experience in Drug Reviews.—The Committee is aware that the FDA is implementing policies to promote public access to information about how patient experience information is factored into the review of approved products. The Committee supports this step forward and encourages the FDA to continue refining the instrument and ways to improve its visibility and requests an update on the status of such efforts. The Committee also requests information on the FDA's efforts to include patient-experience information in relevant labeling and accompanying documentation to inform patient/provider decision-making and payer determinations.

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 2021.

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 six months to two 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. As such, the FDA is urged to provide to the Committee with an update no later than 240 days after enactment of this Act on the timing and progress of developing a plan and timetable for updating the monograph labeling for acetaminophen-containing products under the OTC Drug Review to include weight-based dosing instructions for children ages six months to two 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 2017 found that violation rates for imported food were 2.5 times higher than domestic food, which is consistent with fiscal year 2012 through 2016 trends and is an outcome of the FDA targeting specific commodities and countries that might warrant special attention based upon historically high violations rates and trends. The Committee directs the FDA to continue to partner with State inspection services and develop emerging technologies to enhance the imported food sampling efforts. Additionally, the Committee encourages the FDA to conduct a multi-year data review to better identify imported food samples that are more likely to have pesticide violations. 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 ten percent violation rate that may cause FDA to select the commodities for special attention in the annual pesticide report, certain imported products in the 2017 report had disproportionately higher violation rates than domestic products. The FDA shall review data in its 2019 report to determine whether it is appropriate to modify the special attention list to include imported products that have a violation rate of less than ten percent but for which imported products have significantly higher violation rates than identical domestic products. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to work with partners such as the U.S. International Trade Commission and to conduct a multi-year data review to better identify imported food samples that are more likely to have pesticide violations.

Pet Food.—The Committee is interested in obtaining more information on the FDA's approach to the investigation it is undertaking regarding canine dilated cardiomyopathy [DCM] and the manner in which it has released information to the public. The Committee directs the FDA to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act about how it is conducting its investigation, including: the case definition the FDA uses to include or exclude cases and the scientific work ongoing at the agency and with collaborating partners for identifying a causation of DCM; how FDA distinguishes cases of DCM due to genetic predisposition in certain breeds; how the agency plans to work with pet food companies and the veterinary cardiology community during the investigation; and the timing and nature of any future public reporting.

PFAS in Food Packaging.—The Committee is aware of concerns with the ongoing presence of PFAS chemicals in food packaging entering the stream of commerce. The Committee directs the FDA to review any new scientific information pertaining to PFAS chemicals and determine whether PFAS chemicals currently allowed for use as a food contact substance in food packaging continue to meet the safety standard of a reasonable certainty of no harm under the intended conditions of use.

Polypharmacy.—The routine usage of five or more prescription medications within the same period is becoming increasingly prevalent among older adults, elevating risk factors for drug-drug inter-

actions and adverse events. The Committee directs the FDA to assess potential impacts of polypharmacy, which might help inform the design of clinical studies.

Predictive Toxicology Roadmaps.—The Committee supports the FDA’s efforts to implement a clear process for qualifying and advancing new alternative methods for predictive toxicology testing when evaluating drugs and chemicals in order to improve human health and safety and to potentially replace, reduce, and/or refine animal testing. The Committee encourages the agency to continue to work with stakeholders to promote the development, evaluation, and utilization of suitable alternative methods.

Program Alignment Reorganization.—The Committee directs the FDA to report on how the agency is monitoring the impact of the reorganization under Program Alignment Group and whether such reorganization has improved the consistency of facility inspections and timeliness of reviewing imports.

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.

Ready-to-Eat [RTE] Foods.—The Committee is aware that the FDA is in the process of finalizing guidance regarding *Listeria monocytogenes* [Lm] in RTE foods. Reducing incidents of listeriosis is an important health goal, and the Committee supports efforts to accomplish this objective. The Committee urges the FDA to consider all available information relevant to the risk of listeriosis, including available exposure models, outbreak data, dose-response models, and existing risk assessments in determining a reliable and achievable Lm action level for frozen foods.

Real-World Evidence.—During the FDA’s vaccine approval process, randomized clinical trials are essential in determining the safety and efficacy of a vaccine. However, after a vaccine becomes licensed, a tremendous amount of real-world data [RWD] and real-world evidence [RWE] is generated from the millions of people vaccinated each season. Given the changing nature of influenza viruses, RWD and RWE can provide clinical information about vaccines in diverse and critical populations, such as children and the elderly, in near “real time” and across multiple influenza seasons. In practice, RWE provides information to help the U.S. Government, recommending committees and physicians, and the global influenza community gain a practical perspective on how to predict and prevent the spread of influenza each season. Therefore, in order to achieve more effective influenza vaccinations each season, the Committee encourages the FDA to continue to work with partners to use RWE to help evaluate vaccine safety and effectiveness in the post-market setting and to further consider how RWE can be included in product labels and promotional materials.

Seafood Advice.—The Committee remains concerned that pregnant women do not have Federal advice on seafood consumption based on the latest nutrition science that has been subject to inter-

agency review under Executive Order 12866 and that is consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required under 7 U.S. Code 5341(b). Therefore, the Committee directs the FDA to implement Section 773 of Public Law 116–6 by reissuing the final “Advice About Eating Fish” (published in 82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)) in a manner that is consistent with the FDA “Quantitative Assessment of the Net Effects on Fetal Neurodevelopment from Eating Commercial Fish” (announced in 79 Fed. Reg. 33559 (June 11, 2014)).

