# EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2027

## OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides funding for a wide array of Federal programs, mostly in the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]. These programs include agricultural research, education, and extension activities; natural resources conservation programs; farm income and support programs; marketing and inspection activities; domestic food assistance programs; rural housing, economic and community development, telecommunication and electrification assistance; and various export and international activities of the USDA.

The bill also provides funding for the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and allows the use of collected fees for administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration [FCA].

The discretionary programs and activities of USDA and FDA that are supported by this bill include high priority responsibilities entrusted to the Federal Government and its partners to protect human health and safety, contribute to economic recovery, and achieve policy objectives strongly supported by the American people.

All accounts in the bill have been closely examined to ensure that an appropriate level of funding is provided to carry out the programs of USDA, FDA, and FCA. Details on each of the accounts, the funding level, and the Committee's justifications for the funding levels are included in the explanatory statement.

Fiscal year 2026 levels cited in this explanatory statement reflect amounts enacted in the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119–37) and do not include fiscal year 2026 supplemental appropriations. Accordingly, any comparisons to fiscal year 2026 do not reflect fiscal year 2026 supplemental appropriations. fiscal year 2026 supplemental appropriations are included in the comparative statement of new budget authority at the end of this explanatory statement under the heading "Other Appropriations".

## REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The Committee has, throughout this explanatory statement, requested agencies to provide studies and reports on various issues. The Committee utilizes these reports to evaluate program performance and make decisions on future appropriations. The Committee directs that all studies and reports be provided to the Committee as electronic documents in an agreed upon format within 120 days

after the date of enactment of this act, unless an alternative submission schedule is specifically stated in the explanatory statement.

## BREAKDOWN BY TITLE

The amounts of obligational authority for each of the seven titles are shown in the following table. A detailed tabulation, showing comparisons, appears at the end of this explanatory statement. Recommendations for individual appropriation items, projects and activities are carried in this explanatory statement under the appropriate item headings.

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Title I: Agricultural programs | 8,548,664 | 8,662,227 |
| Title II: Farm Production and Conservation programs | 31,934,294 | 39,761,941 |
| Title III: Rural economic and community development programs | 4,089,153 | 3,845,513 |
| Title IV: Domestic food programs | 148,235,089 | 148,397,071 |
| Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs | 1,673,917 | 1,861,917 |
| Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration | 3,427,150 | 3,527,150 |
| Title VII: General provisions | −472,550 | 252,300 |
| Other Appropriations | ..... | ..... |
| Total, new budget (obligational) authority | 203,435,717 | 205,803,519 |

# TITLE I

# AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

## PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $58,292,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 59,920,000 |

The Secretary of Agriculture, assisted by the Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and members of their immediate staffs, directs and coordinates the work of the United States Department of Agriculture [USDA]. This includes developing policy, maintaining relationships with agricultural organizations and others in the development of farm programs, and maintaining liaison with the Executive Office of the President and Members of Congress on all matters pertaining to agricultural policy.

The general authority of the Secretary to supervise and control the work of the Department is contained in the Organic Act (Public Law 101–624). The delegation of regulatory functions to Department employees and authorization of appropriations to carry out these functions is contained in 7 U.S.C. 450c–450g.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $59,920,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee for each office and activity:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Office of the Secretary | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Office of Homeland Security | 1,700 | 15,259 |
| Office of Tribal Relations | 5,190 | 5,190 |
| Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement | 5,250 | 5,250 |
| Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration | 1,706 | 1,706 |
| Departmental Administration | 17,015 | 17,015 |
| Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Office of Communications | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Total | 46,361 | 59,920 |

*Agricultural Supply Chain Security*.—The Committee recognizes the threat adversaries pose to our Nation's agricultural and food systems. The Committee encourages the Department to consider ways to invest in the development of critical inputs, and secure data domestically. The Committee notes concern about the Nation's limited infrastructure to produce these essential critical inputs and expects the Secretary to develop a procurement plan that results in purchases directly from domestic manufacturers and to conduct modeling studies to determine the appropriate amount needed for stockpiling as part of the long-term strategy. Additionally, the Committee requests a briefing on our current reliance on adversaries for inputs, such as but not limited to amino acids, vitamins, fertilizers, and pesticides.

*Biosecurity Workforce Readiness*.—The Committee encourages the Department of Agriculture to strengthen internal capacity related to biotechnology and biosecurity as they pertain to national and economic security. The Committee supports the development of core competencies for USDA personnel working on biotechnology policy, including regular training on emerging technologies, laboratory methods, biosecurity protocols, and relevant data systems. The Committee also encourages the Department to evaluate whether key personnel involved in biotechnology and biosecurity decision-making hold appropriate security clearances and have timely access to relevant classified information.

*Colonias and Farmworker Initiatives*.—The Committee requests an update within 90 days of enactment of this act on the Department's effort to streamline and coordinate existing Federal programs serving colonias and farmworkers, including housing, healthcare, water infrastructure, and broadband programs, and the consideration of establishing an "Office of Colonias and Farmworker Initiatives".

*Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC] Obligations and Commitments*.—The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to any announcement on the use or cancellation of funds from the CCC or the obligation, commitment, transfer, or cancellation of any emergency funds from the CCC.

The Committee also reminds USDA that while the Secretary has broad authority to utilize the CCC for emergencies such as the recent outbreak of high pathogen avian influenza, creating programs with CCC funds that then cannot be implemented without utilizing the interchange authority, requiring additional appropriated dollars, or that will take years to obligate funding is not an appropriate use. As such, the plan required to be submitted as part of the CCC notification shall also include outyear costs for implementation and how the Department intends to operationalize the program.

*Communication From USDA*.—A collaborative working relationship between the Committee and USDA is necessary to ensure efficient and effective implementation of Congress' funding decisions. USDA is directed to continue notifying the Committee of major changes to existing policies and any significant developments in its operations before providing non-governmental stakeholders such

information, before making the changes public, and before implementing them.

*Communications Services for Limited English Proficient Communities*.—The Committee supports efforts to improve communications, which should include mediums such as television and radio, to reach limited English proficient [LEP] communities. The Committee encourages the Department to review its practices and create uniform applications across all Department agencies to strengthen communication practices to include digital, television, and radio advertising when working with LEP communities. The Department shall report to the Committee no later than 60 days after the enactment of this act on planned expenditures in fiscal year 2027 to reach LEP communities, including local media advertising.

*Cover Crops*.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Risk Management Agency, shall submit a written report, within 1 year of enactment of this act, on how the Department can streamline opportunities for farmers to insure primary and secondary crops with revenue streams resulting from biofuel use, with particular reference tocarinata, pennycress, camelina, and other oilseeds.

*Disaster Assistance*.—In December of 2024, the Committee provided more than $33.5 billion in supplemental disaster assistance funds for our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities to assist with market and weather-related losses. The Committee commends the Department for expeditiously initiating the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program and releasing other funds including those to assist with livestock losses. The Committee directs the secretary to continue to prioritize the advancement and dispersal of the remaining weather-related assistance and to keep the Committee apprised of those efforts. This includes the directive regarding technical assistance for interested non-insured producers who wish to participate in the programs.

*Federal Trust and Treaty Responsibilities*.—The Committee reminds agencies funded by this act of their obligation to uphold the Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribes and Federal obligations to the Native Hawaiian Community. This includes upholding treaty and reserved rights, and any other rights and obligations under Federal law; supporting self-determination efforts by Native communities; fulfilling obligations under Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders; and conducting early and robust government-to-government consultation with Tribes, and meaningful outreach and engagement with Native Hawaiians. The Committee further reminds agencies that the unique relationship between the Federal Government and Tribes is based on the political status of Tribes, and as such, agencies are directed to ensure that the implementation of Executive Order 14151 does not include American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

*Funding Status Report*.—The Committee awaits the report on all delayed, terminated, or otherwise withheld grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts in calendar year 2025 as directed in Senate Report 119–37.

*Institute for Rural Partnerships*.—The Committee recognizes the unique challenges faced by rural communities and provides funding in fiscal year 2027 to continue three Institutes for Rural Partner-

ships in geographically diverse locations to identify and support community, statewide and regional partnership to address these challenges. As rural challenges evolve, the continued need for these Institutes is clear and the Committee supports renewal for the Institutes under their current Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, the Committee provides $6,000,000 to be divided equally to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships at established land-grant universities including the Auburn University Partnership Institute at Auburn University, the Wisconsin Rural Partnership Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships at the University of Vermont, which were originally funded in fiscal year 2022. Funding will support focused research and applied transitional needs locally and regionally.

*Office of Tribal Relations*.—The Committee supports elevating the Office of Tribal Relations to an Assistant Secretary level and encourages the Secretary to evaluate the resources needed.

*PFAS Remediation for Existing Grants*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report that recommends whether addressing PFAS contamination should be added as an eligible activity under each program of the Department of Agriculture and evaluates necessary actions for farms already enrolled in a Department of Agriculture program where PFAS is detected. In making the recommendations, the Secretary shall refer to the publication from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine titled "PFAS in Agriculture Systems: Guidance for Conservation Programs at USDA." The report shall be provided to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Resource Conservation and Development Councils*.—Since 1964, the Resource Conservation and Development [RC&D] Councils have worked at the grassroots level with local leaders to plan, develop, and carry out programs for land and water conservation and management. The Committee encourages the Secretary to consider the maximum practical use of RC&D Councils, where such RC&D Councils meet agency performance requirements, in the delivery of USDA programs and services.

*Rural News Media and Advertising Campaigns*.—The Committee recognizes the critical role local media plays in delivering messages to small or rural communities. The Committee directs the Secretary to utilize local news media in rural areas for USDA advertising campaigns to reach citizens in these communities with key messages. Local media should include newspapers, including non-daily newspapers, television, and radio. The Committee directs the Office of the Secretary to update the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this act on the efforts of the Department, including the Agricultural Marketing Service, Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, and the Food and Nutrition Service, in utilization of local media in rural areas as part of the Department's advertising campaigns for fiscal year 2027.

*Office of Seafood and Seafood Industry Liaison*.—The Committee provides $750,000 for the Office of Seafood and Seafood Industry Liaison first established in Public Law 119–37, which is responsible for the effective coordination of seafood policies and activities within the Department. Of the funds provided, the Secretary shall

use $250,000 to develop and deliver to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act a Seafood Integration Report that outlines the ways in which USDA can improve the integration of domestically harvested and processed wild and farmed seafood across USDA programs and activities. The Secretary may partner with land grant universities with expertise and experience with the seafood industry to develop the report. Further, the Seafood Industry Liaison shall brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act on activities taken in fiscal year 2026 and activities planned for fiscal year 2027, including an overview of coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative.

*Soil Carbon Monitoring*.—The Committee directs the Department, in close collaboration with experts, to conduct a systematic review of existing USDA and Federal Government soil carbon monitoring methodologies, such as, methodologies that may have been developed by the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network, Long-Term Ecological Research Network, the National Ecological Observatory Network, or other networks, in order to develop a standardized soil carbon monitoring methodology that is reflective of current best practices and ensures the scientific rigor necessary to accurately measure and monitor soil carbon stocks and fluctuations over time and across regions, soil types, and various production systems. The Committee encourages the Department to utilize the standardized methodology and large-scale data analysis and insights developed from this review to inform Natural Resources Conservation Service technical assistance to producers.

*Sugar Trade and Imports of Certain Molasses Products*.—The Committee also directs the Secretary to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security to prevent ongoing circumvention of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the U.S. as directed in Public Law Nos. 118–158, 118–193, 119–37. The Committee further notes that Section 5203 of The Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–210) requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Customs to continuously monitor imports of sugar and sugar-containing products under HTS Chapters 17, 18, 19, and 21 for indications that an article is being used to circumvent a tariff-rate quota. The statute specifically directs the examination of imports under subheading 1703.10.30. The statute further requires biannual reports to be submitted to both Congress and the President, which shall include data and a description of developments and trends in the composition of trade of articles provided for in the chapters of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and any indications of circumvention that may exist, and shall include recommendations for ending such circumvention. The Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with the Commissioner of Customs to provide a briefing to this Committee, within 30 days of enactment, on the actions taken under Section 5203. Further, the Committee notes that the report required under Section 5203 has not been provided to Congress since 2005, and as such directs the Secretary to provide such report within 90 days of enactment, and biannually thereafter, as required under the statute.

*Tribal Self-Determination*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan for expanding Tribal self-determination beyond

the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and Tribal Forestry program pilots, including, where possible, through expanding 638 contract authority.

*Quarterly Reports*.—The Committee is concerned with recent changes in staffing levels and expects that the Secretary shall maintain sufficient staffing across the Department to spend the funds provided and to support the programs and missions outlined in this act. The Committee also expects timely obligations of the funds provided within this act. As such, The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a unified quarterly report detailing staffing levels and obligated balances across the Department. Staffing data should provide detail by agency, including current levels and end of year goals. Obligation data should include year-to-date obligations and current balances at the mission area, agency, and program level. The obligation data shall also include a comparison of the obligations incurred in the period covered by the update for this fiscal year to the obligations incurred in the same period in the previous two fiscal years.

## EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

Executive operations were established as a result of the reorganization of the Department to provide a support team for USDA policy officials and selected Department-wide services. Activities under the executive operations include the Office of the Chief Economist, the National Appeals Division, and the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $29,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 30,500,000 |

The Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of Department policies and programs. The Office serves as the single focal point for the Nation's economic intelligence and analysis, risk assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic and international food and agriculture issues, provides policy direction for renewable energy development; conducts analyses of climate change impacts on agriculture and forestry; and is responsible for coordination and review of all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $30,500,000 for the Office of the Chief Economist. The Committee provides $3,095,000 for the Office of Pest Management Policy.

*Policy Research*.—The Committee provides $10,000,000 for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155 for entities with existing institutional capacity to conduct complex economic and policy analysis and which have a lengthy and well-documented record of conducting policy analysis for the benefit of USDA, the Congressional Budget Office, or the Congress. Of the amount provided for policy research activities, $2,425,000 shall be for a center based at an upper Mid-

west land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the region, including crop insurance, livestock risk management, and disaster programs.

## OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $14,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 14,500,000 |

The Office of Hearings and Appeals conducts administrative hearings and reviews of adverse program decisions made by the Rural Development mission area, the Farm Service Agency [FSA], the Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $14,500,000 for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

## OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $14,967,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 14,967,000 |

The Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions including developing, presenting, and executing of the budget; reviewing program and legislative proposals for program, budget, and related implications; analyzing program and resource issues and alternatives; preparing summaries of pertinent data to aid the Secretary, Departmental policy officials, and agency program managers in the decision-making process; and providing Department-wide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget-related matters to the Committees of the Congress, the media, and interested public. The Office also provides Department-wide coordination on strategic planning and evidence and evaluation activities.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $14,967,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $85,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 85,000,000 |

The Office of the Chief Information Officer was established in the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–106), which required the establishment of a Chief Information Officer for major Federal agencies. This Office provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination, and direction to the Department's information management and information technology [IT] investment activities in support of USDA program delivery, and is the lead office in USDA e-gov efforts. The Office provides long-range planning guidance, implements measures to ensure that technology investments are economical and effective, coordinates interagency information resources management projects, and implements standards to pro-

mote information exchange and technical interoperability. In addition, the Office of the Chief Information Officer is responsible for certain activities financed under the Department's Working Capital Fund (7 U.S.C. 2235). The Office also provides telecommunication and automated data processing [ADP] services to USDA agencies through the National Information Technology Center with locations in Fort Collins, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; and Washington, D.C. Direct ADP operational services are also provided to the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Communications, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Departmental Management.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $85,000,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

*Artificial Intelligence Use and Ongoing Modernization Efforts*.—The Committee directs the Office of the Chief Information Officer to brief the Committee no less than biannually on progress relating to the Artificial Intelligence Strategy and ongoing major information technology modernization efforts across the Department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $5,867,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 5,867,000 |

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the dual roles of Chief Financial Management Policy Officer and Chief Financial Management Advisor to the Secretary and mission area heads. The Office provides leadership for all financial management, accounting, travel, Federal assistance, and strategic planning performance measurement activities within the Department. The Office is also responsible for the management and operation of the National Finance Center and the Departmental Working Capital Fund.

*National Finance Center*.—The National Finance Center [NFC] is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider and it provides integrated payroll and personnel services for over 640,000 Federal employees. To ensure that thousands of Federal employees' pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee has modified requirements under current law relating to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs the USDA to provide quarterly reports on full-time equivalent [FTE] levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, and functions, as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer [OCFO] and Office of the Chief Information Officer [OCIO] divisions, operations, and functions currently co-located with the NFC. The reports also are to include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each and any of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OCFO and OCIO functions compared to those during fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $5,867,000 for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,466,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,466,000 |

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights provides oversight of civil rights and related functions. This includes coordination of the administration of civil rights laws and regulations for employees of USDA and participants in programs of the Department and ensuring compliance with civil rights laws.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,466,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

## OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $30,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 30,000,000 |

The Office of Civil Rights provides overall leadership responsibility for all Department-wide civil rights activities. These activities include employment opportunity, as well as program nondiscrimination policy development, analysis, coordination, and compliance. The Office is responsible for providing leadership in facilitating the fair and equitable treatment of USDA employees and for monitoring program activities to ensure that all USDA programs are delivered in a nondiscriminatory manner. The Office's outreach functions provide leadership, coordination, facilitation, and expertise to internal and external partners to ensure equal and timely access to USDA programs for all constituents, with emphasis on the underserved, through information sharing, technical assistance, and training.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $30,000,000 for the Office of Civil Rights.

## AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $15,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 20,000,000 |

Department headquarters presently operates in a two-building, Government-owned complex in downtown Washington, DC; the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland; and leased buildings in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area. Under an arrangement with the General Services Administration, USDA operates, maintains, and repairs these facilities, in lieu of rental payments. For the last several years, the Department has implemented a strategic space plan to locate staff more efficiently, ren-

ovate its buildings, and eliminate safety hazards, particularly in the Agriculture South Building.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $20,000,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,619,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,619,000 |

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96–510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94–580), the Department has the responsibility to meet the same standards regarding the storage and disposition of hazardous materials as private businesses. The Department is required to contain, cleanup, monitor, and inspect for hazardous materials in areas under the Department's jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,619,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

## OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $24,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 19,100,000 |

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $19,100,000 for the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $103,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 103,000,000 |

The Office of Inspector General [OIG] was established on October 12, 1978, by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452). This act expanded and provided specific authorities for the activities of OIG which had previously been carried out under the general authorities of the Secretary.

The Office is administered by an inspector general who reports directly to the Secretary. Functions and responsibilities of this Office include direction and control of audit and investigative activities within the Department, formulation of audit and investigative policies and procedures regarding Department programs and operations, and analysis and coordination of program-related audit and investigation activities performed by other Department agencies.

The activities of this Office are designed to assure compliance with existing laws, policies, regulations, and programs of the Department's agencies and to provide appropriate officials with the means for prompt corrective action where deviations have occurred.

The scope of audit and investigative activities is large and includes administrative, program, and criminal matters. These activities are coordinated, when appropriate, with various audit and investigative agencies of the executive and legislative branches of the Government.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $103,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General.

*Animal Fighting*.—The Committee is concerned about illegal animal fighting activity that subjects animals to cruel conditions and has the potential to spread diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI]. The Committee is encouraged by OIG's ongoing collaboration with Federal partners and prosecution of animal fighting offenses. OIG is encouraged to increase its efforts to combat this illegal activity and to investigate animal fighting as soon as there is any evidence of such illegal activity.

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $60,537,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 58,000,000 |

The Office of the General Counsel provides all legal advice, counsel, and services to the Secretary and to all agencies, offices, and corporations of the Department. The Office represents the Department in administrative proceedings; non-litigation debt collection proceedings; State water rights adjudications; proceedings before the Environmental Protection Agency, Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Maritime Administration, and International Trade Commission; and, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, judicial proceedings and litigation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $58,000,000 for the Office of the General Counsel.

## OFFICE OF ETHICS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $4,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 4,500,000 |

The Office of Ethics is the centralized and consolidated office implementing USDA's ethics program throughout the Department. The Office provides ethics services to all employees at the Department concerning advice, training, and guidance about compliance with conflict of interest and impartiality rules. This includes complying with the requirements of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (Public Law 112–105) and the Office of Government Ethics regulatory requirements (5 CFR parts 2634 through 2641).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $4,500,000 for the Office of Ethics.

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,884,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,884,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress for food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economic and statistical information. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Agricultural Research Service [ARS]; National Institute of Food and Agriculture [NIFA]; Economic Research Service [ERS]; and National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS].

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,884,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

## ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $90,612,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 90,612,000 |

The Economic Research Service [ERS] provides economic and other social science research and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. The information that ERS produces is available to the general public and helps the Executive and Legislative Branches develop, administer, and evaluate agricultural and rural policies and programs.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $90,612,000 for the Economic Research Service.

*Access to Healthy Foods*.—The Committee recognizes the efforts of the Department to promote access to healthy foods in the lives of all Americans but remains concerned that one in seven households in the United States struggles with access. The Committee directs ERS to continue to monitor and report on rates of nutrition access as a part of its annual research.

*Data Collection on Religiously Informed Diets*.—The Committee appreciates the Department's efforts to improve access to kosher and halal food for Americans with religiously informed diets. However, the Committee remains concerned about the gaps that still exist between the need and the products currently available. While studies to collect data in this area have been conducted in individual States, there is a lack of data available at the National level. The Committee encourages ERS to track and report on the scope, scale and location of the needs of Americans with religiously informed diets and to brief the Committee on that feasibility within 60 days of enactment of this act.

*International Commodity Trade*.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of international trade for U.S. agricultural commodities and believes that producers and markets would ben-

efit from having access to additional data on the country of destination or origin of those commodities. The Committee appreciates that ERS has begun work on the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities. The Committee directs ERS to publish this data on a quarterly basis in language that is clear, concise, well-organized, and user-friendly, avoiding unnecessary complexity so that it is easier for members of the general public to understand.

*Midwest Center of Agricultural Policy*.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue standing up the new Midwest policy center and continues providing support for the existing regional centers.

*Organic Data Analysis*.—The organic industry has grown at a tremendous rate over the past several years and accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential. Therefore, the Committee encourages ERS to continue and expand the efforts relating to organic data analysis.

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $187,513,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 189,500,000 |

The National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS] administers the Department's program of collecting and publishing current national, State, and county agricultural statistics. These statistics provide accurate and timely projections of current agricultural production and measures of the economic and environmental welfare of the agricultural sector, which are essential for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions. NASS also furnishes statistical services to other USDA and Federal agencies in support of their missions and provides consulting, technical assistance, and training to developing countries.

NASS is also responsible for administration of the Census of Agriculture, which is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, including: data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, farm product values, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $189,500,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, of which $48,500,000 is for the Census of Agriculture. The Committee directs NASS to continue all activities and reports at the frequency assumed in fiscal year 2023.

*Alfalfa Price Reporting*.—The Committee directs NASS to continue to enhance price discovery across the country for alfalfa production. Additionally, the Committee directs NASS to include the Southeast in its crop production reporting.

*Chemical Use Data Series*.—The Chemical Use Data Series provides timely, valuable information on fertilizer and chemical use

data on major field crops and selected specialty crops. The Committee encourages NASS to continue funding the collection and analysis of chemical use data, as well as practices such as integrated pest management. The Committee supports efforts to resume collecting Fruit Chemical Use data and Vegetable Chemical Use data in alternating years and directs the continuation of this practice to ensure equal access to Federal statistics.

*Floriculture Crops Report*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Floriculture Crops Report and maintains funding for NASS to complete the report. In compiling the report, the Committee continues to direct NASS to include data from Alaska.

*National Turfgrass Economic Value Study*.—The Committee recognizes the burgeoning natural turf industry and encourages NASS to collect data on acreage, production, and economic impact, to include employment, input costs, and retail value, of turfgrass production.

*Reports*.—The Committee continues to encourage NASS to prioritize the continued publication of all periodically published reports. The Committee recognizes that producers rely on NASS reports to make sound marketing and investment decisions in the agricultural market. The reports are vital for market transparency and market anticipation for the entire agricultural sector.

*State-Specific and Regionally-Tailored Publications*.—The Committee is concerned by the decision to discontinue publications tailored specifically to individual States and regions, though it notes that the State-level data will continue to be available in national releases and the Quick Stats database. The Committee directs NASS to brief the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act on how the agency will continue to make this information readily available and accessible to producers and stakeholders.

*Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the 5-year Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey and resume data collection and reporting so grape, wine, and juice producers can continue to remain competitive and respond to challenges in the industry. The Committee maintains funding for NASS to complete the report.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,793,063,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,832,003,000 |

The Agricultural Research Service [ARS] is responsible for conducting basic, applied, and developmental research through its major program areas of New Products/Product Quality/Value Added; Livestock/Crop Production; Food Safety; Livestock/Crop Protection; Human Nutrition; and Environmental Stewardship. The research applies to a wide range of goals, including commodities, natural resources, fields of science, and geographic, climatic, and environmental conditions.

ARS is also responsible for the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Library, which provides agricultural information and library services through traditional library functions and modern

electronic dissemination to USDA agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals.

As USDA's in-house agricultural research unit, ARS has major responsibilities for conducting and leading the National agricultural research effort. It provides initiative and leadership in the following five areas: research on broad regional and national problems, research to support Federal action and regulatory agencies, expertise to meet national emergencies, research support for international programs, and scientific resources to the executive branch and Congress.

The mission of ARS research is to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and to provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,832,003,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2026 levels.

*6PPD*.—The Committee is concerned with the impact that 6p-phenylene-diameine [6PPD] and its transformant, 6PPD-quinone [6PPD-q], are having on aquatic ecosystems. Stormwater runoff containing 6PPD-q has been linked to mass die-offs of endangered and threatened salmon across the Puget Sound and San Francisco Bay areas. The Committee supports the Service's work to assess, analyze, and develop potential alternatives to 6PPD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to continue research to identify an alternative. The Committee directs ARS to continue coordinating across Federal and State agencies on shared priorities, and to engage in robust government-to-government consultation with impacted Tribes. ARS is directed to provide a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on 6PPD-related activities, including the ARS's current strategy, an overview of research work completed to date, a plan for addressing potential data gaps, recommendations for future research activities, and potential funding sources.

*Advanced Crop Production and Protection Tools*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of and opportunity in developing remote sensing and artificial intelligence tools for problem solving related to crop protection and production. The Committee provides $1,000,000 for the Crop Production Systems Research Unit and academic partners to research and develop tools to use big data analysis, artificial intelligence, and/or advanced statistical methods to advance sustainable crop production and protection and to improve uptake with producers.

*Aerial Application Technology Research Unit*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of aerial application to control crop pests and diseases and to fertilize and seed crops and forests. Aerial application is useful not only to ensure overall food safety and food

security, but also to promote public health through improved mosquito control and public health application techniques. The Committee urges ARS to prioritize research focused on optimizing aerial spray technologies for on-target deposition and drift mitigation and to work cooperatively with the Environmental Protection Agency to update their pesticide review methodology.

*Aflatoxin Mitigation Research*.—The Committee recognizes the increasing economic and food safety threat that aflatoxin poses to corn and other affected agricultural crops and products. Aflatoxin has historically been a regional concern in the southeast but is currently spreading to other parts of the country due to more frequent extreme weather events. As such, the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 for ARS to expand research into methods of mitigating the risk of aflatoxin, particularly regarding responsive agriculture, human nutrition, and food safety.

*Agricultural Data Security*.—The Committee recognizes the critical need for agricultural data security advancements alongside increased use of autonomous systems and new technologies. To prepare for these needs, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to collaborate with a land-grant university to research these data security needs and solutions. The partnership should involve a university with expertise in both agricultural technology cybersecurity.

*Agricultural Genomics*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for agricultural genomic research to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sectors in order to maximize the return on the investment in genomics of agriculturally important species.

*Agrivoltaics*.—The Committee directs USDA to conduct a demonstration program on dual-use renewable energy systems in multiple regions of the United States, including arid, semi-arid, and wet agricultural zones. In picking locations for the demonstration programs, the Department shall prioritize cooperative agreements with land-grant universities and Agriculture Research Service sites. The Committee also encourages USDA to enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement with a provider experienced in facilitating connections between producers and renewable energy experts and researchers across the country to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance materials for producers and to connect producers to researchers and businesses to support the growth of co-location. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000.

*AgTech Cooperative Agreements*.—The Committee provides an increase of $2,000,000 for cooperative agreements to support the research, development and acceleration of agriculture technology.

*Alfalfa Research*.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics, and the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to support research focused on alfalfa improvement. Research should focus on using tools to accelerate and enhance existing breeding programs focused on improving yield and quality parameters; developing innovative harvesting and utilization systems; developing new markets for co-

products; and quantifying environmental benefits from alfalfa-based systems.

*Ancient Crop Genetics*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of crop genetics research conducted at public-private consortiums to enhance yields, fight diseases and pests, adapt to changing climates, and reduce global food insecurity. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research focused on utilizing ancient crop plant ancestors to mobilize genetic diversity, meet consumer demands, and protect the global food supply.

*Animal Research*.—The Committee directs ARS to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this act on steps the agency can take to transition away from animal research.

*Appalachian Native Tree Crop*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station to study and expand native fruit tree breeding including the pawpaw, American persimmon, and hazelnut to expand new market opportunities for Appalachian farmers.

*Appalachian Natural Products Research*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to advance natural products research and applications with a focus on plant species in Appalachia.

*Barley Pest Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes that insects and viral, bacterial, and fungal diseases inflict substantial yield and quality losses to the barley crop throughout the United States, resulting in significant economic losses to growers and end-users. The Committee supports research to be carried out through the Barley Pest Initiative to address these major threats to sustainable and profitable barley production and utilization.

*Beef Cattle Research*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of research to support rebuilding the U.S. beef cow herd while improving producer profitability, production efficiency, and long-term industry sustainability. The Committee directs ARS to engage beef breed associations, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders to develop regionally specific recommendations that leverage existing research and emerging technologies to improve herd productivity and efficiency. The Committee expects this work to evaluate breed and crossbreed performance under varying production conditions and feed resources and to identify practical strategies that strengthen the competitiveness and resilience of the U.S. beef industry.

*Bee Genomic Sequencing*.—The Committee is aware that the genome of the honeybee, Apis mellifera, has been sequenced, but there are more than 4,000 bee species in the United States, not all of which are affected by colony collapse or population declines in the same way. The Committee recognizes the critical importance of bee species to American agriculture, floriculture, and ecosystem biodiversity and the increasing challenges to bee colony health related to parasites, poor nutrition, pathogens, and pesticides. Although progress has been made in understanding these influences on pollinator health, additional research into a broader range of genetic information will assist in addressing the decline in bee pollinators. The Committee provides an increase of $750,000 to sequence and study the genomes of all species of bees in the United States and directs that this research be conducted in conjunction

with Midwestern land-grant universities with established expertise in bee genomic biology.

*Biochar Research*.—The Committee is aware that biochar provides recalcitrant carbon to soils that can last hundreds to thousands of years, improving carbon sequestration and crop yields. The Committee encourages ARS to research biochar to advance understanding of how different types and applications of biochar affect soil health, productivity, and carbon sequestration.

*Carpophilus truncatus*.—The Committee recognizes the threat posed by Capophilus truncatus to pistachio and almond orchards. The Committee encourages ARS to research integrated pest management strategies to safeguard the domestic tree nut industry.

*Carbon Dioxide Removal*.—The Committee supports developing new approaches for enhanced carbon removal in trees, plants, and soils in a manner consistent with advancing traditional food and fiber mission objectives.

*Center for Soil Health Research*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support comprehensive soil testing in additional to critical research on emerging contaminants and biological characteristics of soil.

*Cereal Disease Laboratory*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ongoing research to address and counteract evolving pathogen threats to wheat, oat, and barley, and that the Laboratory remains a critical node to protect food security and export competitiveness. The Laboratory is in process of a recapitalization process in partnership with the host site, the continuation of a longstanding partnership. Due to the urgent and ongoing threats of rust and blight, ARS is directed to prioritize completing the design phase of the Lab/Office Building [LOB] where critical plant pathology research takes place.

*Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD]*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of a live test for cervids potentially affected with CWD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research dedicated to the development of such test and research on pathways of transmission.

*Circular Economy that Reimagines Corn Agriculture [CERCA]*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for CERCA activities.

*Citrus Greening Disease Research*.—The Committee commends ARS on its research efforts on citrus greening disease and encourages the agency to continue working to develop methods to reduce transmission and enhance immunity in citrus trees, and to work with industry, universities, growers, and other partners to develop effective control mechanisms. The Committee also encourages ARS to coordinate its efforts with the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination [HLB–MAC] group.

*Climate Hubs*.—The Committee provides no less than the enacted level for ARS research teams to support regional Climate Hubs.

*Coffee Leaf Rust [CLR]*.—The recent discovery of coffee leaf rust in the U.S. insular pacific has substantially impacted U.S. coffee agriculture, and the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to develop science-based management strategies, provide extension services, and research CLR resistant varieties of coffee.

*Controlled Environment Agriculture*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research on nutrient and water management, best practices, logistics, the agriculture-energy nexus, and economic feasibility for controlled environment agriculture. Work should specifically include research on solutions to Tribal food sovereignty and access to traditional foods including viability for controlled environment cultivation of such crops and medicines.

*Cotton Ginning*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of pollution abatement, improving fiber quality, ginning efficiency, cotton seed, and other byproducts and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research in cotton ginning and innovation by existing laboratories.

*Cotton Seed Bug*.—The Committee recognizes the risk that the cotton seed bug poses to Western cotton production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research to develop control strategies.

*Cover Crops and Cereal Grain Variety Selection*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to develop soil enhancement technologies and research cereal grains, cover crops, and invasive weeds as they related to the northern climates in regions dominated by permafrost.

*Cover Crops Research and Outreach*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of developing profitable and practicable cover crop options for use in dairy, grain, and vegetable production systems, including for use in no-till organic systems and as forages. Therefore, the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to support research with the purposes of improving measures of soil health and resiliency; varietal development; optimal dairy forage species combinations; timing and strategies for cover crop seeding and termination; forage integration into organic dairy systems; and mitigation of environmental and extreme rainfall impacts on water quality and soil security for diverse cover crop systems.

*Cranberry Research*.—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in water conservation, pest control, disease reduction, and fruit quality improvements in cranberry production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the improvement of cranberry yields, pest and disease management, and water resource management by developing fields devoted to cranberry research and collection and storage of samples for analysis in appropriate existing laboratory facilities.

*Crop Production, Bees, and Pollination*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the National Program 305 to study treatments and tools for managing threats posed by diseases and pests, particularly parasitic mites, and thereby improving pollination capacity.

*Crop Production Systems and Crop Genetics*.—The Committee recommends no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support ARS activities in crop production systems and crop genetics in the mid-south region.

*Dairy Forage Research*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research and outreach on the attributes of alternative cropping cycles and forage systems for dairy production systems, including evaluation of the interactions be-

tween climate change, water quality, soil carbon, and cost-of-production in the short and long term.

*Dam Repair Research*.—The Committee notes that rural and agricultural areas are uniquely threatened by aging and physically deteriorating dams. 3D concrete printing technology may be adapted for autonomous underwater use to provide reductions in project costs and length while improving worker safety. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level establish a research, development, testing and evaluation autonomous underwater dam repair program utilizing the assets of the USDA ARS Hydraulic Engineering Research Unit and an R1 University with an existing 3D concrete printing research program with demonstrated.

*Drought Mitigation Research*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of scientific information to support and enhance efficient, accurate implementation of Federal drought preparedness and drought response programs and provides $1,750,000 for the National Drought Mitigation Center.

*East Coast Shellfish Breeding*.—The Committee recognizes the dangers of parasites and bacterial and viral diseases to shellfish farmers and understands the importance of selective breeding to combat these infections. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 for shellfish breeding research focused on the East Coast.

*Enteric Methane Reduction*.—The Committee recommends $1,000,000 to research novel mitigation strategies to reduce enteric methane emissions and support sustainability in Western and Central Great Plains beef and dairy productions systems.

*Extramural Research*.—The Committee rejects the budget proposal to eliminate extramural research and directs funding at no less than fiscal year 2026 level.

*Federal Invasive Species Control Lab*.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

*Floriculture and Nursery Research*.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of the floriculture and nursery sector of agriculture and the industry's need for continued innovation. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to support academic and Federal researchers to pursue efforts in crop protection, breeding, mechanization, and other areas through USDA's Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative.

*Food Systems*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to continue a Food Systems Center that addresses how local, regional, and global food systems can provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food, regardless of individual life circumstances.

*Forest Products*.—The Committee provides continued funding at the fiscal year 2026 level to support research and innovation for wood product quality improvement and to inform further advancements in forest products evaluation standards and valuation technique.

*Fusion of Machine Learning and Electromagnetic Sensors*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research on fusing machine learning and enhanced multi-spectrum sensors for the purpose of collecting real-time environmental data at the site of food production.

*Genetic Improvement for Blueberries*.—The Committee recognizes the need to support blueberry genetics research to enhance desirable traits, improve disease and pest resistance, and improve postharvest resilience.

*Genetic Oat Research*.—The Committee recognizes the potential genetic oat research has to improve disease resistance (especially rusts and viruses), augment genetics, increase yields, and develop crop rotation systems that include oats, which will enhance the value of oats and provide benefits to producers and consumers. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to expand existing research focused on oat improvement.

*Genomes to Fields*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support the Germplasm Enhancement of Maize project to complement existing USDA maize germplasm programs and to support the emerging large-scale public sector effort to investigate the interaction of maize genome variation and environments, known as the Genomes to Fields project.

*Grape Genomics*.—The Committee understands the importance of the National Grape Improvement Center that, when complete, will be the world's leading facility for grape genomics and gene expression research. The Committee provides an increase of $1,250,000 for ARS to recruit and hire scientists necessary to operate the center.

*Healthy Soils Initiative*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support the study of enhanced food nutritional quality through Healthy Soil-Healthy Food-Healthy People Initiatives.

*Healthy Soils in Semi-Arid Locations*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to conduct research on soil health in the semi-arid west within integrated cropland and rangeland ecosystems.

