



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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SUMMARY

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2023 appropriations for the Agriculture Subcommittee includes discretionary funding of \$25.48 billion.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI.), Chair of the Agriculture Subcommittee said:

“Our bipartisan legislation is an investment in the future of our rural communities, the agriculture economy, and hard-working ranchers, farmers, and producers nationwide. Democrats and Republicans came together to support rural economic development, helping expand access to high speed internet, investing in the prosperity of small businesses, and supporting the research needed for the agriculture economy to thrive in a changing environment. The legislation invests in rural housing, clean water, and nutritious food. I am particularly proud that our work across the aisle invests in our newly established Institute for Rural Partnerships, the Dairy Business Innovative Initiative, and research that helps our farmers and ranchers make the best decisions for their future. This bipartisan legislation gives our rural communities the tools and resources they need to thrive in a changing world, and I am proud to support it.”

Key Points & Highlights – American lives are impacted every day by the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, and this bill includes important increases for food safety, nutrition programs, research, and rural development. These funds will improve the lives of our nation’s farmers, ranchers, and those living in rural areas.

Agriculture Research: Agricultural research plays a vital role in supporting farmers and ranchers as they continue to respond to a changing climate. The Agricultural Research Service is funded at \$1.74 billion, an increase of \$111 million over fiscal year 2022. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture receives \$1.701 billion, an increase of \$64 million over fiscal year 2022. This includes \$455 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and \$50 million for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).

Rural Development: Historic increases are provided for the activities within Rural Development. This funding will deliver clean water and waste systems, ensure low income Americans continue to receive housing assistance, and additional funding to help bridge the digital divide in rural areas.

- Rural Housing – The bill includes over \$2 billion for the Rural Housing Service, an increase of \$183 million over fiscal year 2022. Within these increases is \$40 million for Rental Assistance. This increase is necessary to fund all expiring fiscal year 2022 contracts. The increase also includes an additional \$20 million for multi-family housing construction and rehabilitation and an expansion of the Tribal Housing Relending Demonstration program.
- Rural Business – Rural Business programs are funded at \$127 million. The largest increase is for Business and Industry loans to assist businesses in rural areas with loans to ensure they continue to thrive.
- Rural Utilities – The Rural Utilities Service is funded at \$1.078 billion. The ReConnect broadband program receives total funding of \$364 million to fulfill its mission. The bill continues to support critical investments in water and wastewater infrastructure and improvements to rural America’s electrical grid.

Domestic Nutrition: One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Agriculture Appropriations bill is to ensure those that qualify receive the nutritional support they need, and the bill fully funds this mission. These programs are all the more important as inflation has increased the cost of groceries for American families.

- Child Nutrition Programs - Child Nutrition Programs are funded at \$28.544 billion. Included in this funding is \$40 million for the Summer Electronic Benefit program and \$30 million for school equipment grants. This funding will ensure schools can continue to serve healthy meals.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – SNAP is funded at \$154 billion, an increase of \$13.4 billion over fiscal year 2022. This increase will ensure participants receive increased benefits to support the Thrifty Food Plan as well as emergency allotments to continue to address the pandemic.
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – The WIC program is funded at \$6 billion. This will fully fund anticipated participation. The bill also includes authority for USDA to continue the Cash Value Voucher. This will ensure over 4 million low income women and children do not see their benefits reduced.

Foreign Food Aid. Across the globe, more than 820 million people go to bed hungry every night and more than 49 million people in 49 countries are on the edge of famine. The United States is committed to combating hunger both domestically and abroad and funds two programs

that provide foreign food aid. These include the PL 480 Title II grants program, which is funded at \$1.8 billion, and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, which is funded at \$248 million for an increase of \$11 million over fiscal year 2022.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The responsibilities of the FDA are vast and the bill includes historic investments to ensure the country's food and medical supplies remain the safest in the world. The bill provides a net increase of \$226 million for FDA. Included in this amount is \$35.8 million for medical product safety; \$41 million for food safety activities; \$122 million for cross cutting initiatives; and \$21 million for infrastructure investments. As families continue to struggle with the infant formula crisis, the bill invests additional funding to ensure FDA has the resources they need to ensure this vital nutritional need is met.

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