Seafood Labeling.—The Committee remains concerned about imitation seafood products being marketed as seafood. The Committee reminds the FDA that imitation seafood products must adhere to standards of identity. As the FDA continues to update the standards of identity for certain foods, the Committee reiterates its directive to the FDA Commissioner to coordinate closely with the seafood industry to ensure that such products are properly labeled in accordance with such standards of identity.

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.

Sunscreen Labeling Regulations.—The Committee is encouraged that the FDA has proposed regulations dealing with the sunscreen monograph and urges the FDA to issue a revised sunscreen order in accordance with the procedures described in section 505G(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Public Law 75–717) as required by section 3854(c) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

Tobacco Issues.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about underage nicotine vaping and data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showing increase in e-cigarette use among youth. With actions from the administration and Congress to increase the minimum tobacco purchasing age, the Committee is concerned about the continued lack of effective tobacco cessation products, less harmful alternatives, and Electronic Nicotine Delivery System [ENDS] cessation treatments for adolescents. Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the FDA shall provide an update to the Committee on its efforts to provide additional guidance to drug manufacturers on developing tobacco cessation and ENDS cessation products for youth and efforts to finalize the regulation for premarket tobacco product applications, as well as provide an analysis of proven, effective programs to support underage tobacco prevention and adolescent cessation.

Tobacco Product User Fees.—The Committee directs the FDA to submit a financial report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this Act, to be made publicly available online, with respect to tobacco product user fees and their use to fund programs and activities related to regulating tobacco products within the FDA. The report shall include the number of products and applications submitted under chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act (Public Law 75–717), including the number received, open pending, and closed, by product class; the number and titles of each proposed draft and final regulation and draft and final guidance issued with respect to tobacco products, and, for each, whether such regulation or guidance was issued as required by statute; a summary of enforcement and compliance actions the Commissioner has taken to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements under chapter IX, including preventing individuals under the minimum legal age from purchasing or accessing tobacco products; a summary of authorities and requirements authorized under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Public Law 111–31) (including chapter IX of this Act, as added by the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Public Law 111–31)) that have not been fulfilled; a summary of the scientific research activities the Secretary has undertaken to help achieve the goal of tobacco prevention and cessation and reducing tobacco harm; and a summary of the progress made by the public education campaign toward reducing the use of tobacco products.

User Fees.—The Committee affirms the important role of user fees in supporting programs across the FDA and supports the negotiations between the agency and regulated industry partners to compose a goals letter establishing clear expectations for both parties regarding timelines and processes associated with implementation of the law. Historically, these goals letters are added to the *Congressional Record*, unedited by Congress, and referenced in the law authorizing the collection of such fees. The Committee is concerned that recent user fee negotiations between the FDA and regulated industries have resulted in goals letters submitted to Congress containing policy changes that require statutory changes and presume that Congress will adopt suggested statutory changes. While the Committee encourages the agency to continue to provide suggested statutory changes to Congress in a timely manner that can help the agency meet its mission, the Committee finds that it is inappropriate for the agency and its regulated industry partners to negotiate statutory or other legal changes as part of user fee goals letters.

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.

White Oak.—The FDA’s growing staff will require GSA to lease additional office locations for the FDA until GSA can implement the 2018 Federal Research Master Plan for the White Oak Campus expansion. To determine the lowest cost technically acceptable for a GSA prospectus lease entered into on FDA’s behalf, FDA and GSA should consider the effect of local travel on staff productivity, adjacency to existing FDA locations, and the cost of lost productivity when evaluating the costs of lease proposals.

Women and Minorities in Research.—The Committee is concerned about the underrepresentation of women and minorities in clinical trials. The Committee is aware of ongoing work the FDA is doing and expects the agency to continue to work in this space.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2020	\$11,788,000
Budget estimate, 2021	13,788,000
Committee recommendation	13,788,000

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 \$13,788,000 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. Therefore, the Committee directs the Commissioner to provide a capital improvement plan with a prioritized list of all FDA facilities and labs. The plan should include a backlog and cost estimate for deferred maintenance for each facility, repair cost estimates, and any other associated costs to improve a facility’s condition.

FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT

Appropriations, 2020	\$75,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	70,000,000
Committee recommendation	70,000,000

The Committee recommends \$70,000,000 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, 2020	\$77,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021	80,400,000
Committee recommendation	80,400,000

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 \$80,400,000 on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

Eligibility Criteria for Outside Directors.—The Committee is concerned with the FCA final rule on eligibility criteria for outside directors, which expands the list of persons who are excluded from serving as outside directors. The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-181) specifies that outside directors must not be a director, officer, employee, agent, or stockholder of a System institution. This is accurately reflected under FCA's existing regulations at 12 CFR 611.220. The Committee believes the new rule extends unnecessarily beyond the requirements of the Act and creates a number of unnecessary restrictions and implementation challenges that must be addressed. The new rule would prevent many qualified individuals from serving and would even exclude a number of currently serving outside directors from being reappointed. These individuals have valuable skills and give voice to underrepresented communities of borrowers. As such, the Committee expects FCA to pause to reconsider the rule in light of these and other concerns expressed since the rule was initially approved by the Board of Directors. One of the concerns the Committee expects FCA to consider is ensuring that those currently serving in outside director positions are not adversely impacted by the rule, including future reappointment by their respective stockholder-elected boards.

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 one 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 section 502 single family direct loans.

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 disclosure of information for pharmaceuticals.

Section 729. This section includes language regarding dried spent grain products.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding a pilot program through the Rural Housing Service.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding APHIS inspections.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding partially hydrogenated oils.