*Hemp Cultivar Development*.—The Committee encourages ARS to conduct biotechnology and genomics research in collaboration with capable institutions to elucidate the genetic control of key production and product quality traits in hemp to facilitate cultivar development. In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to partner with institutions already engaged in such research to conduct hemp genetic improvement research and breeding with new breeding and editing techniques.

*Hemp Germplasm*.—The Committee recognizes the increasing demand for hemp for a variety of uses and its growing importance as a crop for U.S. farmers. When the Nation's hemp germplasm was destroyed in the 1980s, researchers lost access to publicly available germplasm for plant breeding purposes. The Committee directs

ARS to establish and maintain a hemp germplasm repository at the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for this purpose. The Committee also encourages ARS and the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit to partner with 1890 institutions that have existing institutional capacity on hemp germplasm research, education, and extension capabilities.

*Hemp Production Systems*.—The Committee recognizes the emerging market potential for U.S. hemp and hemp-based products for a variety of uses. The Committee directs ARS to conduct regionally-driven research, development, and stakeholder engagement to improve agronomic and agro-economic understanding of effectively integrating hemp into existing agricultural cropping, processing, and marketing systems. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for this purpose. Research, engagement, and technology transfer shall be conducted in strict accordance with all applicable Federal and State authorities and regulations.

*Herbicide Resistance Initiative*.—The Committee provides an increase of $750,000 to support the regionally focused Herbicide Resistance Initiative for the Pacific Northwest to identify and overcome herbicide resistance associated with the crop production pathway, reducing production losses and reducing or eliminating pressure on trade limits due to contamination. The Committee supports research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with ARS, research institutions, and stakeholder support.

*High Performance Computing Support*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support high performance computing capability to address scientific needs and directs ARS to collaborate with appropriate partners with the technical capacity and scientific synergy to provide cost-effective high performance computing support.

*High-Resolution Data Analysis*.—The Committee recognizes the value that daily high-resolution thermal data provides to our National agriculture producers. The Committee notes that cutting-edge commercially available solutions can improve resolution and accuracy needed for precision agriculture, crop yield forecasting, and irrigation solutions. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to use commercially available daily high-resolution thermal data analysis solutions to supplement its research.

*Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research*.—The Committee recognizes that critical research is needed to mitigate against threats posed by landscape use, pests, and pathogens to the beekeeping and specialty crop industries, and to the health of pollinators in general. ARS shall prioritize Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research to study breeding resistance in bees from mites, diseases, and various other threats. The Committee provides an increase of $2,000,000 for the Bee Research Laboratory to study emerging threats, particularly parasitic mites like Tropilaelaps and Varroa.

*Hops Research*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support hops research.

*Human Nutrition Research*.—Maintenance of health throughout the lifespan, along with prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations, are the major emphases of human nutrition research. This research supports USDA's strategic goals of nutrition monitoring; the scientific basis for dietary recommendations; prevention of obesity and related diseases; and life stage nutrition and metabolism, in order to better define the role of nutrition in pregnancy and growth of children and for healthier aging. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 for the existing human nutrition centers.

*Improving Efficiency of Catfish Aquaculture*.—The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to support improved efficiency in catfish aquaculture, including catfish reproduction sciences and hatchery technology to increase catfish farming production rates.

*Improvements in Broiler Production*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level and directs ARS to coordinate with academic partners to understand the interactions between parasites and viruses in antibiotic free poultry production for improved vaccination strategies and products that are able to mitigate against coinfections in poultry products.

*Innovative Water Systems*.—The Committee provides recognizes the persistent threat posed to agriculture production by predictable and erratic natural disasters and other adverse weather conditions. Accelerating innovative technologies and practices to quantify and mitigate these effects are essential to cultivating resilient agricultural ecosystems. The Committee provides $750,000 to develop innovative water management practices that maximize the productivity and resiliency of agricultural systems.

*Integrative Precision Agriculture*.—The Committee encourages ARS to prioritize projects that create or improve precision agricultural technologies to reduce specialty crop growers' manual labor requirements and increase the efficiency of crop production, resource management, harvesting, processing, post-harvest technologies, and packaging through mechanization, automation, and other innovations and technologies.

*Invasive Pests*.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

*Laboratory Staffing*.—The Committee directs ARS to fully staff laboratories even if the laboratory is proposed to be closed in the budget request.

*Little Cherry Disease*.—The Committee is concerned by the growing prevalence of Little Cherry Disease in the Pacific Northwest and the significant threat that it poses to the region's stone fruit. The Committee provides an increase of $1,250,000 for research on detection and mitigation of the disease and the vector insects involved.

*Livestock Infrastructure Contracting and Procurement*.—The Committee is concerned that centralization of procurement and contracting in the USDA and Federal construction requirements have added significant costs and greatly reduced administrative efficiency at working farm- and ranch-scale livestock research facilities. USDA should identify and implement contracting and procurement practices for livestock facilities to ensure costs for livestock related infrastructure is brought in line with industry estimates.

*LTAR Program*.—The Committee is aware of the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research [LTAR] Network's work to support sustainable intensification of agricultural production; however, the Committee is concerned about the lack of geographic diversity and the absence of specialty crop work in the program, especially in the Northeastern United States. Therefore, the Committee strongly encourages the Department to include more geographic and crop diversification in the selection of additional LTAR sites. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the LTAR Network.

*Macadamia Tree Health Initiative [MTHI]*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the MTHI in developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat the macadamia felted coccid. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level.

*Malignant Catarrhal Fever*.—The Committee supports the development of a vaccine and improved diagnostics for Malignant Catarrhal Fever, which is the leading cause of death in American Bison. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level.

*Meat Animal Research*.—The Committee supports robust investment at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center for milling technologies to drive operational sophistication and expand research opportunities and provides no less than fiscal year 2026 level for these purposes.

*Mississippi River Invasive Species Consortium*.—The Committee recognizes the significant economic, environmental, and agricultural threats posed by invasive species, particularly in the Lower Mississippi River Basin. The Committee supports a coordinated, multi-State approach to invasive species management and mitigation and encourages ARS to work with stakeholders to develop proactive, science-based strategies for the detection, prevention, and management of invasive species affecting agriculture and natural resources.

*Mycotoxins*.—The Committee notes the ongoing work of the Cereal Disease Lab and partners to research mycotoxins, which represent one of the most significant food safety challenges in grain processing facilities worldwide. The Committee provides an increase of $500,000.

*Nanobubble Technology in Agriculture*.—The Committee encourages ARS to work with stakeholders to support research, with clear translational impact, aimed at addressing critical challenges in agricultural productivity and competitiveness, food processing and security, rural development through wastewater reuse, and improvements in drinking water quality.

*National Agricultural Library [NAL].*—The Committee strongly encourages ARS to maintain its focus on agriculture-related legal issues within the NAL. The Committee notes that as the agriculture sector faces increasing financial stress, there is a necessity that agriculture-related legal issues be addressed on an increasingly frequent basis. Further, agricultural-related legal issues are increasingly complex and the impact of these legal issues continues to broaden in scope. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support climate science research at the NAL. Further, the Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to the Agricultural Law Information Partnership, including for the existing partner institutions, and recommends that the National Agricultural Library continue to play an important role in assisting all stakeholders with understanding these complex legal issues. The Committee encourages ARS and the National Agricultural Library to engage in multi-year cooperative agreements with the Agricultural Law Information Partnership's partner institutions.

*National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to continue stand-up activities and other initial costs to operate and maintain the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF]. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this act, and monthly thereafter until the completion of the transfer, USDA and the Department of Homeland Security shall provide a joint briefing to the Committee on the status of the transfer of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center mission to NBAF. The briefing shall identify the root causes that have delayed the mission transition, the remaining barriers to the transition, and the joint plan to overcome those barriers. The briefing shall include a updates to timelines and detailed budget requirements to finalize the transition.

*Nematodes*.—The Committee recognizes that one of the biggest trade, quality, and condition irritants for potato research in the Pacific Northwest are nematodes. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support research into sampling methods and suppression strategies for nematodes.

*New England Protected Agriculture*.—The Committee recognizes that significant weather variability has led to devastating losses for small-scale farmers in New England in recent years and that protected agriculture systems can significantly reduce weather exposure and market risks. The Committee provides an increase of $3,000,000 for research into the development and application of optimal protected agriculture systems in New England.

*Onion Breeding*.—The Committee understands the challenges facing the onion industry including perishability, disease and pest management, and low yield. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to research onion breeding and genetics. The research should work to develop new onion varieties, resiliency against disease and pests, as well as adoption of automation and mechanization technology.

*Pacific Shellfish Genetics and Breeding*.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of shellfish aquaculture for rural and coastal communities on the Pacific coast and the need for resilient, healthy genetic stocks that can withstand the region's changing ocean and coastal conditions as well as new disease threats.

The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for a shellfish genetics and breeding program to develop genetically improved stock, promote enhanced disease resiliency, modernize production technologies, and transfer technology and improved stocks to shellfish farmers in Pacific States.

*Peanut Genomic Research*.—The Committee provides an increase of $250,000 for research within an existing cooperative agreement related to peanut genomics.

*Peanut Nutrition*.—The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 for peanut nutrition research.

*Pecan Genetics*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for pecan genetics research.

*Pecan Nutrition*.—The Committee recognizes the critical knowledge gap related to the nutritional benefits of pecans and encourages ARS to support research into the benefits of pecan consumption to human health, including related to chronic disease prevention and management.

*Pecan Processing Research*.—The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 for pecan processing research.

*PFAS Solutions Throughout Agricultural and Food Systems*.—The Committee provides an increase of $2,000,000 to continue a Center of Excellence for PFAS solutions throughout Agricultural and Food Systems in conjunction with a university partner. Funding shall be used on research to address PFAS issues in the agricultural landscape, animal uptake, adsorption, distributions, metabolism, and excretion, as well as the fate of PFAS residues in meat and dairy products as well as in animal urine and feces and subsequent distribution in the environment.

*Plant Associated Microbes*.—The Committee recognizes that plant associated microbes can play a critical role in promoting plant health and growth. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory for additional research and storage and plant associated microbes to characterize key attributes that benefit plant production.

*Potato Bioinformatician*.—The Committee is concerned by the growing prevalence of extreme weather and insect prevalence in the Columbia River Basin and the significant threat both pose to the region's sustainable production of vegetable and seed crops. The Committee provides no less than fiscal year 2026 level to support ongoing research.

*Poultry Processing Research and Innovation*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support research focused on novel poultry processing approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

*Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research*.—The Committee is aware that bees play a crucial role in U.S. agriculture as pollinators and that colony loss poses a serious threat to future food production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to continue work at the Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research Center.

*Postharvest Dairy Research*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of developing solutions to address agricultural postharvest inefficiencies to conserve limited resources and feed a growing population. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research to develop postharvest technologies that decrease waste and improve resource use of protein, fat, and sugar in dairy processing.

*Potato Research*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the development of new management strategies for potato storage that will maintain potato quality, reduce grower and processor losses, and increase profits.

*Precision Aquaculture*.—The Committee recognizes that land-based, closed-containment aquaculture provides the capacity to raise freshwater or marine species in any locale with minimal environmental impacts. Implementing precision agriculture technologies in these systems will increase production efficiencies and profitability, ultimately increasing capacity for meeting the seafood demands of U.S. consumers through responsible and sustainable domestic aquaculture production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to continue the implementation of precision aquaculture in land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems.

*Precision Management of Live Broiler Production*.—The Committee directs ARS to support research focused on improving animal welfare and health, food safety and food security through novel broiler chicken live production approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

*Predictive Modeling Tools*.—The Committee supports efforts to develop sustainable agricultural production systems for crops through the use of forecasting tools that incorporate post-harvest soil testing and in-season monitoring of plant pathogens to combat crop diseases. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to work with Federal and land-grant university partners in order to develop predictive modeling tools that aid farm management decisions to improve agricultural production of row crops.

*Predictive Crop Performance*.—The Committee is aware of the growing need for crop varieties whose performance minimizes risks associated with severe year-to-year fluctuations in weather patterns. As such, the Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 for research that integrates high-throughput performance data collected with drone, robot, and on-tractor technologies with genome data to accurately predict which advanced lines have economic value and environmental stability.

*Promoting Innovation in Ag Machines*.—Continued innovation in ag machines and equipment has the ability to significantly improve productivity and portability of agriculture production systems. The Committee encourages ARS to research the development of advanced technologies to meet the complex agricultural challenges facing farmers.

*Pulse Crop Quality*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS wheat quality laboratories in researching and advancing the quality and overall utilization of wheat and pulse crops. The Committee provides an increase of $500,000 to further these efforts for pulse crops by establishing quality analysis standards, developing innovative production processes, and evaluating crop varieties for product functionality and market suitability.

*Pulse Health Initiative*.—The Committee supports the expansion of pulse crop research and provides an increase of $500,000 to enhance scientific research into the health and nutritional benefits of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans.

*Rangeland Precision Livestock Management*.—The Committee recognizes the opportunity for precision livestock management strategies and tools to promote economically efficient and environmentally responsive livestock production systems for the Western rangeland. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to develop precision nutrition strategies for rangeland-based livestock as well as technology-based rangeland and livestock management strategies to optimize the health and productivity of both Western rangeland-based livestock and the rangeland ecosystem. Further, the Committee recommends this funding to transfer new knowledge and technology strategies into data-informed tools and decision guidance for Western livestock and rangeland managers.

*Rangeland Research*.—The Committee recognizes the demonstrated potential for cooperative partnerships to address complex sagebrush steppe ecosystem challenges in the Great Basin region. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for ARS to support a regional, multi-institutional cooperative partnership to advance collaborative science-based conservation research, extension, and education to address time-sensitive and shared rangeland challenges affecting sustainable agricultural productivity, rural communities, and ecosystem health.

*Recirculating Aquaculture Systems Research*.—The Committee remains concerned with the significant trade deficit in consumed seafood and aquaculture products and therefore provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support Recirculating Aquaculture Systems to expand production and resilience in domestic finfish aquaculture.

*Research Facilities*.—The Committee directs ARS to work cooperatively with land-grant universities to better utilize available state-of-the-art laboratory space to effectively address important agricultural research issues, including obstacles to increasing food production. These challenges include diseases which affect the blueberry, potato, apple, and marine finfish aquaculture production. The Committee again directs ARS to study ways in which the Federal labs could be better utilized, in cooperation with land-grant universities, to explore new scientific opportunities that benefit the Nation's food and agriculture system, and to submit a report with recommendations to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this act. The report should include information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and other cooperators, as well as the extent in which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.

*Resilient Barley Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes the need to build resiliency within the barley production system in order to maintain a sustainable and high-quality supply for its many value-added end uses. The Committee directs ARS to coordinate research efforts focused on strengthening barley's resilience to climate stressors that threaten that supply through improved genetics and management. The Committee provides an increase of $500,000.

*Resilient Dryland Farming*.—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in dryland production practices, cropping, and equipment to increase profitability, conserve the soil, enhance soil water storage, promote soil health, and decrease reliance on herbicides. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to expand research focused on resilient dryland farming. Research should focus on improving yield and quality parameters; developing cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases; and quantifying economic and environmental benefits from dryland crop production systems.

*Resilient Livestock Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of livestock as a main source of sustainability of food production systems to remain globally competitive and nourish a growing global population. In the face of increasing severe weather events, exponentials expansion of the human population, and reductions in natural resources, livestock production needs to be more efficient and resilient to provide products for human consumption. The Committee support the ARS's Animal Disease Research Unit increasing its collaborative work to devise functional genomics strategies for developing traits in livestock to address disease resistance and improve resiliency in harsher weather conditions to support the Resilient Livestock Initiative. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000.

*Sclerotinia*.—The Committee is aware of the economic importance of controlling sclerotinia, which affects sunflowers, soybeans, canola, edible beans, peas, and lentils and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for this purpose. The Committee encourages ARS to continue both core research and cooperative projects of the National Sclerotinia Initiative.

*Sheep Research*.—The Committee recognizes the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station as a nationally significant agricultural research facility supporting sheep genetics, rangeland management, and livestock-wildlife interaction research. The Station's long-term datasets on sage grouse populations and rangeland fire dynamics provide valuable scientific information for producers, land managers, and conservation partners throughout the West. The Committee encourages ARS to maintain collaborative research efforts that advance domestic livestock production, wildlife conservation, and the health and resilience of shared rangeland ecosystems.

*Shrimp Production Research*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of increasing domestic shrimp production and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research and commercial development of production technologies that will improve shrimp health and streamline feed management regimes.

*Small Fruits*.—The Committee recognizes the need to support research to promote sustainable and organic production of berry and grape crops with the goal of reducing pesticide use and improving

quality and yield. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support research to improve the ability to forecast pest and disease spread, implement precision management strategies, and improve the overall quality of fruit.

*Smart Technologies for Agricultural Production*.—The Committee recognizes the critical need for innovative solutions to broad problems and encourages the use of smart technologies and artificial intelligence to address them. The committee provides $1,000,000 for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory for additional research in developing these technologies for commercial use.

*Smoke Exposure*.—The Committee supports research to identify the compounds responsible for smoke taint, establish a reliable database of background levels of smoke taint compounds occurring naturally in winegrapes, develop mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke taint, and study compounds that can act as a barrier between the grapes and smoke compounds. In addition, the Committee supports research to establish standard methodologies for sampling and testing of smoke-exposed grapes and smoke-affected wines. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000.

*Soft White Wheat Falling Numbers Test*.—The Committee recognizes the emerging crisis surrounding wheat starch degradation as detected by the Hagberg-Perten Falling Numbers [FN] Test. The quality loss was particularly devastating to Pacific Northwest soft white wheat producers in late 2016. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 funding level to research the accuracy of the FN test and better understand environmental, storage, and genetic conditions leading to this quality loss.

*Soil Carbon Research*.—The Committee recognizes the need for research into current and future dryland production practices to increase profitability, conserve soil, enhance soil water storage, promote sequestration of carbon and soil health, and reduce reliance on herbicides. The Committee no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research focused on improving yield; assessing the level of carbon sequestration through existing practices; developing new cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases by improving soil health; improving sequestration of carbon; and identifying opportunities for increasing sustainability of dryland crop production.

*Sorghum Crop Improvement*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for sorghum research to address increased drought pressure and erratic climate patterns through trait-based sorghum breeding, phenotyping, and associated genomic resources. This research will help develop varietals which respond to plant stress and deliver increased yield potential in these harsh semi-arid conditions.

*Southern Regional Research Center [SRRC]*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the SRRC crop adaptive resilience food program to conduct collaborative research with research universities by exploring the value-added enhancement of State-grown crops such as rice and other grains and pulses, to define the role for novel approaches in crop biological signaling and modification to yield environmentally sustainable, adaptive and stressor resistant varieties and interventions.

*Strawberry Production*.—The Committee recognizes that the highly perishable, delicate, and labor-intensive nature of strawberry production makes this crop an ideal test bed for innovative automation technologies. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 enacted level to utilize innovative technologies to enhance strawberry production.

*Sudden Oak Death*.—The European strain 1 [EU1] and the North American strain 1 [NA1] of the sudden oak death pathogen are major threats to western Douglas-fir/tanoak forests, resulting in quarantine restrictions that threaten U.S. forests and export markets for log shipments and lily bulbs. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for research to improve understanding of the EU1 and NA1 strains of the sudden oak death pathogen and treatment methods to inform control and management techniques in wildlands.

*Sugar Beet Research*.—The Committee provides an increase of $600,000 for plant disease research to improve the quality of sugar beet production.

*Sugarcane Variety Development*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support research to shorten the conventional sugarcane breeding timeline, break through the current plateau in sugar content, and predict improvement in other traits such as cold tolerance, ratooning ability, and disease resistance.

*Sunflower Breeding Initiative*.—The Committee notes the limited availability of locally-adapted hybrid sunflower seeds. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 for sunflower breeding research to help improve yields, disease resistance, and insect tolerance.

*Supplemental and Alternative Crops*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of nationally coordinated, regionally managed canola research and extension programs. The Committee encourages the Secretary to seek input from stakeholders and give priority consideration to proposals in the peer review process that address research needs in production areas with the greatest potential to expand, as well as those where canola production is established and needs to be maintained.

*Sustainable Aquaculture*.—The Committee notes that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for a pilot Aquaculture Experiment Station in partnership with universities to support rapid response research on sustainable aquaculture for coldwater and warmwater production environments, with special emphasis on workforce education.

*Seaweed Crop Systems Innovation*.—The Committee recognizes that continued growth of domestic seaweed aquaculture will require modernization of seed systems, production technologies, and value chain infrastructure to reduce costs, improve farm resilience, and strengthen U.S. competitiveness. The Committee provides $1,000,000 for integrated research and technology development supporting seed system stabilization, strain improvement, production efficiency, product development, and techno-economic analysis for the domestic seaweed industry.

*Tree Fruit Post-Harvest Research*.—The Committee recognizes that the tree fruit industry faces significant economic vulnerability from variations in post-harvest quality control. The Committee provides funding at fiscal year 2026 levels for cherry and pear fruit physiology and pathology research that is needed to promote enhanced quality and resiliency from endemic and emerging diseases.

*Tropical and Subtropical Research*.—Research on Tropical and Subtropical crops is critical as the presence of and destruction by invasive pests such as fruit flies, coffee berry borer, felted macadamia nut coccid, plant viruses, and fungal diseases increasingly threaten crop security in the Pacific and Insular Areas. The Committee encourages ARS to support this research.

*Tropical Grazing Land Pest Management*.—The recent introduction of invasive insect species such as Prosapia bicincta has substantially impacted tropical grazing lands. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to develop science-based pest management strategies.

*Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Precision Agriculture Applications*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support efforts utilizing UAS in crop production operations and to address the challenges associated with data capture, transfer, and analysis.

*U.S-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund*.—The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000.

*U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative [USWBSI]*.—The Committee recognizes that fusarium head blight is a major threat to agriculture, inflicting substantial yield and quality losses throughout the United States. The Committee supports research carried out through the USWBSI. The Committee provides an increase of $1,000,000 to conduct further research on reducing the impact of fusarium head blight on wheat and barley.

*Vidalia Onion Breeding*.—The Committee recognizes the need for additional research to develop a disease-resistant Vidalia onion crop noting in particular the threat of center rot caused by the plant pathogen pantoeia ananatis.

*Vomitoxin Mitigation Research Enhancement*.—The Committee recognizes the increasing economic and food safety threat that vomitoxin poses to corn and other affected agricultural crops and products. The Committee encourages ARS to expand research into methods of mitigating the risk of vomitoxin, particularly regarding responsive agriculture, human nutrition, and food safety.

*Waterfowl*.—The Committee supports research on the transmission of avian influenza from waterfowl and seabirds to agricultural animals with an emphasis on reducing spread to small and medium-sized producers.

*Warmwater Aquaculture*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to facilitate the advancement of technologies that improve the efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of warmwater aquaculture production.

*Water Quality Management Systems*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to assess, develop, and disseminate novel water resource monitoring systems that promote sustainability practices for watershed and rangeland management necessary for small communities to prepare for a changing climate.

*Wheat Resiliency Initiative*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for a Wheat Resiliency Initiative that supports additional research into Wheat Stem Sawfly and Hessian Fly. This funding would allow researchers to build capacity to address underfunded and emerging challenges to wheat production throughout the United States.

*Whitefly*.—The Committee remains concerned with the whitefly, Bemisia tabaci, epidemic, which is severely impacting pecan production in the Southeastern United States. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to continue this research.

*Wind Erosion Research Network*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to develop infrastructure to predict wind erosion effects and target erosion mitigation measures in response to fire and vegetation loss and a changing climate.

*Woody Biomass for Recyclable Packaging*.—The Committee recognizes the potential for biobased thermoplastics made from woody biomass as more recyclable packaging material and encourages ARS to accelerate research and technology deployment in this space.

The Committee provides no less than the level of funding outlined in the following table:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE—SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

| Center | FY 2026 Enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit | 12,100,088 | 12,100,088 |
| Soil Dynamics Research Unit | 15,747,911 | 16,747,911 |
| U.S. Arid Land Agricultural Research Center | 12,413,886 | 12,413,886 |
| Carl Hayden Bee Research Center | 2,521,299 | 2,521,299 |
| Southwest Watershed Research Center | 4,295,839 | 4,295,839 |
| Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center | 4,113,513 | 4,113,513 |
| Poultry Production and Product Safety Research Unit | 3,214,179 | 3,214,179 |
| Delta Water Management Research Unit | 1,492,956 | 1,492,956 |
| Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center | 12,268,176 | 12,768,176 |
| Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center | 5,113,972 | 5,113,972 |
| Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center | 3,488,837 | 3,488,837 |
| Plant Gene Expression Center | 4,783,616 | 5,783,616 |
| Western Regional Research Center | 36,607,088 | 36,607,088 |
| Crops Pathology and Genetics Research Unit | 5,633,391 | 5,633,391 |
| National Clonal Germplasm Repository - Tree Fruit & Nut Crops & Grapes | 1,652,036 | 1,652,036 |
| Sustainable Agricultural Water Systems Research Unit | 4,805,885 | 4,805,885 |
| Western Human Nutrition Research Center | 8,483,041 | 8,483,041 |
| San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center | 17,155,555 | 17,155,555 |
| Agricultural Water Efficiency and Salinity Research Unit | 3,112,676 | 3,112,676 |
| National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus | 1,819,694 | 1,819,694 |
| Crop Improvement and Protection Research Unit | 10,179,556 | 10,179,556 |
| Center for Agricultural Resources Research | 20,963,664 | 21,293,664 |
| Beneficial Insects Introduction Research Unit | 2,129,369 | 2,129,369 |
| National Arboretum | 265,315,103 | 268,315,103 |
| Sugarcane Field Station | 4,931,166 | 4,931,166 |
| Invasive Plant Research Laboratory | 2,589,135 | 2,589,135 |
| U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory | 19,097,691 | 19,097,691 |
| Center For Medical, Agricultural And Veterinary Entomology | 12,707,977 | 12,707,977 |
| Subtropical Horticulture Research Station | 6,331,110 | 6,331,110 |
| European Biological Control Laboratory | 3,148,073 | 3,148,073 |
| U.S. National Poultry Research Center | 47,504,273 | 47,504,273 |
| Fruit and Nut Research Unit | 10,090,037 | 10,590,037 |
| National Peanut Research Laboratory | 7,224,586 | 7,224,586 |

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Center | FY 2026 Enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit | 2,560,052 | 2,560,052 |
| Crop Genetics and Breeding Research Unit | 5,589,905 | 5,839,905 |
| Southeast Watershed Research Laboratory | 6,824,703 | 6,824,703 |
| Daniel K. Inouye U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center | 16,515,785 | 17,015,785 |
| Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit | 9,740,648 | 9,740,648 |
| Northwest Watershed Research Center | 3,052,905 | 3,052,905 |
| Range Sheep Production Efficiency Research Unit | 3,587,182 | 3,587,182 |
| Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory | 5,911,369 | 5,911,369 |
| National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research | 35,119,642 | 35,869,642 |
| Global Change and Photosynthesis Research Unit | 2,961,133 | 2,961,133 |
| Soybean/Maize Germplasm, Pathology, and Genetics Research Unit | 2,997,761 | 2,997,761 |
| Crop Production and Pest Control Research Unit | 4,033,374 | 4,033,374 |
| Livestock Behavior Research Unit | 1,725,102 | 1,725,102 |
| National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory | 2,713,145 | 2,713,145 |
| Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit | 8,137,816 | 8,137,816 |
| National Animal Disease Center | 39,214,594 | 39,214,594 |
| National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment | 10,380,518 | 10,380,518 |
| Plant Introduction Research Unit | 4,153,915 | 4,153,915 |
| Center For Grain and Animal Health Research | 20,488,500 | 20,988,500 |
| National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) | 156,428,462 | 156,428,462 |
| Food Animal Environmental Systems Research Unit | 2,763,585 | 2,763,585 |
| Forage-Animal Production Research Unit | 4,512,054 | 4,512,054 |
| Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research Unit | 3,307,524 | 3,307,524 |
| Sugarcane Research Unit | 6,499,944 | 6,499,944 |
| Southern Regional Research Center | 27,839,792 | 27,839,792 |
| National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center | 11,302,301 | 13,302,301 |
| New England Center for Sustained Soil And Water Health | 9,078,774 | 11,078,774 |
| Beltsville Agricultural Research Center | 86,383,601 | 88,383,601 |
| Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center | 23,101,535 | 23,101,535 |
| National Agricultural Library | 28,998,894 | 29,498,894 |
| Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit | 6,847,231 | 6,847,231 |
| Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center On Aging | 17,573,009 | 17,573,009 |
| Sugarbeet and Bean Research Unit | 2,695,594 | 3,695,594 |
| Soil Management Research Unit | 3,463,320 | 3,463,320 |
| Cereal Disease Laboratory | 6,936,240 | 7,436,240 |
| Midwest Plant Science Research Unit | 4,030,274 | 4,030,274 |
| Soil and Water Management Research Unit | 3,205,233 | 3,205,233 |
| Crop Science Research Laboratory | 9,931,829 | 9,931,829 |
| Geospatial and Environmental Epidemiology Research Unit | 5,400,000 | 5,400,000 |
| Poultry Research Unit | 9,501,785 | 9,501,785 |
| National Sedimentation Laboratory | 9,943,784 | 9,943,784 |
| Natural Products Utilization Research Unit | 6,081,655 | 6,081,655 |
| Southern Horticultural Research Unit | 6,160,347 | 6,160,347 |
| Biological Control of Pests Research Unit | 5,464,424 | 5,464,424 |
| Cotton Ginning Research Unit | 3,210,264 | 3,210,264 |
| Crop Genetics Research Unit | 8,058,718 | 8,058,718 |
| Crop Production Systems Research Unit | 5,081,431 | 5,081,431 |
| Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Unit | 4,261,558 | 4,261,558 |
| Pollinator Health in Southern Crop Ecosystems Research Unit | 4,594,851 | 4,594,851 |
| Southern Insect Management Research Unit | 4,735,701 | 4,735,701 |
| Sustainable Water Management Research Unit | 8,031,549 | 8,781,549 |
| Warmwater Aquaculture Research Unit | 11,965,466 | 12,465,466 |
| Biological Control of Insects Research Laboratory | 1,659,169 | 1,659,169 |
| Cropping Systems and Water Quality Research Unit | 4,058,652 | 4,058,652 |
| Plant Genetics Research Unit | 8,680,581 | 8,680,581 |
| Range and Livestock Research Laboratory | 4,871,228 | 4,871,228 |
| Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory | 6,668,181 | 6,668,181 |
| U.S. Meat Animal Research Center | 25,901,658 | 26,231,658 |
| Agroecosystem Management Research Unit | 9,972,401 | 11,722,401 |
| Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit | 4,068,978 | 4,068,978 |
| Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit | 2,410,479 | 2,410,479 |
| Southwestern Cotton Ginning Research Laboratory | 3,414,319 | 3,414,319 |

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Center | FY 2026 Enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Range Management Research Unit | 7,782,791 | 9,112,791 |
| Grape Genetics Research Unit | 4,319,389 | 5,569,389 |
| Plant Genetic Resources Unit | 4,291,915 | 4,291,915 |
| Robert W. Holley Center for Agriculture & Health | 14,535,650 | 14,535,650 |
| Food Science and Market Quality and Handling Research Unit | 2,527,365 | 2,527,365 |
| Southeast Plant Science Research Unit | 9,015,636 | 9,015,636 |
| Soybean and Nitrogen Fixation Research Unit | 3,097,917 | 3,097,917 |
| Edward T. Schafer Agricultural Research Center | 42,970,553 | 49,670,553 |
| Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center | 10,230,686 | 11,230,686 |
| Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory | 10,722,889 | 10,722,889 |
| Soil Drainage Research Unit | 2,294,281 | 2,294,281 |
| Application Technology Research Unit | 9,075,884 | 12,075,884 |
| Corn, Soybean and Wheat Quality Research Unit | 2,313,525 | 2,313,525 |
| Oklahoma and Central Plains Agricultural Research Center | 16,318,778 | 16,318,778 |
| Range and Meadow Forage Management Research Unit | 5,524,137 | 5,524,137 |
| Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit | 7,588,510 | 7,588,510 |
| Horticultural Crops Disease and Pest Management Research Unit | 5,667,086 | 5,667,086 |
| Horticultural Crops Production and Genetic Improvement Research Unit | 6,517,875 | 6,517,875 |
| National Clonal Germplasm Repository | 2,237,374 | 2,237,374 |
| Pacific Shellfish Research Unit | 2,731,134 | 2,731,134 |
| Soil and Water Conservation Research Unit | 5,864,492 | 5,864,492 |
| Pasture Systems & Watershed Management Research Unit | 7,242,052 | 7,242,052 |
| Eastern Regional Research Center | 33,056,182 | 33,056,182 |
| Tropical Agricultural Research Station | 3,465,431 | 3,465,431 |
| U.S. Vegetable Laboratory | 13,101,415 | 13,101,415 |
| Coastal Plains Soil, Water and Plant Research Center | 5,902,511 | 6,902,511 |
| Integrated Cropping Systems Research Unit | 3,758,563 | 3,758,563 |
| and Production Research Laboratory | 7,653,178 | 7,653,178 |
| Responsive Agricultural Food Systems Research Unit | 21,824,661 | 22,324,661 |
| Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center | 17,197,882 | 17,197,882 |
| Children's Nutrition Research Center | 16,290,734 | 16,790,734 |
| Knipling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory | 12,253,706 | 12,253,706 |
| Cropping Systems Research Laboratory | 10,630,310 | 10,630,310 |
| Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory | 4,929,071 | 4,929,071 |
| Forage and Range Research Laboratory | 5,073,069 | 5,073,069 |
| Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory | 2,810,286 | 2,810,286 |
| Pollinating Insect-Biology, Management, Systematics Research Unit | 2,552,318 | 2,552,318 |
| Food Systems Research Unit | 13,072,524 | 13,072,524 |
| Animal Disease Research Unit | 10,384,150 | 11,384,150 |
| Grain Legume Genetics Physiology Research Unit | 3,342,541 | 3,342,541 |
| Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit | 3,457,743 | 4,207,743 |
| Plant Germplasm Introduction and Testing Research Unit | 3,591,153 | 3,591,153 |
| Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit | 8,373,778 | 8,373,778 |
| Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit | 11,364,884 | 12,614,884 |
| Physiology and Pathology of Tree Fruits Research Unit | 3,964,753 | 3,964,753 |
| Appalachian Fruit Research Laboratory | 10,176,511 | 10,176,511 |
| Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture Research Unit | 10,175,670 | 10,175,670 |
| Cereal Crops Research Unit | 3,607,478 | 4,107,478 |
| U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center | 20,907,272 | 21,407,272 |
| Vegetable Crops Research Unit | 9,435,505 | 9,435,505 |
| Total, ARS Salaries and Expenses | 1,793,063,000 | 1,832,003,000 |

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $60,650,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 49,600,000 |

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $49,600,000 for Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities, of which $46,600,000 is for Congressionally Directed Spending.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234) amends the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) by establishing an agency to be known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Secretary transferred to the Director of NIFA, effective October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. The mission is to work with university partners and customers to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,075,950,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,100,755,000 |

Research and Education programs administered by NIFA are USDA's principal entree to the U.S. university system for the purpose of conducting agricultural research and education programs as authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a–361i); the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962, as amended (Public Law 87–788); the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (Public Law 89–106); the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (Public Law 95–113); the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note); the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–185), as amended; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624); the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171); and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246). Through these authorities, USDA participates with States and other cooperators to encourage and assist State institutions in conducting agricultural research and education through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States and the territories; approved Schools of Forestry; the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University; 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and other eligible institutions. The appropriated funds provide Federal support for research and education programs at these institutions.

The research and education programs participate in a nationwide system of agricultural research program planning and coordination among the State institutions, USDA, and the agricultural industry of America.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,100,755,000 for research and education activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, of which $23,935,000 is for Congressionally Directed Spending.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for research and education activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

| Program/Activity | Committee recommendation ($) | Period of Availability |
|---|---|---|
| Hatch Act | 267,650 | 12–1500 /27 |
| McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act | 38,380 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program) | 89,890 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Payments to the 1994 Institutions | 8,080 | 12–1500 / X |
| Education Grants for 1890 Institutions | 30,300 | 12–1500 / X |
| Scholarships at 1890 Institutions | 10,000 | 12–1500 / X |
| Centers of Excellence at 1890's Institutions | 10,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions | 16,160 | 12–1500 / X |
| Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions | 5,050 | 12–1500 /27/28 |
| Research Grants for 1994 Institutions | 5,500 | 12–1500 / X |
| New Beginning for Tribal Students | 5,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture | 6,060 | 12–1500 / X |
| Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas | 2,000 | 12–1500 /27/28 |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative | 440,000 | 12–1500 / X |
| Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment | 10,000 | 12–1500 / X |
| Veterinary Services Grant Program | 8,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program | 3,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Supplemental and Alternative Crops | 3,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institutions Challenge Grants | 10,000 | 12–1500 / X |
| Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education | 750 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Aquaculture Centers | 5,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education | 48,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Farm Business Management | 2,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Sun Grant Program | 3,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Research Equipment Grants | 3,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Minor Crop Pest Management (IR–4) | 15,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Alfalfa Forage and Research Program | 4,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative | 2,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program | 500 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository | 1,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Research Facilities Act | ..... | 12–1500 /27 |
| Congressionally Directed Spending | 23,935 | 12–1500 / X |
| Special Research Grants: | | |
| Global Change/UV Monitoring | 1,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Potato Research | 4,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Aquaculture Research | 2,000 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Total, Special Research Grants | 7,000 | ..... |
| Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities: | | |
| Grants Management System | 7,000 | 12–1500 / X |
| Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities | 10,500 | 12–1500 /27 |
| Total, Necessary Expenses | 17,500 | ..... |
| Total, Research and Education Activities | 1,100,755 | ..... |

*Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards*.—The Committee remains determined to see that quality research and enhanced

human resources development in the agricultural and related sciences be a nationwide commitment. Therefore, the Committee continues its direction that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA's agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR].

