



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

Summary: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Report

Fiscal Year 2011 Discretionary Spending: \$19.918 billion
Fiscal Year 2012 House Spending: \$17.081 billion
Fiscal Year 2012 Senate Spending: \$19.780 billion
Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Spending: \$19.565 billion*

**Figure does not include \$367 million in disaster funding or \$205 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.*

Overall discretionary spending for the Agriculture Subcommittee totals \$19.565 billion for FY12, excluding \$367 million in disaster relief funds needed to respond to floods, storms, and other natural disasters, and \$205 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate subcommittee. Funding for the CFTC was not included in the original Senate passed-bill, but was included in the original House-passed bill and the conference report.

This bill reflects reductions below the FY 11 funding level in many programs. In making these difficult funding decisions, programs directly related to public health and safety and domestic and international nutrition assistance programs were prioritized. Summaries of funding decisions are below.

Food and Drug Administration. The FY 12 conference level provides \$2.497 billion for the Food and Drug Administration as provided in the Senate, compared to \$2.163 billion as provided in the House reported bill. This amount does not include funding collected through user fees. This funding level takes into consideration the federal government's responsibilities to protect public health and safety, especially in the areas of food, drugs, medical devices and biologics. An increase is provided the Food and Drug Administration to begin implementation of the recently passed Food Safety Modernization Act.

Food Safety and Inspection Service. The FY 12 conference level provides \$1.004 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, \$2 million below the Senate level and \$32 million above the House.

Domestic Nutrition. The FY 12 conference level provides \$6.618 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This amount is \$570 million above the House and \$36 million above the Senate. This level also provides \$60 million for breastfeeding peer counselors. Funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program is maintained at the Senate level of \$177 million. The conference level also provides \$80.4 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This amount will meet caseload requirements as detailed by the Administration's mid-session review.

Foreign Food Assistance. The FY 12 conference level provides \$1.466 billion for PL 480 Title II. This amount is \$96 million below the Senate level and \$426 million above the House. The McGovern-Dole Program, which provides school meals to the world's poorest children, is funded at \$184 million. PL 480 Title II and the McGovern-Dole Program are the only accounts in the bill that fall into the security category.

Research. The FY 12 conference level provides \$2.297 billion for the National Institute on Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Agricultural Research Service, which is approximately \$12 million below the Senate level and \$282 million above the House. Specifically within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative is funded at \$264 million, the Hatch Act is funded at \$236 million, the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program is funded at \$33 million, and Smith-Lever Sections 3(b) and 3(c) is funded at \$294 million.

Rural Development. The FY 12 conference level provides \$654 million for Rural Development Salaries and Expenses as provided in the Senate, compared to \$590 million in the House. Most programs are close to Senate levels. For Housing and Community Programs, the bill provides \$1.09 billion in budget authority, the same as the Senate, while the House provided \$1.046 billion. For Business Programs, the conference level provides \$109 million, as compared to \$94 million in the House and \$119 million in the Senate. Under Rural Utilities Programs, the conference level provides \$551 million in budget authority, \$30 million above the \$521 million provided in the House but \$6 million below the \$557 million provided in the Senate.

Conservation. The FY12 conference level provides \$844 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This amount is \$58 million above the House and \$7 million above the Senate. This amount includes \$15 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Policy Riders. In addition to funding issues, the House included policy riders related to North Korea food aid, and problematic environmental policies, among others, that were not included in the conference report.