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 Farm to School programs.

Section 738. This section includes language regarding the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

Section 739. This section includes language regarding citrus greening.

Section 740. This section includes language regarding gene editing.

Section 741. This section includes language regarding FDA regulation.

Section 742. This section includes language regarding a NIFA pilot program.

Section 743. This section includes language regarding school meal programs.

Section 744. This section includes language regarding industrial hemp.

Section 745. This section includes language regarding FDA seafood advisory.

Section 746. This section includes language regarding the PAWS Act.

Section 747. This section includes language regarding geographically disadvantaged farmers.

Section 748. This section includes language regarding Tribal demonstration projects.

Section 749. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank Act.

Section 750. This section includes language regarding REAP zones.

Section 751. This section includes language regarding an FAS pilot program.

Section 752. This section includes language regarding the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

Section 753. This section includes language regarding a rural development pilot program.

Section 754. This section includes language regarding urban agriculture.

Section 755. This section includes language regarding fluid milk.

Section 756. This section includes language regarding Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.

Section 757. This section includes language regarding tribal student scholarships.

Section 758. This section includes language regarding genomes to phenomes.

Section 759. This section includes language regarding potable water.

Section 760. This section includes language regarding microgrants for food security.

Section 761. This section includes language regarding dairy innovation centers.

Section 762. This section includes language regarding mitigation banking.

Section 763. This section includes language regarding FDA seafood safety.

Section 764. This section includes language regarding RISE grants.

Section 765. This section includes language regarding a rural development pilot program.

Section 766. This section includes language regarding broadband.

Section 767. This section includes language regarding FDA regulation.

Section 768. This section includes language regarding hemp.

Section 769. This section includes language regarding child nutrition programs.

Section 770. This section includes language regarding an interagency working group.

Section 771. This section includes language regarding the Goodfellow Federal Center.

Section 772. This section includes language regarding a feasibility study.

Section 773. This section includes language regarding a rescission of funds.

Section 774. This section includes language regarding rural development programs.

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2021, 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, 2021, and the accompanying 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 2021 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 2021 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 2021:

- Multi-family Housing Revitalization Program
- Broadband Loan and Grant Pilot Program
- Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program
- 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

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(C), RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on _____, 2020, the Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 0000) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that the bill be consistent with its budget allocation, and provided that the Chairman of the Committee or his designee be authorized to offer the substance of the original bill as a Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House companion measure, by a recorded vote of 00–00, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

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.”

The Committee bill as recommended contains no such provisions.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Processing, Research, and Marketing					
Staff Offices					
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Secretary	5,051	5,143	5,118	+67	-25
Office of Homeland Security	1,496	1,336	1,328	-168	-8
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	6,211	1,957	6,234	+23	+4,277
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	875	887	883	+8	-4
Departmental Administration	21,376	27,161	21,483	+107	-5,678
Subtotal	22,251	28,048	22,366	+115	-5,682
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	3,869	3,941	3,921	+52	-20
Office of Communications	7,261	7,411	7,359	+98	-52
Total, Office of the Secretary	46,139	47,836	46,326	+187	-1,510
Executive Operations					
Office of the Chief Economist	24,013	20,857	23,751	-262	+2,894
Office of Hearings and Appeals	15,222	15,533	15,448	+226	-85
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	9,525	20,660	9,666	+141	-10,994
Subtotal	48,760	57,050	48,865	+105	-8,185
Office of the Chief Information Officer	66,580	142,812	66,897	+317	-75,915
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	6,028	11,104	6,137	+109	-4,967
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	901	914	910	+9	-4
Office of Civil Rights	24,206	20,633	20,497	-3,709	-136
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection .....	.....	24,978	24,978	+24,978	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities	128,167	152,830	131,688	+ 3,521	- 21,142
Hazardous materials management	4,503	3,523	4,518	+ 15	+ 995
Office of Inspector General	98,208	100,389	99,791	+ 1,583	- 598
Office of the General Counsel	45,146	45,878	45,938	+ 792	+ 60
Office of Information Affairs .....	.....	2,500	.....	.....	- 2,500
Office of Ethics	4,136	4,222	4,199	+ 63	- 23
Total, Executive Operations	425,635	566,833	454,418	+ 27,783	- 112,415
Total, Staff Offices	472,774	614,669	500,744	+ 27,970	- 113,925
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics	800	813	809	+ 9	- 4
Office of the Chief Scientist .....	.....	6,000	.....	.....	- 6,000
Economic Research Service	84,757	62,109	85,703	+ 946	+ 23,594
National Agricultural Statistics Service	180,294	177,465	184,434	+ 4,140	+ 6,969
Census of Agriculture	(45,300)	(46,300)	(46,300)	(+ 1,000)	.....
Agricultural Research Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,414,366	1,367,970	1,485,613	+ 71,247	+ 117,643
Buildings and facilities	192,700	50,000	24,500	- 168,200	- 25,500
Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,607,066	1,417,970	1,510,113	- 96,953	+ 92,143
National Institute of Food and Agriculture					
Research and education activities	962,864	1,067,986	971,624	+ 8,760	- 96,362
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund	(11,880)	(11,857)	(11,880)	.....	(+ 23)
Extension activities	526,557	484,832	529,262	+ 2,705	+ 44,430
Integrated activities	38,000	38,000	38,000	.....	.....

Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,527,421	1,590,818	1,538,886	+ 11,465	- 51,932
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	800	914	809	+ 9	- 105
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,042,711	1,032,988	1,057,100	+ 14,389	+ 24,112
Buildings and facilities	3,175	2,574	3,175	.....	+ 601
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	1,045,886	1,035,562	1,060,275	+ 14,389	+ 24,713
Agricultural Marketing Service					
Marketing Services	186,936	150,933	187,074	+ 138	+ 36,141
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(61,227)	(60,982)	(61,227)	.....	(+ 245)
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent, Section 32	1,404,000	1,359,864	1,359,864	- 44,136	.....
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from Section 32)	(20,705)	(20,705)	(20,705)	.....	.....
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	1,708,398	1,626,779	1,664,400	- 43,998	+ 37,621
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	800	813	809	+ 9	- 4
Food Safety and Inspection Service	1,054,344	1,092,405	1,070,112	+ 15,768	- 22,293
Lab accreditation fees	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	.....	.....
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs	7,567,113	7,510,335	7,500,867	- 66,246	- 9,468
(By transfer)	(20,705)	(20,705)	(20,705)	.....	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(116,227)	(115,982)	(116,227)	.....	(+ 245)
TITLE II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs					
Farm Production Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation	901	1,141	916	+ 15	- 225
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center	203,877	243,602	232,511	+ 28,634	- 11,091
(By transfer from CCC)	(60,228)	(60,228)	(60,228)	.....	.....
(By transfer from ACF)	(16,081)	.....	.....	(-16,081)	.....
(By transfer from Food for Peace (Public Law 480)) .....	.....	(112)	.....	.....	(- 112)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
(By transfer from export loans)		(318)	(318)	(+ 318)	
Total, FPAC Business Center (including transfers)	280,186	304,260	293,057	+ 12,871	- 11,203
Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses	1,122,837	1,104,684	1,140,023	+ 17,186	+ 35,339
(By transfer from Food for Peace (Public Law 480))	(142)		(142)		(+ 142)
(By transfer from export loans)	(318)			(- 318)	
(By transfer from ACIF)	(290,917)	(294,114)	(294,114)	(+ 3,197)	
Subtotal, transfers	(291,377)	(294,114)	(294,256)	(+ 2,879)	(+ 142)
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers)	1,414,214	1,398,798	1,434,279	+ 20,065	+ 35,481
State mediation grants	5,545	6,914	6,914	+ 1,369	
Grassroots source water protection program	6,500		6,500		+ 6,500
Dairy indemnity program	500	500	500		
Subtotal, Farm Service Agency	1,135,382	1,112,098	1,153,937	+ 18,555	+ 41,839
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF) Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Direct	(1,875,000)	(2,119,000)	(2,500,000)	(+ 625,000)	(+ 381,000)
Guaranteed	(2,750,000)	(2,750,000)	(3,300,000)	(+ 550,000)	(+ 550,000)
Subtotal	(4,625,000)	(4,869,000)	(5,800,000)	(+ 1,175,000)	(+ 931,000)
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	(1,550,133)	(1,633,333)	(1,633,333)	(+ 83,200)	

Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,960,000)	(2,118,482)	(2,118,482)	(+ 158,482)	.....
Subtotal	(3,510,133)	(3,751,815)	(3,751,815)	(+ 241,682)	.....
Emergency loans	(37,668)	(37,668)	(37,668)	.....	.....
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	.....	.....
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	.....	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	(10,000)	.....	.....	(- 10,000)	.....
Boil weevil eradication loans	(60,000)	.....	(60,000)	.....	(+ 60,000)
Relending program loans	(18,215)	(18,215)	(33,693)	(+ 15,478)	(+ 15,478)
Total Loan authorizations	(8,431,016)	(8,846,698)	(9,853,176)	(+ 1,422,160)	(+ 1,006,478)
Loan subsidies:					
Farm operating loans:					
Direct	58,440	38,710	38,710	- 19,730	.....
Unsubsidized guaranteed	20,972	23,727	23,727	+ 2,755	.....
Subtotal	79,412	62,437	62,437	- 16,975	.....
Emergency Loans	2,023	207	207	- 1,816	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	2,745	.....	.....	- 2,745	.....
Boil weevil eradication loans	60	.....	.....	- 60	.....
Relending program loans	5,000	2,703	5,000	.....	+ 2,297
Total Loan subsidies and grants	89,240	65,347	67,644	- 21,596	+ 2,297
ACIF administrative expenses:					
Administrative Expenses	317,068	307,344	307,344	- 9,724	.....
(Program Loan Cost Expenses)	(10,070)	(13,230)	(13,230)	(+ 3,160)	.....
(Transfer out to FSA Salaries and expenses)	(- 290,917)	(- 294,114)	(- 294,114)	(- 3,197)	.....
(Transfer out to FPAC Business Center Salaries and expenses)	(- 16,081)	.....	.....	(+ 16,081)	.....
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account	406,308	372,691	374,988	- 31,320	+ 2,297
(Loan authorizations)	(8,431,016)	(8,846,698)	(9,853,176)	(+ 1,422,160)	(+ 1,006,478)
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,541,690	1,484,789	1,528,925	- 12,765	+ 44,136