*Agricultural Workforce Development*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of agriculture workforce training, education, research and outreach activities. The Committee also notes the important role of junior or community colleges, who are eligible for AFRI awards, in developing the next generation of our agricultural workforce. Within the AFRI Education and Workforce Development initiative, the Committee encourages the Secretary to give strong consideration to applications from junior or community colleges, as well as applications that establish or expand career and technical opportunities in meat and poultry processing considering specific gaps exist in this sector.

*Agriculture and Food Research Initiative*.—The Committee provides $440,000,000 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI].

Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234) specifies priority areas within AFRI, including an emphasis on conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding. The Committee strongly supports providing farmers nationwide with greater access to cultivars that are locally and regionally adapted to their soils, climates, and farming systems. The Committee directs the agency to make regionally adapted, publicly held cultivar development a distinct funding priority within AFRI for fiscal year 2027 and directs the agency to continue tracking public cultivar projects within AFRI and report its progress in meeting this goal.

*Agroacoustics*.—The Committee recognizes the growing field of acoustics and the many positive impacts it may have in agriculture, particularly with respect to pest management. The Committee encourages AFRI to prioritize funding for agroacoustics in its basic and applied research program, as well as through the Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants.

*Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research*.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa and forage has the potential to increase alfalfa and forage yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics. The Committee provides no less than fiscal year 2026 level to support research into the improvement of yields, water conservation, creation of new uses, and other research areas holding the potential to advance the alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage industry.

*Algae Research*.—The Committee recognizes the opportunities for innovation in food, fuel, animal feed, and aquaculture in algae research and development. The Committee encourages NIFA to support research into algae-based initiatives.

*Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes*.—The Committee supports the ongoing collaboration between the USDA and the National Science Foundation to pursue advances in precision agriculture, food system security, and forestry and notes the success of the existing AI Research Institutes that have been established

since 2020 on a rolling basis. The ability to meet the future needs of the agricultural workforce, provide tools for resilient agriculture, and food security are within the mission of the agency and align well with the department's focus on AI innovations. The Committee notes the large amounts of unobligated balances in the AFRI program and directs the use of the use of those funds to renew the AI Research Institutes for no less than 3 years following an external panel review.

*Biomass for Carbon Dioxide Removal*.—The Committee recognizes the opportunities for novel approaches to use biomass in ways that optimize carbon storage and encourages NIFA to support research into these applications in a manner consistent with existing food and fiber objectives.

*Brucellosis Research*.—Federal and State animal health officials have made eradicating livestock disease with significant reservoirs a national animal health priority. This need is reflected in the Agriculture Act of 2014 which made the research and development of surveillance methods, vaccines, vaccination delivery systems or diagnostics tests a priority research area under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act particularly for bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages the agency to make competitive grants available to study improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs.

*Citrus Disease Research Program*.—The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing. In the past, the program has received $25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The Committee believes that research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages NIFA, to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board's citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB MAC group. The Committee encourages NIFA to engage with growers in areas of emerging citrus production to provide extension services regarding citrus greening.

*Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions*.—The Committee continues to strongly support and maintains funding for the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Program.

*Enhanced Rock Weathering Research*.—The Committee notes that projects that focus on researching enhanced rock weathering and related monitoring, reporting, and verification efforts are eligible for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI] awards. The Committee directs NIFA to prioritize funding for projects addressing carbon removal through enhanced rock weathering, including on monitoring, reporting, and verification [MRV] of carbon and non-climate agricultural benefits, among other priorities. NIFA shall report to the Committee 180 days after enactment of this act on grants awarded for such purposes in the previous fiscal year.

*Enteric Methane Innovation*.—The Committee recognizes the value of public research in supporting innovation. The Committee encourages AFRI to prioritize applications that focus on the advancement of enteric fermentation solutions, such as cattle feed additives, methane-inhibiting vaccines, and breeding for low-methane cattle, and direct-fed microorganisms.

*Food Safety*.—The Committee continues its recommendation that NIFA prioritize research on technologies to rapidly and effectively detect pathogens or contaminants in order to address foodborne illnesses and improve the safety of our Nation's food supply, including research of novel biodetection technologies.

*Forest Products*.—The Committee recognizes the important role of the forests products sector to the U.S. economy. The need to create new and improved value-added products and renewable energy from our Nation's wood supply is critical to the sustainability of the National economy. The Committee directs NIFA to support research on wood quality improvement and improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques.

*Genome to Phenome*.—The Committee supports the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative to support the development of tools and datasets for the analysis of phenotypes that can be used across multiple livestock and crop species to improve the output and efficiency of agriculture.

*Intermediate Crops*.—The Committee is aware of the nascent industry of "intermediate crops", such as winter camelina, field pennycress, and carinata, that can be grown on existing farmland between primary crops to produce feedstocks for renewable biofuels. These intermediate crops offer similar soil health benefits to cover crops and represent a new source of income for agricultural producers. Within the funds provided for AFRI, the Committee encourages NIFA to prioritize funding for projects seeking to advance the development, adoption, and processing for intermediate crops, particularly under the Foundational and Applied Science, Supplemental and Alternative Crop, and Sustainable Agriculture Systems program areas.

*Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program*.—The Committee notes that research into laying hens and turkeys holds the potential to improve the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. The Committee continues to support research into laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme weather conditions, all which hold the potential to advance the laying hen and turkey industry.

*Lowbush Blueberries*.—The Committee directs NIFA to work with research institutions to develop and refine predictive models and monitoring technologies for native and invasive pests for incorporation into integrated pest management programs for naturally seeded, native berry crops to increase the margin of food safety and product quality.

*Mental Health Support*.—The Committee encourages NIFA to expand programs that deliver peer-to-peer mental health support to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, farm work, and other occupations relating to agriculture.

*New Beginning for Tribal Students*.—The Committee is concerned that matching requirements often prevent Tribes, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Organizations from applying for programs and grants at NIFA. The Committee directs the Secretary to waive matching requirements for New Beginning for Tribal Students in NIFA in order to reduce the burden on Tribal Communities and to increase Tribal participation in USDA programs and grants.

*Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Crop and Livestock Systems*.—The Committee recognizes the value of public research funding for improving crop and livestock productivity, reducing input costs for producers, and improving soil, water, and air quality. The Committee encourages NIFA to consider research that addresses innovative approaches to improving nitrogen use efficiency [NUE], such as novel crop varieties or crop products, manure recycling or application technologies, and livestock diets or management practices.

*Organic Research*.—USDA's National Organic Standards Board [NOSB] has identified key organic research priorities, many of which would help to address challenges that have limited the growth in organic production in this country. The Committee encourages NIFA to give strong consideration to the NOSB organic research priorities when crafting the fiscal year 2027 Request for Applications for AFRI and the Organic Transition Program. Given the growing demand for organic products, the Committee also encourages USDA to increase the number of organic research projects funded under AFRI and the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

*Precision Management of Live Broiler Production*.—The Committee encourages NIFA to support research focused on improving animal welfare and health, food safety and food security through novel broiler chicken live production approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

*Potato Research*.—To minimize the application of pesticides and to maximize the yield and quality of harvested potatoes, the Committee directs the Secretary to support pest management programs in potato growing States. Such programs help scientists track potential pest outbreaks and provide growers and industry professionals with current information on specific and timely treatments. Additionally, these programs help identify serious diseases, such as late blight disease, in their early stages, allowing for preventive measures to be put in place quickly to avoid crop losses.

*Requests for Applications and Obligation of Awards*.—The Committee is concerned by NIFA's delays in issuing fiscal year 2026 Requests for Applications and subsequent grant awards. The Committee directs NIFA to report to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act and quarterly thereafter on the expected timeline of fiscal year 2027 Requests for Applications and award announcements for each program.

*Small and Companion Animal Veterinarians*.—The Committee is concerned with the nationwide shortage of veterinarians in rural communities which specialize in food animals and appreciates the Department's efforts to remedy the shortage. The Committee also

recognizes the significant shortage of small and companion animal veterinarians nationwide, and directs the Department, within 180 days of enactment, to provide a report on shortage areas for small and companion animals. The report shall also specify the differences in shortages between rural, suburban, and urban areas, a comparison between livestock and companion animal shortages, and include recommendations to Congress on how a new program at USDA would be structured.

*Specialty Crop Research Initiative*.—The Committee emphasizes the important role of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative in addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry through research and extension activities. The Committee encourages NIFA to prioritize proposals for, and enhance its overall commitment to the ability of farmers to extend their growing season through the use of winter growing techniques, including but not limited to high tunnel vegetable production. The Committee also encourages NIFA to support research that would boost mechanization and automation of labor-intensive tasks in specialty crop production and processing.

*Stray Voltage and Dairy Cattle Health*.—The Committee is aware of concerns from dairy producers and limited research regarding the potential impact of stray voltage on animal health and milk production. The Committee encourages NIFA to support research into the prevalence, detection, and effects of stray voltage on dairy cattle with the aim of improving diagnostic methods, assessing animal behavior and productivity, and evaluating mitigation strategies.

*Supplemental and Alternative Crops*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of nationally coordinated, regionally managed canola research and extension programs. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to seek input from stakeholders and to give priority consideration to proposals in the peer review process that address research needs in production areas with the greatest potential to expand, as well as those where canola production is established and needs to be maintained.

*Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [SARE]*.—The Committee appreciates the work SARE has done to improve soil health through cutting edge research, education, and extension on cover crops, diversified rotations, and managed grazing. The Committee expects the funding provided to be focused on increasing agricultural resilience, including, where appropriate, interdisciplinary systems research and education, farmer and rancher research and demonstration grants, and graduate student research grants.

*Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program [VMLRP]*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the VMLRP in meeting the needs of rural ranchers, farmers, and rural communities across the country by incentivizing licensed veterinarians to practice in USDA-designated veterinary shortage areas. Within 90 days of enactment of this act and quarterly thereafter, NIFA is directed to provide a report to the Committee on the number of declared shortage areas, by State, and how many positions, by shortage area, remain unfilled.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $11,880,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 11,880,000 |

The Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, authorized by the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act (Public Law 103–382), provides an endowment for the 1994 land-grant institutions (34 tribally-controlled colleges). This program enhances educational opportunity for Native Americans by building educational capacity at these institutions in the areas of student recruitment and retention, curricula development, faculty preparation, instruction delivery systems, and scientific instrumentation for teaching. Income funds are also available for facility renovation, repair, construction, and maintenance. On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall withdraw the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year, and, after making adjustments for the cost of administering the endowment fund, distribute the adjusted income as follows: 60 percent of the adjusted income from these funds shall be distributed among the 1994 land-grant institutions on a pro rata basis, the proportionate share being based on the Indian student count; and 40 percent of the adjusted income shall be distributed in equal shares to the 1994 land-grant institutions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $11,880,000 for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $561,700,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 567,230,000 |

Cooperative extension work was established by the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (Public Law 63–95). USDA is authorized to provide, through the land-grant colleges, cooperative extension work that consists of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture and related subjects, and to encourage the application of such information by demonstrations, publications, through 4–H clubs, and other means to persons not in attendance or resident at the colleges.

To fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act (Public Law 63–95), State and county extension offices in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and Micronesia conduct educational programs to improve American agriculture and strengthen the Nation's families and communities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $567,230,000 for extension activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for extension activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

| Program/Activity | Authorization | Committee recommendation ($) | Period of Availability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and 3(c) and Cooperative Extension. | 7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of Public Law 93–471. | 328,250 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Extension Services at 1890 Institutions | 7 U.S.C. 3221 | 72,720 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Extension Services at 1994 Institutions | 7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3) | 12,120 | 12–0502 / X |
| Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions | 7 U.S.C. 3222b | 21,500 | 12–0502 / X |
| Renewable Resources Extension Act | 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq. | 4,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Rural Health and Safety Education Programs | 7 U.S.C. 2662(i) | 3,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Food and Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program. | 7 U.S.C. 7642 | 2,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Women and Minorities in STEM Fields | 7 U.S.C. 5925 | 2,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Food Safety Outreach Program | 7 U.S.C. 7625 | 10,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Food and Agriculture Service Learning | 7 U.S.C. 7633 | 1,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network | 7 U.S.C. 5936 | 12,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Enhancing Ag Opportunities for Veterans (AgVets) | Section 760 of Public Law 115–31 | 3,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d): | | | |
| Food and Nutrition Education | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 70,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs. | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 5,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| New Technologies for Agricultural Extension | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 1,600 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Children, Youth, and Families at Risk | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 8,000 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program. | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 4,040 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Total, Section 3(d) | | 88,640 | |
| Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities: | | | |
| Agriculture in the K–12 Classroom | | 500 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities. | | 6,500 | 12–0502 /27 |
| Total, Necessary Expenses | | 7,000 | |
| Total, Extension Activities | | 567,230 | |

*Cooperative Extension System*.—The Committee recognizes the essential function that extension plays in ensuring that farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes are empowered to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology and a changing climate, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. The Committee is concerned that the Federal investment in this critical Federal, State, and local partnership has lagged in recent years, just as extraordinary stresses have been placed on farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, and communities.

*Extension Design Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes that for decades, the foundation of traditional farm extension programs had researchers and educators working on the farms and fields alongside crop and livestock producers, but that changes are needed to develop a 21st century extension to meet the needs of today's farmers. The Committee notes that new efforts require USDA to use high-performance computing to develop, test, and deploy new digital infrastructure and platforms that can translate research into real-time interactive feedback, online modeling, demonstration, and simulations. The Committee directs NIFA to conduct meetings with

producers, stakeholders, and policymakers to begin developing a framework for the next generation of farm extension programs.

*Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network*.—The Committee recognizes the farmers, ranchers, and individuals working in agriculture who face highly stressful working conditions. NIFA is encouraged to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to assess the feasibility of a national farmer and farm worker crisis line. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NIFA is directed to provide a report detailing the program's evolution since inception, types of programming provided, and FRSAN's strategy for continuing outreach and services.

*Minority Outreach*.—The Committee is concerned that extension service resources do not reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in proportion to their participation in the agricultural sector. All institutions that receive extension funding should seek to ensure that an equitable percentage of their overall extension work reaches minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The Committee directs NIFA to evaluate distribution of extension resources to these three populations and report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

## INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $41,100,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 40,100,000 |

Section 406, as amended, of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–85) authorizes an integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $40,100,000 for integrated activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for integrated activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

| Program/Activity | Authorization | Committee recommendation ($) | Period of Availability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Methyl Bromide Transition Program | 7 U.S.C. 7626 | 1,000 | 12–1502 /27 |
| Organic Transition Program | 7 U.S.C. 7626 | 7,500 | 12–1502 /27 |
| Regional Rural Development Centers | 7 U.S.C. 450i(c) | 2,600 | 12–1502 /27 |
| Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative | 7 U.S.C. 3351 | 8,000 | 4A |
| Crop Protection/Pest Management | 7 U.S.C. 343(d) | 21,000 | 12–1502 /27 |
| Total, Integrated Activities | | 40,100 | |

*Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative*.—The Committee supports the important work being done through the publicly funded diagnostic laboratory network and encourages NIFA to prioritize funding to strengthen animal health diagnostic laboratories, taking into consideration the following: the degree to which the capacity

for surveillance, monitoring, response, and capacity is enhanced; the concentration of human and animal populations that are directly at risk; trade, tourism, and cultural considerations; geography, ecology, and climate; evidence of active collaboration with and support of the State animal health officials; those States with highest risk for the introduction of foreign and emerging pests and diseases; and evidence of stakeholder support and engagement.

### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,617,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,617,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department's marketing, grading, and standardization activities related to grain; competitive marketing practices of livestock, marketing orders, and various programs; veterinary services; and plant protection and quarantine. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] and Agricultural Marketing Service [AMS].

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,617,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,157,534,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,176,569,000 |

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on April 2, 1972, under the authority of reorganization plan No. 2 of 1953, and other authorities. The major objectives of APHIS are to protect the animal and plant resources of the Nation from diseases and pests. These objectives are carried out under the major areas of activity, as follows:

*Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response*.—The agency monitors plant and animal health worldwide and sets import polices to prevent the introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases. Domestically, the agency works cooperatively to conduct plant and animal health monitoring programs, pursue eradication, or limit the spread of the threat. The agency also conducts diagnostic laboratory activities that support disease prevention, detection, control, and eradication programs. In addition, the agency protects agriculture from detrimental animal predators and through its regulatory structure helps advance genetic research while protecting against the release of harmful organisms.

*Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance*.—The agency helps resolve technical trade issues to ensure the smooth and safe movement of agricultural commodities into and out of the United

States. The agency negotiates animal and plant health certification requirements and assists U.S. exporters in meeting foreign regulatory demands. In addition, the agency assists developing countries in improving their safeguarding systems to protect the United States from emerging plant and animal pests and diseases.

*Animal Care*.—The agency conducts regulatory activities that ensure the humane care and treatment of animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89–544) and Horse Protection Acts (Public Law 91–540). These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibition, and as pets, and monitoring certain horse shows.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,176,569,000 for salaries and expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS], including $12,759,000 for Congressionally Directed Spending.

The following table reflects the Committee's specific recommendations for APHIS:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

[Dollars in thousands]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted ($) | Committee recommendation ($) | Period of availability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance: | | | |
| Animal Health Technical Services | $42,500 | $46,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Aquatic Animal Health | 4,500 | 4,500 | 12–1600/27 |
| Avian Health | 65,000 | 65,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Cattle Health | 106,010 | 106,010 | 12–1600/27 |
| Cattle Health: Screwworm Program | 4,990 | 10,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Cervid and Small Ruminant Health | 32,800 | 35,300 | 12–1600/X |
| Equine Health | 2,450 | 2,450 | 12–1600/27 |
| National Veterinary Stockpile | 6,250 | 6,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Swine Health | 27,000 | 27,000 | 12–1600/27 |
| Veterinary Biologics | 21,000 | 21,000 | 12–1600/27 |
| Veterinary Diagnostics | 38,473 | 38,473 | 12–1600/27 |
| National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) | 24,527 | 24,527 | 12–1600/X |
| Zoonotic Disease Management | 21,000 | 21,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Subtotal, Animal Health | 396,500 | 407,760 | |
| Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated) | 35,500 | 35,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Cotton Pests | 15,500 | 15,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Field crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests | 11,000 | 11,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Pest Detection | 29,000 | 29,250 | 12–1600/27 |
| Plant Protection Methods Development | 21,500 | 21,500 | 12–1600/27 |
| Specialty Crop Pests | 205,500 | 206,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Multiple-Agency Response to Citrus Greening | 8,500 | 8,500 | 12–1600/27/28 |
| Tree & Wood Pests | 58,650 | 59,400 | 12–1600/X |
| Subtotal, Plant Health | 385,150 | 387,150 | |
| Wildlife Damage Management | 120,250 | 124,250 | 12–1600/27 |
| Wildlife Damage Management: Aviation Safety | 2,500 | 2,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Wildlife Services Methods Development | 24,500 | 24,500 | 12–1600/27 |
| Wildlife Services Methods Development Carryover | 1,000 | 1,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Subtotal, Wildlife Services | 148,250 | 152,250 | |
| Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement | 18,500 | 18,500 | 12–1600/27 |
| Biotechnology Regulatory Services | 19,500 | 19,500 | 12–1600/27 |

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[Dollars in thousands]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted ($) | Committee recommendation ($) | Period of availability |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subtotal, Regulatory Services | 38,000 | 38,000 | |
| Contingency Fund | 250 | 250 | 12–1600/X |
| Emergency Preparedness & Response | 44,250 | 44,250 | 12–1600/X |
| Subtotal, Emergency Management | 44,500 | 44,500 | |
| Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response. | 1,012,400 | 1,029,660 | |
| Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:. | | | |
| Agriculture Import/Export | 18,500 | 18,900 | 12–1600/27 |
| Overseas Technical & Trade Operations | 25,500 | 25,500 | 12–1600/27 |
| Subtotal, Safe Trade | 44,000 | 44,400 | |
| Animal Welfare:. | | | |
| Animal Welfare | 37,250 | 37,250 | 12–1600/X |
| Horse Protection | 3,500 | 3,500 | 12–1600/X |
| Subtotal, Animal Welfare | 40,750 | 40,750 | |
| Agency Management:. | | | |
| APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure | 4,000 | 4,000 | 12–1600/X |
| Physical/Operational Security | 5,000 | 5,000 | 12–1600/27 |
| Rent and DHS Security Payments | 40,000 | 40,000 | 12–1600/27 |
| Subtotal, Agency Management | 49,000 | 49,000 | |
| Congressionally Directed Spending | 11,384 | 12,759 | 12–1600/X |
| Total, Direct Appropriation | 1,157,534 | 1,176,569 | |

*Animal Disposition Records*.—The Committee is aware that, while Animal Welfare Act [AWA] licensees and registrants must document animal sales and transfers, they have not consistently been required to record animal deaths. This gap has limited transparency and hindered oversight by allowing unexplained reductions in inventory to go undetected. The Committee notes that in December 2022 the Department committed to strengthening animal disposition recordkeeping requirements, including revising forms to require documentation of all animal mortalities and issuing clarifying guidance. The Office of Management and Budget approved revised forms (Control No. 0579–0036) on September 16, 2024. The Committee directs the Department to provide training to licensees and registrants to ensure they comply with Animal Welfare Regulation requirements for documenting animal dispositions, including the date of animal deaths, and to inspectors to ensure they adequately examine animal disposition records for compliance.

*Agricultural Quarantine Inspection*.—The Committee recognizes that the prevention of infestations of pests and diseases is significantly more cost effective than subsequent control or eradication. This is an important Federal responsibility, and the Committee provides $35,500,000 for the agricultural quarantine inspections

[AQI] function, including pre-departure and interline inspections, and canine detection and surveillance activities.

*Animal Product Imports*.—APHIS Animal Products Import and Export division is responsible for keeping the U.S. safe from foreign animal disease while also promoting trade through negotiating science-based health certificates and procedures with foreign governments to enhance U.S. agriculture exports. The Committee maintains funding consistent with fiscal year 2026 levels to support the APHIS Animal Products Import and Export activities, including sanitary and phytosanitary issues that arise between U.S. foreign governments and export destinations.

*Animal Welfare*.—The Committee is concerned about APHIS's Animal Care program and continued low enforcement related to violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The Committee directs the agency to reform its current licensing and enforcement scheme. This includes, but is not limited to: ensuring consistent, thorough, unannounced inspections on a regular basis; ensuring each failure to allow access for inspection and each violation or failure to comply with animal welfare standards is documented on an inspection report; and, requiring that inspection reports which identify violations or failures of compliance be shared with relevant local, State, and Federal agencies.

The Committee continues to encourage APHIS to use its full enforcement capabilities under the AWA against chronic violators of the AWA. The Committee directs the agency to update the Committee within 60 days of enactment of the act on AWA enforcement activities, including the number of cases referred to the Office of the General Counsel, the Department of Justice, or both, when appropriate. The Secretary of Agriculture shall continue the March 2024 memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Attorney General to encourage greater collaboration on Animal Welfare Act enforcement and ensure that the Department of Justice has access to evidence needed to initiate cases.

In July 2023, USDA announced an independent review of the Animal Care program by a third-party entity. The Committee urges the Secretary to ensure that next phase of the review stakeholder analysis includes input from Congress and expert animal protection organizations, and that APHIS continues to strengthen its AWA enforcement efforts while this review is underway.

*Center for Veterinary Biologics [CVB]*.—The Committee recognizes the important mission of the CVB to ensure that safe and effective veterinary biologics are available for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases. APHIS is directed to provide a briefing to the Committee on needs, gaps, and potential areas that require modernization, current coordination with industry stakeholders, and a workforce analysis to determine if personnel levels are adequate to meet the necessary needs of the agency and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the processes, procedures, and regulations and guidance that may be required to strengthen the production of veterinary biologics and diagnostics.

*Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD]*.—The Committee is concerned about the growing threat of CWD and its impact on wild and farmed deer populations. As such, the Committee provides APHIS $25,000,000 for CWD-related activities. Specifically, of the amount

provided for cervid health activities, $15,000,000 is provided for APHIS to further develop and implement CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities through cooperative agreements, of which $2,500,000 shall be for APHIS to develop a CWD blood test, and $5,000,000 shall be for indemnity payments and associated costs to remove infected and exposed animals as expeditiously as possible. Of the amount provided for Wildlife Service Methods Development, $5,000,000 shall be for CWD work at the National Wildlife Research Center. The Committee directs APHIS to continue working with university collaborators to provide research support to the overall effort to detect, combat, and control CWD, including the furthered development of quaking-induced conversion (RT–QuIC) assays.

*Cogongrass Management and Control*.—The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2026 level to assist States with cogongrass management and control efforts.

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS]*.—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under APHIS. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Contingency Fund*.—The term 'contingency fund' as referenced in the APHIS table shall be defined as a source of funding available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds.

*Cooperative Agreements*.—The Committee recognizes the collaborative work between APHIS and State Departments of Agriculture and other partners to safeguard animal health and ensure supply chain resiliency across the United States. The Committee encourages such cooperative agreements in fiscal year 2027 to ensure readiness against emerging and prevalent threats to the livestock industry.

*Electronic Identification Tags*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of electronic identification tags for certain cattle and bison moving across state lines for disease traceability. The Committee includes $15,000,000 for APHIS to procure and distribute the requisite number of tags associated with the implementation of this rule, including brucellosis EID tags for States in and surrounding the Greater Yellowstone Area.

*Equine Health Activities*.—The Committee provides $2,450,000 for equine health activities, of which $250,000 shall be used to support ongoing cooperative agreements with States impacted by Eastern Equine Encephalitis that received funding in fiscal year 2024.

*Flighted Spongy Moth Complex [FSMC]*.—The Committee provides an increase of $750,000 for tree and wood pests to continue to address the outbreak of the FSMC in the Pacific Northwest.

*Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI]*.—The Committee remains concerned with the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza and appreciates the Department's ongoing efforts to contain spread of the virus. The Committee encourages the Department to continue coordination with State animal health officials in order to proactively mitigate the spread of the virus. The Committee also urges the Department to increase outreach and engagement with

poultry producers to educate on proactive measures individuals can take to further mitigate the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the extreme economic hardship posed to gamebird and egg farmers when flocks are determined to be infected by high and low pathogenic avian influenza and acknowledges the severe limitations on controlled marketing available to producers of live game birds, as well as the income loss from egg production. The Committee encourages APHIS to provide full indemnity coverage for gamebird and egg operations and cease attempts to limit coverage. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act regarding the economic impact of avian influenza on the whole gamebird supply chain, including small businesses and preserve customers, and proposals for insurance or indemnity options for the impacted businesses and preserves.

*Horse Protection*.—The Committee provides $3,500,000 for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831), and reminds the Secretary that Congress granted the agency primary responsibility to enforce this law, including the training of all inspectors. The Committee directs APHIS to ensure that all official warning letters, administrative complaints, stipulations, and consent decisions are made publicly available in a searchable format, consistent with 7 U.S.C. 2146a.

*Lacey Act Implementation*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378) in addressing trafficking of illegally taken wildlife, fish, and plants, including illegal deforestation activities. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support the implementation of the Lacey Act within the Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance program. APHIS is directed to provide a briefing to the Subcommittee outlining the issues related to implementing Lacey Act declarations for manufactured finished wood products within 6 months of enactment of this act.

*Los Alamitos Sterile Insect Release Facility*.—The Committee acknowledges recent progress made to stabilize aging infrastructure at the Sterile Insect Release Facility in Los Alamitos, California and encourages APHIS, in coordination with the Department of Defense and State partners, to continue developing and implementing plans to modernize and upgrade sterile insect release infrastructure at the facility. APHIS is directed to provide a briefing to the Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of enactment of this act on the status of planning efforts and anticipated infrastructure improvements.

*Marine Mammals in Captivity*.—The Committee is concerned that USDA's handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are outdated. Marine mammal science has progressed significantly in the almost 40 years since the most important of these regulations were last updated, and the current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026.

*Monthly Briefing*.—APHIS is directed to continue to brief the Committee monthly regarding the HPAI outbreak and spread of NWS in Mexico. This brief shall include both budgetary and operational data on APHIS' efforts to address HPAI and NWS, as well as how APHIS is working with other Federal partners such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, and State and local entities.

*National Animal Health Laboratory Network*.—The Committee provides $15,000,000 for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

*National Aquatic Animal Health Plan*.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to support the continued implementation of the 2026–2028 National Aquaculture Health Plan and the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards.

*National Bio- and Agro-Defense Human Capital Development*.—The Committee provides $3,000,000 for APHIS to ensure necessary steps are taken to develop a qualified workforce comprised of subject matter experts in foreign, emerging, and zoonotic diseases and capable of developing, validating, and conducting needed diagnostics, performing epidemiologic studies, and completing bioinformatics analyses. The Committee encourages APHIS to establish cooperative agreements with academic research institutions, particularly non-land grant Hispanic-Serving Institutions, to support the next generation of the NBAF workforce, including facilities and equipment.

*National Detector Dog Training Center*.—The Committee supports the work of the National Detector Dog Training Center in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from invasive pests and diseases. The Committee directs APHIS to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing Agricultural Quarantine Inspection [AQI] user-fee revenue to support State cooperative agreements for agricultural detector dog training facilities and interior inspection activities. APHIS shall brief the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this act on current AQI allocations supporting the detector dog program, existing capacity constraints at the National Detector Dog Training Center, and options for expanding regional training capacity.

*National Clean Plant Network*.—APHIS is directed to allocate no less than fiscal year 2026 levels to the National Clean Plant Network.

*National Veterinary Stockpile*.—The Committee provides $6,500,000 for the National Veterinary Stockpile to protect the Nation's food supply by maintaining enough countermeasures capable of deployment against the most damaging animal diseases. The Committee urges USDA to continue to stock and make available U.S-manufactured reusable respirators in the National Veterinary Stockpile [NVS]. Doing so is critical to support the availability of tools that can protect Federal and State emergency responders. Reusable respirators provide enhanced protection and have a longer shelf-life compared to disposable masks like N95s. Stockpiled access to reusable respirators during a crisis can pre-empt shortages that result from high demand or supply chain disruptions. The Committee emphasizes the critical need to protect all Federal and State animal disease emergency responders from infectious agents.

*Navel Orangeworm*.—The Committee recognizes the challenges the navel orangeworm poses to tree nut production and provides no less than fiscal year 2026 levels to continue managing the pest. Additionally, the Committee encourages APHIS to partner with commodity organizations or private companies to combat navel orangeworm by developing alternatives to traditional irradiation sterile insect technique, including genetic engineering.

*New World Screwworm*.—The Committee is concerned by the rapidly growing New World Screwworm [NWS] infestation in Mexico and Central America, which threatens to infect our domestic livestock industry. The Committee recognizes that past efforts to eradicate this parasite in the United States were very costly, and if an infestation were to occur within our borders today the burden on taxpayers and private industry to eradicate would be far costlier still. The Committee supports efforts by the Department to provide the sterile insects necessary to prevent and control NWS and provides an increase of $5,010,000 to further these efforts, in addition to emergency funds that are currently being expended out of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Committee directs APHIS to provide a report on the status of efforts to expand NWS sterile insect production in the United States and Mexico and whether the level of expected sterile insect production capacity is sufficient as well as options for further increasing sterile insect dispersal, if necessary, including into areas such as New Mexico. The report shall also describe collaboration efforts between APHIS and other Federal partners, including the Department of the Interior and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Finally, the report shall outline the economic impact of NWS and the associated livestock crossing closures on the whole U.S. cattle supply chain, including small businesses and consumers.

*Nitrogen-Based Depopulation Methods*.—The Committee directs the USDA to continue to utilize available funds through the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program to facilitate and invest in research and development of large-scale depopulation technologies, including whole house gassing with nitrogen and high expansion nitrogen gas-filled foam as methods of large-scale depopulation during animal disease emergency response events. Additionally, the Committee awaits the report on the current utilization of nitrogen-based depopulation methods within the animal agriculture industry and barriers to widespread use of these methods during animal disease emergency response events. The Committee directs the Department to complete and submit this report immediately upon enactment of this act, without further delay.

*Non-Lethal Strategies*.—The Committee is aware that Wildlife Services has worked with landowners to deploy non-lethal strategies, such as fladry, electric fencing, and livestock guardian dogs, to reduce predator depredation on livestock. The Committee provides $5,500,000 for Wildlife Services to hire personnel exclusively to promote and implement non-lethal human-predator conflict deterrence techniques in interested States, with a focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts related to predators and beavers in the Western Region and Great Lakes States and to assist in providing training in these techniques to agricultural producers, landowners,

and other agency personnel in collaboration with the National Wildlife Research Center.

Additionally, APHIS is directed to provide an annual report within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, detailing how these additional funds were dispersed; including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.

*Online Dog Dealers*.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of enforcement of the law with respect to online dog dealers and other types of pet dealers, which has allowed many online operations to continue selling puppies without the necessary USDA licensing under the Animal Welfare Act. The Secretary is directed to prioritize the enforcement of the 2013 rule that requires that dealers who APHIS has determined to be selling animals sight-unseen to consumers must have the necessary license to do so.

*Overdue Reports*.—The Committee reminds APHIS to submit reports and directives to the Committee on time and to promptly submit overdue reports from prior fiscal years.

*Paraguayan Beef*.—The Committee is concerned with the potential reintroduction of FMD and other risks that would cause our domestic cattle producers. Within 90 days of enactment, APHIS is directed to brief the Committee on risk posed by beef and beef products imported from Paraguay to food safety and animal health in the United States.

*Plant Protection Act*.—The Committee notes that APHIS prohibits or restricts the movement of plants or plant products from Hawaii and the Territories to prevent the movement of agricultural pests and diseases to the continental United States as detailed in 7 CFR Part 318. The Committee directs APHIS to continue its project to streamline the regulatory processes outlined in Part 318 related to allowing commodities to be moved interstate from Hawaii and Puerto Rico to the rest of the United States with the goal of reducing the time required to make regulatory determinations.

*Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of APHIS' Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program and provides $6,500,000 to administer this program. Of these funds, no less than $2,000,000 shall be for providing and/or applying treatment to reduce cricket and grasshopper populations. APHIS is encouraged to administer these funds based on need and infestation severity rather than on a first-come, first-serve basis due to the season variation of grasshopper infestations across the West.

*Roseau Cane*.—The Committee remains concerned with the invasive species scale insect pest that is destroying Roseau cane in the Mississippi River's Delta region along the Gulf of Mexico. An estimated 225,000 acres of wetlands in the Delta have been affected with the die-off, and Roseau cane is important in maintaining a healthy marsh and preventing erosion. The Committee directs APHIS to work with ARS and stakeholders and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level to develop an integrated management program for control of the Roseau cane scale insect pest infestation.

*Rotary Fleet*.—The Committee recognizes the increasing demands on the aging APHIS Wildlife Services rotary aircraft fleet to assist the agricultural and livestock sectors. The Committee still awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026, and directs APHIS to submit the report promptly, without further delay.

*Soring*.—The Committee has consistently recognized the need for the equine industry and APHIS to cooperate in order to eliminate the soring of horses. In 2021, the National Academy of Sciences [NAS] recognized the importance of continuing to develop an objective science-based inspection to ensure accuracy and fairness. The Committee directs APHIS to continue swabbing and other proven objective science-based inspection techniques for its horse soring inspection protocol and to address remaining findings of the NAS report as the agency deems warranted.

*Sterile Mexican Fruit Fly (Mexfly)*.—The Committee is aware of the significant challenges facing the Plant Protection and Quarantine [PPQ] program within the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service related to the continued domestic production of sterile Mexican fruit flies (Mexfly), which are essential to safeguarding U.S. specialty crop production and preventing the establishment and spread of this invasive pest. The Committee understands that a 2025 fire at the sterile Mexican fruit fly production facility at Moore Air Base may have affected operational capacity. The Committee directs the Department to provide the Committee with an analysis of sterile insect production capacity needs for the Mexfly program to protect the Texas citrus industry and options to meet the needs. The report should include the estimated costs of renovations or construction at Moore Air Force Base to meet the sterile insect production needs. The Department shall submit this analysis and cost estimate to the Committee not later than 6 months after enactment of this act.

*Tropilaelaps (Tropi) Mites*.—The Committee is concerned about the potential arrival of Tropi Mites into the United States. Tropi is highly destructive to bee populations as they move rapidly, spread disease, and can cause colony decline and collapse. The Committee understands the possible impacts to the food production system and supports early detection methods. The Committee provides $250,000 for a 1-year pilot program to implement and evaluate the use of sentinel apiaries to detect invasive pests of honeybees, such as Tropi mites. APHIS should assess the effectiveness of the sentinel apiaries as an early warning system and identify other potential activities that could provide early detection of new pest and disease introductions.

*Wildlife Damage Management*.—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides $126,750,000 for wildlife damage control to maintain priority initiatives, including preventing the transport of invasive snakes and other harmful species. The Committee provides $500,000 for the agency to reduce blackbird depredation in the Northern Great Plains.

The Committee maintains support for assistance to catfish producers to help mitigate wildlife depredation, particularly as it pertains to fish-eating and disease-carrying birds. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for damage manage-

ment efforts and the development of methods to assist producers in combatting the persistent threat and economic hardship caused by cormorants, pelicans, and other birds.

The Committee recognizes the importance of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in reducing adverse ecological and economic impacts caused by feral swine across the country and encourages the use of all approved measures as a force multiplier and to prioritize areas with the most populous swine population.

The Committee directs APHIS to provide within 90 days of enactment of this act, and annually thereafter, a report to include the state, most utilized methods, and most common reasons for lethal removal of beavers on private and Federal land by the APHIS and its partners.

The Committee provides $32,500,000, an increase of $3,500,000, for the National Rabies Management Program to fortify existing barriers and advance prevention and eradication efforts.

*Wildlife Services Cost Share*.—The Committee is concerned about the increasing inequitable Federal amount of cost share in cooperative service agreements between APHIS–Wildlife Services and/or political subdivisions of States responsible for Wildlife Service programs that protect agriculture, property, human life, and natural resources. The Committee encourages Wildlife Services to continue working with cooperating entities toward a more equitable cost-share framework in cooperative service agreements. The Committee directs USDA to continue engaging with State and local partners to ensure that cost-share arrangements remain sustainable while maintaining the Federal technical expertise and operational capacity needed to address wildlife conflicts affecting agriculture and rural communities.

