



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

Summary: FY 2011 Agriculture, FDA, and Rural Development Appropriations *Consolidated Appropriations Bill*

“We achieved our goal to make the tough decisions needed to reduce spending, and this bill comes in more than a billion dollars below last year’s total. We are confident that we’ve made adequate investments in many of our priorities, from food safety to rural economic development to agriculture research, that will enable important work in those fields to move forward.”

- Senator Herb Kohl, (D-Wisconsin), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Discretionary

FY 2010 Enacted:	\$23.135 billion
President’s Request:	\$22.866 billion
Subcommittee Mark:	\$22.125 billion

Mandatory

FY 2010 Enacted:	\$97.983 billion
President’s Request:	\$109.12 billion
Subcommittee Mark:	\$110.98 billion

OVERVIEW

The fiscal year 2011 Agriculture Appropriations bill includes \$22.125 billion in discretionary budget authority, a \$1.01 billion discretionary decrease from fiscal year 2010 enacted level, and \$741 million below the President’s request. The most significant increases in the bill are in the areas of nutrition, farm support reimbursements (mandatory spending), international food assistance, and food and drug safety, all of which are reflective of the state of the economy, agricultural market conditions, and the world situation.

MAJOR PROGRAMS

Nutrition: The bill provides a total of \$95.506 billion, including mandatory funding, for domestic nutrition assistance.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program, is funded at \$70.907 billion in mandatory budget authority.

Child Nutrition: School Lunch and Breakfast programs are funded at \$17.32 billion in mandatory budget authority.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): WIC is funded at \$6.852 billion in discretionary budget authority. There is also \$125,000,000 in contingency funds which will be sufficient to meet current estimates of WIC caseload requirements.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: The bill provides \$181.788 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which includes \$5 million to begin service in six additional States.

FOOD AND DRUG SAFETY

The bill provides significant increases 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 \$2.541 billion, \$37.433 million above the President's request, and \$195.426 million above fiscal year 2010 enacted level. FSIS is funded at \$1.047 billion, \$10 million above the President's request, and \$27 million above the fiscal year 2010 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 \$1.9 billion. Food for Peace Title II is funded at \$1.69 billion, which is equal to the President's request. The McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program is funded at \$219.5 million, which is \$10 million above the President's request and fiscal year 2010 enacted level.

The bill also provides \$5 million for the Foreign Agricultural Service to provide technical assistance in the establishment and growth of sustainable food production and marketing systems in developing countries.

RESEARCH

The bill includes \$2.811 billion for USDA research agencies. This is \$43.9 million above the fiscal year 2010 enacted level, and \$16.6 million above the President's request. The primary agricultural research agencies, the **Agricultural Research Service** and the **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** receive \$1.12 billion and \$1.366 billion respectively. Within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative receives an increase of \$26 million.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The bill includes \$2.842 billion in discretionary budget authority for rural development programs, which is a decrease of \$135 million from the fiscal year 2010 enacted level and an increase of \$63 million above the President's request. Generally, the bill provides level funding for rural development programs, including water and waste water, business programs, and electric and telecommunications loans and grants.

Substantial increases are provided for single family housing direct and guaranteed loans. Private mortgage lenders continue to be reluctant to provide adequate housing financing in rural areas. An increase of \$75 million is made available for direct loans, increasing the program level by \$719 million to a total of \$1.84 billion in new loans.

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