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Risk Management Agency					
RMA Salaries and Expenses	58,361	59,440	60,373	+ 2,012	+ 933
Total, Farm Production Programs	1,804,829	1,788,972	1,822,725	+ 17,896	+ 33,753
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Private Lands Conservation Operations	829,628	830,186	831,906	+ 2,278	+ 1,720
(By transfer from FSR) .....	.....	(1,190,609)	.....	.....	(- 1,190,609)
Farm Security and Rural Investment Program:	.....	(- 1,190,609)	.....	.....	(+ 1,190,609)
Technical assistance (transfer out)	(- 60,228)	(- 60,228)	(- 60,228)	.....	.....
Administrative expenses—FPAC Business Center (transfer out) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Conservation operations	829,628	830,186	831,906	+ 2,278	+ 1,720
Watershed flood and prevention operations					
Watershed rehabilitation program	175,000	.....	175,000	.....	+ 175,000
.....	10,000	.....	.....	- 10,000	.....
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	1,014,628	830,186	1,006,906	- 7,722	+ 176,720
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Federal crop insurance corporation fund	9,959,000	8,716,000	8,716,000	- 1,243,000	.....
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Reimbursement for net realized losses	26,309,033	25,553,096	25,553,096	- 755,937	.....
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses)	(5,000)	(15,000)	(5,000)	.....	(- 10,000)
Total, Corporations	36,268,033	34,269,096	34,269,096	- 1,998,937	.....

Total, title II, Farm Production and Conservation Programs	39,087,490	36,888,254	37,098,727	- 1,988,763	+ 210,473
(By transfer)	(367,686)	(1,545,381)	(354,802)	(- 12,884)	(- 1,190,579)
(Transfer out)	(- 367,226)	(- 1,544,951)	(- 354,342)	(+ 12,884)	(+ 1,190,609)
TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	800	1,036	812	+ 12	- 224
Rural Development					
Rural development expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	247,835	483,480	257,289	+ 9,454	- 226,191
(By transfer from RHF)	(412,254)	(240,000)	(412,254)	.....	(+ 172,254)
(By transfer from RDLFP)	(4,468)	.....	(4,468)	.....	(+ 4,468)
(By transfer from RETLP)	(33,270)	(38,000)	(33,270)	.....	(- 4,730)
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts	449,992	278,000	449,992	.....	+ 171,992
Total, Rural development expenses	697,827	761,480	707,281	+ 9,454	- 54,199
Rural Housing Service					
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	(1,000,000)	.....	(1,000,000)	.....	(+ 1,000,000)
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)	(24,000,000)	.....	.....
Subtotal, Single family	25,000,000	24,000,000	25,000,000	.....	+ 1,000,000
Housing repair (Sec 504)	(28,000)	.....	(28,000)	.....	(+ 28,000)
Rental housing (Sec 515)	(40,000)	.....	(40,000)	.....	(+ 40,000)
Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec 538)	(230,000)	(230,000)	(230,000)	.....	.....
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 (Sec 514)	(28,000)	.....	(28,000)	.....	(+ 28,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	25,346,000	24,240,000	25,346,000	.....	+ 1,106,000
Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	90,000	.....	55,400	- 34,600	+ 55,400

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Housing repair (Sec 504)	4,679	.....	2,215	-2,464	+2,215
Rental housing (Sec 515)	12,144	40,000	6,688	-5,456	-33,312
Farm labor housing (Sec 514)	8,739	.....	5,093	-3,646	+5,093
Self-Help Land Development Housing Loans (Sec 523)	577	.....	269	-308	+269
Site Development Loans (Sec 524)	546	.....	355	-191	+355
Total, Loan subsidies	116,685	40,000	70,020	-46,665	+30,020
Farm labor housing grants	10,000	.....	10,000	.....	+10,000
RHF administrative expenses	412,254	240,000	412,254	.....	+172,254
(Transfer out to Rural Development)	(-412,254)	(-240,000)	(-412,254)	.....	(-172,254)
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program	538,939	280,000	492,274	-46,665	+212,274
(Loan authorization)	(25,346,000)	(24,240,000)	(25,346,000)	.....	(+1,106,000)
Rental assistance program:					
Rental assistance (Sec 521)	1,375,000	1,410,000	1,410,000	+35,000	.....
Rural housing vouchers .....	.....	40,000	.....	.....	-40,000
Subtotal, Rental Assistance Program	1,375,000	1,450,000	1,410,000	+35,000	-40,000
Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program Account:					
Rural housing voucher program	32,000	.....	34,000	+2,000	+34,000
Multi-family housing revitalization program	28,000	.....	28,000	.....	+28,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants	31,000	.....	31,000	.....	+31,000
Rural housing assistance grants	45,000	45,000	45,000	.....	.....
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct	(2,800,000)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	(-300,000)	.....

	(500,000)	(500,000)	500,000		
Guaranteed					
Total, loan authorizations	3,300,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	-300,000	
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Non-conforming Subsidy		20,000	9,000	+9,000	-11,000
Grants	32,000	30,000	32,000		+2,000
Rural community development initiative	6,000		6,000		+6,000
Economic impact initiative grants	6,000		6,000		+6,000
Tribal college grants	5,000	10,000	5,000		-5,000
Subtotal, loan subsidies and grants	49,000	60,000	58,000	+9,000	-2,000
Total, grants and payments	125,000	105,000	134,000	+9,000	+29,000
Total, Rural Housing Service	2,098,939	1,835,000	2,098,274	-665	+263,274
(Loan authorization)	(28,646,000)	(27,240,000)	(28,346,000)	(-300,000)	(+1,106,000)
Rural Business—Cooperative Service:					
Energy Assistance Programs		100,000			-100,000
Rural Business Program Account:					
(Guaranteed business and industry loan authorization)	(1,000,000)	(1,250,000)	(1,250,000)	(+250,000)	
Distressed loans		(250,000)	(100,000)	(+100,000)	(-150,000)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy	20,500			-20,500	
Distressed loans		7,400	2,630	+2,630	-4,770
Rural business development grants	37,000		37,000		+37,000
DRA, ARC, and NBRC	9,000		9,000		+9,000
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants	66,500	7,400	48,630	-17,870	+41,230
Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(18,889)		(18,889)		(+18,889)
Loan subsidy	5,219		2,939	-2,280	+2,939
Administrative expenses	4,468		4,468		+4,468
(Transfer out to Rural Development)	(-4,468)		(-4,468)		(-4,468)
Total, intermediary Relending Program Account	9,687		7,407	-2,280	+7,407