*Wildlife Services Education and Training*.—The Committee is aware of the wide range of hazardous procedures and materials utilized by APHIS personnel in the conduct of daily duties. In addition, a recent comprehensive study noted the critical need to provide standardized safety training, certification, and database management for tracking to ensure the safest working environment possible. As such, the Committee provides $2,000,000 within Wildlife Damage Management to maintain a National Training Academy focused on those areas of greatest concern such as pyrotechnics, firearms, hazardous materials, immobilization and euthanasia drugs, pesticides, animal care and handling, land vehicles, watercraft, and zoonotic diseases.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,000,000 |

The APHIS appropriation for Buildings and Facilities funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific program activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes an appropriation of $1,000,000 for buildings and facilities of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

This funding is necessary to allow APHIS to maintain existing facilities and perform critically needed repairs to and replacements of building components, such as heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning on a prioritized basis at APHIS facilities. The Committee notes that due to the environmentally sensitive nature of many APHIS facilities, closure of a facility could result if APHIS is unable to complete the required repairs.

## AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

### MARKETING SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $211,367,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 220,801,000 |

The Agricultural Marketing Service was established by the Secretary of Agriculture on April 2, 1972. AMS carries out programs authorized by more than 50 different statutory authorities, the primary ones being the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638); the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51–65); the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 471–476); the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511–511q); the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t); the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056); and section 32 of the act of 1935 (Public Law 74–320, 7 U.S.C. 612c).

Programs administered by this agency include the market news services, standardization, grading, classing, shell egg surveillance services, transportation services, wholesale farmers and alternative market development, grant payments to States for marketing activities, the Federal administration of marketing agreements and orders, commodity purchases, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t), the Plant Variety Protection Act (Public Law 71–325), and market protection and promotion activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $220,801,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for marketing services activities:

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Market News | 35,457 | 35,457 |
| Shell Egg Surveillance | 2,420 | 2,656 |
| Standardization | 5,356 | 5,356 |
| Federal Seed Act Program | 2,238 | 2,445 |
| Country of Origin Labeling | 4,431 | 4,872 |
| Pesticide Data Program | 13,810 | 15,269 |
| National Organic Standards | 22,782 | 22,782 |
| GSA Rent and DHS Security | 4,365 | 4,365 |
| National Bioengineered Food Disclosure | 1,856 | 2,028 |

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation and Market Development | 8,689 | 7,960 |
| Farmers Market and Local Food Program | 7,307 | 7,307 |
| Acer Access and Development | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives | 13,750 | 15,000 |
| Packers & Stockyards | 32,631 | 32,631 |
| Hemp Production Program | 10,000 | 12,996 |
| Grain Regulatory | 16,853 | 19,342 |
| U.S. Warehouse Activities | 9,864 | 10,777 |
| Cattle Contract Library | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Microgrant for Food Security | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| International Food Procurement | 7,558 | 7,558 |
| Total Marketing Services | 211,367 | 220,801 |
| Federal State Marketing Improvement Program Total Discretionary Appropriations | 1,000 | 1,000 |

*Aquaculture and Seafood Purchases*.—The Committee is aware of the health benefits of farm-raised aquaculture and wild-caught seafood and encourages the Secretary to purchase additional products of this nature through Section 32 bonus buys. The Committee also encourages the Secretary to purchase from a broader range of producers as well as a more diverse variety of aquaculture and seafood products, including value-added products.

*Biofuels*.—The Committee directs AMS, in partnership with the Office of the Chief Economist, to conduct a study on the potential demand for biodiesel, renewable diesel, ethanol, biomethanol, renewable natural gas, and bio-liquified natural gas for oceangoing vessels in the global maritime industry and the implications for U.S. agricultural producers, biofuel producers, and rural communities. The study should be shared with the Committee no later than 365 days after enactment of this act.

*Cattle Contract Library*.—Smaller cattle producers often find themselves to be price takers in the market for fed cattle and lack the volume of large producers to negotiate unique and advantageous marketing agreements with large meatpackers. The Cattle Contracts Library helps bring transparency into the marketplace.

*Commodity Procurement*.—The Committee recognizes that commodity purchases managed through AMS and the Food and Nutrition Service require specialized knowledge and direct responsiveness to market conditions, harvest variability, and nutritional goals. Generalizing these functions under a centralized procurement model risks undermining the effectiveness of programs like Section 32, which support both growers and food-insecure communities. As specialty crop producers weather economic vulnerabilities, now is not the time to consolidate procurement functions to other agencies within the department that do not have long-standing experience and expertise. Therefore, the Committee directs the agency not to move forward with any commodity procurement consolidation outside of the current established structure.

*Dairy Business Innovation Initiative*.—The Committee continues to support the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, which supports dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products through technical assistance and sub-

awards. The Committee provides $15,000,000 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives to be distributed equally to the centers established in section 12513 of Public Law 115–334 and Public Law 116–6.

*Dry Edible Beans*.—The Committee is aware that dry edible bean producers and the entire sector are under extraordinary strain due to a confluence of factors beyond their control, including prices that have fallen 40 percent and stocks to use ratios that hover over 50 percent for the largest dry edible bean by acreage, pinto beans, and even higher for some other dry edible bean varieties. The Committee directs AMS to prioritize dry edible bean purchases to bring down stocks to use to normal levels. The Committee also generally recognizes the nutritional qualities of dry edible beans and strongly encourages AMS to enhance the amount and frequency of dry edible bean purchases.

*Equivalency Agreements*.—The Committee appreciates AMS's work with other Federal partners to update equivalency agreements to meet the 2022 Origin of Livestock Rule to ensure that critical foods being imported to the United States are in compliance with the rule. The Committee directs AMS to update the Committee, when relevant, about progress made to update equivalency agreements, including potential updates from the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Trade Representative, and other Federal partners.

*Fraud in the Organic Market*.—The higher market price and market demand growth for organic products has brought fraudulent players into the marketplace. This has been true for imported organic grains and feedstuffs, which has undercut prices for U.S. organic grain farmers. The Committee directs USDA's National Organic Program [NOP] to implement enhanced, risk-based compliance verification for high-risk organic imports, including targeted testing for imported organic feedstuffs. USDA's National Organic Program [NOP] shall include a summary of the results of enhanced verification and testing in the annual reports required under 7 U.S.C. 6521a(b), including shipment counts, findings, and enforcement outcomes, with the statutory breakouts by product, quantity, value, and origin. The Committee further directs USDA's National Organic Program [NOP] to submit without further delay the annual reports required under 7 U.S.C. 6521a(b) and to make such reports publicly available as required on USDA and CBP websites.

*Local Agriculture Market Program*.—The Committee continues to urge the Department to simplify the application and reporting process for the Local Agriculture Market Program. The Committee is aware AMS implemented a turnkey grant application in fiscal year 2023 for Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Grants but that applications were restricted to specific project types, and the list was not inclusive of common needs in direct marketing and intermediary local market settings. The Committee directs the agency report to the Committee within 180 days of enactment about the agencies plans to expand the turnkey application to include other common activities, including vendor and customer outreach activities, farmers market manager staff time, regional food chain coordination, and special purpose equipment.

*Local Meat Processing*.—The Committee recognizes and supports investments in local meat processing. These investments are an opportunity to combat agricultural market concentration and increase market access for American farmers and ranchers. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act that includes the total amount of Federal investments made in local meat processing across departmental programs, the current status of plants receiving funding, whether the Department has reviewed any potential sales of plants receiving funding, and, to the extent practicable, an assessment of the economic impact of departmental programs on local meat processing.

*Local Food Procurement*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of strengthening local and regional food systems to enhance food security, support producers, and stimulate rural economies. The Committee directs the Department to work in coordination with State agencies, Tribal governments, local educational authorities, and emergency food providers, including food banks and pantries, to facilitate the use of Federal nutrition and food assistance funds-including but not limited to funds under the Child Nutrition Programs, The Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP] (including TEFAP Fresh Produce Box Program), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations [FDPIR] and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP]—for the direct purchase of food from small and mid-sized local and regional producers. The Committee also directs the Department of Defense Logistics Agency, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service [AMS] and Food and Nutrition Service to review current practices to identify opportunities to increase local food purchases in the DoD Fresh and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The Committee encourages the Department to use best value evaluation criteria, other flexibilities within the Federal Acquisition Regulations [FAR] including local set-asides, to add language to the AMS agency supplement to the FAR prioritizing local purchasing, and to streamline administrative requirements to ensure highest quality food purchases and opportunities for local and regional procurement. USDA should collaborate with State agencies to share local purchasing best practices and to ensure that institutions and providers can easily identify and procure from local producers. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2026 Report included a directive for a report about barriers to local procurement, pathways to overcome the barriers, and recommendations to enhance access to and affordability of locally grown foods across nutrition assistance programs which, the Committee has not received. The Committee directs AMS to provide an update to the Committee no later than 30 days after the enactment of this act.

*Hatch Chile*.—The Committee is concerned with a growing number of imitation Hatch Chile peppers and products using the Hatch Chile brand to attract customers under false pretenses, exploiting the popularity and geographic recognition of the original Hatch brand while offering inferior and inauthentic products. Hatch Chile is a variety of species of the genus Capsicum that are grown in the Hatch Valley in New Mexico. The Committee directs AMS to study the scope and extent of which Chile is being marketed and sold in the United States as Hatch Chile when it is not grown in the

Hatch Valley and the economic impact that it has on Chile farmers in the Hatch Valley of New Mexico. The Committee directs AMS to partner with a relevant land grant university to conduct this study and shall provide a report and briefing to the Committee on its findings within 180 days of the enactment of this act.

*Meat Pricing Concerns*.—The Committee urges the Secretary to thoroughly investigate allegations of price fixing within the cattle market and coordinate with the Department of Justice to the extent appropriate to enforce and examine the current structure of the beef meatpacking industry for compliance with U.S. Antitrust law.

*Micro-Grants for Food Security*.—The Committee urges AMS to administer the Micro-Grants for Food Security program in a manner that will ensure that low-income, disadvantaged, and minority individuals are able to submit applications and receive funding for projects such as animal processing and slaughter facilities, including reindeer herders, greenhouses, and hydroponic growing facilities that would increase the amount and quality of locally produced foods. When practicable, the Committee directs AMS to waive or amend how it applies the regulatory requirements of 2 CFR 200.206, 200.313, 200.328, and 200.329 to ensure that this program addresses food insecurity challenges.

*National Organic Program*.—The Committee recognizes that organic regulations are a valuable market development tool for U.S. agriculture and provides no less than the fiscal year 2026 level for the National Organic Program [NOP]. A healthy market for organic products requires a clear product distinction backed by a trusted, verified, and consistently enforced label. The Committee also recognizes that regular updates to the regulations are crucial. The Committee directs USDA to provide all resources needed for the NOP to deliver the strongest possible oversight before allowing the USDA organic seal to be granted to domestic and international operations and products, including a continued focus on proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and practice standards development. In addition, within 60 days of enactment of this act, AMS is directed to provide a full report outlining the breakdown of the National Organic Program's key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities, practice standards development, and technology upgrades.

*Native American Foods and Tourism*.—The Committee recognizes that enhanced Native American tourism creates important job opportunities in Native American communities while showcasing their heritage, food, traditions, history, and continuing vitality. The Committee encourages USDA to support the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (Public Law 114–221) by prioritizing projects that market, promote, or expand Native American foods, markets, and enterprises.

*Notice of Funding Opportunities*.—The Committee directs AMS to publish Notice of Funding Opportunities for competitive programs funded by the act within 60 days of enactment.

*Organic Dairy*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of consumer confidence in the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal and notes the work that USDA has done to increase training and certifier consistency with respect to dairy operations. The Committee

directs AMS to seek strong enforcement of organic dairy production standards and resolve significant variations in standard interpretation that exists among organic certifiers, as well as among organic dairy producers. AMS shall continue to conduct critical risk-based oversight, particularly for large, complex dairy operations, as it has in the past four fiscal years.

*Organic Data Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes that accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by accredited certifying agents on aggregate production areas certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis.

*Organic Infrastructure*.—The Committee notes that while consumer appetite for organic products is strong, demand is being met by imports. U.S. organic farmers are prepared to meet this demand, but lack of necessary processing, storage, and transportation related-infrastructure is a challenge. The Committee supports USDA investing in infrastructure needed by domestic organic producers to continue to grow and sustain organic production in the United States.

*Pecans*.—The Committee is aware that pecans are nutritious, and value-added markets offer new potential sources of revenue for U.S. pecan producers. The Committee encourages the USDA to support U.S. pecan producers through the development of new domestic and international markets for pecan and pecan-based products including but not limited to shelling and packing, pressing for oil, bioprocessing, and usage as ingredients in other products.

*Process Verified Program*.—The Committee encourages the Agricultural Marketing Service [AMS] to evaluate the use of the Process Verified Program [PVP] to support voluntary standards for biotechnology-derived products. While AMS already uses PVP for livestock and food production claims, it has not applied this authority to biotechnology. Expanding PVP to biotechnology could provide developers, producers, and buyers with third-party verification of product traits, improve transparency in supply chains, and support market adoption of new technologies. The Committee encourages AMS to engage with biotechnology stakeholders to evaluate the feasibility and potential benefits of using PVP for verifying biotechnology-related product attributes, which could support supply chain transparency, risk assessment, and informed adoption by farmers and manufacturers.

*Wild Game Processing Technical Assistance*.—The Committee recognizes the important role of wild game processing in rural food supply chains, especially in the business models of small and very-small processors. The Committee directs AMS to expand the scope of the existing Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity-Technical Assistance Program to include assistance for processors interested in opening or expanding facilities that conduct custom-exempt wild game processing.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Limitation, 2026 | $62,596,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 62,596,000 |

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–35) initiated a system of user fees for the cost of grading and classing cotton and tobacco. These activities, authorized under the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51 et seq.), the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 et seq.), and other provisions of law are designed to facilitate commerce and protect participants in the industry.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of $62,596,000 on administrative expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $23,880,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 24,464,000 |

Under section 32 of the act of August 24, 1935, (Public Law 74–320), an amount equal to 30 percent of customs receipts collected during each preceding calendar year and unused balances are available for encouraging the domestic consumption and exportation of agricultural commodities. An amount equal to 30 percent of receipts collected on fishery products is transferred to the Department of Commerce. Additional transfers to the child nutrition programs of the Food and Nutrition Service have been provided in recent appropriations acts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a transfer from section 32 funds of $24,464,000 for the formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2026–2027:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2026–2027

| | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|
| Appropriation (30% of Customs Receipts) | 81,657,008 |
| Less Transfers: | |
| Food and Nutrition Service | −79,178,969 |
| Commerce Department | −674,039 |
| Total, Transfers | −79,853,008 |
| Budget Authority, Farm Bill | 1,804,000 |
| Appropriations Permanently Reduced—Sequestration | (90,459) |
| Budget Authority, Appropriations Act | 1,713,541 |
| Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program | −217,000 |

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2026–2027—Continued

| | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|
| Less Obligations: | |
| Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commodities) | 485,000 |
| State Option Contract | 5,000 |
| Removal of Defective Commodities | 2,500 |
| Disaster Relief | 5,000 |
| Additional Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Purchases | 206,000 |
| Estimated Future Needs | 726,715 |
| Total, Commodity Procurement | 1,430,215 |
| Administrative Funds: | |
| Commodity Purchase Support | 41,862 |
| Marketing Agreements and Orders | 24,464 |
| Total, Administrative Funds | 66,326 |
| Total Obligations | 1,496,541 |

*Section 32 Authorities*.—Under the authority described in clause 3 of 7 U.S.C. 612c, the Secretary is able to direct funds from the section 32 account to increase the purchasing power of producers. This practice has been used on various occasions to provide direct assistance to producers when market forces or natural conditions adversely affect the financial condition of farmers and ranchers. The Committee notes the importance of the ability of the Secretary to utilize this authority but believes that communication between USDA and Congress should be improved when this practice is used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide notification to the Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds under the specific authorities cited above.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,000,000 |

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program is authorized by section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638) and is also funded from appropriations. Matching grants are awarded on a competitive basis to State marketing agencies to identify and test market alternative farm commodities, determine methods of providing more reliable market information, and develop better commodity grading standards. This program has made many types of projects possible, such as electronic marketing and agricultural product diversification. Current projects are focused on the improvement of marketing efficiency and effectiveness and seeking new outlets for existing farm produced commodities. The legislation grants USDA authority to establish cooperative agreements with State departments of agriculture or similar State agencies to improve the efficiency of the agricultural marketing chain. The States perform the work or contract it to others and must contribute at least one-half of the cost of the projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,000,000 for Payments to States and Possessions for Federal-State marketing projects and activities.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Limitation, 2026 | $55,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 55,000,000 |

The agency provides an official grain inspection and weighing system under the U.S. Grain Standards Act [USGSA] (Public Law 64–190, and official inspection of rice and grain-related products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638). The USGSA was amended in 1981 to require the collection of user fees to fund the costs associated with the operation, supervision, and administration of Federal grain inspection and weighing activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of $55,000,000 on inspection and weighing services expenses.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,117,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,117,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's inspection of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,117,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,215,200,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,226,000,000 |

The major objectives of the FSIS are to ensure that meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged, as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act (Public Law 59–242) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (Public Law 85–172), as amended; and to provide continuous in-plant inspection to egg processing plants under the Egg Products Inspection Act (Public Law 91–597).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service was established on June 17, 1981, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1000–1, issued pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953.

The inspection program of the Food Safety and Inspection Service provides in-plant inspection of all domestic plants preparing meat, poultry, or egg products for sale or distribution; reviews foreign inspection systems and establishments that prepare meat or

poultry products for export to the United States; and provides technical and financial assistance to States which maintain meat and poultry inspection programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,226,000,000 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The following table represents the Committee's specific recommendations for the FSIS as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Food safety inspection: | | |
| Federal | 1,075,199 | 1,075,199 |
| State | 82,841 | 93,641 |
| International | 21,888 | 21,888 |
| PHDCIS | 35,272 | 35,272 |
| Total | 1,215,200 | 1,226,000 |

*Brazilian Beef*.—The Committee urges FSIS to maintain current rates of reinspection tasks for raw beef imports from Brazil and to adjust rates of import inspection as necessary and consistent with import compliance history. The Committee also requests FSIS to continue conducting routine onsite verification audits of the Brazilian inspection system.

*Good Commercial Practices*.—The Committee recognizes that the handling of birds at slaughter according to Good Commercial Practices [GCP] reduces the occurrence of adulterated poultry products that meet the definition of adulteration in the Poultry Products Inspection Act [PPIA] (21 U.S.C. 453(g)(5)) from entering the marketplace. The Committee directs the USDA to track the GCP verification activities in FSIS' Public Health Information System, which are intended to reduce instances of adulteration.

*Humane Slaughter*.—The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765). The report shall also include whether funding opportunities, including grants and cost share opportunities, exist under current USDA programs and initiatives that can be utilized by producers for the purpose of obtaining and maintaining third-party certification of animal-raising practices.

The Committee further directs FSIS to continue preparation and online publication of the Humane Handling Quarterly Reports, to include the number of humane handling verification procedures performed, the number of administrative enforcement actions taken, time spent on Humane Handling Activities Tracking System activities, and comparisons of these measurements by plant size and FSIS district.

The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765) enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas and that all inspectors receive robust training, including periodic refresher training.

*Non-Ambulatory Livestock*.—The Committee still awaits the non-ambulatory livestock report and directs FSIS to submit the report promptly.

*State Meat and Poultry Inspection [MPI] Programs*.—The Committee is supportive of MPI Programs and recognizes the key role they play in maintaining the integrity of the Nation's food supply, and as such, the Committee provides an additional $10,800,000 to ensure that the Federal reimbursement rate is 50 percent. As the Department carries out its responsibilities in administering the MPI programs, the Committee encourages the Department to work with participating States to ensure that funds are provided in a timely manner.

# TITLE II

## FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,527,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,527,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation [FPAC] provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's commodity programs, farm loans, disaster assistance, crop insurance, natural resources conservation and environment programs, and certain energy programs. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Farm Service Agency [FSA] (including the Commodity Credit Corporation), Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,527,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

*Communication*.—The Committee is disappointed with FPAC's poor communication with the Committee. The Committee reminds FPAC that congressional inquiries should be responded to within a week of receiving an inquiry.

*Emergency Conservation Program*.—The Committee is encouraged by the Department's work to provide advance cost-share payments under the emergency conservation loan program and emergency forest restoration program. The committee encourages USDA to further expand advance cost-share payments, as well as clarify that wildfires that are not caused naturally but spread due to natural causes, or that are caused by the Federal Government are eligible for the program. Additionally, the Department should explore flexibility in the timeline for utilizing funding to implement necessary conservation work following a disaster.

### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $168,633,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 225,000,000 |

The Committee recommends a direct appropriation of $225,000,000, excluding transfers of funds, for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.

*Information Technology*.—The Committee applauds FPAC's decision to make its IT systems easier to access for producers. The Committee provides an additional $50,000,000, funded in this account and Section 790, and directs FPAC to provide quarterly updates on the progress of building out the new system and retiring legacy systems.

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency was established October 13, 1994, pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). The FSA administers a variety of activities, such as the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC]; the Conservation Reserve Program [CRP]; the Emergency Conservation Program [ECP]; the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program [ELAP]; the Commodity Operation Programs, including the warehouse examination function; farm ownership, farm operating, emergency disaster, and other loan programs; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP], which provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which crop insurance is not available. In addition, FSA currently provides certain administrative support services to the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS] and RMA.

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Appropriations | Transfers from program accounts | Total, FSA, salaries and expenses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | 1,125,000 | 305,803 | 1,430,803 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,210,000 | 305,803 | 1,515,803 |

The account Salaries and Expenses, Farm Service Agency, funds the administrative expenses of program administration and other functions assigned to FSA. The funds consist of appropriations and transfers from the CCC export credit guarantees, Food for Peace loans, and Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program accounts, as well as miscellaneous advances from other sources. All administrative funds used by FSA are consolidated into one account. The consolidation provides clarity and better management and control of funds and facilitates accounting, fiscal, and budgetary work by eliminating the necessity for making individual allocations and allotments and maintaining and recording obligations and expenditures under numerous separate accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,515,803,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of $1,210,000,000.

*Acequia Irrigated Land*.—The Committee recognizes that acequias serve as the primary method of irrigation in many rural and underserved communities in New Mexico and that acequias remain an integral aspect of New Mexican cultural identity. Recent changes administered by FSA changed eligibility of drought on farms and ranches irrigated by acequias for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP]. Given the Farm Service Agency has historically considered drought on acequia-irrigated land eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance and the ongoing severe drought conditions in New Mexico and throughout the west, the Committee urges the Department to maintain their position that drought on acequia-irrigated land is an eligible cause of loss for NAP.

*Aquaculture Training*.—The Committee encourages FSA to dedicate resources to train all county staff on aquaculture farming practices and aquaculture product eligibility for USDA programs, as applicable. The Committee also encourages FSA to dedicate resources to assist county staff with aquaculture data and information collection necessary to inform disaster assistance determinations.

*Disaster Preparedness*.—The Committee recognizes that millions of farm animals die each year due to the effects of adverse weather. The Committee is also aware that veterinary and agricultural trade associations recognize the importance of disaster planning in preventing the extent of livestock deaths. For these reasons, the USDA has been directed by the Committee during several of the past fiscal years to work with producers to develop disaster plans. The Committee still awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026 and directs the Farm Service Agency to deliver it to the Committee promptly.

*FSA Staffing*.—The Committee is concerned with FSA staffing levels and feedback from producers that they cannot get the assistance they need when they go to a county office. The Committee provides an increase of $85,000,000 for FSA to hire staff promptly. Within 90 days of enactment of this act and quarterly therafter, FSA is directed to brief the Committee on its workload analysis and staffing, and to include planned versus actual hires.

*Information Technology*.—The Committee remains dedicated to ensuring FSA has reliable and functioning IT systems because it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to the tools they need to succeed. The Committee has invested significant taxpayer dollars to modernize outdated systems and continues to provide resources for this effort. The Committee continues statutory language that allows funds for IT to be obligated only after the Secretary meets certain reporting requirements. The Committee expects the agency to follow the recommendations of the third-party IT analysis where applicable. FSA is directed to provide timely updates for future IT needs.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $6,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 6,500,000 |

This program is authorized under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233). Originally designed to address agricultural credit disputes, the program was expanded by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) to include other agricultural issues such as wetland determinations, conservation compliance, rural water loan programs, grazing on National Forest System lands, and pesticides. Grants are made to States whose mediation programs have been certified by the FSA. Grants will be solely for operation and administration of the State's agricultural mediation program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $6,500,000 for State Mediation Grants.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $7,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 7,000,000 |

This program is intended to assist in the protection of groundwater through State rural water associations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $7,000,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 500,000 |

Under the program, the Department makes indemnification payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products who, through no fault of their own, suffer income losses because they are directed to remove their milk from commercial markets due to contamination of their products by registered pesticides. The program also authorizes indemnity payments to dairy farmers for losses resulting from the removal of cows or dairy products from the market due to nuclear radiation or fallout.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2027 to be $500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $3,500,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 3,500,000 |

This program is authorized under Title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792). Under the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, the Department offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances for farmers and ranchers outside the contiguous United States that face tremendously high costs for transporting agriculture products and inputs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $3,500,000 for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

*Transportation Costs*.—The Committee understands that transportation costs to and from geographically isolated areas can be cost prohibitive for many producers. As the agency calculates the payment of costs incurred for transportation, the Committee encourages the Secretary to raise the current payment cap on the Reimbursement Travel Cost Program to better align with real world costs.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account [ACIF] is used to provide direct and guaranteed farm ownership, farm operating, conservation, Indian highly fractioned land, and emergency loans to individuals, as well as the following types of loans to associations: irrigation and drainage, grazing, Indian Tribe land acquisition, and boll weevil eradication.

FSA is also authorized to provide financial assistance to borrowers by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders having a contract of guarantee from FSA as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and to establish Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development grant accounts.

The following programs are financed through this fund:

*Boll Weevil Eradication Loans*.—Made to assist foundations in financing the operations of the boll weevil eradication programs provided to farmers.

*Emergency Loans*.—Made to producers to aid recovery from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. The loans may be used to restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

*Farm Operating Loans*.—Provide short-to-intermediate term production or chattel credit to farmers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere, to improve their farm and home operations, and to develop or maintain a reasonable standard of living. The term of the loan varies from one to 7 years.

*Farm Ownership Loans*.—Made to borrowers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere to restructure their debts, improve or purchase farms, refinance nonfarm enterprises which supplement but do not

supplant farm income, or make additions to farms. Loans are made for 40 years or less.

*Indian Tribe Land Acquisition Loans*.—Made to any Indian Tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior or Tribal corporation established pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–638) which does not have adequate uncommitted funds to acquire lands or interest in lands within the Tribe's reservation or Alaskan Indian community, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, for use of the Tribe or the corporation or the members thereof.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a total loan level of $9,957,388,000 for programs within the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table reflects the program levels for farm credit programs administered by the Farm Service Agency recommended by the Committee, as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Farm Ownership: | | |
| Direct | 2,580,000 | 2,580,000 |
| Guaranteed | 3,500,000 | 3,500,000 |
| Farm Operating: | | |
| Direct | 1,633,000 | 1,633,000 |
| Guaranteed unsubsidized | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Emergency Loans | 14,388 | 14,388 |
| Indian Tribe Land Acquisition | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Conservation Loans: | | |
| Guaranteed | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| Boll Weevil Eradication | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Total, Loan Authorizations | 9,957,388 | 9,957,388 |

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. Appropriations to this account are used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed, as well as for administrative expenses.

The following table reflects the cost of programs under credit reform:

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Farm Ownership: | | |
| Direct | 32,766 | 63,468 |
| Emergency Loans | 1,000 | 1,062 |
| Boll Weevil Eradication | 84 | ..... |
| Total, Loan Subsidies | 33,850 | 64,530 |
| ACIF Expenses: | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | 305,803 | 305,803 |

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Administrative Expenses | 20,250 | 20,250 |
| Total, ACIF Expenses | 326,053 | 326,053 |

## RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $60,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 60,345,000 |

The Risk Management Agency performs administrative functions relative to the Federal Crop Insurance program that is authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508), as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 [ARPA] (Public Law 106–224), the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

ARPA authorized significant changes in the crop insurance program. This act provides higher government subsidies for producer premiums to make coverage more affordable; expands research and development for new insurance products and under-served areas through contracts with the private sector; and strengthens compliance. Functional areas of risk management are: research and development; insurance services; and compliance, the functions of which include policy formulation and procedures and regulations development.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $60,345,000 for Risk Management Agency, Salaries and Expenses.

The Committee recognizes that there are many research priorities that competitive funding may be used to address, including the feasibility of insurance programs to cover business interruption due to integrator bankruptcy and catastrophic loss in the poultry industry. The Committee encourages RMA to support research into these priorities.

*Administrative and Operating Expenses*.—The Committee notes the significant investment in Federal Crop Insurance made in 2025 to ensure that all farm and ranch families, commodities, and regions of the country have access to effective risk management. This new investment works to bring down premiums for producers while also ensuring that private sector companies and agents have the resources necessary to effectively deliver vital risk management tools on the ground. On a bipartisan basis, this Committee specifically laid the groundwork for the critical improvements made to administrative and operating [A&O] expense reimbursement and is concerned about any potential retrenchment on A&O. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary, acting through the Risk Management Agency, to ensure that there is no reduction in A&O with respect to any policy or plan of insurance offered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act relative to A&O levels as they stood in the 2026 reinsurance year. The Committee also directs the Secretary,

through RMA, to prescribe by bulletin that the historical percentage of A&O utilized to compensate agents for delivery of policies to producers is not to be reduced but maintained so agents are able to serve producers in every State with the full suite of policies intended to be available under the act. The Committee expects that these directives, in conjunction with the long-standing statutory budget neutrality requirements that ensure a renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement [SRA] does not result in lower A&O as compared to projected A&O under a simple extension of the existing SRA, will help ensure that the objective of the investment made in Federal Crop Insurance in 2025—meeting the risk management needs of all U.S. producers—is furthered consistent with the intent of Congress.

*Alfalfa*.—The Committee recognizes alfalfa to be an important domestic forage crop valued for nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, crop rotation, and as a natural habitat. From 2004 through 2026, alfalfa acreage has declined 30.5 percent. The Committee encourages RMA to explore the creation of a revenue and/or quality alfalfa crop insurance policy to ensure producers have a safety net that they need to produce this important crop.

*Crop Insurance for Pecans*.—The Committee is concerned that pecan growers are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. The Committee emphasizes RMA's authority to design actuarially sound crop insurance policies that reflect regional differences in growing practices and conditions, as well as crop diversity and marketing practices. The Committee directs RMA to convene a working group of southeastern pecan growers to help better inform future policies. RMA is directed to report to the Committee within 180 days on its outreach efforts to convene a working group composed of southeastern pecan growers.

*Crop Insurance in New England*.—The Committee is concerned that growers in New England are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. The Committee appreciates RMA's decision to convene a working group of New England apple growers to help better inform future policies and encourages RMA to consider convening similar working groups for regional growers of other crops. The Committee still awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026 and directs RMA to deliver the report promptly.

*Crop Insurance Options for Replant*.—The Committee encourages the RMA to explore options to establish or expand replant coverage options to producers of major row crops.

*Disparities in Crop Insurance Availability*.—The Committee is concerned that producers operating in multiple counties, particularly in coastal and other risk-variable regions, face inconsistent availability of crop insurance coverage for the same crops due to county-level actuarial determinations. These inconsistencies limit producers' ability to effectively manage risk across their operations and can create inequitable treatment of similarly situated producers. Therefore, the Committee directs RMA to evaluate disparities in crop insurance availability across counties, including limitations associated with written agreements, and to identify opportunities to improve consistency and access through expanded data collection, improved actuarial methods, and proactive evaluation of counties where new crop coverage may be warranted.

*Risk Management for Grazers*.—RMA shall conduct a study of USDA grazing loss and risk management programs using available actuarial and other data, provide a comparison of the subsidy level of disaster and risk management programs available to crop producers versus grass-based livestock producers, and develop at least one option for a premium-based grazing loss risk management program that would better reduce the risks associated with grass-based livestock production. RMA shall report the findings, including the comparison of subsidy levels and recommendations for new program offerings, to the Committee within 1 year of enactment of this act.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service was established pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). The NRCS works with conservation districts, watershed groups, and Federal and State agencies to bring about physical adjustments in land use that will conserve soil and water resources, provide for agricultural production on a sustained basis, and reduce flood damage and sedimentation.

### CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $850,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 870,000,000 |

Conservation operations are authorized by Public Law 74–46 (16 U.S.C. 590a–590f). Activities include:

Conservation Technical Assistance provides assistance to district cooperators and other land users in the planning and application of conservation treatments to control erosion and improve the quantity and quality of soil resources; improve and conserve water; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; conserve energy; improve woodland, pasture, and range conditions; and reduce upstream flooding to protect and enhance the natural resource base.

Resource appraisal and program development ensures that programs administered by the Secretary for the conservation of soil, water, and related resources shall respond to the Nation's long-term needs.

Plant Materials Centers assemble, test, and encourage increased use of plant species which show promise for use in the treatment of conservation problem areas.

Snow Survey and Water Forecasting provides estimates of annual water availability from high mountain snow packs and summer stream flow in the Western States and Alaska. Information is used by agriculture, industry, and cities in estimating future water supplies.

Soil Surveys inventory the Nation's basic soil resources and determine land capabilities and conservation treatment needs. Soil survey publications include interpretations useful to cooperators, other Federal and State agencies, and local organizations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the NRCS Conservation Operations, as compared to fiscal year 2027 levels:

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE—CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Conservation Operations: | | |
| Conservation Technical Assistance | 697,624 | 747,749 |
| Snow Survey and Water Forecasting | 16,751 | 18,251 |
| Plant Materials Centers | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Soil Surveys Program | 86,000 | 86,000 |
| Urban Agriculture Office | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Fencing | | 3,000 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 34,625 | |
| Total, Conservation Operations | 850,000 | 870,000 |

*Acre-for-Acre Wetlands Mitigation*.—The Secretary is encouraged to use mitigation with the conversion of a natural wetland and equivalent wetlands functions at a ratio which does not exceed 1-to-1 acreage.

*Agricultural Open Burning Alternatives*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program [EQIP], which provides Federal funding and technical assistance to farmers throughout the Nation. The Committee urges USDA to prioritize EQIP awards to projects that enable the purchase of equipment to process agricultural woody waste generated from orchard and vineyard removals as an alternative to open burning.

*Bio-Diverse Microbial Soil Health*.—The Committee recognizes that research and data continue to show that improved soil health via bio-diverse microbial soil amendments has a significant positive impact for American farm and ranch lands, supporting an essential domestic asset in a global market. The Committee encourages USDA to support the expanded and continued use of these multi-kingdom biologic soil health solutions across a broad range of NRCS programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, to address soil health benefits related to yield increase, advanced root development, input efficiency, improved water efficacy, catastrophic soil damage restoration, and catalysts to other soil health practices such as reduced tillage.

*Code 590*.—The Committee recognizes the need for NRCS to update the Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard (Code 590) and related practices to enhance nutrient efficiency and reduce environmental impacts. Scenario #27 under Practice Standard 441 supports manure application via dripline systems and has enabled "SDI, Manure" cost-share programs in California, Oregon, and Washington through EQIP. However, this scenario is not broadly applicable, and the 2-in-5-year Irrigation History Requirement under Standard 441 poses a barrier for non-irrigated farmers, inadvertently encouraging inefficient irrigation solely to qualify for funding. To address this, the Committee encourages USDA to ex-

pand eligibility for SDI (subsurface drip irrigation) systems in nutrient management beyond current geographic and operational limits and to incorporate them under Code 590.

*Cost-Share Waivers During Emergencies*.—The Committee affirms the essential role that the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program plays in helping local communities recover from natural disasters, including severe flooding, and recognizes prior circumstances under which the USDA has issued waivers of local cost-share requirements in order to help communities recover and prepare for future disasters. Recognizing that rural communities are particularly burdened by the financial challenges presented by significant natural disasters, the Committee encourages NRCS to waive the 25 percent local sponsor cost-share requirement for communities with a demonstrated economic hardship and ongoing imminent threats to life and property.

*Critical Conservation Areas [CCA]*.—The Committee supports CCAs and the collaborative regional approach to address common natural resources goals while maintaining or improving agricultural productivity. The Committee urges NRCS to provide sufficient Conservation Technical Assistance funds to CCAs to address conservation planning backlogs. The Committee also encourages NRCS to leverage all possible resources to identify nutrient loss and reduce runoff to achieve the goals of the 2015 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.

*Drought Resilience*.—The Committee applauds the passage of the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, appreciates efforts to increase efficiencies, and expects NRCS to utilize all available opportunities to assist producers, irrigators, and irrigation districts in addressing drought resiliency and mitigation while maintaining strong rural and agriculture communities and protecting natural resources. NRCS is expected to prioritize implementation of Drought Contingency Plans, agreements, or programs that conserve surface or ground water, improve drought resiliency, and address current and anticipated conservation needs and drought-related resource concerns.

Furthermore, the Committee encourages NRCS to enter into additional cooperative agreements with the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program to develop additional state or region specific healthy soil and water management best practice guides to support drought resilience and soil health in the western United States.

*Farmer to Farmer Conservation Networks*.—The Committee recognizes that NRCS cooperative agreements and other work with land grant institutions and extension, soil and water conservation districts, and associations, States, Tribes, and non-profits that support farmer-to-farmer conservation education through information sharing, technical assistance, direct peer-to-peer mentorship, on farm demonstrations, events and associated provisioning, and other network building activities have been successful in expanding conservation practice adoption amongst farmers and ranchers. The Committee encourages NRCS to increase the funding made available within Conservation Technical Assistance for activities that increase farmer and rancher access to the peer-to-peer activities described above, including through new and existing cooperative

agreements. NRCS shall also report on the previous 5 years of cooperative agreements supporting these activities no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, including the number of agreements, agreement service areas, funding amounts and any reported conservation or farmer outreach outcomes for the work described.

