

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration
Appropriations Bill, 2017
Omnibus Agreement Summary**

Highlights of the FY2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The agreement contains \$153.4 billion in discretionary and mandatory funding, \$16.3 billion below the President's FY2017 budget request and \$12.5 billion above the FY2016 enacted level. The discretionary funding portion of the bill totals \$20.877 billion, \$873 million below the FY2016 enacted level. Required mandatory spending in the bill, which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, totals \$132.5 billion.

Agricultural Research – \$2.53 billion to support agricultural research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and land grant and non-land grant universities. This amount includes \$375 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, \$244 million for Hatch Act formula funding for research at state agriculture experiment stations, and \$477.4 million to support extension service activities.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – \$945.2 million for APHIS, \$44 million above the budget request and \$50.8 million above the FY2016 enacted level. Funding will continue programs to control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that threaten U.S. agriculture production. The bill includes an increase of \$24 million for emergency preparedness/response to address capacity shortfalls exposed by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in 2015. Additional increases will help address wildlife damage management issues, initiate workforce development for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, expand activities to combat antibiotic resistance, and improve pre-departure inspections of agriculture imports.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – \$1.027 billion, \$163.6 million above the FY2016 enacted level and \$166.1 million over the budget request, to help farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners conserve and protect their land. The bill includes \$150 million for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program to support needed investments in rural communities.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) – \$1.624 billion for FSA for various farm, conservation, and emergency loan programs that are important to the nation's farmers and ranchers. It prohibits the closure of FSA county offices, and provides resources for personnel and physical security programs across county offices.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) – \$1.032 billion for food safety and inspection programs that work to ensure safe, healthy food for American families, while promoting the safety and productivity of the nation’s \$186 billion meat and poultry industry. The bill will support more than 8,000 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,400 facilities in the United States.

Rural Development – \$675.8 million for salaries and expenses for Rural Development, a \$7 million decrease below the FY2016 enacted level. USDA rural development programs are designed to help foster economic growth in rural regions by supporting basic rural infrastructure, rural business and industry loans, and rural housing.

- **Business and Industry Loans** – The bill supports a \$946.8 million grant and loan level for rural business and industry programs to promote small business growth in rural areas.
- **Rural Infrastructure** – \$1.25 billion for rural water and waste program loans, the same as the FY2016 enacted level, and \$571.2 million for grants and costs, an increase of \$48.8 million above FY2016 enacted levels. The measure provides \$6.94 billion for rural electric and telephone infrastructure loans.
- **Rural Housing Loans and Rental Assistance** – The bill provides \$24 billion in loan authority for the Single Family Housing guaranteed loan program, which is equal to the FY2016 enacted level and the budget request. It includes \$1 billion, \$100 million above the FY2016 enacted level and the budget request, for the direct loan program that provides low-income rural families with home loan assistance. In addition, \$1.4 billion, \$15 million above current levels, is included for the Rental Assistance program, which helps low-income families and the elderly in rural communities obtain affordable rental housing.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – \$2.759 billion in discretionary funding is provided for the FDA, \$39 million above the FY2016 enacted level. Total FDA funding, including user fee revenues, is \$4.655 billion, which is \$103 million above FY2016.

- An additional \$35.6 million is provided to support the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, and \$10.9 million is provided to supplement medical product safety and the Precision Medicine initiatives authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act. In addition, \$10 million is provided for the FDA to respond to emerging health threats, including Ebola and Zika viruses.

Food and Nutrition Programs – The bill provides discretionary funding, as well as mandatory funding required by law, for food and nutrition programs within the USDA. This includes funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Child Nutrition programs. The bill also ensures that the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are based on significant scientific agreement and are limited in scope to nutritional and dietary information.

- **WIC** – \$6.35 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, the same as FY2016 enacted level and the budget request. This amount is based on USDA estimates of WIC enrollments and will not prevent eligible participants from receiving benefits.
- **SNAP** – \$78.5 billion in required mandatory spending, which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, for SNAP. Due to declining enrollments, this is \$2.3 billion below last year's level.
- **Child Nutrition Programs** – \$22.746 billion in mandatory funding, which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, for child nutrition programs. This is \$637.2 million above the FY2016 enacted level. This funding will provide free or reduced-price school lunches and snacks for 30.3 million children who qualify for the program.

International Programs – \$1.466 billion for PL 480, Title II Food for Peace grants, which support the delivery of American-grown food to foreign countries experiencing chronic hunger crises. Food for Peace is also provided an additional \$134 million for emergency food needs. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program is maintained at \$201.6 million, of which \$5 million is designated for the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement at the Foreign Agricultural Service.

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