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(50,000)	.....	(50,000)	.....	(+ 50,000)
Limit cushion of credit interest spending	(50,000)	.....	(50,000)	.....	(+ 50,000)
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:					
Cooperative development	5,800	.....	5,800	.....	+ 5,800
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas	2,800	.....	2,800	.....	+ 2,800
Grants to assist minority producers	3,000	3,000	3,000	.....	.....
Value-added agricultural product market development	12,000	.....	12,000	.....	+ 12,000
Agriculture innovation centers	3,000	.....	3,000	.....	+ 3,000
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants	26,600	3,000	26,600	.....	+ 23,600
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	6,000	.....	6,000	.....	+ 6,000
Rural Energy for America Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(20,000)	.....	(20,000)	.....	(+ 20,000)
Loan subsidy and grants	706	.....	392	- 314	+ 392
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service	109,493	110,400	89,029	- 20,464	- 21,371
(Loan authorizations)	(1,088,889)	(1,500,000)	(1,438,889)	(+ 350,000)	(- 61,111)
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural water and waste disposal program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct	(1,400,000)	(1,270,000)	(1,400,000)	.....	(+ 130,000)
Guaranteed	(50,000)	(58,333)	(50,000)	.....	(- 8,333)
Total, Loan authorizations	1,450,000	1,328,333	1,450,000	.....	+ 121,667
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Direct subsidy	63,840	.....	.....	- 63,840	.....

	70	70	60	- 10	- 10
Guaranteed subsidy	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....	.....
Water and waste revolving fund	5,000	1,000	5,000	.....	+ 4,000
Water well system grants	68,000	68,000	68,000	.....	.....
Colonias and AV/HI grants	30,000	40,000	30,000	.....	- 10,000
Water and waste technical assistance	19,570	19,000	20,157	.....	+ 1,157
Circuit rider program	4,000	4,000	4,000	.....	.....
Solid waste management grants	10,000	10,000	10,000	.....	+ 10,000
High energy cost grants	443,000	463,350	400,000	.....	- 63,350
Water and waste disposal grants	15,000	15,000	15,000	.....	.....
306A(i)(2) grants .....	.....	2,650	.....	.....	- 2,650
Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, loan subsidies and grants	659,480	614,070	553,217	- 106,263	- 60,853
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans					
Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, FFB	(5,500,000)	(5,500,000)	(5,500,000)	.....	(+ 5,500,000)
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(- 5,500,000)
Guaranteed underwriting	(750,000)	.....	(750,000)	.....	(+ 750,000)
Subtotal, Electric	6,250,000	5,500,000	6,250,000	.....	+ 750,000
Telecommunications:					
Telecomm Direct, Treasury	(345,000)	(690,000)	(345,000)	.....	(- 345,000)
Direct, FFB	(345,000)	.....	(345,000)	.....	(+ 345,000)
Subtotal, Telecommunications	690,000	690,000	690,000	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	6,940,000	6,190,000	6,940,000	.....	+ 750,000
Loan Subsidy:					
Telecommunications Direct, Treasury Rate	3,795	4,554	2,277	- 1,518	- 2,277
RETLP administrative expenses	33,270	38,000	33,270	.....	- 4,730
(Transfer out to Rural Development)	(- 33,270)	(- 38,000)	(- 33,270)	.....	(+ 4,730)
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	37,065	42,554	35,547	- 1,518	- 7,007
(Loan authorization)	(6,940,000)	(6,190,000)	(6,940,000)	.....	(+ 750,000)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
 (In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Broadband Program:					
Loan authorizations:					
Broadband telecommunications	(111,179)	.....	(11,869)	(+ 690)	(+ 11,869)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Grants	50,000	44,000	50,000	.....	+ 6,000
Broadband telecommunications:					
Direct	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
Grants	35,000	30,000	35,000	.....	+ 5,000
Broadband E-Connect:					
Loan subsidies and grants	.....	250,000	.....	.....	- 250,000
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	87,000	324,000	87,000	.....	- 237,000
Total, Rural Utilities Service	783,545	980,624	675,764	- 107,781	- 304,860
(Loan authorization)	(8,401,179)	(7,518,333)	(8,401,869)	(+ 690)	(+ 883,536)
Total, title III, Rural Development Programs	3,240,612	3,410,540	3,121,168	- 119,444	- 289,372
(By transfer)	(449,992)	(278,000)	(449,992)	.....	(+ 171,992)
(Transfer out)	(- 449,992)	(- 278,000)	(- 449,992)	.....	(- 171,992)
(Loan authorizations)	(38,136,068)	(36,258,333)	(38,186,758)	(+ 50,690)	(+ 1,928,425)
TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	800	813	809	+ 9	- 4
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	23,550,098	25,040,911	25,046,440	+ 1,496,342	+ 5,529
School breakfast program equipment grants	30,000	.....	30,000	.....	+ 30,000
Demonstration projects (Summer EBT)	35,000	.....	35,000	.....	+ 35,000