The Committee also encourages NRCS to enter into cooperative agreements for train-the-trainer projects in areas such as agroforestry and agrivoltaics.

*Fencing*.—The Committee directs the agency to explore ways to maximize assistance to producers with wildlife exclusion fencing within the authority provided by the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

*Firebreaks and Fuel Breaks*.—The Committee recognizes that firebreaks and fuel breaks are efficient conservation measures that can be implemented by landowners to reduce the risk or intensity of wildfires and help firefighters by creating defensible areas. The Committee continues to encourage NRCS to promote and provide assistance to design and construct firebreaks and fuel breaks in areas and communities under heightened risk of woodland fires, consistent with the directive in Public Law 119–37.

*Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative*.—The Committee provides $10,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb), of which $8,000,000 shall be provided through State allocations as competitive grants to diverse partnerships, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and their organizations, to provide technical assistance to producers for grazing planning and implementation, conferences and other education, demonstrations, producer networks, workforce training, research, and outreach projects to improve agricultural resilience. NRCS is directed to provide the remaining $2,000,000 through a cooperative agreement with a national grazing lands conservation coalition to establish diverse State-based coalitions and to undertake grazing education.

*Interagency Coordination*.—The Committee directs the Natural Resources Conservation Service to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to expand interagency coordination of Federal investments in communities that need help addressing water conservation and drought resilience issues.

Additionally, the Committee encourages NRCS to work more closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service for all volunteer programs that promote fish and wildlife conservation efforts, through cooperative agreements, to continue to provide free technical and financial assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools, and nonprofits interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land. Both agencies should continue to collaborate on streamlining ESA listings and consultations especially for large-ranged species and for geographies where multiple listed species overlap in their ranges.

*Invasive Pest Mitigation*.—The Committee encourages NRCS to collaborate with State agricultural agencies, research institutions, and industry stakeholders to develop best practices for orchard removal as a pest management strategy and how to ensure replanting practices enhance long-term orchard health and productivity.

*Migratory Big Game Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes that working farms and ranches can provide important migratory habitat for big game and other wildlife species and commends NRCS and FSA on their collaboration with State Governments and other partners to conserve these important working lands. The innovative application of Grassland CRP and EQIP in tandem is especially important. Leveraging the unique payments, cost-share, and technical assistance that these programs provide against one another, as is being done through the USDA Migratory Big Game Initiative in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, provides expanded support and management flexibility for producers stewarding wildlife habitat while keeping lands in production. The NRCS and FSA are encouraged to cooperate in expanding this innovative model to other States. The Committee awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026 and directs NRCS to submit it immediately, without further delay.

*National Resources Inventory*.—In reinstating the National Resources Inventory in Alaska, the Committee expects NRCS to take into account sample design, data collection software, and data processing capability in order to collect and produce scientifically credible information on the status, condition, and trends of Alaska's lands, soils, waters, and related resources.

*NRCS Staffing*.—The Committee is deeply concerned with NRCS staffing levels, particularly in the field offices. Stakeholders, including producers and conservation groups, have repeatedly voiced concern about insufficient staffing levels leading to the inability to get the assistance they need. Therefore, the Committee provides $20,000,000 over enacted levels for Conservation Operations and directs NRCS to utilize no less than $10,000,0000 to fill key vacancies and anticipated vacancies, with a focus on field offices.

*Partnerships*.—The Committee expects NRCS to leverage partnerships with producers, conservation districts, State and Federal agencies, nonprofits, universities, and other partners to improve program implementation efficiency and efficacy.

*Private Land Conservation*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of providing private land owners with ready access to the many Federal, State, and local government and private resources available to support conservation efforts on private lands. The Committee directs NRCS to implement a multi-year cooperative agreement with appropriate funding support to an organization that can make conservation solutions and best practices accessible daily to private land owners. This organization should also support efforts to conserve the lesser-prairie chicken and implement carbon sequestration conservation programs nationwide.

*Soil Health*.—The Committee recognizes that improving soil health on agricultural lands is key to achieving both meaningful conservation and economic benefits for producers. The Committee is pleased to see strong stakeholder interest in the new on-farm conservation innovation trials to test new or innovative conservation approaches, and the soil health demonstration trial, which provides incentives to producers to implement practices that improve soil health and increase carbon levels in the soil. The Committee encourages the Secretary to dedicate more technical assistance funds to establish standard protocols for measuring and testing

carbon levels to evaluate gains in soil health that will help producers create positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes through ecosystem service markets. The Committee believes the Secretary should provide additional technical assistance related to healthy soil planning, soil carbon sequestration, and conservation activity planning. NRCS is urged to support the expansion of existing State soil health programs and to assist interested States in establishing new State soil health programs.

*SNOTEL*.—The Committee continues to be concerned by documented changes in winter weather across the country, and the impact of those changes on local ecologies and economies. The Committee continues to fund the NRCS Snow Telemetry Network and provides $3,500,000 to begin implementation of the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program to serve the Northeastern United States based on the results of the feasibility study. The Secretary is directed to brief the Committee as implementation begins.

*Streamlined Conservation Planning*.—The Committee directs NRCS to develop a streamlined conservation planning and application process for small acreage operations to reduce the time and effort required by both the applicant and local NRCS staff to process conservation program applications.

*Technical Assistance*.—The Committee directs NRCS to maintain a record of total technical assistance dollars for the past 3 years and annually in the future and to provide the data to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. This report should differentiate between mandatory and discretionary allocations.

*Technical Service Providers*.—The Committee urges NRCS to reevaluate the current matching requirements for the Technical Service Provider program supporting State and Tribal soil health programs.

*Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants*.—It is the Committee's understanding that grant recipients may offer subawards to agricultural producers so long as they meet relevant regulatory requirements. The committee supports this usage of grant funds and encourages the agency to inform potential applicants of this approved use in all relevant application materials using plain language.

*Virtual Fencing Technologies*.—The Committee encourages the department to continue to invest in research, pilot programs, and cooperative agreements to better understand benefits and optimal use cases for producers regarding virtual fencing. The Committee encourages the Natural Resources Conservation Service to work in tandem with state conservationists to develop guidance to support States' designation of virtual fencing as an eligible practice under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program [EQIP]. The Committee still awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026 and directs NRCS to submit the report immediately, without further delay.

*Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program*.—The Committee recognizes the important role of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program [VPA–HIP] in creating and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and addressing a major barrier to hunting and fishing participation: lack of access to quality places

to hunt and fish, including lakes, streams, wetlands, grasslands, forests, and agricultural land. VPA–HIP uses a locally led, voluntary framework to incentivize willing private landowners to allow access for wildlife dependent recreation. This stimulates rural economies by increasing hunting and fishing participation and enhances outdoor recreational opportunities nationwide. Recognizing this, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is encouraged to expedite the distribution of any funds allocated to this program and to support program continuity by issuing 5-year grant awards.

*Western States Conservation Partnership Initiative*.—The Committee recognizes the value of collaborative, locally-led conservation practices and remains concerned about the ongoing extreme drought and related water issues in the American West. NRCS is encouraged to explore the creation of a partnership initiative, similar to the recently created Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, to allow Western States and partners to leverage financial and technical assistance to address regional water issues and help build resilience to drought.

*Western Water and Working Lands*.—The Committee welcomes additional progress in operationalizing Western Water and Working Lands Framework for Conservation Action, and encourages NRCS to dedicate financial and technical assistance resources to support the framework, with a priority on projects with multiple benefits. The Secretary is directed to keep the Committee apprised of progress toward this end and awaits the briefing requested in fiscal year 2026.

*Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands*.—The Committee recognizes that conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands is essential for the recovery of many threatened and endangered species. While Federal programs that provide direct conservation assistance can be important contributors to species recovery efforts, such programs might not be available to, or appropriate for, all private landowners. Private landowners interested in habitat conservation must be empowered with access to the full range of conservation resources that exist across the Federal Government, State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private entities. The Committee encourages NRCS to provide grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, non-profit organizations with expertise and experience in amalgamating and providing public access to information and resources pertaining to the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

*Working Lands for Wildlife*.—The Committee reminds NRCS that supporting wildlife habitat is an important part of its mission, and encourages NRCS to continue expanding the Working Lands for Wildlife [WLFW] Initiative. The Committee directs NRCS to dedicate sufficient staff positions to WLFW, and to coordinate with the Farm Service Agency on WLFW. The Committee still awaits the report requested in fiscal year 2026 and directs NRCS to submit the report promptly, without further delay.

## WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $50,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 51,642,000 |

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83–566) (16 U.S.C. 1000–1005, 1007–1009) provides for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions in a program to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds or rivers and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and the conservation and proper utilization of land in authorized watersheds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $51,642,000 for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program [WFPO], of which the Committee provides $31,642,000 for congressionally directed projects, as specified in the table at the end of the explanatory statement, for new and ongoing watershed and flood prevention activities.

The Committee recognizes the critical challenges facing rural water resource management and protection and supports needed investments in watershed operations. These Federal-State-local partnerships are uniquely positioned to identify critical watershed protection and flood prevention needs in rural communities and implement projects that deliver multiple streams of benefits for homes, businesses, transportation infrastructure, and natural resources. In selecting projects for funding, the Committee expects the agency to balance the needs of addressing the project backlog, remediation of existing structures, and new projects.

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS]*.—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding and must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Multiple Benefit Projects*.—The Committee is concerned with the funding distribution of Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, in particular NRCS' resistance to supporting drought resiliency and mitigation in the western United States. Therefore, the Committee continues to support funding for irrigation modernization projects that provide multiple benefits which are primarily found in the West, including but not limited to reduction of drought impact, improvement of water quality or in-stream flow, off-channel renewable energy production, and increased fish or wildlife habitat. NRCS is directed to keep the Committee apprised of streamlining and modernization efforts for the watershed planning process, and of efforts to coordinate with stakeholders and other agencies to ensure that this program is utilized in an efficient and equitable manner to maximize its effect.

*Technical Assistance Flexibility*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide greater flexibility to State Conservationists to be able to utilize technical assistance dedicated for certain WFPO funds for administration and planning Statewide for all WFPO projects.

*Watershed Backlog and Rehabilitation*.—The Committee remains concerned about delays with projects in the Watershed and Flood

Prevention Operations program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and the impact such delays have on local communities. NRCS is urged to address the backlog of authorized watershed projects by advancing the planning, design, and construction of new projects under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program, while also prioritizing the rehabilitation, repair, and modernization of existing watershed structures through the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, with emphasis on projects that mitigate the greatest flood risks to public safety, consistent with the directive under Public Law 119–37.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $3,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,000,000 |

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program account provides for technical and financial assistance to carry out rehabilitation of structural measures, in accordance with section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, approved August 4, 1954 (16 U.S.C. 1012, U.S.C. 1001, et seq.), as amended by section 313 of Public Law 106–472, November 9, 2000, and by section 2803 of Public Law 110–246.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,000,000 for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

The Committee recognizes the large backlog of community infrastructure projects eligible for financial and technical assistance from the Watershed Rehabilitation Program to address safety concerns, public health, and environmental impacts of aging dams. NRCS is urged to prioritize the rehabilitation of dams that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

## CORPORATIONS

### FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $15,346,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | $18,036,000,000 |

The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), authorizes the payment of expenses, which may include indemnity payments; loss adjustment; delivery expenses; program-related research and development; startup costs for implementing this legislation, such as studies, pilot projects, data processing improvements, and public outreach; and related tasks and functions.

All program costs, except for Federal salaries and expenses, are mandatory expenditures subject to appropriation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated to be $18,036,000,000 in fiscal year 2027, for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund.

## COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

The Commodity Credit Corporation is a wholly owned Government corporation created in 1933 to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; to help maintain balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities, including products, foods, feeds, and fibers; and to help in the orderly distribution of these commodities. CCC was originally incorporated under a Delaware charter and was reincorporated June 30, 1948, as a Federal corporation within USDA by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), approved June 29, 1948.

The Commodity Credit Corporation engages in buying, selling, lending, and other activities with respect to agricultural commodities, their products, food, feed, and fibers. Its purposes include stabilizing, supporting, and protecting farm income and prices; maintaining the balance and adequate supplies of selected commodities; and facilitating the orderly distribution of such commodities. In addition, the Corporation makes available materials and facilities required in connection with the storage and distribution of such commodities. The Corporation also disburses funds for sharing of costs with producers for the establishment of approved conservation practices on environmentally sensitive land and subsequent rental payments for such land for the duration of CRP contracts.

Corporation activities are primarily governed by the following statutes: the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), as amended; the Agricultural Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–439), as amended (1949 Act); the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Public Law 75–430), as amended (the 1938 Act); the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198), as amended (1985 Act); the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246); the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79); and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

Management of the Corporation is vested in a board of directors, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is an ex officio director and chairman of the board. The board consists of seven members, in addition to the Secretary, who are appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. Officers of the Corporation are designated according to their positions in USDA.

The activities of the Corporation are carried out mainly by the personnel and through FSA facilities and FSA State and county committees. The Foreign Agricultural Service, the General Sales Manager, other agencies and offices of the Department, and commercial agents are also used to carry out certain aspects of the Corporation's activities.

Under Public Law 87–155 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11, 713a–12), annual appropriations are authorized for each fiscal year, commencing with fiscal year 1961. These appropriations are to reimburse the Corporation for net realized losses.

### REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $13,953,731,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 18,898,844,000 |

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2027 to be $18,898,844,000, for the payment to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for reimbursement for net realized losses.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

| | |
|---|---|
| Limitation, 2026 | $15,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 15,000,000 |

The CCC's hazardous waste management program is intended to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96–510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94–580). The CCC funds operations and maintenance costs as well as site investigation and cleanup expenses. Investigative and cleanup costs associated with the management of CCC hazardous waste are also paid from USDA's hazardous waste management appropriation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of $15,000,000 for the Commodity Credit Corporation's hazardous waste management program.

# TITLE III

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) abolished the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration and replaced those agencies with the Rural Housing and Community Development Service, (currently, the Rural Housing Service), Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service (currently, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service), and Rural Utilities Service and placed them under the oversight of the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development, (currently, Rural Development [RD]). These agencies deliver a variety of programs through a network of State and field offices.

### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,620,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,620,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department's rural economic and community development activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Rural Housing Service [RHS], Rural Business-Cooperative Service [RBS], and the Rural Utilities Service [RUS].

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,620,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

*PAWS Act*.—The Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to continue coordinating with the Departments of Justice, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services to efficiently implement the grant program for providing emergency and transitional shelter options for domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

*Program Delays and Cancellations*.—The Committee is aware of a number of RD programs, particularly within the Rural Housing Service, that have delayed notice of funding announcements [NOFA] or have rescinded existing NOFAs, including the Rural Community Development Initiative in May of calendar year 2026. These actions and unnecessary delays are concerning, and the Committee directs RD to solicit applications and make awards in a timely manner.

*Persistent Poverty Areas*.—The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas, particularly in persistent poverty counties, and directs the Department to complete the report requested on this matter, which is now several years overdue. The

report shall include both the historic data requested in the original directive as well as data for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

*Substantially Underserved Trust Area [SUTA].*—The Committee directs Rural Development to define the term 'substantially underserved trust area' in the State of Hawaii to include land located within the same county as a community located on trust lands as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code. The term 'substantially underserved trust area' means a community in trust land (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code) with respect to which the Secretary determines has a high need for the benefits of an eligible program. SUTA-related investments within the same county as a community located on trust lands must primarily benefit Native Hawaiians.

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Appropriation | 312,000 | 335,000 |
| Transfer from: | | |
| Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account | 412,254 | 412,254 |
| Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program Account | 33,270 | 33,270 |
| Rural Development Loan Program Account | 4,468 | 4,468 |
| Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses | 761,992 | 784,992 |

These funds are used to administer the loan and grant programs of RHS, RBS, and RUS, including reviewing applications, making and collecting loans, providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers, and assisting in extending other Federal programs to people in rural areas.

Under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508), administrative costs associated with loan programs are appropriated to the program accounts. Appropriations to the salaries and expenses account will be for costs associated with grant programs.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends $784,992,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development, including a direct appropriation of $335,000,000.

*RD Staffing.*—The Committee has heard repeatedly from stakeholders that Rural Development offices do not respond to service requests and that field offices are woefully understaffed. As a result, to address staffing concerns, the Committee provides an increase of $23,000,000 to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies.

*Quarterly Reviews.*—The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees and to send reports ahead of the briefings covering the following topics: information technology report with updates on retiring legacy systems, making improvements to existing systems, and moving programs away from paper-based applications; staffing report that breaks out staffing by program, including planned versus actual hiring by pay period; a commitment and obligation report; and

Congressionally Directed Spending obligation report. The quarterly reports should also include key operational metrics to ensure the Committee receives a complete picture of how RD is implementing its programs and using its funding to do so.

## RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

The Rural Housing Service was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354).

### RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 (budget authority) | $606,362,000 |
| Committee recommendation (budget authority) | 610,900,000 |

This fund was established in 1965 (Public Law 89–117) pursuant to section 517 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). This fund may be used to insure or guarantee rural housing loans for single-family homes, rental and cooperative housing, farm labor housing, and rural housing sites. Rural housing loans are made to construct, improve, alter, repair, or replace dwellings and essential farm service buildings that are modest in size, design, and cost. Rental housing insured loans are made to individuals, corporations, associations, trusts, or partnerships to provide low-cost rental housing and related facilities in rural areas. These loans are repayable in terms up to 30 years. The Multi-family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program [MPR] includes revitalization tools for maintenance of existing units. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the Rural Housing Insurance Fund [RHIF] program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2027, as well as for administrative expenses.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $198,646,000, excluding the transfer of funds, for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2026 levels:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Loan Levels: | | |
| Single-Family Housing (sec. 502): | | |
| Direct | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Direct Tribal Relending Pilot | 5,000 | 6,000 |
| Guaranteed | 25,000,000 | 25,000,000 |
| Housing repair (sec. 504) | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Direct rental housing (sec. 515) | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538) | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| Site development loans (sec. 524) | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Credit sales of acquired property | 10,000 | 10,000 |

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Self-help land development loans (sec. 523) | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514) | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Total, loan levels | 26,515,000 | 26,516,000 |
| Loan Subsidies and Grants: | | |
| Single-Family Housing (sec. 502): | | |
| Direct | 130,600 | 132,900 |
| Direct Tribal Relending Pilot | 2,125 | 2,653 |
| Housing repair (sec. 504) | 4,333 | 4,270 |
| Direct rental housing (sec. 515) | 15,130 | 16,640 |
| Site development loans (sec. 524) | 502 | 471 |
| Self help land development loans (sec. 523) | 657 | 655 |
| Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514) | 4,761 | 5,057 |
| Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516) | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Multi-Family housing revitalization demonstration | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Total, loan subsidies and grants | 194,108 | 198,646 |
| Administrative Expenses | 412,254 | 412,254 |
| Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses | 606,362 | 610,900 |

*Committee Communication*.—The Committee is dissatisfied with Rural Housing Service's response to congressional inquiries and stakeholder engagement. Therefore, the Administrator of RHS shall brief the Committees on a monthly basis to discuss updates and status of funding for all RHS programs. Additionally, the Administrator is reminded that briefings shall be provided to the Committees as requested and within one week of the requested date.

*Fair Housing Protections*.—The Committee supports efforts to strengthen the protections of the Fair Housing Act, but understands that more action is needed to ensure these protections reach every community. The Committee is still awaiting information on what resources are needed to ensure Rural Development has the resources to collaborate with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to conduct outreach and raise awareness of the rights and protections under the Fair Housing Act for all protected classes.

*Farm Labor Housing*.—The Committee urges the Rural Housing Service [RHS] to release farm labor housing funding announcements on an annual basis and expects RHS to increase consultation with stakeholders.

*Multifamily Housing Loans*.—The Committee is concerned about the timing and pace of rental housing preservation and farm labor housing development efforts at RHS. The Committee understands that applicants for preservation assistance who closed in December 2024 have yet to receive notice of funding decisions. Similarly, applications for farm labor housing loans and grants submitted in July 2024 have yet to be processed. The Committee requests a report from RHS no later than 30 days after enactment that includes a schedule for notifying applicants of preservation assistance and farm labor housing financing, and a schedule for release of applications and awards for fiscal year 2026 appropriations for Section 515 and MPR assistance.

*Multifamily Housing Technical Assistance*.—The Committee provides $2,000,000 for the multifamily housing technical assistance pilot and directs the Department to prioritize maturing mortgages. The Committee intends for this technical assistance to assist in preservation beyond just non-profit transfer deals, including for maturing properties looking to decouple their mortgage and rental assistance.

*Relending Program*.—The Committee provides $6,000,000 in loan level for the Section 502 Direct Tribal Relending Pilot, and to the extent practicable, encourages the Rural Housing Service to expand the current pilot to the Southwest and to Native CDFIs that are partnered with Regional Housing Authorities which receive block grant funds under Public Law 104–330. The Committee recognizes that there is a tremendous need for safe and affordable housing in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and Native American CDFIs have deep ties to the local communities they serve, and are better equipped to more effectively reach potential homebuyers.

*Section 502 Handbook Changes*.—The Committee is disappointed that the Rural Housing Service made major changes to the Single Family Housing Direct loan program (Section 502) without stakeholder engagement or congressional notification. As such, the Committee reinstates the maximum loan limit prior to February 10, 2026, and directs the agency to make any future changes regarding loan limits for the program to be done through a regulatory change with a notice and comment period. The Committee also strongly encourages the agency to revisit the other changes made to the handbook on February 10, 2026 and consult with stakeholders on their efficacy.

*Section 502 Manufactured Home Loans*.—The Committee directs USDA to continue to update Section 502 procedures and regulations to clearly allow for Section 502 home loans to be made to finance manufactured homes sited in resident-owned communities, and to brief the Committee on its work to do so within 90 days of enactment of this act.

*Section 523 and 524 Site Development Loans*.—The Committee recognizes the extreme need for more housing in many rural areas across the country and believes the changes made to extend the term of Section 523 and 524 site development loans in the fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2026 Appropriations bills could help meet that demand. The Committee directs the Department to work to support rural housing stakeholders in understanding and utilizing the revised loans and to brief the Committee on any changes to demand for Section 523 and 524 loans within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Section 538 Loan Term*.—The Committee directs the Department to assess the impacts of extending the term of 538 loans to 50 years, including costs and benefits, the likely impact on utilization, especially for new construction, and the number of new or preserved housing units affected and report to the Committee within 180 days on its findings. Such report should also include regulatory or statutory changes needed to implement the change.

*Single Family Housing Program Access*.—The Committee is concerned that there are unnecessary impediments facing individuals

who utilize Single Family Housing Direct Loans and the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program to purchase homes or property in rural areas. The Committee reminds the Department that efficient review and approval of these applications is essential to the success of these programs, especially in the current housing market. Additionally, the Committee directs the Department to submit a report, within 60 days of enactment, on the current appraisal requirements for these homes and how they compare to requirements used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Tribal Property Valuation Project*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to increase outreach to Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities to increase awareness and utilization of the 502 Guaranteed Loans Tribal Property Valuation Project. The Committee directs the Secretary to report to Congress before the pilot program is terminated, including on the pilot program's impacts on breaking down barriers in lending on Tribal lands and in assisting more eligible very low to moderate income applicants seeking to purchase or rehabilitate affordable housing on Tribal lands.

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,715,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,795,000,000 |

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). The objective of the program is to reduce rents paid by low-income families living in RHS-financed rental projects and farm labor housing projects. Under this program, low-income tenants will contribute the higher of: (1) 30 percent of monthly adjusted income; (2) 10 percent of monthly income; or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency.

Payments from the fund are made to the project owner for the difference between the tenant's payment and the approved rental rate established for the unit.

The program is administered in tandem with RHS section 515 rural rental housing program and the farm labor loan and grant programs. Priority is given to existing projects for rental units occupied by over-burdened low-income families and projects experiencing financial difficulties beyond the control of the owner.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,795,000,000 for the Rental Assistance Program. Housing vouchers continue to be addressed in the Rural Housing Voucher Account.

*Decoupling of Rental Assistance*.—The Committee continues to provide authority for the Department to decouple the rental assistance program from Section 515 direct loans. Given how long finalizing rental assistance contracts can take, the Committee directs RD, when initially notifying properties that they may be eligible for decoupling, to include any property whose Section 515 loans is projected to expire within the next 4 years. The Committee reminds the Department that this strategy should only be used when all other methods of preservation are exhausted and directs the De-

partment to provide the Committee with quarterly updates on the implementation of this policy. Additionally, the Committee provides $1,000,000 for the Department to make the necessary information technology upgrades to facilitate its decoupling efforts.

The Committee also supports uniform standards for any sale or transfer of a property financed with a loan under section 515 to any entity, including a non-profit organization, that is seeking to acquire such property through section 515 financing or any low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

*Multifamily Housing Preservation Strategy*.—The Committee directs the Department to consider all preservation tools at its disposal and awaits the multifamily housing preservation strategy report requested in fiscal year 2026. The Committee directs RHS to submit this report promptly, without further delay.

*Rental Assistance Priority*.—The Secretary is encouraged to prioritize multi-family housing properties acquired by means of a section 515 loan within the current fiscal year when determining current rental assistance needs.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $48,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 48,000,000 |

The Rural Housing Voucher Program was authorized under the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171) to assist very low-income families and individuals who reside in rental housing in rural areas. Housing vouchers may be provided to residents of rental housing projects financed by section 515 loans that have been prepaid or paid off after September 30, 2005. Voucher amounts reflect the difference between comparable market rents and tenant-paid rent prior to loan pre-payment. Vouchers allow tenants to remain in existing projects or move to other rental housing.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $48,000,000 for the Rural Housing Voucher Program. The Committee requests historic data and projections of dollars and units served for rural housing vouchers and rental assistance with the assumption that the decoupling authority will continue to stay in place.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $25,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 30,000,000 |

The Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants Program is authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). Grants are made to local organizations to promote the development of mutual or self-help programs under which groups of usually 6 to 10 families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor. Funds may be used to pay the cost of construction supervisors who work with families in the construction of their homes and for administrative expenses of the organizations providing the self-help assistance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $30,000,000 for Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, of which no less than $5,000,000 shall be to issue contracts to qualified non-profit organizations to provide technical and management assistance.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $27,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 26,000,000 |

The Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program consolidates funding for rural housing grant programs. This consolidation of housing grant funding provides greater flexibility to tailor financial assistance to applicant needs.

*Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants*.—The Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants Program is authorized under section 504 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The rural housing repair grant program is carried out by making grants to very low-income families to conduct necessary repairs to their homes in order to make such dwellings safe and sanitary and to remove hazards to the health of the occupants, their families, or the community.

These grants may be made to cover the cost of improvements or additions, such as repairing roofs, providing toilet facilities, providing a convenient and sanitary water supply, supplying screens, repairing or providing structural supports, or making similar repairs, additions, or improvements, including all preliminary and installation costs in obtaining central water and sewer service. A grant can be made in combination with a section 504 very low-income housing repair loan.

No assistance can be extended to any one individual in the form of a loan, grant, or combined loans and grants in excess of $7,500,000, and grant assistance is limited to persons or families headed by persons who are 62 years of age or older.

*Supervisory and Technical Assistance Grants*.—Supervisory and technical assistance grants are made to public and private nonprofit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing assistance under sections 502, 504, 514/516, 515, and 533 of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The assistance is directed to very low-income families in underserved areas where at least 20 percent of the population is below the poverty level and at least 10 percent or more of the population resides in substandard housing. In fiscal year 1994, a Homebuyer Education Program was implemented under this authority. This program provides low-income individuals and families with education and counseling on obtaining and/or maintaining occupancy of adequate housing and supervised credit assistance to become successful homeowners.

*Compensation for Construction Defects*.—Compensation for construction defects provides funds for grants to eligible section 502 borrowers to correct structural defects or to pay claims of owners arising from such defects on a newly constructed dwelling purchased with RHS financial assistance. Claims are not paid until provisions under the builder's warranty have been fully pursued.

Requests for compensation for construction defects must be made by the owner of the property within 18 months after the date financial assistance was granted.

*Rural Housing Preservation Grants*.—Rural housing preservation grants (section 533) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (Public Law 98–181) authorizes the Rural Housing Service to administer a program of home repair directed at low- and very low-income people.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $26,000,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program.

The following table compares the grant program levels recommended by the Committee to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Very low-income housing repair grants | 21,000 | 20,000 |
| Housing preservation grants | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Total | 27,000 | 26,000 |

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $677,161,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 262,440,000 |

Community facility loans were created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419) to finance a variety of rural community facilities. Loans are made to organizations, including certain Indian Tribes and corporations not operated for profit and public and quasi-public agencies, to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. Such facilities include those providing or supporting overall community development, such as fire and rescue services, healthcare, transportation, traffic control, and community, social, cultural, and recreational benefits. Loans are made for facilities which primarily serve rural residents of open country and rural towns and villages of not more than 20,000 people. Healthcare, fire and rescue facilities, and educational facilities are the priorities of the program and receive the majority of available funds.

The Community Facility Grant Program authorized in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) is used in conjunction with the existing direct and guaranteed loan programs for the development of community facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, and community centers. Grants are targeted to the lowest income communities. Communities that have lower population and income levels receive a higher cost-share contribution through these grants with a maximum contribution of 75 percent of the cost of developing the facility.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $262,440,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account, of which $234,046,000 is for Congressionally Direct Spending.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Loan Levels: | | |
| Community facilities direct loans | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 |
| Community facilities guaranteed loans | 650,000 | 650,000 |
| Total, loan levels | 1,900,000 | 1,900,000 |
| Budget Authority: | | |
| Community facilities grants | 5,000 | 15,376 |
| Congressionally directed spending | 659,161 | 234,046 |
| Rural community development initiative | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Tribal college grants | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Total, budget authority | 677,161 | 262,440 |

*Community Facility Guaranteed Loan Program*.—The committee encourages USDA to reduce Federal exposure to risk and expedite the delivery of capital through the inclusion of guaranteed loans when direct loans are offered as part of facility projects. USDA should additionally assume that the test for credit elsewhere is satisfied when the partnering guarantor sees a need for direct Federal lending assistance consistent with existing regulatory framework, 7 CFR 1942.2(a)(1).

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS]*.—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Rural Community Facilities Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*Loan Program Appraisals*.—The committee directs USDA to consistently apply collateral requirements between direct and guaranteed loan products within rural development. This may include business and/or going concern value to be discounted from the loan-to-value calculations. Additionally, the USDA must consistently apply appraisal timing requirements with an aim of reducing the need for new appraisals during later stages of a construction project.

*Technical Assistance*.—The Committee encourages RHS to allow national organizations to participate in the Community Facilities Technical Assistance program and to increase the grant cap to ensure that the technical assistance need in rural areas is met.

## RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service was established by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), dated October 13,

1994. Its programs were previously administered by the Rural Development Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Agricultural Cooperative Service.

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $50,575,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 69,810,000 |

The Rural Business and Industry Loan Program was created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419), and finances a variety of rural industrial development loans. Loans are made for rural industrialization and rural community facilities under Rural Development Act amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932 et seq.) authorities. Business and industrial loans are made to public, private, or cooperative organizations organized for profit; to certain Indian tribes; or to individuals for the purpose of improving, developing, or financing business, industry, and employment or improving the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. Such purposes include financing business and industrial acquisition, construction, enlargement, repair or modernization; financing the purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, and payment of startup costs; and supplying working capital.

Rural business development grants were authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) and can be made to governmental and nonprofit entities and Indian Tribes. Up to 10 percent of appropriated funds may be used to identify and analyze business opportunities; identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; assist in the establishment of new rural businesses and the maintenance of existing businesses; conduct economic development planning, coordination, and leadership development; and establish centers for training, technology, and trade. The balance of appropriated funding may be used for projects that support the development of business enterprises that finance or facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprise; the establishment, expansion, and operation of rural distance learning networks; the development of rural learning programs; and the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $69,810,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Loan levels: | | |
| Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels | 1,750,000 | 1,700,000 |
| Total, loan levels | 1,750,000 | 1,700,000 |

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Budget Authority: | | |
| Business and industry guaranteed loans | 15,575 | 32,810 |
| Rural business development grants | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| DRA, NBRC, SBRC, and ARC | 10,000 | 12,000 |
| Total, budget authority | 50,575 | 69,810 |

*BioPreferred*.—The Committee notes the potential for the BioPreferred Program to create new markets for domestic agriculture commodities. Within 180 days of the date of enactment of this act, USDA shall provide the Committee with a report on the barriers limiting the procurement of BioPreferred products, particularly biobased materials and finishes, by other Federal agencies, with a particular focus on validating a product's ability to meet agency technical requirements and those agencies above to speed up adoption of products on the list.

*Biorefinery Demonstration Requirements*.—To ensure the deployment of innovative new technologies to increase domestic agricultural demand, the Committee urges the Secretary to accelerate project advancement by permitting shorter initial demonstration-unit runtimes and implementing priority review timelines. The Secretary is encouraged to direct these expedited procedures toward projects that have completed the Biobased Markets and Development Access Grant Program [BDAP], including a demonstration unit construction, and possess the potential to significantly increase whole-kernel corn demand by addressing new chemical endmarkets from agriculture and utilizing first-of-a-kind technology within existing ethanol infrastructure.

*Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities*.—The Committee recognizes that strong partnerships exist between RD and Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities. The Committee encourages RD to coordinate with the Regional Commissions to promote efficiency during the grant planning and review process. Additionally, the Committee encourages RD to ensure flexible processes are available for each Regional Commission as appropriate.

*High Energy Cost Grants*.—The Committee directs the Rural Utilities Service to permit the repair or replacement of bulk fuel storage tanks under the High Energy Cost Grants program. The Committee notes that such fuels are the only source of electricity generation in certain rural and Native communities where energy costs are excessively high and there is a significant deferred maintenance cost for Bulk Fuel in Tribal communities. The longstanding purpose of the program is to assist families and individuals in communities with extremely high per-household energy costs that are 275 percent of the National average or higher. The Committee directs the Secretary to make $2,000,000 available for Indian Tribes for the repair or replacement of bulk fuel storage tanks under the Grants program, in addition to providing no less than fiscal year 2026 levels for the Denali Commission.

*Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program*.—The Committee encourages Rural Development to prioritize proposals for

the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program using existing funding from previous fiscal years for grants that support small and very small processors, including custom exempt operations. The Committee directs Rural Development to prioritize equipment-only applications and ensure co-/by-product utilization equipment grants are eligible uses of these funds.

*Multi-year Rural Business Development Grants*.—The committee believes Rural Business Development Grants [RBDGs] provide valuable support to rural businesses and economic growth and has heard that allowing a multi-year grant cycle would be beneficial to local communities. The committee directs the Department to evaluate the costs and benefits of multi-year RBDG funding and any regulatory or statutory changes needed, and to report to the Committee within 180 days on its findings.

*Renewable Energy Projects*.—The Committee is concerned with the prohibition of wind and solar energy projects for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan program, as these projects are fiscally reliable and help to keep the program cost effective. As such, the Committee directs the RBCS to reverse the prohibition outlined in the unnumbered letter published on August 19, 2025, and align restrictions for solar and wind with the changes to the REAP program specified in this act.

*Rural Business Program Account*.—The Committee recommends $500,000 for transportation technical assistance.

The Committee directs that of the $4,000,000 recommended for grants to benefit federally Recognized Native American Tribes, $250,000 shall be used to implement an American Indian and Alaska Native passenger transportation development and assistance initiative. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Department to improve information sharing about Rural Development's business support programs with local small business advisory organizations.

*Rural Business Program Delivery*.—The Rural Business Cooperative Programs increase economic opportunity in rural America through the delivery of necessary programs including the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program, the Rural Business Investment Program, and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, among others. The Committee recognizes that the needs of businesses and communities in rural America are unique and commends Rural Development on its continued commitment to meet the specific challenges. It is the sense of the Committee that Rural Development remains the most well-positioned agency to administer such programs, and that RD should continue to seek means of improving program access and effectiveness.

The Committee encourages the Department to continue collaborating with the Small Business Administration as outlined in the memorandum of understanding signed on November 20, 2023. The Committee directs the Department, in collaboration with the SBA, to report on the activities undertaken as a result of the memorandum, including opportunities to collaborate on technical assistance, especially with respect to exportation and procurement.

*Sustainable Aviation Fuels*.—The Committee notes that sustainable aviation fuel [SAF] has the potential to decarbonize the aviation industry by utilizing several feedstocks, such as ethanol, soy,

tallow, wood biomass, agricultural residue, and cover crops. The cultivation of these feedstocks could provide a significant economic opportunity in rural communities across the Nation. The Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program, also known as the 9003 Program, has the potential to scale up the volume of SAF by providing loans and financial support to burgeoning enterprises in rural America. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide a report to Congress that includes 9003 program loan metrics and if converting current loan authority into grants could be used to accelerate and scale SAF research and development and biorefinery construction.

*Tribal Buffalo Restoration*.—The Committee encourages the Department to set aside a portion of the rural business development grants to benefit federally-chartered Tribal organizations with demonstrable expertise in Tribal buffalo restoration efforts, for the purchase and operation of mobile buffalo meat processing units to support federally recognized Native American Tribes' activities related to buffalo meat production.

## INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated loan level | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| Direct loan subsidy | 2,495 | 2,631 |
| Administrative expenses | 4,468 | 4,468 |
| Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses | 6,963 | 7,099 |

The Rural Development Intermediary Relending Loan program was originally authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–452). The making of rural development loans by USDA was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

Loans are made to intermediary borrowers (small investment groups) who in turn will reloan the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, private nonprofit organizations, public agencies, et cetera, for the purpose of improving business, industry, community facilities, employment opportunities, and diversification of the economy in rural areas.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 74–605) established the program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated in 2027, as well as administrative expenses.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $7,099,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund, including $4,468,000 to be merged with salaries and expenses.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Rural Economic Development Loans program was established by the Reconciliation Act of December 1987 (Public Law 100–203), which amended the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901), by establishing a new section 313. This section of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 901) established a cushion of credit payment program and created the rural economic development subaccount. The Administrator of RUS is authorized under the act to utilize funds in this program to provide zero interest loans to electric and telecommunications borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, including funding for feasibility studies, startup costs, and other reasonable expenses for the purpose of fostering rural economic development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a loan program level of $75,000,000 and $15,000,000 in grants to be funded from earnings on the Cushion of Credit and fees on guaranteed underwriting loans made pursuant to section 313A of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901).

