

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2023

\$25.480 billion in total base discretionary funding

The Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides a discretionary total of \$25.480 billion, a \$355 million increase (1.4 percent) above the FY22 enacted level, and \$2.1 billion below the FY23 President's budget request. This bill prioritizes agencies and programs that promote the health and safety of the American public, serve the needs of those in rural America, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, as well as safe and effective medicines and medical devices.

- Supports U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agriculture, rural development, conservation programs, and food and drug safety.
- Provides essential nutrition assistance for children, families, and seniors.
- Provides an increase of \$200 million for USDA research programs to foster innovation and productivity in agriculture.
- Does not include limitations on mandatory Farm Bill funding.
- Includes \$348 million for Rural Broadband Pilot (ReConnect), as well as language directing the Department to keep the pilot technology neutral.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Agricultural Research: The bill provides more than \$3.7 billion for agricultural research programs. This includes \$1.74 billion for the Agricultural Research Service and \$1.7 billion for National Institute of Food and Agriculture, including a \$10 million increase for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). This funding will support investments in the research and development of new technologies and varieties to improve the productivity, sustainability, and quality of American agriculture. The bill also fully funds the continued establishment of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): The bill provides \$1.17 billion for APHIS, an increase of more than \$60 million above the FY22 enacted level. The funding will help protect the nation's animal and plant resources from harmful diseases and pests, such as cotton pests, spotted lanternfly, and chronic wasting disease, and support the growing needs of animal health surveillance and veterinary biological products.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS): The bill provides \$237.6 million for AMS programs to improve domestic and international opportunities for our nation's farmers and ranchers. Funding increases are provided for oversight and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, as well as the Cattle Contract Library pilot program.

Food Safety and Inspection Service: The bill provides \$1.15 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, which fully funds the food safety and inspection programs that ensure safe and healthy food for American families. The bill promotes the safety and productivity of the nation's \$186 billion meat and poultry industry by supporting more than 8,000 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,400 facilities in the United States. The bill includes increased funding to reduce user fees for small and very small processing facilities and for public health veterinarian retention efforts. The bill also includes language modifying overtime requirements for inspectors.

Farm Service Agency (FSA): The bill provides \$1.215 billion for FSA. It prohibits the closure of FSA county offices and provides increased resources for IT improvements and personnel across county offices. The bill also provides \$10.652 billion in total Program Loan Authorizations, an increase of \$266 million above FY22. This includes an increase of \$300 million for Direct Farm Ownership Loans to meet anticipated loan demand needs.

Conservation Programs: The bill provides \$941 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Conservation Operations to assist with conservation planning and implementation assistance. The bill also provides \$75 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations to protect and restore watersheds across the country.

Rural Development (RD): The bill provides \$4 billion to support RD's mission areas, including \$348 million for the ReConnect Broadband Pilot, \$64.9 million for Distance learning and Telemedicine grants, and \$1.48 billion for rental assistance for affordable rental housing for low-income families and the elderly in rural communities. The bill also provides \$430 million in grants and \$1.47 billion in loan authority for rural water and waste programs, including up to \$20 million in loans for distressed communities. In addition, the bill provides \$30 billion in loan authority for the Single Family Housing guaranteed loan program, and \$1.84 billion in grants and loans for rural business and industry programs that promote small business growth in rural areas.

Nutrition Programs: The bill provides full funding for nutrition programs to serve the estimated need for FY23. The bill also includes \$6 billion in discretionary funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), an increase of \$6.6 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and an increase of \$11 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

International Food Assistance: The bill provides \$1.75 billion for Food for Peace Title II Grants, an increase of \$10 million, and \$243 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program, an increase of \$6 million.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): The bill provides \$3.53 billion in discretionary funding for the FDA, \$226 million over the FY22 enacted level. Overall, total FDA funding, including user fee revenues, is \$6.56 billion. The increases for FDA include \$26 million for medical product safety, \$41 million for food safety activities, \$121 million for cross-cutting initiatives supporting both medical and food safety, and \$21 million for infrastructure investments. Included in the cross-cutting initiatives are increases to support FDA's core functions, including additional funding for inspections, information technology, laboratory safety, and other essential services. The bill also provides \$50 million as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act.