Total, Child nutrition programs	23,615,098	25,040,911	25,111,440	+ 1,496,342	+ 70,529
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	6,000,000	5,451,501	6,000,000	.....	+ 548,499
Supplemental nutrition assistance program: (Food stamp program)	64,885,287	65,281,364	65,321,641	+ 436,354	+ 40,277
Reserve	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	.....	.....
FDPIR nutrition education services	998	.....	998	.....	+ 998
Total, Food stamp program	67,886,285	68,281,364	68,322,639	+ 436,354	+ 41,275
Commodity assistance program: Commodity supplemental food program	245,000	.....	263,000	+ 18,000	+ 263,000
Farmers market nutrition program	18,548	.....	18,548	.....	+ 18,548
Emergency food assistance program	79,630	79,630	79,630	.....	.....
Pacific island and disaster assistance	1,070	1,070	1,070	.....	.....
Total, Commodity assistance program	344,248	80,700	362,248	+ 18,000	+ 281,548
Nutrition programs administration	155,891	155,251	157,526	+ 1,635	+ 2,275
Congressional Hunger Center	(2,000)	.....	(2,000)	.....	( + 2,000)
Total, Food and Nutrition Service	98,001,522	99,009,727	99,953,853	+ 1,952,331	+ 944,126
Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs	98,002,322	99,010,540	99,954,662	+ 1,952,340	+ 944,122
TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs	875	891	887	+ 12	- 4
Office of Codex Alimentarius	4,775	4,817	4,805	+ 30	- 12
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses	215,513	193,703	214,573	- 940	+ 20,870
(By transfer from export loans)	(6,063)	(6,063)	(6,063)	.....	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers)	221,576	199,766	220,636	- 940	+ 20,870
Food for Peace Title I Direct Credit and Food for Progress Program Account: Administrative expenses	142	112	142	.....	+ 30
FSA Salaries and expenses (transfer out)	(142)	.....	(- 142)	.....	(- 142)
FPAC Business Center Salaries and expenses (transfer out) .....	.....	(- 112)	.....	.....	(+ 112)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Food for Peace Title II Grants:					
Expenses	1,725,000	.....	1,725,000	.....	+ 1,725,000
Commodity Credit Corporation Export Loans Program Account:					
Administrative expenses	6,381	6,381	6,381	.....	.....
Foreign Agriculture Service, Salaries and expenses (transfer out)	(- 6,063)	(- 6,063)	(- 6,063)	.....	.....
Farm Service Agency Salaries and expenses (transfer out)	(- 318)	.....	.....	(+ 318)	.....
FPAC Business Center Salaries and expenses (transfer out) .....	.....	(- 318)	(- 318)	.....	.....
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account	6,381	6,381	6,381	.....	.....
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants	220,000	.....	220,000	.....	+ 220,000
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs	2,172,686	205,904	2,171,788	- 898	+ 1,965,884
(By transfer)	(6,063)	(6,063)	(6,063)	.....	.....
(Transfer out)	(- 6,523)	(- 6,493)	(- 6,523)	.....	(- 30)
TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses	3,159,678	3,206,564	3,197,678	+ 38,000	- 8,886
Direct appropriation	1,074,714	1,119,188	1,119,188	+ 44,474	.....
Spending from appropriated user fees:	220,142	238,595	238,595	+ 18,453	.....
Prescription drug user fees	513,223	526,039	526,039	+ 12,816	.....
Medical device user fees	41,923	42,998	42,998	+ 1,075	.....
Human generic drug user fees	30,611	31,306	31,306	+ 695	.....
Biosimilar biological products user fees .....	.....	20,609	20,609	+ 458	.....
Animal drug user fees .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Animal generic drug user fees .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	712,000	712,000	712,000	712,000	.....
Tobacco product user fees					
Subtotal, user fees (appropriated)	2,612,764	2,690,735	2,690,735	+ 77,971	
Subtotal (including appropriated user fees)	5,772,442	5,897,299	5,888,413	+ 115,971	- 8,886
Mammography user fees	21,351	18,618	18,618	- 2,733	
Export user fees	4,696	4,886	4,886	+ 190	
Color certification user fees	10,534	10,469	10,469	- 65	
Food and Feed Recall user fees	1,492	1,492	1,492		
Food Reinspection fees	6,673	6,673	6,673		
Voluntary qualified importer program fees	5,515	5,514	5,514	- 1	
Pharmacy compounding fees	1,676	1,581	1,581	- 95	
Priority review vouchers (PRV) pediatric disease	7,997	7,997	7,997		
Priority review vouchers (PRV) tropical disease		2,556	2,556	+ 2,556	
Priority review vouchers (PRV) medical countermeasures		2,556	2,556	+ 2,556	
Third party auditor		741	741	- 1	
Over-the-Counter Monograph fees	28,400	28,400	28,400		
Increased export certification fees (legislative proposal)		4,366			- 4,366
Innovative food products fees (legislative proposal)		28,000			- 28,000
Expand tobacco products fees (legislative proposal)		100,000			- 100,000
Subtotal, spending from FDA user fees	2,701,840	2,914,584	2,782,218	+ 80,378	- 132,366
(By transfer)	(1,500)		(1,500)		(+ 1,500)
Total, Salaries and expenses (including user fees)	5,863,018	6,121,148	5,981,396	+ 118,378	- 139,752
Buildings and facilities	11,788	13,788	13,788	+ 2,000	
FDA Innovation account	75,000	70,000	70,000	- 5,000	
Offset of appropriation pursuant to Section 1002 (b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255)	- 75,000	- 70,000	- 70,000	+ 5,000	
Spending of FDA innovation account (transfer)	(75,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(- 5,000)	
Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals)	5,873,306	6,134,936	5,993,684	+ 120,378	- 141,252
Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only)	5,873,306	6,002,570	5,993,684	+ 120,378	- 8,886
FDA user fees	- 2,701,840	- 2,914,584	- 2,782,218	- 80,378	+ 132,366