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 level | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated loan level | 50,000 | 75,000 |
| Grants | 10,000 | 15,000 |

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $20,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 20,000,000 |

Rural cooperative development grants are authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 113–79), as amended. Grants are made to fund the establishment and operation of centers for rural cooperative development with the primary purpose of improving economic conditions in rural areas. Grants may be made to nonprofit institutions or institutions of higher education. Grants may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of the project and associated administrative costs. The applicant must contribute at least 25 percent from non-Federal sources, except 1994 institutions, which only need to provide 5 percent. Grants are competitive and are awarded based on specific selection criteria.

Cooperative research agreements are authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2204b. The funds are used for cooperative research agreements, primarily with colleges and universities, on critical operational, organizational, and structural issues facing cooperatives.

Cooperative agreements are authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2201 to any qualified State departments of agriculture, universities, and other State entities to conduct research that will strengthen and

enhance the operations of agricultural marketing cooperatives in rural areas.

The Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas [ATTRA] program was first authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198). The program provides information and technical assistance to agricultural producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly and lower production costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table provides the Committee's recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 level | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Rural Cooperative Development Grants | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Appropriate Technology Transfer | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Grants to Assist Minority Producers | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Value-Added Producer Grants | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Grants | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Total Rural Cooperative Development Grants | 20,000 | 20,000 |

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $5,000,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Of the funds recommended, $3,000,000 is for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program.

The Committee includes bill language directing that not more than $3,000,000 be made available to cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority producers.

*Agriculture Innovation Centers*.—The Committee recommends $1,000,000 for Agriculture Innovation Center funding, as authorized in section 6402 of Public Law 107–171. Prior year or current grant awardees shall be eligible for these funds.

*Value-Added Producer Grants [VAPG]*.—The Committee directs that Value-Added Producer Grants be prioritized to support the production of value-added agricultural products, including dairy and small farms, with significant potential to expand production and processing in the United States.

The Committee encourages USDA to promote awareness among potential applicants of the availability of VAPG funds for eligible projects that modify animal housing systems to comply with state requirements, such as States that require animal products to come from cage-free and crate-free housing systems, or facilitate the sale of compliant products to new markets.

The Committee encourages USDA to prioritize, to the extent practicable, applications to entities with net sales of less than $50,000,000, or for products with new or emerging markets.

RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $4,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 4,000,000 |

The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program is authorized under section 379E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s). This program provides direct loans and grants to microentrepreneur development organizations with the skills necessary to establish new rural microenterprises and provide technical assistance to maintain the successful operation of rural microenterprises.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $4,000,000 for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Estimated Loan Level | 17,000 | 15,000 |
| Direct Loan Subsidy | 2,735 | 2,478 |
| Grants | 1,265 | 1,522 |
| Total, loan subsidies and grants | 4,000 | 4,000 |

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | ..... |
| Committee recommendation | $3,780,000 |

The Rural Energy for America Program is authorized under section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171). This program may fund energy audits, direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses for the purchase of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvements.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

For the cost of loan subsidy, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $3,780,000 for the Rural Energy for America Program.

HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $50,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 50,000 |

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative is authorized under section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. This program provides financial and technical assistance to regional, State and local partnerships, and helps fund projects to improve access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved rural areas.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $50,000 for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative and notes the funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

## RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

The Rural Utilities Service was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-

tion Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). RUS administers the electric and telephone programs of the former Rural Electrification Administration and the water and waste programs of the former Rural Development Administration.

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $445,865,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 494,824,000 |

The water and waste disposal program is authorized by sections 306, 306A, 309A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87–128). This program makes loans for water and waste development costs. Development loans are made to associations, including corporations operating on a nonprofit basis, municipalities, and similar organizations generally designated as public or quasi-public agencies, that propose projects for the development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of domestic water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas. Such grants may not exceed 75 percent of the development cost of the projects and can supplement other funds borrowed or furnished by applicants to pay development costs.

The solid waste grant program is authorized under section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87–128). Grants are made to public entities and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local and regional governments for the purpose of reducing or eliminating pollution of water resources and for improving the planning and management of solid waste disposal facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $494,824,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends $60,000,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, Hawaiian Homelands, and the Colonias. The Committee recognizes the special needs and problems for delivery of basic services to these populations and encourages the Secretary to distribute these funds in line with the fiscal year 2014 distribution to the degree practicable. In addition, the Committee makes $24,000,000 available for the Circuit Rider Program and directs the Department to ensure that each State has its own staff person dedicated to this program. The Committee commends Circuit Riders, who have provided assistance to small communities for the operation of safe and clean drinking water supplies and compliance with water regulations since 1980. The Circuit Rider Program has long been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships and one of the most efficient and effective use of appropriated funds.

*Black Belt Region Water Systems*.—The Committee commends the work of Rural Development on the implementation of the pilot program to support Black Belt Region Water Systems funded in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021. Within 90 days of enactment

of this act and quarterly thereafter, Rural Development is directed to brief the Committee on the use of these funds.

*RD Apply*.—The Committee is concerned that Rural Development's approval timeline for requests for lien parity and consent from third party lenders restricts critical infrastructure upgrades and creates delays and additional costs. The Committee directs the Secretary to establish policy and procedures that require not more than 90 days for approval after receiving all required information, with extensions granted only in extenuating circumstances. The Committee directs the Secretary to enhance RD Apply to automate and standardize this process. In addition to streamlining the procedures, RD Apply would add efficiencies by clearly defining required information, removing unnecessary document requests, and providing the National Office with visibility of every application nationwide necessary to manage and provide an efficient process.

*Technical Assistance*.—The Committee provides $35,000,000 for technical assistance and directs no less than $1,000,000 to be used to support manufactured homes.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2026:

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2025 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Loan levels: | | |
| Water and waste disposal direct loans | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Total, loan levels | 1,065,000 | 1,065,000 |
| Budget authority: | | |
| Water and waste disposal direct loans | 47,600 | 71,600 |
| Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans | 3,876 | 4,224 |
| Water and waste disposal grants | 140,000 | 275,000 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 110,489 | ..... |
| Solid waste management grants | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Water well systems grants | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Colonias, AK, HI and Native American grants | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Water and waste water revolving funds | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| High energy cost grants | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Circuit rider | 23,900 | 24,000 |
| Emergency community water assistance grants | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Technical assistance grants | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| Total, budget authority | 445,865 | 494,824 |

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $41,040,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 40,990,000 |

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (Public Law 74–605) provides the statutory authority for the electric and telecommunications programs.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. An appropriation to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2027, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account, the loan subsidy and administrative expenses, as compared to the fiscal year 2026 levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Loan authorization: | | |
| Electric: | | |
| Direct FFB | 2,667,000 | 3,584,000 |
| Electric Direct, Treasury Rate | 4,333,000 | 5,666,000 |
| Guaranteed underwriting | 910,000 | 910,000 |
| Telecommunications: | | |
| Direct, Treasury Rate | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| Direct, FFB | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Rural Energy Savings Program | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Total, Loan authorization | 8,485,000 | 10,735,000 |
| Direct, Treasury Rate Telecomm Subsidy | 3,570 | 3,185 |
| Rural Energy Savings Program | 4,200 | 4,535 |
| Administrative Expenses | 33,270 | 33,270 |
| Total budget authority | 41,040 | 40,990 |

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $108,517,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 96,000,000 |

The Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624), as amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127). This program provides incentives to improve the quality of phone services, provide access to advanced telecommunications services and computer networks, and improve rural opportunities.

This program provides the facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with more urban centers and other facilities, providing rural residents access to better healthcare through technology and increasing educational opportunities for rural students. These funds are available for loans and grants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $96,000,000 for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program account, including $1,000,000 for congressionally directed spending.

The Committee provides $3,000,000 to address critical healthcare needs, as authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 115–334).

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, as compared to fiscal year 2026:

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program: | | |
| Grants | 30,000 | 35,000 |
| DLT Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 10,767 | 1,000 |
| Broadband Program: | | |
| Community Connect Grants | 17,000 | 20,000 |
| Re-Connect | 50,000 | 40,000 |
| Re-Connect Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 750 | ..... |
| Total, DLT and Broadband budget authority | 108,517 | 96,000 |

*Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].*—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

*ReConnect.*—The Committee provides $40,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), and again reminds USDA that funding should not be used in areas that are already largely served and should be focused in areas where at least 90 percent of households or agricultural lands lack sufficient broadband access. In doing so, the Committee intends that USDA should avoid efforts that could duplicate existing or planned broadband networks, including avoiding granting funding in areas where another provider already has received funding from another Federal, State or local funding program to build, has otherwise committed to a government entity to build, or has invested private risk capital to build in an area and has obtained necessary permits to do so, even if construction is not yet complete. To achieve these goals, we urge USDA to continue coordinating closely with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission in a transparent manner to ensure that there is a common agreement about which areas are lack sufficient access to broadband, to utilize a common map to reach those conclusions that is updated each time a new funding decision is announced, and to have a clear and understandable challenge process.

Of funds provided for the ReConnect pilot, the Committee provides up to $10,000,000 to expand and increase broadband connectivity on agricultural land for precision agriculture applications. Eligible uses may include connectivity to equipment or infrastructure (including retrofitting infrastructure), and other uses as recommended by the Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and

Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States, through technology-neutral, and as applicable, multi-modal practices, to ensure last acre connectivity.

In addition, while the pilot is intended to be technology neutral, it is critical that Federal broadband investments support projects that are both scalable and adequate for both current and future technological requirements and consumer needs, while also considering speed and cost of deployment. In carrying out the Reconnect program, the Committee directs USDA to support qualified projects that will provide the highest upload and download speeds possible to ensure rural America is receiving the same quality broadband services as their non-rural counterparts.

# TITLE IV

## DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,127,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,127,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's nutrition assistance activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food and Nutrition Service [FNS].

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,127,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

*Application Process*.—The Committee is concerned that the application process for organizations which participate in both the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program diverts resources away from serving people in need. The Committee directs USDA to determine ways to streamline the application process to reduce the administrative burden to providers. USDA is specifically directed to consider allowing organizations in good standing for 3 years participating in both programs to file only one application to administer both programs each year.

*Communication*.—The Committee is committed to supporting the mission and values of the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services at the USDA, including through critical investment in nutrition programs to support the American people. The Committee directs the FNCS to provide quarterly briefings to the Committee, which should commence 30 days after the enactment of this act and continue quarterly, to provide updates on key nutrition programs, including data on participation in nutrition programs.

*Future Dietary Guidelines*.—The 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans [DGAs] are reflective of significant scientific agreement as determined by evidence-based review. The Committee underscores the need to conduct the periodic DGA review in a transparent manner that ensures the confidence and credibility of this process. The Committee supports efforts to ensure future DGAs are based on the totality of scientific evidence and remain free of bias and issues not relevant to dietary guidance. The Committee expects that any reforms made to the DGA process will build upon the strength of evidence used to determine the 2025–2030 DGAs and ensure future recommendations serve the health and well-being of the American people.

*Meals-to-You*.—The Committee recognizes the benefits of the Meals-to-You [MTY] demonstration program has had in reducing food insecurity, particularly for children and youth in rural and frontier areas who are unable to access congregate feeding sites. The Committee supports the FNS' implementation of this program as part of its December 2023 interim final rule in response to Congress's direction in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. The Committee appreciates the interim final rule's recognition that the nutritional needs of children in the summer cannot be addressed through a one-size-fits-all approach, and States should include the use of non-congregate meal programs where necessary. The Committee also strongly encourages FNS to ensure that non-congregate meal programs continue by providing the necessary flexibility to balance the individual needs of States and communities with responsible and workable program integrity. To ensure States have the resources needed to properly implement the rule, the Committee encourages USDA to set aside funding to provide technical assistance for up to five States interested in implementing non-congregate meal delivery options for children and families in rural areas. The Committee encourages USDA to prioritize this funding for States interested in partnering with a non-profit entity that has experience in implementing meal delivery options in rural areas and to uphold program integrity as required in the interim final rule. The Committee encourages FNS to continue providing meal delivery services through the MTY demonstration project through a grant or cooperative agreement to a non-profit provider that works with local service institutions to enroll eligible low-income children.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

The Food and Nutrition Service represents an organizational effort to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in this country. Nutrition assistance programs provide access to a nutritionally adequate diet for low-income individuals and families and encourage better eating patterns among the Nation's children. These programs include:

*Child Nutrition Programs [CNP]*.—The National School Lunch and School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food programs provide funding to the States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam for use in serving nutritious lunches and breakfasts to children attending schools of high school grades and under, to children of preschool age in child care centers, and to children in other institutions in order to improve the health and well-being of the Nation's children and broaden the markets for agricultural food commodities. Through the Special Milk Program, assistance is provided to the States for making reimbursement payments to eligible schools and child care institutions which institute or expand milk service in order to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation and transfer from section 32.

*Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC]*.—This program safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, and infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk because of inad-

equate nutrition and income by providing supplemental foods. The delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating State health agency may select. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP].*—This program seeks to improve nutritional standards of needy persons and families. Assistance is provided to eligible households to enable them to obtain a better diet by increasing their food purchasing capability, usually by furnishing benefits in the form of electronic access to funds. The program includes Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico [NAP]. The program also includes the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations [FDPIR], which provides nutritious agricultural commodities to low-income persons living on or near Indian reservations who choose not to participate in SNAP.

*Commodity Assistance Program [CAP].*—This program provides funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP], the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program [FMNP], Disaster Assistance, Pacific Island Assistance, and administrative expenses for the Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP]. CSFP provides supplemental foods to low-income elderly persons age 60 and over. TEFAP provides commodities and grant funds to State agencies to assist in the cost of storage and distribution of donated commodities. Nutritious agricultural commodities are provided to residents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Cash assistance is provided to distributing agencies to assist them in meeting administrative expenses incurred. CAP also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS's administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

*Nutrition Programs Administration.*—Most salaries and Federal operating expenses of FNS are funded from this account. Also included is the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, which oversees improvements in and revisions to the food guidance systems and serves as the focal point for advancing and coordinating nutrition promotion and education policy to improve the health of all Americans.

## CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $37,841,674,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 37,906,930,000 |

Child Nutrition Programs, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Public Law 79–396) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–642), provide Federal assistance to State agencies in the form of cash and commodities for use in preparing and serving nutritious meals to children while they are attending school, residing in service institutions, or participating in other organized activities away from home. The purpose of these programs is to help maintain the health and proper physical development of America's children. Milk is provided to children either free or at a low cost, depending on their family income level. FNS provides cash subsidies to States for administering the programs

and directly administers the program in the States which choose not to do so. Grants are also made for nutritional training and surveys and for State administrative expenses. Under current law, most of these payments are made on the basis of reimbursement rates established by law and applied to lunches and breakfasts actually served by the States. The reimbursement rates are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for food away from home.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends $37,906,930,000 for the Child Nutrition Programs.

The Committee's recommendation provides for the following annual rates for the child nutrition programs.

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

| Child nutrition programs | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|
| School Lunch Program | 18,796,436 |
| School Breakfast Program | 6,972,613 |
| Child and Adult Care Food Program | 4,727,422 |
| Summer Food Service Program | 943,296 |
| Summer EBT Benefits | 3,424,588 |
| Summer EBT Admin | 246,570 |
| Special Milk Program | 4,582 |
| State Administrative Expenses | 426,513 |
| Commodity Procurement | 2,665,423 |
| Team Nutrition | 18,004 |
| Food Safety Education | 4,470 |
| Coordinated Review | 10,000 |
| Computer Support | 35,943 |
| Training and Technical Assistance | 54,329 |
| CNP Studies and Evaluation | 22,378 |
| Farm to School Tactical Team | 6,834 |
| Payment Accuracy | 16,529 |
| School Meal Equipment Grants | 10,000 |
| Child Nutrition Training | 1,000 |
| Farm to School Grants | 5,000 |
| Total | 37,906,930 |

The Committee expects FNS to utilize the National Food Service Management Institute to carry out the food safety education program.

*Blended Produce*.—The Committee recognizes that blended produce, such as smoothies, prepared with fresh and frozen whole fruits and vegetables are a popular and practical option for increasing a children's consumption of nutrient-dense fruits, vegetables, and dairy in Child Nutrition Programs. The Committee encourages USDA Food and Nutrition Service, as it updates Child Nutrition Program standards, to recognize that blending whole fruits and vegetables does not diminish their nutritional value and to consider updating program crediting standards, guidance documents, and technical assistance to ensure fruits and vegetables in smoothies may be credited as whole produce rather than juice, when appropriate, and that program operators are supported in offering smoothies as part of reimbursable meals.

*Costs of Producing School Meals in Outlying Areas*.—The Committee acknowledges that USDA provided a temporary increase in the National average payment rate for the outlying areas at a rate equal to the National average payment rate for Alaska until the School Nutrition Cost Study II is completed and updated adjustments for school meal reimbursements for these areas are subsequently made, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1760(f). The Committee directs USDA to provide technical assistance and flexibility to school food authorities and school staff in the outlying areas to ensure the collection of complete and accurate data for the School Nutrition Cost Study II.

*Crediting System*.—The Committee recognizes that the current crediting system used by FNS in administering the School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program has not been updated to keep pace with products in the marketplace. Specifically, Greek yogurt receives the same protein crediting as other products with less protein. The Committee directs the Secretary to update the system of crediting high-protein yogurt to accurately reflect scientifically demonstrated higher protein content in strained yogurt within 180 days of the enactment of this act.

*Farm to School Program*.—Successful implementation of Farm to School programs requires broad-based knowledge of best practices regarding coordination among farmers, processors, distributors, students, teachers, dietary and food preparation staff, and USDA professionals. Since the scope of some Farm to School projects has expanded in recent years, the Committee has included language to allow maximum grant amounts to increase to $500,000.

*Local School Wellness Policies*.—The Committee acknowledges that difficulty accessing a variety of foods can cause significant issues, including poor physical health and eating disorders. The Committee directs the Secretary to update local school wellness policy guidance to incorporate eating disorder prevention and education into the existing local school wellness policy framework. The Committee directs a report within 120 days of the enactment of this act on the agency's progress to update State Education Agencies on the inclusion of eating disorders education and prevention within Local School Wellness Policies.

*Pulse Crops*.—The Committee recognizes the nutritional value of pulse crops for children and encourages FNS to support school food authorities in sourcing and serving pulse crops. The Committee provides $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for pulse crop products, as authorized by section 4213 of subtitle C of title IV of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1755b).

*Seafood Consumption in the National School Lunch Program*.—The Committee directs the Department, in coordination with NOAA, to address factors limiting seafood consumption in school per the recommendations in GAO report "National School Lunch Program: USDA Could Enhance Assistance to States and Schools in Providing Seafood to Students" (GAO–23–105179).

*Non-Congregate Meals*.—The Committee recognizes that the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program served healthy meals to over 44 million students in fiscal year 2024. The Committee also recognizes that access to such meals is critically important to the physical and behavioral health of pre-K–12 stu-

dents and to their academic performance in school. The Committee supports the Food and Nutrition Service [FNS] and its efforts to provide daily free and reduced cost meals to millions of food insecure students. The Committee is concerned that access to such meals is not available to all full-time public school students and encourages the FNS to allow States the flexibility to explore innovative solutions (e.g., EBT cards) to reach all income-eligible students enrolled in public schools regardless of learning modality. The Committee directs FNS to expand access to non-congregate meal programs for students who do not have access to such benefits in a congregate setting and are otherwise eligible for free and reduced cost meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

*School Meal Nutrition Standards*.—The Committee is concerned that any revision to the school lunch or breakfast programs nutrition standards based on the 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines—including any revision already finalized—was or may be implemented without adequate analysis of its cost, operational feasibility, and effects on student meal participation, placing undue burdens on school food authorities, particularly in rural, small, and high-poverty districts. The Committee directs the Department to transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, a standalone analysis of the cost, operational feasibility, and effects on student meal participation of any such revision, prior to any further implementation or administration of such revision. The Committee further directs that any such revision—whether proposed or already finalized—include a process for school food authorities to request flexibility from requirements imposing increased costs, reduced participation, or operational hardship, without penalty or loss of Federal reimbursement.

*School Meals Report*.—The Committee is concerned that product-based added sugar limits that became effective for school meals in school year 2025–2026 under 89 FR 31962 are not being taken into account as public stakeholders consider revising meal patterns in USDA Child Nutrition Programs. The Committee directs the Secretary to, within 60 days of enactment of this act, evaluate, quantify and report on the impact, in school year 2025–2026 as compared to school years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025, of product-based added-sugar limits required under 89 FR 31962, and then again for school year 2026–2027, within 60-days after the conclusion of that school year. The Committee requests that these reports evaluate and include the impact of the rule's product-based added-sugar limits on the following, but not limited to, the average amount and range of added sugars in those products sold in school meals, change in school consumption of those products, change in school milk consumption, change in overall school meal consumption, school meal waste, school meal costs; and those products' contribution to overall weekly school meals' added sugars limits, those products' contribution to overall weekly school meals' amounts of calcium, potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin D, and other dietary components of public health concern that are under-consumed by the general U.S. population.

*Sorghum*.—Sorghum has shown to be a nutrient dense grain offering significant health benefits including high fiber content, antioxidants, protein, as well as vitamins and minerals. As the Food and Nutrition Service continues to update the Child Nutrition Program standards, the Committee encourages the agency to prioritize sorghum rich foods as a gluten-free, macro and micronutrient rich ancient grain.

*Summer Food Service Program*.—The Committee supports the FNS' proposed implementation of summer meal programs as part of its December 2023 interim final rule in response to Congress's direction in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. The Committee appreciates the interim final rule's recognition that the nutritional needs of children in the summer cannot be addressed through a one-size-fits-all approach, and States should include the use of non-congregate meal programs where necessary. To ensure States have the resources needed to properly implement the rule, the Committee encourages USDA to set aside funding to provide technical assistance for up to five States interested in implementing non-congregate meal delivery options for children and families in rural areas. The Committee encourages USDA to prioritize this funding for States interested in partnering with a non-profit entity that has experience in implementing meal delivery options in rural areas and to uphold program integrity as required in the interim final rule.

*Summer Meal Delivery Vehicle Pilot Program*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of non-congregate meal service operations in ensuring rural students can access summer meals, as well as the costs frequently associated with operating such sites. The Committee directs the Department to establish a pilot program, to be carried out beginning with the first summer following the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, to award grants to Summer Food Service Program service institutions to purchase or retrofit vehicles to facilitate the distribution of non-congregate meals.

*Outlying Areas for School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study II*.—The Committee notes FNS findings that the cost of food in the State of Hawaii is 55.95 percent higher than in the mainland United States for purposes of the calculating the Thrifty Food Plan. The Committee therefore encourages FNS to ensure that findings across studies and nutrition programs accurately reflect the high cost of food statewide in Hawaii, including as it recalculates its school meal reimbursement from its School Nutrition Cost Study II findings.

*Whole Grains*.—The Committee encourages USDA to continue to support the inclusion of nutrient-dense whole grain foods in child nutrition and feeding programs and nutrition guidance. The Department should recognize the importance of nutrient-dense whole grains in the American diet and the economic importance to the agricultural economy.

*Whole Milk*.—Congress passed the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act (Public Law No. 119–69) with the intent for the milk varieties included in the act to be available throughout age-appropriate child nutrition program meal patterns. The Committee directs the Secretary to implement Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act for the Fed-

eral child nutrition programs as referenced in 91 FR 25073, so school food authorities have clarity for meal planning and the procurement cycle.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN [WIC]

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $8,200,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 8,500,000,000 |

The WIC program is authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Its purpose is to safeguard the health of pregnant, breast-feeding, and postpartum women and infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and inadequate income.

The WIC program food packages are designed to provide foods which studies have demonstrated are lacking in the diets of the WIC program target population. The authorized supplemental foods are iron-fortified breakfast cereal, fruit or vegetable juice which contains vitamin C, dry beans, peas, and peanut butter.

There are three general types of delivery systems for WIC foods: (1) retail purchase in which participants obtain supplemental foods through retail stores; (2) home delivery systems in which food is delivered to the participant's home; and (3) direct distribution systems in which participants pick up food from a distribution outlet. The food is free of charge to all participants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $8,500,000,000 for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children. The Committee recommendation fully funds estimated WIC participation in fiscal year 2027. The Committee provides no less than $90,000,000 for breastfeeding support initiatives and $14,000,000 for infrastructure.

*Allergenic Foods*.—The Committee recognizes that section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1786(c)(11)(C)) directs the Secretary to conduct a scientific review of the WIC food packages no fewer than every 10 years, and that the next scientific review is set to be released in 2028. Given the evidence showing that early introduction of potentially allergenic foods to infants, especially peanuts and egg, to prevent allergies later in life, the Committee directs the Secretary to include a review and recommendations for the early introduction of food allergens in the upcoming review of the WIC infant food packages.

*Dairy Allowance in the WIC Food Package*.—The Committee remains concerned about the reduction of the maximum monthly allowance with respect to milk in the April 18, 2024, final rule, "Revisions to the WIC Food Packages", and directs the Secretary to allow state WIC directors to return to or continue the previous recommended levels of dairy in the WIC program that were in place on April 17, 2024.

*Infant Formula*.—The Committee maintains ongoing concern about infant formula rebates in the WIC program. The Committee is also concerned that rules and regulations for program participation of manufacturers do not align with FDA-approved infant for-

mula products. The Committee directs the Food and Nutrition Service to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment about potential regulatory changes that can be made to the WIC program to expand the number of infant formula products offered in the WIC program. The Committee also encourages the Food and Nutrition Service to consider the feasibility and impact of changes to the iron and three forms requirements in the next nutritional evaluation for the WIC program.

*Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Recommendations*.—WIC designated Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome [NAS] as a nutrition risk factor in 2017, and WIC agencies across the country actively screen for symptoms of substance use, referring mothers who may be struggling with substance use disorder to appropriate services. The Committee encourages USDA to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services on the development of uniform, evidence-based nutrition education materials in order to best serve WIC-eligible pregnant women and caregivers to infants impacted by NAS. Uniform materials will enhance WIC's ongoing efforts to screen and support infants exhibiting symptoms of NAS.

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $107,481,218,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 101,242,944,000 |

SNAP attempts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among low-income persons by increasing their food purchasing power. Eligible households receive SNAP benefits with which they can purchase food through regular retail stores.

Other programs funded through SNAP include Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico and American Samoa, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Community Food Projects program.

SNAP is currently in operation in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Participating households receive food benefits, the value of which is determined by household size and income. The cost of the benefits is paid by the Federal Government. As required by law, FNS annually revises household benefit allotments to reflect changes in the cost of the thrifty food plan.

*State Antifraud Activities*.—Under the provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), States are eligible to be reimbursed for 50 percent of the costs of their fraud investigations and prosecutions.

States are required to implement an employment and training program for the purpose of assisting members of households participating in SNAP in gaining skills, training, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment. USDA has implemented a grant program to States to assist them in providing employment and training services.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends $101,242,944,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Of the amount rec-

ommended, $3,000,000,000 is made available as a contingency reserve.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|
| Benefits | 90,052,313 |
| Contingency | 3,000,000 |
| Administrative Costs | |
| State Administrative Costs | 3,204,108 |
| Employment and Training | 716,295 |
| Mandatory Other Program Costs | 429,767 |
| Discretionary Other Program Costs | |
| Tribal Demonstration | 3,000 |
| Healthy Fluid Milk | 5,000 |
| Tribal Nutrition Education | 998 |
| Subtotal | 97,411,481 |
| Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico (NAP) | 3,056,753 |
| American Samoa | 12,220 |
| Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations | 271,000 |
| TEFAP Commodities | 481,500 |
| Community Food Project | 5,000 |
| Program Access | 5,000 |
| Subtotal | 3,831,473 |
| Total | 101,242,944 |

*Disaster SNAP*.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall coordinate food benefit allotments under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)) with respect to individuals and households adversely affected by a major disaster to minimize delays in receiving temporary food assistance, improve information sharing, and prevent redundancy of assistance.

*Evaluations*.—The Committee further directs the Secretary to ensure that all evaluation reports required under section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 are made publicly available not later than 30 days after submission to the Department. Such reports shall be released in a manner that protects personally identifiable information and confidential business information, consistent with applicable Federal law. The Committee emphasizes that transparency and evidence-based results are essential to evaluating the effectiveness of SNAP waivers and expects the Department to fully comply with these requirement. At a minimum, the evaluation shall assess the impact of the proposed restrictions on participant health outcomes, including indicators related to diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. The evaluation design shall control for relevant confounding factors to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings.

*Food Distribution Program of Indian Reservations*.—While implementing the Food Distribution Program of Indian Reservations, the Secretary shall consult with Tribes and Tribal organizations and

consider their feedback when conducting evaluations of food distribution contracts. Should the Secretary determine a supply chain disruption under the Food Distribution Program of Indian Reservations and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, an emergency warehouse contractor must be designated no later than 45 days after the determination, and the Secretary shall provide public notice of the designation to the impacted Tribal organization or State agency. During a supply chain disruption, the Secretary may provide direct payments or reimbursements to a Tribe or Tribal organization administering food under the Food Distribution Program of Indian Reservations. The Secretary is directed to provide technical assistance or enter into cooperative agreements to assist State agencies in properly conducting Tribal consultations.

*FDPIR Pilot Program*.—The Committee is concerned that FNS has prohibited tribes and Tribal organizations that participate in the FDPIR pilot program from including traditional food items unless such items replace a USDA-provided item, and prohibited such substitutions unless the producer of the traditional food is able to provide sufficient quantities for all FDPIR participants nationwide. Allowing tribes participating in the pilot to source new traditional foods from small, indigenous producers without requiring a substitution will result in the inclusion of more traditional foods and help small, indigenous producers to expand. The Committee therefore directs FNS to allow tribes participating in the pilot program to include traditional foods without substitutions and to allow participating tribes to purchase traditional foods from producers that may not be able to provide sufficient quantities to serve all participating tribes across the Nation.

*Hot Foods*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to study the impact of allowing hot foods to be purchased with SNAP benefits at different types of SNAP retail food stores, including retail food stores with co-located entities.

*National Accuracy Clearinghouse*.—The Committee supports the full implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse [NAC] that uses a third-party electronic data matching system, data analytics, and public data to determine the correct state to issue SNAP benefits. The Committee encourages FNS to expand NAC to all SNAP agencies. In addition, the Committee reiterates that States must administer a robust appeals process to ensure individuals are not automatically removed from receiving benefits.

*Online Purchasing Pilot*.—The Committee is encouraged by USDA's successful implementation of SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot. The Pilot, as directed in the last two Farm Bills, has proven to be successful. The Committee encourages USDA's further work in this area as it benefits recipients in rural and hard to reach areas or those with limited mobility.

*Penny Shortages*.—The Committee is aware that, due to changes in currency, one-cent circulation and commercial practices, some retail food stores and authorized vendors round the total amount of cash transactions, including total change due, to the nearest whole cent or increment (e.g. nearest five-cent increment). The Committee notes that this practice, when applied, is done so uniformly to all customers paying with cash and is unrelated to the form or sequence of payment used for program benefits. The Committee does

not intend for the equal treatment requirements under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to be implicated or interpreted in a manner that penalizes otherwise compliant retailers or vendors solely because they engage in uniform cash-rounding practices when necessitated by currency one-cent piece circulation changes. Accordingly, the Committee stresses that equal treatment or pricing requirements of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are not implicated or violated solely on the basis that the retailer or vendor rounds the total amount of a cash transaction, provided that any such rounding is applied consistently to all cash transactions regardless of the type or sequence tender used. Nothing in this section is intended to affect the Secretary's authority to enforce program requirements related to fraud, overcharges, or differential treatment based on the form of payment.

*Skimming*.—The Committee understands USDA's efforts to support States in efforts to make whole SNAP recipients after they are victims of skimming. The Committee recognizes that authority for States to repay skimming victims expired on December 20, 2024. No later than 30 days after enactment of this act, the Committee directs USDA to provide a report on progress toward making skimming victims whole.

*SNAP Fraud*.—The Committee remains concerned about data discrepancies that allowed retailers to provide benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials, as outlined in a January 2017 OIG report. The Committee encourages FNS, as part of their work to implement controls to address these problems, to consider how advanced analytics is used to improve analysis across multiple systems mentioned in the report. This could include integrating data mining and machine learning into source systems such as STARS and ALERT, applying computer vision to enhance FNS investigations, and deploying new predictive analytics to help detect emerging fraud schemes. The Committee requests USDA to continue to update Congress on its progress in addressing the issues outlined in the report.

*SNAP Payment Errors*.—The Committee is concerned about continued payment error rates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to work with governors and administrators to address the root causes of errors and ensure benefits are available to those in need. This approach should prioritize deploying effective incentives for States to reduce their error rates, to include technical assistance and promoting best practices for use of technology and personnel to improve administrative processes.

*SNAP Pilot*.—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report, within 180 days of enactment, to the Committee, compiled in consultation with stakeholders and the appropriate State and Federal officials, describing how any waiver or pilot program will improve SNAP participant experience. The report shall include the approximate cost, to include the administration, of the implementation of and SNAP authorized retailer compliance with any waiver or pilot program. The report shall also include an explanation of how the Department will communicate to States and SNAP authorized retailers which foods are SNAP eligible and ensure retailers

can implement and comply with food restriction requirements in their point-of-sale [POS] systems and ongoing technical support.

*Thrifty Food Plan*.—The Committee is concerned that USDA's Thrifty Food Plan adjustment for Hawaii omits the price of food in rural and remote regions of the state. The Committee directs USDA to finalize the proposed rule published at 2024–27853 (89 FR 95724) to update 7 CFR 273.10(e)(4) to include the price of food throughout the state of Hawaii. The Committee directs an update on this within 30 days of enactment.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $551,070,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 586,070,000 |

The Commodity Assistance Program includes funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and funding to pay expenses associated with the storage and distribution of commodities through The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

*The Commodity Supplemental Food Program*.—Authorized by section 4(a) of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), as amended in 1981 by Public Law 97–98 and in 2014 by Public Law 113–79, this program provides supplemental food to low-income senior citizens and, in some cases, low-income infants and children up to age six and low-income pregnant and postpartum women. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) discontinued the admission of new pregnant and postpartum women and children into the program. Those already in the program can continue to receive assistance until they are no longer eligible.

The foods for CSFP are provided by USDA for distribution through State agencies. The authorized commodities include iron-fortified infant formula, rice cereal, cheese, canned juice, evaporated milk and/or nonfat dry milk, canned vegetables or fruits, canned meat or poultry, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, farina, peanut butter, and dry beans. Elderly participants may receive all commodities except iron-fortified infant formula and rice cereal.

*The Emergency Food Assistance Program*.—Authorized by the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.), as amended, the program provides nutrition assistance to low-income people through prepared meals served on site and through the distribution of commodities to low-income households for home consumption. The commodities are provided by USDA to State agencies for distribution through State-established networks. State agencies make the commodities available to local organizations, such as soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks, and community action agencies, for their use in providing nutrition assistance to those in need.

Funds are administered by FNS through grants to State agencies which operate commodity distribution programs. Allocation of the funds to States is based on a formula which considers the States' unemployment rate and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

*Farmers' Market Nutrition Program*.—The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides WIC or WIC-eligible participants with coupons to purchase fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods, such as

fruits and vegetables, from farmers' markets. This benefits both participants and local farmers by increasing the awareness and use of farmers' markets by low-income households.

*Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance*.—This program provides funding for assistance to the nuclear-affected islands in the form of commodities and administrative funds. It also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS's administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $586,070,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to distribute Commodity Assistance Program funds equitably among the States, based on an assessment of the needs and priorities of each State and the State's preference to receive commodity allocations through each of the programs funded under this account.

*Commodity Supplemental Food Program*.—The Committee recommends $495,000,000 for CSFP. The Committee is concerned about barriers eligible Commodity Supplemental Food Program applicants, including those residing in smaller and more rural communities, face in participating in the program. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to study barriers to program participation and strategies that States have utilized to increase CSFP participation rates. The Committee also requests that USDA publish an update to guidance document FNS–GD–2020–0078 reiterating that current CSFP program flexibilities give State and local agencies discretion to allow for home delivery, including contracting with third-party delivery.

*Farmers' Market Nutrition Program*.—The Committee is aware that FMNP provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income mothers and children, benefiting not only WIC participants, but local farmers as well. Therefore, the Committee recommends $10,000,000 for FMNP and directs the Secretary to obligate these funds within 45 days of enactment of this act.

*The Emergency Food Assistance Program*.—The Committee provides $80,000,000 in discretionary funding for TEFAP transportation, storage, and program integrity. In addition, the Committee recommendation grants the Secretary authority to transfer up to an additional 20 percent from TEFAP commodities for this purpose and urges the Secretary to use this authority.

The Committee encourages the Secretary to identify opportunities for increasing the supply of TEFAP commodities in the coming fiscal year through bonus and specialty crop purchases. The Department shall make available to the States domestically produced catfish fillets for distribution to local agencies.

*Barriers to Accessing CSFP*.—The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by low-income older adults in rural communities with long driving distances and limited grocery retail, further challenging eligible seniors to access CSFP food boxes distribution every month. The Committee encourages CSFP to allow regional food banks serving counties with high senior poverty to partner with delivery services to better reach homebound or transportation-limited seniors.

