



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Approves FY 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development and FDA Appropriations

Washington, DC – The U.S. Senate today approved the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA Appropriations bill by a vote of 80 to 17.

A summary of the legislation, as approved by the Senate, is below:

Discretionary

FY 2009 Enacted: \$21.355 billion
President's Request: \$23.596 billion
Senate Mark: **\$24.046 billion**

Mandatory

FY 2009 Enacted: \$87.798 billion
President's Request: \$100.846 billion
Senate Mark: **\$100.848 billion**

Subject Area Comparisons

By subject, the Agriculture bill provides *discretionary* funding in the following areas:

| | FY09 Enacted | (In Billions) 2010 Request | 2010 Senate |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Nutrition | 7.234 | 8.166 | 7.946 |
| Drug and Food Safety | 3.024 | 3.369 | 3.369 |
| International Food Assistance/Trade | 1.502 | 2.080 | 2.086 |
| Research | 2.648 | 2.569 | 2.788 |
| Rural Development | 2.737 | 3.020 | 3.046 |
| Farm Support Agencies | 1.722 | 1.780 | 2.131 |
| Conservation | 0.970 | 0.908 | 1.016 |
| Other Regulatory Agencies | 1.014 | 1.012 | 1.057 |
| Administrative Offices | <u>0.504</u> | <u>0.692</u> | <u>0.607</u> |
| Total | 21.355 | 23.596 | 24.046 |

OVERVIEW

The fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill includes \$24.046 billion in discretionary budget authority, a \$2.65 billion discretionary increase over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level, and \$0.45 billion above the President's request. The most significant increases in the bill are in the areas of nutrition, farm support reimbursements (mandatory spending), and international food assistance, all of which are reflective of the state of the economy, agricultural market conditions, and the world situation.

The bill makes substantial improvements in the areas of nutrition, international food assistance, food and drug safety, research, and other important mission areas of USDA and FDA.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

Nutrition/WIC: The bill provides a total of \$86.092 billion, including mandatory funding, for domestic nutrition assistance.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program, is funded at \$61.352 billion in mandatory budget authority.

Child Nutrition: School Lunch and Breakfast programs are funded at \$16.8 billion in mandatory budget authority.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

WIC is funded at \$7.552 billion in discretionary budget authority, which is an increase of nearly \$700 million above the fiscal year 2009 non-emergency enacted level, the largest single discretionary increase in the bill. Coupled with WIC contingency funds remaining from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the appropriation will be sufficient to meet current estimates of WIC caseload requirements.

FOOD AND DRUG SAFETY

The bill provides full funding, as requested by the President, for the two premier federal agencies responsible for regulating safety and efficacy standards for our food and drug supply, the **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).** FDA is funded at \$2.350 billion, equal to the President's request, and \$299 million above fiscal year 2009 enacted level. FSIS is funded at \$1.018 billion, equal to the President's request, and \$47 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID

International food aid in the bill is comprised of two primary programs, the **Food for Peace title II program and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program.** Together, these programs are funded at \$1.89 billion, which is an increase of \$564 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level, not including supplemental appropriations bills. Food for Peace Title II is funded at \$1.69 billion, which is equal to the President's request and \$464.1 million above fiscal year 2009 enacted level, not including emergency supplemental funding. The McGovern-Dole Food

for Education Program is funded at \$199.5 million, equal to the President's request and \$99.5 million above fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

For the past several years, the Bush Administration had relied on supplemental legislation to meet annual food aid needs rather than budgeting for them on an annual basis. The President's request included more reliable estimates, which accounts for much of the increased funding in the bill.

The bill also includes \$13 million, as requested, for USDA to assist in the development of sustainable food systems in countries with chronic food shortages. In addition, funds are provided for research to develop new food aid products to provide higher nutritional content to food aid recipients. Plus, guidance is provided to the Secretary to improve audit systems for maintaining the quality of food aid commodities and to generally improve the efficiencies of administering food aid programs.

RESEARCH

The bill includes \$2.787 billion for USDA research agencies. This is an increase of nearly \$140 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level. The primary agricultural research agencies, the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture receive \$1.229 billion and \$1.306 billion respectively.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The bill includes \$3.046 in discretionary budget authority for rural development programs, which is an increase of nearly \$310 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level and \$26 million above the President's request. Generally, the bill provides level funding for water and wastewater loans and grants, but does include significant increases in several rural business and renewable energy programs.

In the area of rural housing, the bill includes \$980 million for rural rental assistance, which is an increase of \$78 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level. This increase will allow for renewal of expiring rental contracts that otherwise would have resulted in the eviction of tenants, comprised mostly of elderly, disabled, or female head of household.

In addition, the bill includes \$217 million in budget authority to support more than \$13 billion in direct and guaranteed single family housing loans. Not counting funds available in ARRA, this program level is an increase of nearly \$6 billion above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level, which is necessary to meet the growing demand. In the aftermath of the national housing crisis, the USDA rural housing programs remain extremely active in support of home ownership.

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