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Food and Drug Administration (excluding user fees)	3,171,466	3,220,352	3,211,466	+40,000	-8,886
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(77,000)	(80,400)	(80,400)	(+3,400)	.....
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	3,171,466	3,220,352	3,211,466	+40,000	-8,886
TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Rural Energy Savings Program	12,000	.....	10,000	-2,000	+10,000
Farm to School	9,000	.....	9,000	.....	+9,000
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000
Citrus Greening	8,500	.....	8,500	.....	+8,500
Broadband Pilot	300,000	.....	325,000	+25,000	+325,000
Section 313 funds	(255,000)	.....	(75,000)	(-180,000)	(+75,000)
NFA Military Veteran Grants	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	.....
Centers of Excellence	6,000	.....	.....	-6,000	.....
Rural Hospital Technical Assistance	1,000	.....	.....	-1,000	.....
Protecting Animals with Shelter Grants	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+2,000
Tribal Demonstration Projects	3,000	.....	3,000	.....	+3,000
International Agricultural Education Fellowship	1,000	.....	1,000	.....	+1,000
School Breakfast Expansion Grants	5,000	.....	.....	-5,000	.....
Urban Agriculture Office	5,000	.....	2,000	-3,000	+2,000
Food Loss Liaison	400	.....	.....	-400	.....
Healthy Fluid Milk	1,000	.....	1,000	.....	+1,000
Pollinator Research Coordinator	400	.....	.....	-400	.....
Farm Opportunities Training and Outreach	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000
Tribal Student Scholarships	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000
Genome to Phenome	1,000	.....	1,000	.....	+1,000
Nutrition Assistance Program Study	6,000	.....	.....	-6,000	.....
Micro-grants for Food Security	5,000	.....	5,000	.....	+5,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020 (PUBLIC LAW 116-123 DIV A)					
Department of Agriculture					
Food and Drug Administration	61,000			- 61,000	
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)					
SECOND CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020 (PUBLIC LAW 116-127)					
Department of Agriculture					
Food and Nutrition Service	500,000			- 500,000	
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (emergency)	400,000			- 400,000	
Commodity Assistance Program (emergency)					
General Provisions	100,000			- 100,000	
Grants for Nutrition Assistance (Sec 1102) (emergency)	1,000,000			- 1,000,000	
Total, Second Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020					
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS HEALTH RESPONSE AND AGENCY OPERATIONS (PUBLIC LAW 116-136 DIV B)					
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
Office of the Secretary (emergency)	9,500,000			- 9,500,000	
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	750			- 750	
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	55,000			- 55,000	
Salaries and expenses (emergency)					

Agricultural Marketing Service					
Expenses and Refunds, Inspection and Grading of Farm Products (emergency)					— 45,000
Food Safety and Inspection Service (emergency)					— 33,000
Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)					— 3,000
Rural Business—Cooperative Service:					
Rural Business Program Account:					
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed Business and Industry Subsidy (emergency)					— 20,500
Rural Utilities Service:					
Broadband Program:					
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants (emergency)					— 25,000
Food and Nutrition Service					
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:					
FDPiR nutrition education service (emergency)					— 100,000
Nutrition Assistance for U.S. territories (emergency)					— 200,000
Commodity Assistance Program:					
Emergency food assistance program (emergency)					— 450,000
Foreign Agricultural Service					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)					— 4,000
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)					— 80,000
GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE					
Commodity Credit Corporation (emergency)					— 14,000,000
Reconnect Broadband pilot program (emergency)					— 100,000
Total, Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations					— 24,616,250

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM AND HEALTH CARE ENHANCEMENT ACT (PUBLIC LAW 116-139)					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and expenses (by transfer) (emergency)	(22,000)	.....	.....	(- 22,000)	.....
Total, Other Appropriations	25,689,250	.....	.....	- 25,689,250	.....
Emergency appropriations	25,689,250	.....	.....	- 25,689,250	.....
By Transfer (emergency)	22,000	.....	.....	- 22,000	.....
Grand total	178,900,166	149,045,925	152,742,539	- 26,157,627	+ 3,696,614
Appropriations	(156,392,829)	(153,160,509)	(156,333,757)	(- 59,072)	(+ 3,173,248)
Emergency appropriations	(27,724,250)	.....	.....	(- 27,724,250)	.....
Offsetting collections	(- 2,701,840)	(- 2,914,584)	(- 2,782,218)	(- 80,378)	(+ 132,366)
Rescissions	(- 1,015,073)	(- 1,200,000)	(- 809,000)	(+ 206,073)	(+ 391,000)
Rescissions of emergency funding	(- 1,500,000)	.....	.....	(+ 1,500,000)	.....
(By transfer)	(1,648,982)	(3,658,888)	(1,623,214)	(- 25,768)	(- 2,035,674)
(By transfer) (emergency)	(277,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(- 202,000)	(+ 75,000)
(Transfer out)	(- 1,647,482)	(- 3,658,888)	(- 1,621,714)	(+ 25,768)	(+ 2,037,174)
(Loan authorization)	(46,567,084)	(45,105,031)	(48,039,934)	(+ 1,472,850)	(+ 2,394,903)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(198,227)	(211,382)	(201,627)	(+ 3,400)	(- 9,755)