*TEFAP Local Foods Pilot*.—The Committee directs FNS to conduct a pilot program to provide funds for States to purchase locally-grown priority agricultural products-including fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, seafood, grains, poultry, or other commodity food products-sourced from small and underserved producers to be distributed to low-income households through emergency feeding organizations. In piloting the program, the Committee encourages FNS to select States that work with emergency feeding organizations to serve geographically-isolated, food import-dependent areas. The Committee directs FNS to submit a report to Congress following the conclusion of the pilot to assess project effectiveness in providing nutritious and culturally-relevant food to individuals in need, improving agricultural supply chain resiliency, and expanding economic opportunity for small and underserved local agricultural producers.

*TEFAP Resources*.—The Committee notes record demand for the charitable food network, placing great strain on food banks throughout the United States. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to use all available authorities, including Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935, to purchase fresh seafood, fruits, vegetables, and other foods from domestic producers to support domestic commodity markets and to distribute to food banks and other emergency feeding organizations across the country. To provide a needs assessment to Congress, the Secretary should include in its next budget justification, an analysis of the food, fuel, storage and other costs associated with distributing USDA food to communities and the increased TEFAP administrative funding needed to address rising food distribution costs. The analysis shall include an evaluation of the additional administrative expenses required to serve rural and remote communities.

*Wild Game*.—The Committee is aware that TEFAP regulations allow the use of administrative funds for the repackaging and processing of donated wild game. Some State agencies and eligible recipient agencies utilize a portion of annually allocated administrative funds for this purpose. The Farm to Food Bank Projects allow funds to be used for wild game. The Committee urges FNS to ensure State agencies are aware of this option and work with State-based wild game hunger relief programs.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $160,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 160,000,000 |

The Nutrition Programs Administration appropriation provides for most of the Federal operating expenses of FNS, which includes CNP, the Special Milk Program, WIC, SNAP, NAP, and CAP.

The major objective of Nutrition Programs Administration is to efficiently and effectively carry out the nutrition assistance programs mandated by law. This is to be accomplished by the following: (1) giving clear and consistent guidance and supervision to State agencies and other cooperators; (2) assisting the States and other cooperators by providing program, managerial, financial, and other advice and expertise; (3) measuring, reviewing, and analyzing the progress being made toward achieving program objectives; and (4) carrying out regular staff support functions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $160,000,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration.

# TITLE V

# FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIR

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $932,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 932,000 |

The Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's international affairs (except for foreign economic development). The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS].

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $932,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

*Food for Peace Administration*.—The Committee supports USDA's administration of the Food for Peace program under the current Interagency Agreement with the Department of State and supports USDA administration into fiscal year 2027. The Committee supports this important domestic commodity program and believes that, given its expertise in commodity procurement and successful administration of the Food for Progress program and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, USDA is best poised to work with American farmers to meet global nutritional needs.

The Committee directs USDA to work expeditiously to hire the necessary overseas staff to administer Food for Peace and supports a regional approach to the program's overseas presence to exercise proper oversight in the most cost-effective manner. The Committee also recognizes the savings that will be achieved through economies of scale by combining shipping operations between Food for Peace and Food for Progress. FAS shall provide a report within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing the status of the transfer, coordination with the Department of State, and any additional authorities or resources necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

*Food Chain Systems*.—The Committee is aware that the lack of comprehensive cold food chain systems is one of the main causes of food loss and results in a significant percentage of food spoilage from farm-to-market. Preventing food loss and implementing a robust cold food chain results in substantial benefits such as increased nutrition, a safer food supply, greater economic opportunity, and increased resilience. In order to maximize the benefit investment in the agricultural productivity of the developing world,

the Committee encourages the Department to give strong consideration to the use of cold chain technologies and include the development of appropriate cooling technologies in programs, policies, and strategic plans aimed at hunger prevention and food security in developing agricultural markets.

*International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program [IAEFP]*.—The Committee urges USDA to prioritize IAEFP grants to multi-year programs or to continue existing programs, including programs previously awarded IAEFP funds. Further, the Committee is concerned about regional limitations on eligible programs in previous funding opportunities and encourages USDA to avoid limiting eligibility of applicants to specific countries or regions.

*Market Access Program [MAP] and Foreign Market Development Program [FMD] Reporting*.—The Committee directs the Department to publish an annual report describing the recipients of funds, including the quantity and specific uses of such funding awards, granted through MAP and FMD for the purpose of promoting agricultural sales in Cuba, to ensure compliance with Sec. 3201 of Public Law 115–334.

*Peanut Exports*.—The Committee remains concerned with persistent non-tariff trade barriers faced by the domestic peanut industry when attempting to export peanuts to the European Union. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize interagency coordination with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and industry engagement in order to develop effective and lasting solutions that will allow increased market access for domestic peanuts into the European Union.

*Pecan Exports*.—The Committee directs the Department to prioritize interagency coordination and industry engagement to develop effective strategies to allow for increased market access of domestic pecans into India.

### OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $4,922,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 4,922,000 |

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $4,922,000 for the Office of Codex Alimentarius.

## FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Appropriations | Transfers from loan accounts | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | 222,000 | 6,063 | 228,063 |
| Committee recommendation, 2027 | 230,000 | 6,063 | 236,063 |

The Foreign Agricultural Service was established March 10, 1953, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1320, supplement 1. Public Law 83–690, approved August 28, 1954, transferred the agricultural attachés from the Department of State to FAS.

The mission of FAS overseas is to represent U.S. agricultural interests, promote export of domestic farm products, improve world trade conditions, and report on agricultural production and trade in foreign countries. FAS staff are stationed at 98 offices around the world, where they provide expertise in agricultural economics and marketing, as well as attaché services.

FAS carries out several export assistance programs to counter the adverse effects of unfair trade practices by competitors on U.S. agricultural trade. The Market Access Program [MAP] conducts both generic and brand-identified promotional programs in conjunction with nonprofit agricultural associations and private firms financed through reimbursable CCC payments.

The General Sales Manager was established pursuant to section 5(f) of the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation and 15 U.S.C. 714–714p. The funds allocated to the General Sales Manager are used for conducting the following programs: (1) CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102), including facilities financing guarantees; (2) Food for Peace; (3) section 416b Overseas Donations Program; (4) Market Access Program; and (5) programs authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 87–155) including barter, export sales of most CCC-owned commodities, export payments, and other programs as assigned to encourage and enhance the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends $230,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service.

*Borlaug Fellows Program*.—The Committee provides no less than $4,000,000 for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. This program provides training for international scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The fellows work closely with U.S. specialists in their fields of expertise and apply that knowledge in their home countries. The Committee recognizes the importance of this program in helping developing countries strengthen their agricultural practices and food security.

*Cochran Fellowship Program*.—The Committee provides no less than $5,000,000 for the Cochran Fellowship Program. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to provide additional support for the program through the CCC Emerging Markets Program.

*Disparate Effect of Hunger on Women and Girls*.—The Committee acknowledges the disparate impact of hunger on women and girls and the fact of the 333 million people who are severely hungry in the world right now, nearly 60 percent are women and girls. Furthermore, it is recognized that women are more likely than men to report food insecurity in almost 2/3 of countries and are more likely to suffer health conditions due to lack of nutrition, such as anemia. The Committee, therefore, encourages the Secretary to make women and girls a priority in the Food for Peace Title II program as they often eat last and least while sacrificing for their families.

*Food for Peace*.—For over 70 years the Food for Peace program has fed millions across the world and been a stabilizing force for

good in struggling countries. Not only does the program feed vulnerable populations, it helps sustain the U.S. agriculture community by requiring U.S. grown commodities be used in the program. The world is seeing unprecedented hunger in many areas of the world and the Committee does not believe now is the time to under fund this vital program.

*Quarterly Reports*.—The Secretary is directed to provide to the Committee a quarterly report on obligations and current balances of Food for Peace Title II grants. This report should also include any supplemental funding.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $1,200,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 1,380,000,000 |

*Commodities Supplied in Connection With Dispositions Abroad (Title II) (7 U.S.C. 1721–1726)*.—Commodities are supplied without cost through foreign governments to combat malnutrition and to meet famine and other emergency requirements. Commodities are also supplied for non-emergencies through public and private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations. The CCC pays ocean freight on shipments under this title and may also pay overland transportation costs to a landlocked country, as well as internal distribution costs in emergency situations. The funds appropriated for title II are made available to private voluntary organizations and cooperatives to assist these organizations in meeting administrative and related costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $1,380,000,000 for Food for Peace title II grants.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $240,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 240,000,000 |

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support education, child development, and food security for some of the world's poorest children. The program provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. Commodities made available for donation through agreements with private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergovernmental organizations, and foreign governments may be donated for direct feeding or for local sale to generate proceeds to support school feeding and nutrition projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $240,000,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

*Local and Regional Procurement*.—The Committee supports efforts to build long-term agriculture sustainability and establish a local investment in school feeding programs. With direct U.S. commodity contributions, projects supported by the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program have significantly improved the attendance, nourishment, and learning capacity of school-aged children in low-income countries throughout the impoverished world. New funding authorities would enable school feeding programs to proactively transition from direct commodity assistance to locally sourced agriculture products. The Committee directs the Secretary to conduct the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Project Program in accordance with the priorities of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT [LOANS]

CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Guaranteed loan levels |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | 6,063 |
| Committee recommendation | 6,063 |

In 1980, the CCC instituted the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102) under its charter authority. With this program, CCC guarantees, for a fee, payments due U.S. exporters under deferred payment sales contracts (up to 36 months) for defaults due to commercial as well as noncommercial risks. The risk to CCC extends from the date of export to the end of the deferred payment period covered in the export sales contract and covers only that portion of the payments agreed to in the assurance agreement. Operation of this program is based on criteria which will assure that it is used only where it is determined that it will develop new market opportunities and maintain and expand existing world markets for U.S. agricultural commodities. The program encourages U.S. financial institutions to provide financing to those areas where the institutions would be unwilling to provide financing in the absence of the CCC guarantees. CCC also provides facilities financing guarantees.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) establishes the program account. The subsidy costs of the CCC export guarantee programs are exempt from the requirement of advance appropriations of budget authority according to section 504(c)(2) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508). Appropriations to this account will be used for administrative expenses.

# TITLE VI

# RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] is a scientific regulatory agency whose mission is to promote and protect the public health and safety of Americans. The FDA's work is a blend of science and law. The Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–85) reaffirmed the responsibilities of the FDA: to ensure safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way and to monitor products for continued safety while they are in use. In addition, the FDA is entrusted with two critical functions in the Nation's war on terrorism: preventing willful contamination of all regulated products, including food; and improving the availability of medications to prevent or treat injuries caused by biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents.

The FDA Human Foods Program has the primary responsibility for assuring that the food supply, quality of foods, food ingredients, and dietary supplements are safe, sanitary, nutritious, wholesome, and honestly labeled and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled. The variety and complexity of the food supply has grown dramatically while new and more complex safety issues, such as emerging microbial pathogens, natural toxins, and technological innovations in production and processing, have developed. This program plays a major role in keeping the U.S. food supply among the safest in the world.

In January 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act [FSMA] (Public Law 111–353) was signed into law. This law enables the FDA to better protect public health by strengthening the food safety system. It enables the FDA to focus more on preventing food safety and feed problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides the FDA with new enforcement authorities designed to achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention- and risk-based food and feed safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gave the FDA important new tools to hold imported food and feed to the same standards as domestic food and feed and directs the FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with State and local authorities.

The FDA Drugs programs are comprised of four separate areas: Human Drugs, Animal Drugs, Medical Devices, and Biologics. The FDA is responsible for the lifecycle of products, including premarket review and post-market surveillance of human and animal drugs, medical devices, and biological products to ensure their safety and effectiveness. For Human Drugs, this includes assuring that

all drug products used for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease are safe and effective. Additional procedures include reviewing and evaluating investigational new drug applications; evaluation of market applications for new and generic drugs and labeling and composition of prescription and over-the-counter drugs; monitoring the quality and safety of products manufactured in, or imported into, the United States; and regulating the advertising and promotion of prescription drugs. The Animal Drugs and Feeds program ensures only safe and effective veterinary drugs, intended for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases in animals and the improved production of food-producing animals, are approved for marketing.

The FDA Biologics program assures that blood and blood products, blood test kits, vaccines, and therapeutics are pure, potent, safe, effective, and properly labeled. The program inspects blood banks and blood processors; licenses and inspects firms collecting human source plasma; evaluates and licenses biologics manufacturing firms and products; lot releases licensed products; and monitors adverse events associated with vaccine immunization, blood products, and other biologics.

The FDA Devices and Radiological Health program ensures the safety and effectiveness of medical devices and eliminates unnecessary human exposure to man-made radiation from medical, occupational, and consumer products. In addition, the program enforces quality standards under the Mammography Quality Standards Act (Public Law 108–365). Medical devices include thousands of products from thermometers and contact lenses to heart pacemakers, hearing aids, and MRIs. Radiological products include items such as microwave ovens and video display terminals.

The FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research [NCTR] in Jefferson, Arkansas, serves as a specialized resource, conducting peer-review scientific research that provides the basis for the FDA to make sound, science-based regulatory decisions through its premarket review and post-market surveillance. The research is designed to define and understand the biological mechanisms of action underlying the toxicity of products and lead to developing methods to improve assessment of human exposure, susceptibility, and risk of those products regulated by the FDA.

In 2009, Congress granted the FDA new authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. The FDA exercises this responsibility by protecting the public health from the health effects of tobacco, setting scientific standards and standards for tobacco product review, conducting compliance activities to enforce its authority over tobacco, and conducting public education and outreach about the health effects of tobacco products.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

| | |
|---|---|
| Budget authority | 3,522,150 |
| User fees | 3,743,234 |
| Total | 7,265,393 |

[In thousands of dollars]

| | Fiscal year 2026 enacted | Committee recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| Centers and related field activities: | | |
| Human Food Program | 1,171,319 | 1,202,534 |
| Center Activities | 576,058 | 601,312 |
| Field Activities | 595,261 | 601,222 |
| Human Drugs | 684,841 | 722,764 |
| Center Activities | 492,917 | 527,725 |
| Field Activities | 191,924 | 195,039 |
| Biologics | 259,295 | 260,541 |
| Center Activities | 216,323 | 216,323 |
| Field Activities | 42,972 | 44,218 |
| Animal Drugs | 218,399 | 226,699 |
| Center Activities | 162,543 | 170,843 |
| Field Activities | 55,856 | 55,856 |
| Medical and Radiological Devices | 454,874 | 465,220 |
| Center Activities | 366,365 | 375,465 |
| Field Activities | 88,509 | 89,755 |
| National Center for Toxicological Research | 71,758 | 71,758 |
| Office of the Commissioner | 219,852 | 230,822 |
| Rent, related activities, and rental payments for GSA | 341,812 | 341,812 |
| FDA Buildings and Facilities | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority, buildings and facilities | 3,427,150 | 3,527,150 |
| FDA Total without Buildings and Facilities | 3,422,150 | 3,522,150 |

*21st Century Cures*.—The Committee notes that 21st Century Cures Act sought to accelerate medical product development, modernize clinical trials, and advance biomedical research. In order to meet the goals of the 21st Century Cures Act, the FDA was also given expanded hiring authorities to accelerate the recruitment and retention of top scientific, technical, and professional talent at the agency. To ensure oversight, the Committee directs the agency to provide a semi-annual report to the Committee listing all of the positions that have been hired using the 21st Century Cures hiring authority for positions that are political appointees, designated as political hires, or otherwise performing political functions at the FDA that have been hired using Cures hiring authority (and to which office within the Office of the Commissioner and the Centers they were hired into), the number of such positions for each office and division within the Office of the Commissioner and Centers under Cures pay grades G, H, and I (for each of these positions indicate whether there has been a public search), and a list of all such positions that have undergone a conversion to Cures since April 1, 2025. The first semi-annual report should be provided to the Committee no later than 60 days after the enactment of this

act. The Committee also requests the agency to provide FDA's pay tables under Cures for pay grades G, H, and I.

*Accelerated Approval Pathway*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the FDA's continued use of the Accelerated Approval pathway to provide patients with unmet medical needs access to new therapies, especially to patients with rare and neurological diseases. Further, the Committee is concerned that the application of the regulatory flexibility offered under the Accelerated Approval Program is not uniform between the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]. The Committee directs the FDA to include in the annual report required by section 3210 of The Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act any steps taken to streamline processes among all centers activities, if any, the FDA has taken to ensure the Accelerated Approval Program is being administered consistently both CDER and CBER. Congress gave the FDA authority to ensure that the accelerated approval pathway continues to ensure early access to safe and effective new therapies for individuals with serious or life-threatening illnesses. The Committee recognizes the importance of and support for the FDA's continued use of the Accelerated Approval pathway to provide patients with unmet medical needs access to new therapies. In particular, the Committee supports the FDA's authority to approve therapies under the accelerated approval pathway based on surrogate endpoints or intermediate clinical endpoints and remains concerned about other HHS agencies discouraging the use of the pathway and thus patient access, particularly related to Alzheimer's disease therapies.

*Accelerated Approval for Rare Disease and Unmet Need*.—The Committee has grown concerned that the Accelerated Approval pathway has not been used appropriately and consistently across review divisions, as Congress specifically instructed during the most recent user fee reauthorization. The Committee believes the law is clear regarding the purpose and expectation that accelerated approval should be strongly considered when unmet need exists and that as clearly stated in the guidance, the FDA should only refrain from considering the accelerated approval pathway if a traditionally approved therapy exists and there is not documented/proven advantage over that therapy. The law is clear with built in limitations on the use of accelerated approval to address unmet medical needs.

*Addiction Risks of Commonly Prescribed Medications*.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about the ongoing addiction and overdose crisis associated not only with opioids but also with other frequently prescribed, potentially addictive medications, including certain benzodiazepines, stimulants, gabapentinoids, and non-benzodiazepine "Z drug" hypnotics, and notes the disproportionate burden these disorders place on veterans, first responders, and other high risk populations. The Committee is additionally concerned that, for pediatric and adolescent patients, there are few rigorously studied, non-addictive pharmacologic options for conditions such as insomnia and anxiety, leading to continued reliance on medications with significant addiction and misuse potential. In particular, the Committee is concerned about growing evidence that long term and other non-recommended use of Z drugs is asso-

ciated with misuse, dependence, and withdrawal. In addition, the Committee is troubled by the FDA's lack of progress in modernizing and addressing the limited range of validated, practical tools currently available to evaluate addiction potential across these drug classes and for proposed non-opioid or "safer" alternatives. The Committee notes that the FDA, consistent with its 2017 guidance Assessment of Abuse Potential of Drugs, uses human abuse potential [HAP] studies as an important tool in abuse potential assessment while acknowledging that they must be interpreted alongside broader nonclinical, clinical, and real-world evidence to yield a complete picture of addiction liability. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to prioritize the development, validation, and use of additional methodologies and data sources—including robust real world evidence, both domestic and ex U.S.—to complement or, where appropriate, supplant HAP studies in assessing addiction liability for opioids and other commonly prescribed addictive medications, with specific attention to impacts on veterans and first responders.

*Additive Ingredients in Drug Products*.—The Committee is aware that the Department of Health and Human Services has announced plans to phase out the use of certain additive ingredients from food products in the United States. The Committee also understands that additional actions may be underway to evaluate the use of certain additives as inactive ingredients in drug products, including prescription and over the counter [OTC] ingested drug products. To ensure that the Department's efforts to remove synthetic dyes and other additive ingredients with no medical or nutritious purpose comprehensively address all products available in the United States, the Committee encourages the Commissioner to provide a report to the Committee listing all additive ingredients, including synthetic dyes, artificial sweeteners, and artificial flavors, used in prescription and OTC ingested drug products that the Department plans to phase out the use of, as well as details on the Department's plan to eliminate those additive ingredients from food and ingested drug products.

*Advanced Manufacturing Technologies*.—The Committee encourages the Commissioner to continue to facilitate the utilization of advanced manufacturing technologies to improve manufacturing efficiencies and dependability. The Committee requests that the Commissioner continue to encourage manufacturers of critical generic sterile injectable products that commonly experience drug shortages to invest in innovative technologies that are effective and sustainable.

*Advisory Committees*.—The Committee emphasizes the critical role that FDA's Advisory Committees and other Federal Advisory Committee Act [FACA]-governed panels play in ensuring transparent, science-based decision-making on issues such as talc, infant formula, and cell and gene therapies. The Committee is concerned that, in recent instances, the agency has made significant regulatory and scientific determinations without convening standing or ad hoc Advisory Committees, without allowing public participation or comment, and without clear disclosure and vetting of potential conflicts of interest among experts. The Committee also notes that many of the FDA's Advisory Committees required by law are no

longer chartered or active. The Committee reminds the agency that under FACA, advisory panels must include balanced and qualified experts, undergo rigorous ethics review, disclose relevant conflicts of interest, and provide timely public notice, accessible meeting materials, and opportunities for public engagement. The Committee further directs the FDA to brief the Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of enactment of this act on the use of Advisory Committees by center and any associated changes to policies, guidance, standard operating procedures governing the use of Advisory Committees, the agency's plan to recharter all of the Advisory Committees required by law, and staffing rates of the offices responsible for putting on Advisory Committees.

*African Medicines Agency*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of coordinating with and supporting the African Medicines Agency [AMA] as it develops its capacity to streamline the regulatory framework for medical products across participating Member States. The Committee also encourages the FDA to continue its efforts to establish regulatory reliance with the African Medicines Agency to ensure that medical products approved by the AMA have gone through the FDA's gold-standard review process. Therefore, the Committee directs the FDA to coordinate with the Department of State and the Department of Commerce regarding its regulatory reliance efforts with AMA. The Committee also directs the FDA to brief the Committee within 30 days of enactment to update on its efforts to establish a regulatory reliance agreement with AMA.

*Agricultural Water Rule*.—The Committee directs the Human Food Program to continue its Produce Safety Network of technical agents to assist growers in conducting environmental assessments, evaluating agricultural water, and other crucial food safety functions. The Committee recommends the placement of agents should take into consideration the top U.S. States in most need of food safety technical resources, and mixed agricultural regions.

*Alcohol Use Disorder*.—The Committee encourages the FDA to update its 2015 draft guidance "Alcoholism: Developing Drugs for Treatment" to reflect recent advances in the science and clinical understanding of reduced alcohol use as an appropriate endpoint across the spectrum of AUD. In addition, the Committee encourages the FDA to convene a workshop with patients, researchers, and industry stakeholders to inform regulatory expectations for endpoints, while also fully considering the use of expedited programs such as Priority Review, Fast Track, and Breakthrough Therapy designation to accelerate development of new treatments. The Committee directs the FDA to report back to the Committee describing progress made in advancing new therapies for AUD, including stakeholder engagement efforts, adoption of more meaningful endpoints, and application of expedited review mechanisms.

*ALS*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of FDA's Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program research into regulatory science tools to expedite the development and approval of new drugs and devices. The Committee directs the FDA to fund section 3 of ACT for ALS, the HHS Public-Private Partnership for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases, to foster a network of research with funds from HHS and NIH.

*Alzheimer's Disease*.—The Committee continues to recognize the urgent need to advance innovative and flexible clinical trial designs for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Committee encourages the FDA to further expand efforts to support more inclusive, efficient, and scientifically robust trial models, including the use of decentralized and hybrid trial approaches, digital health technologies, and validated biomarkers where appropriate. The Committee also urges the FDA to strengthen outreach and engagement with underrepresented populations, including rural communities, to improve trial representation and ensure that study populations better reflect the individuals most affected by the disease. The FDA is further encouraged to work with sponsors, patients, caregivers, and community-based organizations to reduce participation burdens and modernize trial eligibility criteria where scientifically justified.

*Andrological Health*.—The Committee encourages the FDA to convene a public meeting discussing areas of unmet need for products addressing male reproductive and sexual health. This meeting will focus on identifying areas of unmet need and proposals developing new safe and effective products, focusing on products for male reproductive and sexual health.

*Angelman Syndrome*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Externally-Led Patient-Focused Drug Development [EL–PFDD] meeting on Angelman syndrome [AS] that was held in April 2025. The Voice of the Patient report generated from the meeting demonstrates that seemingly small or subtle clinical gains for people with AS have a profound impact. The Committee urges the FDA to ensure clinically meaningful improvements that matter to patients and families are recognized by utilizing this patient experience data to inform regulatory decision-making and the further development of therapies for Angelman syndrome.

*Animal Biotechnology Reviews*.—The Committee recognizes the role of the FDA in regulating intentional genomic alterations in animals under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.). The Committee encourages the FDA to evaluate and expand opportunities, consistent with existing law, to align its review policies with a product-based framework and to prioritize timely, science-based decisions for animal biotechnology products that do not present new or elevated risks.

*Animal Drug Compounding*.—The Committee notes that CVM published final guidance #256, Compounding Animal Drugs from Bulk Drug Substances, in 2022 to provide regulatory certainty about animal drug compounding from bulk drug substances. The guidance alone will not end current abusive practices that threaten animal health unless the applicable requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are vigorously enforced. The Committee understands enforcement was delayed providing a period of adjustment. The Committee directs the FDA to fully and properly enforcing the law as explained in guidance #256 to protect animal health and requests CVM to submit a report to the Committee on the number and type of compliance and enforcement actions taken involving compounded animal drugs.

*Animal Food Ingredients*.—Animal food additives are subject to review and approval by the Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM]

before they can enter the interstate marketplace to be sold for consumption by either livestock or pets. CVM also reviews certain other animal food ingredients (e.g., voluntary GRAS notices). The Committee remains concerned about the time associated with the ingredient review and approval process. Further, the Committee directs a briefing within 60 days of enactment of this act regarding staffing levels as well as an explanation of what may be contributing to the delays in review times.

*Animal Drug Reviews*.—The Committee is aware the Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM] does not pause or stop the review of applications for animal drugs while sponsors are responding to reviewer questions. The Committee directs CVM to pilot an initiative enabling a temporary delay during the review period for animal drug sentinel submissions (as defined in the Animal Drug User Fee Act Reauthorization Performance Goals and Procedures for fiscal years 2024 through 2028) unless CVM determines that there are statutory or regulatory barriers to execution. If there are such barriers, the Committee expects CVM to report back within 30 days of enactment of this act identifying what those barriers are.

*Animal Food Substances*.—The Committee understands that the Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM] is working to improve its review and approval of novel animal food substances that affect the structure or function of the animal through a means other than nutrition but only act within the animal's gastrointestinal tract. CVM shall ensure that persons developing novel animal food ingredients, including those to be delivered by bolus, have the opportunity to consult with CVM beginning early in the development process to enhance understanding and efficient use of submission pathways.

*Animal Product Terminology*.—The Committee is concerned about the increase of products, which do not include meat or egg products, that are labeled and marketed using animal food product terminology and related iconography. The Committee directs the FDA to conduct a study to better understand consumers' attitudes, beliefs, motivations, and perceptions relative to product composition, health attributes, and labeling. The FDA shall assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act, the FDA shall submit to the Committee, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

*Antimicrobial Research*.—The Committee supports the FDA's work to improve the understanding of biofilms and the regulatory science of biofilms associated with the FDA's work on medical devices, drug delivery, and public health. The Committee is encouraged by the FDA's goal to reduce healthcare associated infections as described in the FDA CDRH Regulatory Science Priorities report, support the domestic manufacture of medical devices and drugs delivery systems.

*Approvals, Safety, and Effectiveness*.—The Committee asserts that the FDA's authority to approve or review medical products for continued safety should be solely based on their authority outlined in applicable statutes including the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act; sound science, the scientific evaluation of the safety and efficacy of the medical products, as well as its authority to determine the

methodology to adequately perform the scientific evaluation; and devoid of political considerations.

*Artificial Intelligence in Drug Development*.—The Committee supports FDA's ongoing efforts to engage internal and external experts on the use of artificial intelligence in drug development and encourages the establishment of robust and transparent evaluation frameworks for assessing AI-enabled tools in regulatory reviews. As part of this work, the Committee urges the FDA to explore processes for the use of independently curated reference datasets for efficient AI tool validation to enhance the accuracy, reproducibility, and regulatory confidence of AI tools in drug development.

*Artificial Intelligence in Medical Devices*.—Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the FDA shall conduct an assessment of its existing authorities and provide to Congress a report that identifies, if any, changes to its statutory authorities necessary for the FDA to conduct oversight of post-deployment performance and patient safety monitoring of artificial intelligence/machine learning [AI/ML] based software as a medical device [SaMD] and AI/ML-enabled medical devices. The Commissioner's report to Congress should include recommended modifications to authority, law, or policy, including an estimate of the associated implementation costs and any adjustment in the allocation of resources.

*Avian Influenza*.—The FDA shall prioritize inspection and regulatory activities for dairy products for human and animal consumption, and animal food for H5N1 virus. The Committee encourages the FDA to ensure that the HFP, CVM, and OII are sufficiently staffed and resourced to carry out these duties.

*Bacterial Endotoxin Testing*.—The Committee recognizes that use of recombinant Bacterial Endotoxins Testing [rBET] methods as alternatives to tests using horseshoe crab blood could provide scientific, economic, supply chain, environmental, and animal protection benefits in the safety testing of vaccines, injectable therapies, and medical devices. The Committee recognizes that the United States Pharmacopeia [USP] chapter <86>, which includes rBET methods for endotoxins testing for products, has been finalized. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2026 report included a directive to update its 2012 Guidance for Industry on Pyrogen and Endotoxins Testing within 365 days of enactment of this act to include acceptance of appropriate rBET methods for endotoxins testing for new and existing products. The Committee notes that this guidance has not been updated yet and expects the FDA to meet the timeline on this directive.

*BIOSECURE Act*.—The Committee requests that the Commissioner conduct an assessment of the FDA's readiness to implement the BIOSECURE Act (section 851 of Public Law 119–60) by December 31, 2030. The assessment should include an analysis of staffing, funding, and other needs (including gaps or shortfalls in those resources) the FDA would need in order to fully implement the provisions of the BIOSECURE Act, and accommodate an anticipated increase in pharmaceutical approval applications, prior to December 31, 2030. The FDA shall complete this assessment within 1 year of the enactment of this act and submit the assessment to the congressional appropriations committees within 30 days of its completion.

*Biomarker Qualification Program*.—The Committee recognizes the critical role the FDA's Biomarker Qualification Program can have on improving the development, evaluation and review of innovative medical products, and directs the FDA to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, no later than 180 days after enactment of this act, assessing the greatest challenges facing the Biomarker Qualification Program, including factors contributing to delays or inefficiencies and the impact of those challenges on application sponsors, particularly in oncology drug development. The report should also include recommendations to improve the efficiency, transparency, and predictability of the program for sponsors, while maintaining rigorous scientific standards and supporting the timely development and review of oncology therapies for cancer patients.

*Biosimilars*.—The Committee recognizes the FDA's continued work to approve biosimilars that can enhance competition, drive down costs to healthcare systems, and increase patient access to biologic therapies. As of May 2026, the FDA has approved at least 90 biosimilar products. The Committee encourages FDA to continue its commitment to working with industry to resolve delays or setbacks in a timely manner so that high-quality, safe, and effective biosimilars, particularly those that would be the introduce new competition, can more quickly get to market.

*Biotechnology Regulatory Capacity*.—The Committee encourages the FDA to dedicate resources to strengthen staffing and expertise for reviewing biotechnology-derived food products, including plant- and microorganism-based innovations. The Committee also encourages the FDA to assess the feasibility of establishing a biotechnology regulatory fellowship program to support workforce development and expand technical capacity in response to increasing application volume and complexity.

*Botanicals*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of scientific work supporting the development and evaluation of botanical drug products. The Committee supports the FDA's efforts to strengthen safety assessments, chemical characterization, and human pharmacokinetic studies for botanicals. These activities provide essential data to ensure product quality, consistency, and consumer safety. The Committee encourages FDA to work with academic institutions and consider mechanisms, including cooperative agreements, to ensure continuity and long-term support for this scientific program and to expand FDA's capacity to evaluate complex natural product drug candidates.

*Botanical Dietary Supplements*.—The Committee appreciates the agency's efforts to strengthen regulation of dietary supplements—including through the use of the Dietary Supplement Ingredient Directory (formally known as Information on Select Dietary Supplement Ingredients and Other Substances) and the Botanical Safety Consortium. The Committee encourages FDA to further invest in research to identify potential drug interactions with botanical drugs.

*Cancer Immunotherapy and Artificial Intelligence [AI]*.—The Committee is encouraged by recent progress in developing personalized treatments designed for a patient's unique cancer. AI models specifically are becoming critically important in this effort. The Committee commends the FDA for advancing the use of these mod-

els by issuing its recent draft guidance, "Considerations for the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Support Regulatory Decision-Making for Drug and Biological Products." To provide additional clarity, future guidance should address how investigators should incorporate timely AI updates into ongoing clinical trials and development pathways where the drug relies on an AI output. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to work with stakeholders to develop guidance on how to incorporate iterative changes to AI technologies within the regulatory pathway of an AI-dependent personalized treatment.

*Canned Tuna*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA has yet to finalize a proposed rule on canned tuna standards of identity and standard of fill of container for canned tuna. The Committee directs the FDA to finalize proposed regulations revising the standard of identity and standard fill for canned tuna to the drained weight fill of container standard as soon as possible given competing deregulatory actions and priority nutrition activities to protect and enhance public health.

*Cell and Gene Therapy*.—The Committee encourages the FDA to continue applying regulatory and manufacturing pathways to support the development and scalable delivery of cell and gene therapies. The Committee also urges the FDA to identify opportunities to support the conduct of first-in-human studies in the United States through increased predictability and efficiencies for the Investigational New Drug application process. Strengthening these frameworks can help expand patient access to promising treatments, particularly for those with few or no therapeutic options.

*Center for Tobacco Products Forms and eSubmission Modernization*.—The Committee supports the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to modernize the Center for Tobacco Products' [CTP] electronic submission systems consistent with the requirements of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act [IDEA] (Public Law 115–336). The Committee believes full implementation of 21st Century IDEA will improve internal workflows, enhance digital service delivery, and strengthen public health oversight. The FDA is directed to brief the Committees on Appropriations not later than 180 days after enactment of this act on progress toward compliance with Public Law 115–336 and measurable improvements in processing efficiency and user experience.

*Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science*.—The Committee supports the ongoing research and collaboration underway at the Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation program. The Committee recognizes that these programs help the Agency improve public health, address scientific challenges presented by revolutions in medical product development, and improve food safety and quality. The Committee commends the Agency for launching this program in 2011 and granting 5-year cooperative agreements from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2027. The Committee understands that at the end of fiscal year 2025, the decision was made to redesign the program to maximize public health impact and efficiency. For this reason, the Committee directs the Agency to invest in locations with commensurate capacity to the existing locations and to allow the current CERSIs to use unspent balances past August 31, 2026, to enable a successful completion

of programs, including completing grant closeout report, scientific knowledge dissemination and other required activities) and to capitalize on existing studies.

*Center for Veterinary Medicine*.—The Committee supports the Agency's efforts to develop and implement a pilot program by end of the fiscal year to modernize the residue method trial process by using a single long-range method and encourages the continuation of this work.

*Chemotherapy Shortages*.—The Committee is concerned by persistent shortages of key chemotherapeutic drugs, such as cisplatin and carboplatin, which have disrupted cancer care and led to rationing in some instances. To avoid treatment delays and disruptions, the Committee urges the FDA to create a "Vulnerable Medicines" list that identifies critical drugs that have experienced chronic or recurrent shortages, but which are not included on the Essential Medicines list created under Executive Order 13944.

*Children in Clinical Research*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA has not implemented key provisions of Public Law 108–155 to monitor clinical investigations including children. The Committee requests a briefing within 90 days of the enactment of this act which should also include any challenges the FDA is facing with implementation, study completion, and pediatric labeling updates in a timely manner, to help ensure that children benefit from timely, evidence-based drug information.

*Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*.—Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease [COPD] continues to be among the leading causes of death, chronic illness, and disease economic burden in the United States. Over 15 million Americans have been diagnosed with COPD and it is estimated that a similar number are undiagnosed and not receiving appropriate treatment. The Committee is aware of efforts to support development of COPD treatments for earlier stages of the disease aiming to slow progression and reduce the burden of disease on individuals and society. To support these efforts, patient-centered, novel clinical outcome measures are needed to advance these potential therapies. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue to collaborate with the COPD Foundation and other stakeholders in this important work.

*Chronic Pain*.—The Committee recognizes the significant unmet need for safe and effective nonopioid treatments for chronic pain and notes the FDA's recent draft guidance, "Development of NonOpioid Analgesics for Chronic Pain," which seeks to accelerate the availability of such therapies and reduce reliance on prescription opioids. The Committee further observes that advanced late-stage clinical trials on botanical, cannabinoid-based therapies for chronic pain have been conducted in Europe, preparing the path for near-term European approvals of these medicines, underscoring growing international alignment around providing access to innovative, regulated, nonopioid therapies for this indication. In light of these developments, the Committee urges the FDA to prioritize timely, science-based review of products intended for chronic pain, including botanical products, consistent with its non-opioid analgesic guidance, including consideration of patient-reported outcomes, the potential for improved efficacy and safety over the current standard of care and the potential to reduce or eliminate opioid

use. The Committee directs the FDA to provide, within 270 days of enactment of this act, a report to the Committee detailing any scientific or regulatory gaps impeding the evaluation of botanical-derived therapies for chronic pain, and to consider opportunities to harmonize, as appropriate, with relevant evidence and experience emerging from Europe and other international regulators, consistent with U.S. statutory requirements.

*Clinical Trial Data from Overseas*.—The Committee is deeply concerned about the trend of clinical trials shifting overseas and, in particular, the use of clinical trial sites in certain jurisdictions within the People's Republic of China where patient safety standards, human rights, and independence from state interference are not verified. This trend stems from incentives for pharmaceutical companies to conduct clinical trials overseas to the detriment of American patients. The Committee directs FDA to examine, assess, and improve, as appropriate, how good clinical practice and human subject protection regulations are enforced with respect to trials outside the United States. In addition, FDA shall consider how sponsors can address challenges in initiating Phase 1 clinical studies in the United States and improve enrollment and retention of U.S. study participants in Phase 2 and 3 studies by FDA's developing innovative approaches to trial conduct and reviewing and issuing guidance and regulation, as appropriate. In addition, FDA is directed to brief the Committee within 120 days on actions the Agency has taken over the past year to address these issues.

*Clinical Trial Efficacy*.—The Committee supports the FDA's continued efforts to require study sponsors to develop and submit action plans for including appropriately representative individuals in phase 3 studies of new drugs. The Committee directs the FDA to consider strategies that would assist sponsors with how it can use its authorities in a flexible manner and to provide additional guidance to study sponsors regarding mechanisms to remedy inadequate progress as those study sponsors continue to work with the FDA to overcome common barriers to participation. This includes restrictive eligibility criteria and limited enrollment outreach, particularly in rural or underserved areas. The FDA is directed to, within 180 days of enactment of this act, provide a report to the Committee and to post on a publicly accessible website on steps it has and can still take to assist sponsors with overcoming barriers to participation.

*Clinical Trial Endpoint Validation*.—The Committee encourages FDA to explore the establishment of a clear and consistent framework to support the validation of surrogate and intermediate clinical endpoints, and other biomarkers that may serve as reliable indicators of outcomes, particularly in the context of serious or life-threatening conditions with limited treatment options. Such a framework would support timely and robust evidence development, inform regulatory decision-making, and enable the advancement of innovative therapies where traditional endpoints may be impractical.

*Clinical Trial Guidance*.—The Committee welcomes the draft guidance under docket FDA–2023–D–1987. The Committee directs the FDA to issue final guidance no later than 270 days after the enactment of this act.

*Clinical Trial Initiation*.—The Committee is concerned about unnecessary administrative barriers to study startup and directs the FDA to promote streamlined clinical trial initiation through increased use of centralized IRBs, standardized clinical trial agreements and templates, and simplified informed consent processes. The Committee also directs the FDA to expand and consistently implement the use of novel study designs and real-world evidence [RWE], where appropriate, across relevant review divisions, ensuring that learnings from pilot programs and guidance are integrated into routine regulatory practice.

*Clinical Trial Operations*.—The Committee recognizes that staffing shortages are present at clinical research sites, exacerbating longstanding challenges to the timely collection and efficient reporting of clinical trial data in cancer research. The burden of data collection, entry, and verification is high and rests primarily with site staff, who most often input data manually. Meanwhile, the data fields requested for developing a given drug class have become increasingly numerous and may be complex. The Committee urges the FDA to provide guidance to cancer trial sites, sponsors, and contractors that both defines necessary data elements and streamlines data entry and verification processes. Such guidance will be foundational in maximizing clinical trial efficiency through a targeted reduction of the administrative burden currently placed upon research staff.

*Complete Response Letters*.—The Committee is concerned that recent Complete Response Letters for rare and predominantly pediatric indications underscore the difficulty of applying traditional trial paradigms to ultra-small populations where few or no alternative treatment options exist and every enrolled patient represents a meaningful proportion of the disease community. The Committee supports the FDA's use of congressionally authorized expedited programs and regulatory pathways—including fast track, breakthrough therapy designation, accelerated approval (including surrogate or intermediate endpoints), priority review, and rare pediatric disease priority review vouchers—to speed development and review of safe and effective therapies for serious and life-threatening rare diseases. The Committee expects the FDA, particularly with serious and life-threatening rare diseases and in high-risk pediatric populations, to follow current law and carefully weigh the scientific advantages of placebo-controlled designs against the ethical and practical burdens of assigning patients to an inactive or less effective control, including risks of irreversible harm, loss of clinical opportunity, and deterrence of trial participation. The Committee affirms that for certain development programs a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial remains appropriate for generating robust evidence on safety and efficacy and is often central to FDA's regulatory decision-making. The Committee further directs the FDA to ensure that review divisions transparently communicate how ethical principles, evolving standards of care, and the lived experience of rare disease patients and families are incorporated into decisions on control arm selection, the acceptability of placebo use, and evidentiary expectations, including for single-arm trials, accelerated approval, and other statutory pathways that fa-

cilitate earlier patient access while preserving post market obligations and safeguards.

*Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy Therapies Pathway*.—The Committee encourages the FDA to consider alternative clinical trial endpoints and Real World Evidence that may reasonably predict meaningful improvements in survival, respiratory function, and neurodevelopmental outcomes, and to facilitate the timely development of therapies for congenital myotonic dystrophy.

*Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing*.—The Committee appreciates the FDA's continued efforts to adapt drug manufacturing guidance to align with new advanced manufacturing processes such as continuous flow manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients [API], including the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research's Framework for Regulatory Advanced Manufacturing Evaluation [FRAME] Initiative. The Committee is concerned that a current lack of clear standards and realistic quality assessment methods for continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing are creating unnecessary risk for capital investments in advanced manufacturing equipment. The Committee notes the promising potential for continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing to reduce the cost of generic pharmaceutical production and make it more financially viable to increase generic pharmaceutical manufacturing in the United States. The Committee also notes that investors and manufacturers may hesitate to make the significant capital investments required to purchase continuous manufacturing equipment when standard practices for quality monitoring and licensing are not yet established.

*Counterfeit Drugs*.—The Committee is concerned by the increase of counterfeit drugs that are on the market. The Committee awaits this report, as directed in fiscal year 2026, that outlines the challenges that the FDA faces with preventing counterfeit drugs from reaching patients. The report should include recommendations for funding or authorities needed to address this problem to protect public health.

*C-peptide*.—The Committee commends the FDA for its ongoing efforts to evaluate C-peptide as a potential validated surrogate endpoint in type 1 diabetes [T1D] clinical trials. The Committee provided $2,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and continues this funding for fiscal year 2027 for T1D and C-peptide initiatives and directs the FDA to prioritize completion of its evaluation of C-peptide as a validated surrogate endpoint for disease-modifying therapies in T1D, including the assessment of its relationship to outcomes that matter most to patients such as preservation of beta cell function, reduction in severe hypoglycemia, and long-term complications; and to publish its updated findings through scientific publications and/or FDA guidance, as appropriate. The Committee further directs the FDA to utilize the funding provided to update existing regulatory guidance, or develop new guidance as needed, on the design and conduct of disease-modifying therapy trials in T1D in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure that the guidance reflects patient-identified priorities, burdens, and acceptable levels of risk and uncertainty. At a minimum, such guidance should address appropriate inclusion and exclusion criteria across the T1D disease continuum, randomization and stratification strategies that account

for real-world clinical heterogeneity, selection of clinical and surrogate endpoints such as C-peptide and hemoglobin A1C, incorporation of meaningful patient-reported outcomes that capture treatment burden and quality of life, and the appropriate use of innovative and efficient trial designs, including adaptive designs and well-justified historical or external control groups, to accelerate development of safe and effective disease-modifying therapies for people living with and at risk for T1D.

*Developing Products to Treat Rare Diseases*.—The Committee is aware of continued advancements in the number of therapies in development for rare disease patients, but notes that 95 percent of rare diseases do not have FDA-approved treatments. The Committee recognizes the importance of the Orphan Products Grant Program, comprised of the Clinical Trials Grant Program and the Natural History Studies Grants Program, that has led to over 80 FDA-approved therapies. The Committee funds the program at its fully authorized level and directs the FDA to move forward with soliciting and supporting research to address rare disease proposals.

*Dietary Supplements*.—The Committee acknowledges the important role of the Human Foods Program [HFP] and the Office of Dietary Supplement Programs [ODSP] in developing validated analytical methods to authenticate dietary supplement ingredients and assess their quality, integrity, and safety. The Committee further recognizes emerging needs in evaluating novel proteins, natural colors, and natural fragrances and directs the FDA to work with academic institutions to strengthen scientific capacity within HFP and ODSP to generate foundational data needed to assess the safety, identity, and quality of these ingredients, ensuring FDA has the tools required to support regulatory decision-making. Further, the Committee strongly supports efforts to require that all products marketed as "dietary supplements" be listed with the FDA, including basic information about these products. Further, the Committee believes that the FDA's authorities over products marketed as dietary supplements should be clarified to facilitate enforcement against unlawfully marketed products. This would allow the FDA to know when new products are introduced to the market, quickly identify dangerous or illegal products on the market, and act to protect consumers.

*Donor Milk*.—The Committee recognizes that while the FDA has authority to regulate Donor Human Milk, there are no explicit statutory provisions or regulations that specifically address the regulation of Donor Human Milk as a Critical Food. The Committee is concerned that this lack of specific regulation puts infants who rely on Donor Human Milk at risk. The Committee directs the agency to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment about current regulations for Donor Human Milk and outline what additional authorities and funding would be beneficial for the FDA to more robustly regulate Donor Human Milk.

*Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trials in Rare Diseases*.—The Committee is concerned that recent Complete Response Letters for rare and predominantly pediatric indications underscore the difficulty of applying traditional trial paradigms to ultra-small populations where few or no alternative treatment options exist and every enrolled patient represents a meaningful proportion of the

populations where few or no alternative treatment options exist and every enrolled patient represents a meaningful proportion of the disease community. The Committee supports the FDA's use of congressionally authorized expedited programs and regulatory pathways—including fast track, breakthrough therapy designation, accelerated approval (including surrogate or intermediate endpoints), priority review, and rare pediatric disease priority review vouchers—to speed development and review of safe and effective therapies for serious and life-threatening rare diseases. The Committee expects the FDA, particularly in serious and life-threatening rare diseases and high-risk pediatric populations, to follow current law and carefully weigh the scientific advantages of placebo-controlled designs against the ethical and practical burdens of assigning patients to an inactive or less effective control, including risks of irreversible harm, loss of clinical opportunity, and deterrence of trial participation. The Committee affirms that for certain development programs a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial remains appropriate for generating robust evidence on safety and efficacy and is often central to the FDA's regulatory decision-making. The Committee further directs the FDA to ensure that review divisions transparently communicate how ethical principles, evolving standards of care, and the lived experience of rare disease patients and families are incorporated into decisions on control arm selection, the acceptability of placebo use, and evidentiary expectations, including for single-arm trials, accelerated approval, and other statutory pathways that facilitate earlier patient access while preserving post-market obligations and safeguards.

*Drugs of Concern*.—The Committee is aware that the chemical xylazine, which can be used as an animal tranquilizer, is being mixed with fentanyl, cocaine and other drugs to intensify and prolong intoxication or to compensate for weaker strength drugs. The Committee has recently become aware of the presence of a new animal and human tranquilizer in illicit drugs: medetomidine. Like xylazine, medetomidine is being combined with fentanyl and sometimes xylazine to prolong the intoxicating effect of the drug. Yet, many drug users are unaware that the drugs they purchased may also contain drugs like xylazine and medetomidine. This has posed additional challenges in responding to illicit drug use, including intense side effects, an increased burden on first responders and medical professionals called on to treat such people, and decreased efficacy of the overdose reversal drugs like naloxone. The Committee directs the FDA, the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA], and Office of National Drug Control Policy [ONDCP] and Customs and Border Patrol [CBP] to jointly brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment on its plan for addressing the diversion of drugs like xylazine and medetomidine and other FDA-approved drugs for animal and human use into the illicit drug supply. The Committee also urges the FDA to work with the DEA and CBP, and any other relevant agencies, on a joint strategy for addressing current and future potential diversion of FDA-approved medications into the supply of illicit drugs flooding the streets of America.

*Drug Development Tool [DDT] Qualification Programs*.—The 21st Century Cures Act formally established Qualification of Drug Development Tools [DDTs] to promote collaboration and expedite the development of novel therapies. The act directed the Secretary to establish a process to qualify various DDTs including biomarkers, clinical outcome assessments [COAs], patient reported outcomes [PROs] and surrogate endpoints [SE]. To date, however, the impact of these tools has been limited. The Committee encourages the FDA to better support complex biomarker development and share outcome assessments to further developer understanding of how and when COAs can be used in the drug development process.

*Drug Labels*.—The Committee commends the Agency for recognizing that out-of-date boxed warnings can harm access to clinically necessary care for patients and for taking steps to ensure that drug labels accurately characterize benefits and risks, in light of treatment advances and current science. The Committee understands that in response to Congressional request, the FDA is reviewing the existing class-wide boxed warning associated with certain antipsychotic treatments to determine whether such a warning is accurate and appropriate. The Committee urges the FDA to complete this important work expeditiously and no later than the end of fiscal year 2027, and report back to the Committee on the progress within 180 days after enactment of this act.

*Drug Shortages*.—The Committee is concerned by ongoing drug shortages in the United States, including for drugs that have been on the shortage list for many years, without solutions to remove them from the list. The Committee awaits this report, as directed in fiscal year 2026, that outlines how it is working with industry to ensure these drugs are removed from the shortage list, and recommendations for improving supply chain resilience to ensure that drugs are not returned to the list and should also include the methodology used by the FDA to determine how a drug is added and removed from the drug shortage list.

*Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy*.—While important progress has been made on Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy treatments, the unmet medical need remains high. Therapeutic options vary widely depending on a patient's genotype, age, and stage of disease and no available treatments are curative. While evolving treatment options and earlier diagnosis are leading to improved natural history for Duchenne in particular, this also complicates the ability to evaluate potential therapies without requiring a control group. Patients and families should be able to benefit from better treatment outcomes without the community having to revert to placebo-controlled trials for a condition that remains progressive and lethal. The Committee urges the FDA to convene a public meeting to examine pathways for the continued use of natural history as a control for Duchenne muscular dystrophy trials.

*Disease Specific Guidance and Neurodegenerative Disease Reporting*.—The Committee recognizes efforts the FDA has taken to make guidance documents searchable and easier to navigate. To continue to streamline guidance documents and provide clarity and predictability for drug developers to understand which guidance documents apply for specific disease conditions, the Committee further

directs the FDA to create publicly facing, disease-specific guidance repositories. Given challenges with neurodegenerative drug development, the Committee directs the FDA to prioritize centralized guidance pages for neurodegenerative conditions including Parkinson's disease, within 180 days. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, the FDA is also directed to submit a report to the Committee identifying any existing gaps or needs in the FDA's expertise in researching the factors linked to the development, treatment and cure of neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's, as well a plan for how the agency can increase collaboration with outside experts on this topic going forward, including through grants, cooperative agreements, or other mechanisms, subject to any identified funding needs.

*East Asia Offices*.—The Committee recognizes that the FDA is in the process of opening offices in Japan and Vietnam in order to have a permanent presence in East Asia, outside of China, to conduct inspections, including unannounced inspections, and strengthen regulatory control and oversight for products being produced in that region, including devices, drugs, and aquaculture products. The Committee provides $2,470,000 to the Office of Global Policy and Strategy to support this initiative.

*Enteric Viruses*.—Frozen berries are part of a healthy diet and have a long history of safe consumption in the United States. At the same time, the global supply chain is diverse, with regions that are endemic for hepatitis A and norovirus. Ensuring food safety is the highest priority and the Committee encourages the FDA to work collaboratively with the frozen berry industry to strengthen the agency's 2025 Prevention Strategy for the Control of Enteric Viruses in Berries. Given the complexity of associated risk factors and global scale of potential challenges, the Committee further encourages the FDA to work with industry to strengthen the supply chain related recommendations in its Prevention Strategy.

*Essential Medical Devices*.—The FDA issued a safety communication in November 2023, with additional updates in March, April, and May of 2026, warning consumers, health care providers, and healthcare facilities to avoid syringes that are manufactured in China due to quality and patient safety concerns around leaks, breakage, and other problems. However, foreign needles and syringes, particularly from China, continue to be imported into the United States. These products are being widely used throughout the U.S. healthcare system despite the serious risks to patients and the resulting erosion of the domestic manufacturing base. The Committee strongly supports efforts to protect patient safety, national security, and vulnerable domestic supply chains for critical industries, like essential medical devices. The Committee directs the FDA to provide a report to the Committee on steps it will take to increase awareness of problematic syringes from China, including discussion of the use of domestically produced syringes as alternatives where appropriate.

*Essential Medicines*.—The Committee expects the Commissioner to continue its work on Essential Medicines, as outlined in Senate Report 119–37. Specifically, the Committee expects the Commissioner in coordination with other relevant Federal entities, and, as appropriate, in consultation with stakeholders who have relevant

expertise, update, maintain, and publish a list of essential medicines initially developed in response to Executive Order 13944 (85 Fed. Reg. 49929) to include drug and biological products, including their active ingredients that are: directly related to responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats and incidents; of greatest priority for providing health care and identified as being at high risk of shortage; or the shortage of which would have an adverse health outcome on patients with chronic conditions. As outlined in Senate Report 119–37, the Committee expects the Secretary to continue using the products listed on the Essential Medicines List, in coordination with other relevant Federal entities, and through public-private partnerships, map, or otherwise visualize, the supply chains of the drug and biological products on the Essential Medicines List, including, to the extent data are available, their key starting materials, excipients, and active ingredients. The Committee continues to encourage the Commissioner to use data analytics to identify supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national and health security. The Committee expects the Secretary to continue its work to submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress on (1) the current status of efforts to map and analyze supply chains for essential medicines, including coordination among relevant Federal entities; and (2) the extent to which the FDA uses data analytics to conduct predictive modeling for anticipated drug shortages and risks associated with supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security; and (3) any gaps or limitations in utilizing data analytics to mitigate identified risks, including drug shortages, and increase resiliency of essential medicine supply chains. The Committee requests that the FDA submit this report, assessing the FDA's updated Essential Medicines List, within 18 months of enactment of this act. The Committee notes that it has not received the report outlined in Senate Report 119–37. Therefore, within 30 days of enactment, the Committee requests an update on the status of this report should it remain outstanding.

*Facilities*.—The Committee is concerned about the FDA's facilities footprint and directs the FDA to provide biannual briefings to the Committee outlining any proposed changes to the FDA's facilities, including FDA's Headquarters. The Committee is particularly interested in the FDA's recent efforts to close and consolidate offices in the FDA's portfolio.

*Food Borne Illness Response*.—The Committee supports efforts to provide Americans with healthier food choices but is troubled by the lack of coordination and transparency between the USDA, FDA, and CDC in safeguarding our Nation's food supply, particularly during foodborne illness outbreak investigations. The Committee also directs the FDA, CDC, and USDA to provide a joint briefing to the Committee within 60 days of enactment outlining plans to implement strategies to improve interagency collaboration and public communication, including additional tools that the agencies may need to improve this coordination.

*Food Additives*.—The Committee supports the FDA's effort to develop clear, science-based guidance to ensure product safety, consumer confidence, and regulatory clarity for plant or otherwise derived cannabinoids. However, the Committee remains concerned by

the growth of food products that contain plant or otherwise derived cannabinoids as no cannabinoid is approved for any use in food as a food additive. In some of the over 110 warning letters issued to firms marketing plant or otherwise derived cannabinoid products since 2018, the FDA notes that the available data for some cannabinoids raises serious concerns about potential harm and there is little or no available information concerning the safety of their use in food. The Committee encourages the FDA, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies and state partners, to develop a plan to coordinate appropriate enforcement actions. The Committee directs the FDA to report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on this effort to protect consumers from unlawfully adulterated foods and food additives in interstate commerce.

*Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act*.—The Committee directs the FDA to provide a briefing on implementation of the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act's clinical trial participant representation action plan requirements, including a full accounting of how centers are currently interacting with sponsors and reviewing plans in the absence of finalized guidance.

*Food Chemical and Color Reviews*.—The Committee directs the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] to use robust and well-established scientific principles to conduct pre-market assessments on chemicals that could end up in the food supply, when such assessments are required by law or regulation, and to prioritize and conduct post-market food chemical assessments (or reviews) resulting in risk-based conclusions while prioritizing risk management practices as needed for chemicals already in the food supply. The Committee directs the FDA to proceed through a post-market review assessment of color additives authorized by the FDA under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [FD&C Act] before the removal of any use authorizations other than removal based on industry abandonment or where such color additives are deemed unsafe by law. The Committee is aware of potential impacts to the U.S. food supply chain of any widespread phase out on color additives authorized by FDA under the FD&C Act and directs the FDA, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, to ensure that any changes will not significantly disrupt the U.S. food supply while considering any phase outs of ingredients.

*Food Safety Funding*.—The FDA's fiscal year 2027 budget includes a request for funding to support the removal of harmful chemicals from the food supply by addressing unsafe chemical additives used in food. The requested funds will expand "Closer to Zero" to eliminate toxic elements from foods consumed by children and develop a compliance system to test naturally derived food colors for elemental contaminants including lead, mercury, arsenic, and cadmium. With these funds the FDA will also explore solutions to concerns with GRAS and PFAS modeling in food-producing animals. The Committee provides $20,000,000 to support these food safety initiatives.

*Food Safety Modernization Act Outreach to Small Farmers*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA is not adequately funding a program to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to educate small farmers on compliance with the FSMA Produce Safe-

ty Rule and rules for agricultural water. The Committee expects the Human Foods Program to extend and expand the cooperative agreement established for this purpose and directs the FDA to spend no less than fiscal year 2026 levels on this program for critical outreach and training services to small farmers until the Produce Safety Rule is fully implemented, including enforcement and compliance of subpart E (agricultural water) and subpart F (biological soil amendments of animal origin) for farms and businesses of all sizes.

*Field Based Prevention Strategies*.—The Committee directs the FDA Center for Excellence to continue to dedicate funds as necessary to develop field-based prevention strategies for the fresh produce industry.

*Foreign Approved Drugs*.—The Committee supports efforts to increase the tools available to the FDA to ensure the timely approval of lifesaving drugs and encourages the FDA to examine opportunities to facilitate submission of marketing applications by manufacturers of drugs with marketing authorization in countries listed in 21 U.S.C. 382, Federal, Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 802(b), but which are not approved in the United States.

*Foreign Infant Formula Factory Oversight*.—The Committee is committed to ensuring that the oversight of foreign infant formula manufacturers is on par with domestic manufacturers. FDA is directed to report all facility oversight criteria and inspection classifications within 1 year of enactment of this act. The report must identify foreign facility inspections and describe how FDA ensures equal oversight.

*Foreign Infant Formula Resilience*.—The Committee restates that infant formula is a critical food. As demonstrated during the shortage in 2022, disruptions to the National infant formula supply and production chain have significant impacts on infants, their families, and our National security. Since 2022, the FDA's ongoing efforts to increase the amount of formula in the United States have included importation as a strategy to support and secure the U.S. supply chain. The Committee is concerned about rising reliance on foreign formula that may impact domestic production levels. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the FDA is directed to provide detailed information about rates of infant formula importation for the last decade. Additionally, the FDA, in consultation with USDA, is directed to conduct an assessment of the following issues: what is the economic impact of increased levels of infant formula importation on the U.S. infant formula supply chain, including domestic formula manufacturers and dairy farmers; what national security risks are associated with rising importation levels of a critical food like infant formula, or ingredients of such critical food, particularly from countries of concern such as the People's Republic of China, and increased U.S. reliance on this; provide detailed information showing how FDA ensures that oversight of foreign formula facilities is on par with oversight of domestic facilities; and what guidelines or caps, if any, Congress should consider for foreign infant formula imports.

*Foreign Medical Device Inspections*.—The Committee is concerned about medical device recalls from foreign facilities and directs FDA to strengthen its foreign inspection program. The FDA

shall increase inspections of overseas drug and device manufacturers, with an emphasis on facilities in China where quality issues are more prevalent. The Committee expects the FDA to report within 180 days on concrete steps taken to improve these inspection programs. The report shall detail specific measures to prevent manufacturers from concealing violations during pre-announced visits and ensure imported drugs and devices consistently meet U.S. safety standards.

*Genetically Targeted Technologies*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA's current definition and regulatory treatment of genetically targeted technologies [GTTs], including small interfering RNA [siRNA] therapies and antisense oligonucleotides [ASOs], does not appropriately reflect their biologic like scientific, manufacturing, and clinical characteristics. The Committee is further concerned that treating these complex products as conventional small molecule drugs results in inconsistent regulatory treatment of technologies that are more appropriately aligned with biologics. Therefore, the Committee directs the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to review the agency's existing definitions, approval pathways, and product classifications for GTTs and to provide recommendations, including any legislative or regulatory changes needed, on whether certain categories of GTTs should be reclassified and regulated as biologic products under the Public Health Service Act.

*Global Competitiveness and Inspection Capability*.—The Committee supports the FDA's outlined activities in the fiscal year 2027 request related to global competitiveness and improved inspection capability by providing $24,900,000. The funding supports the FDA's efforts to meet ever-growing inspectional demands domestically and abroad and to support the establishment of new or advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing in the United States, strengthening supply chains and reducing dependence on foreign pharmaceutical manufacturing.

*Grain Reconditioning*.—The Committee appreciates the FDA and the Federal Grain Inspection Service [FGIS] working to improve their coordination regarding the timely inspection and standardization of grain at export facilities. The Committee directs the FDA and the FGIS to implement these improvements expeditiously and continue its consultations with key stakeholders, including industry, to ensure efficient approvals for reconditioning plans for lots/sublots of grain that are found actionable for specific conditions.

*GRAS*.—The Committee remains concerned over expanding inconsistent state laws and legislative activity over food ingredients, including an evolving list of state-driven ingredient bans, requirements for warning labels, mandatory safety review notifications, and independent safety reviews. The inconsistent requirements among States threaten the FDA's unified Federal food safety system and the interstate commerce of food and beverage goods in the United States, and may result in consumer confusion, without meaningfully advancing public health. Significantly, the added burden on food manufacturers and distributors could lead to additional food inflation. The Committee reaffirms the essential role the FDA plays in determining the safety of food and the Nation's food and beverage supply and supports the steps the FDA is currently tak-

ing to evaluate the safety of priority food and color additives and GRAS substances.

*Heavy Metals in Baby Food*.—The Committee is concerned that lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury are often present in dangers quantities in foods intended for consumption by infants and toddlers and encourages the FDA to coordinate with the USDA to ensure that a wide variety of healthy nutritious foods remain available to participants of Federal nutrition programs.

*Highly Sensitized Kidney Transplant Patients*.—The Committee recognizes that highly sensitized patients, who comprise 15 percent of the kidney transplant waiting list, face severe challenges in finding compatible donor organs. These patients experience significantly longer wait times and reduced access to transplantation compared to non-sensitized patients, and many remain on dialysis for extended periods. The Committee directs the FDA to submit a report within 180 days after enactment of this act identifying actions the Agency can take, in coordination with other Federal partners, to reduce barriers that may limit patient access to safe and effective desensitization therapies for highly sensitized kidney transplant patients.

*Hiring of Scientists and Product Reviewers*.—The Committee supports the FDA's goal of hiring of over 3,000 new scientific, product review and inspection staff. The Committee directs the agency to ensure the robust and ongoing training of review staff in the complexities of rare disease reviews, which are approximately half of all FDA review applications. Training must be in coordination with the FDA Rare Disease Hub developed training materials. The FDA is a science-based regulatory agency whose crucial mission is to protect and promote public health; which is heavily reliant on the expertise and contributions of its scientific staff. The FDA's scientists are at the forefront of regulatory science, which involves developing new tools, standards, and approaches to assess regulated products. Their technical expertise is essential for keeping pace with scientific and technological advancements and improving public health outcomes. The FDA's inspectorate is on the front lines of safeguarding public health by verifying that facilities and products comply with Federal laws and regulations. Inspections help to identify potential hazards and non-compliance issues before they escalate into public health crises, like outbreaks of foodborne illness. By inspecting manufacturing processes and assessing product quality, inspectors ensure that drugs, medical devices, and other regulated products meet rigorous safety and efficacy standards.

*Homeopathy*.—The Committee understands the importance of homeopathic medicines for millions of users. Consumers access and safety to these products are best ensured by implementing a legal pathway that includes homeopathic specific standards for the regulation of these medicines. The Committee understands the FDA is limited to enforcing pharmaceutical specific standards when taking enforcement action against products labeled as homeopathic. The FDA's interpretation of the law that all homeopathic medicines are unapproved new drugs that are illegally marketed has created confusion both for the homeopathic community and enforcement officials. The Committee directs the FDA to work with the homeo-

pathic community with regards to the regulation of these medicines.

*HPV Self-Sampling*.—One in four women in the United States do not receive regular cervical cancer screenings, with more than half of cervical cancer diagnoses occurring in women who are not screened. While there are many barriers to screening, some of the top include fear of the procedure, embarrassment, or lack of time or transportation. The Committee encourages the FDA to exercise the use of regulatory authorities to expedite innovation related to at-home self-collection tests that could increase and expand access to screenings for women and address a persistent cancer health disparity for women who are never screened or under-screened.

*Human Drug Review Performance Trends*.—The concurrent investment of discretionary resources and Prescription Drug User Fee Act [PDUFA] Program funds has resulted in a successful program for over three decades enabling faster review times in the United States, thus allowing the American people to gain quicker access to the FDA approved prescription drugs. The Committee is still aware of a recent decrease in the FDA first cycle approval rates [FCA] with an increasing number of Complete Response Letters [CRLs] being issued to drug manufacturers. This decline is observed across all human drug review programs, including novel drug approvals. PDUFA Performance Goals have aimed for increasing the first cycle approval rate for medicines that are ultimately approved. Accordingly, the fiscal year 2026 Senate Agriculture Appropriations Report directed the FDA to provide a report to the Committee with an analysis of how issues that led to CRLs for medicines over the past 5 years could have been resolved within the first review cycle. The report's analysis should have included an assessment of issues relating to both the FDA and sponsor company responsibilities and recommendations on: how sponsors and the FDA can work better on timely identification and resolution of potential issues; the extent to which and how the global pandemic impacted performance and FCAs between February 2020 to May 2023; and how challenges in the human drug review process may be resolved with the ultimate goal of increasing FCA rates and faster patient access to safe and effective prescription drugs. The Committee is still awaiting this report and expects the Agency to prioritize submission of the report.

*Human Foods Program's Centers of Excellence*.—The FDA Human Foods Program's Centers of Excellence [COEs] program plays a critical role in supporting basic research as well as facilitating the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. The Committee directs the FDA to enhance its level of support for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act activities through full utilization of current COEs, located regionally across the country, to support the mission of the Human Foods Program while reducing costs to the Federal Government.

*Human Foods Program Staffing*.—The Committee is concerned with last year's changes in staffing levels within the Human Foods Program, particularly as it relates to the infant formula supply chain. The Committee expects that the Secretary shall maintain and where required re-hire sufficient staffing across the Human Foods program at the FDA to spend the funds provided and to sup-

port the programs and mission of the Human Foods program as outlined in this act. As such, within 180 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to the Committee detailing staffing and funding levels within the Human Foods Program Office of Critical Foods including current levels, and report any projected constraints and end of year goals.

*Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy*.—The Committee recognizes the lack of any pharmaceutical treatment for infants born with HIE, a rare brain injury due to insufficient cerebral oxygen and blood flow. While HIE injuries tragically take the lives of many newborns, of the surviving babies, approximately 25 percent will endure significant and lifelong neurological disability. HIE is a leading cause of physical and cognitive deficits, including recurrent seizures, cerebral palsy, vision and hearing loss, breathing and feeding deficiencies that have deleterious impacts on how children feel, function, and survive. Due to the severity of the condition, long-term impact on the patients and high cost to healthcare, the Committee encourages the FDA to accept surrogate endpoints that predict long-term improvements in neurodevelopmental outcomes as the basis for accelerated approval and consider whether substantial evidence of effectiveness can be found based on one adequate and well-controlled clinical investigation with confirmatory evidence to expedite therapeutic development for HIE.

*Illegal Import of Unapproved New Drugs*.—The Committee expresses deep concern over the health risks posed by illegal importation of unapproved and misbranded drugs, particularly through third-party brokers facilitating access via employer-sponsored health plans. These unapproved drugs lack the FDA's oversight, potentially containing incorrect dosages, unknown ingredients, or contaminants, which can lead to serious health consequences, especially for vulnerable populations with conditions like HIV, cancer, or hepatitis. The substitution of an FDA-approved medications with unapproved versions can cause patient confusion, medication errors, and negatively impact treatment outcomes, as healthcare providers may unknowingly base decisions on patients' responses to these unregulated drugs. Furthermore, sourcing from uninspected and unregulated supply chains increases the risk of receiving adulterated or improperly stored medications. Given these significant dangers, the Committee directs the FDA to provide a comprehensive report within 180 days, addressing various aspects of this issue, including safety risks, verification challenges, enforcement actions, and recommendations for strengthening oversight. This action is critical to protect U.S. consumers from the potential harm of unapproved and misbranded drugs circumventing regulatory safeguards.

*Imported Shrimp Safety and Inspection Pilot Program*.—The Committee commends and supports the FDA's ongoing efforts to implement and increase its oversight and the regulation of the safety of shrimp products imported into the United States. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2026 funding levels to implement the program. The FDA's prior reports to Congress emphasized the importance of increased sampling of import shipments, investment in laboratory capabilities, data analytics, and the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements with the top

three countries exporting shrimp to the United States. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue the full development and implementation of the shrimp pilot program including finalizing the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements. The FDA Commissioner shall provide the Committee a briefing before the end of fiscal year 2027 summarizing how the funds appropriated have been used and how the funds support the FDA in meeting the objectives of section 787 of Public Law 116–260.

*Increased Enforcement Action Against Unauthorized E–Cigarettes and Tobacco Improvements*.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showing 1.63 million youth use e-cigarettes and urges the FDA to use its full authority to address this serious public health problem. The Committee also remains deeply concerned with the enormous surge of flavored disposable e-cigarettes and nicotine pouch products being illegally imported into the U.S., primarily from China, that are openly evading the FDA's regulatory requirements. The Committee believes these illegal imports constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the public health of the United States.

The Committee directs the FDA to prioritize the use of resources by: (1) establishing a floor of $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 to be spend on enforcement activities to ensure these illegal products are expeditiously removed from the market and that those illegally importing and distributing such products are subject to significant compliance and enforcement actions; and (2) out of the funds provided in (1), $2,000,000 shall be used to support activities related to the Federal multi-agency task force created in June 2024 to combat the illegal distribution and sale of e-cigarettes, which could include enforcement actions taken by members of the task force. The task force shall:

(a) Include all Federal agencies that have roles or responsibilities related to e-cigarette enforcement, including but not limited to the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Justice, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the U.S. Marshals Service; the Department of Homeland Security, including Customs and Boarder Protection and Homeland Security Investigations within Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Federal Trade Commission;

(b) Meet at least quarterly to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for reducing the number of unauthorized e-cigarettes on the market, including setting goals, sharing information, and coordinating efforts where appropriate; and

(c) Report to the Committees of Appropriations in the Senate and House within 90 days of enactment of this act and annually thereafter on enforcement actions that the task force or members of the task force have taken against unauthorized e-cigarettes. This report shall include enforcement actions related to illicit nicotine product enforcement undertaken by FDA and their coordinating activities with the DOJ, and CBP, and the resources expended for each such activity or action, including the number of injunctions issued against tobacco or nicotine product manufacturers and im-

porters found to be manufacturing or importing illicit and unauthorized tobacco or nicotine products.

The Committee directs FDA to increase enforcement action against larger manufacturers, importers, distributors, and wholesalers that are primarily responsible for supplying unauthorized e-cigarettes now on the market and to make greater use of its strongest enforcement tools. The Committee urges the agency to work closely with the Department of Justice and other members of the Federal Multi-Agency Task Force to increase the use of injunctions and seizures against companies making, distributing, or selling unauthorized e-cigarettes. The Committee is also concerned that FDA, when it pursues a civil monetary penalty, has been seeking a penalty for a single violation, currently $21,348, when it has the statutory authority to pursue higher penalties, including seeking multiple violations in a single proceeding with a maximum penalty of $1,423,220. FDA should also exercise its statutory authority to seek enhanced civil money penalties for intentional violations and violations that continue following receipt of the requisite written notice.

The Committee is also concerned that the agency has not completed its review of many e-cigarettes and other deemed tobacco products that are popular with youth and has allowed scores of unauthorized products to be sold without the authorization required by statute, whether because they failed to submit a premarket application, have a pending application, or have been denied. The Committee is deeply concerned that many tobacco products that lack the legally required marketing authorization from the FDA remain on the market, including flavored products that are attractive to youth. The wide availability of these unauthorized products is hindering efforts to reduce youth use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. Notwithstanding the large number of premarket applications received and resolved, the FDA too seldom completes its reviews within the time established by law. The Committee urges the FDA to promptly complete its required premarket review of e-cigarettes and to deny authorization for any product that does not meet the statutory standard of "appropriate for the protection of the public health," including denying authorization for all products, especially flavored products, that have increased or are likely to increase initiation by youth or non-tobacco users. The Committee urges the FDA to pursue all legally authorized remedies to ensure that all products being sold unlawfully are removed from the marketplace.

The Committee is concerned that the Food and Drug Administration [FDA]'s draft guidance document, "Flavored Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems [ENDS] Premarket Applications—Considerations Related to Youth Risk" may increase the number of the number of flavored e-cigarettes that FDA authorizes and the substantial known risk to youth that flavored e-cigarettes pose. In this draft guidance, FDA acknowledges that it has "determined that the evidence shows that flavored ENDS products pose a substantial risk to youth, and they pose a greater risk to youth than tobacco-flavored ENDS." However, the Committee remains concerned with the risk of youth vaping and wants to maintain progress in reducing youth vaping that has consistently occurred since 2019. It is unclear how FDA is identifying and justifying the relative risk pro-

file of certain flavors to youth. The Committee is concerned that the draft guidance, if finalized in its current form, lacks the clarity necessary to ensure more benefit to the public health than risk to youth and should be reconsidered. The Committee supports FDA's assessment within this draft guidance of the role of device access restrictions in preventing underage use of tobacco products. While such technologies may be a component of a comprehensive youth prevention strategy, they might not alone propel a flavored e-cigarette to satisfy the evidentiary burden to be appropriate for the protection of public health. As included within this legislation, the Committee directs the FDA to consult with public health and safety experts to discuss the viability of age-gating technologies and FDA enforcement efforts as described in the May 2026 final enforcement guidance entitled, "Enforcement Priorities for Certain New Tobacco Products marketed Without Premarket Authorization".

*Infant Formula*.—The Committee notes the FDA's use of new authorities to better regulate the infant formula market in the United States provided by the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022 during the recent recall of products due to cases of infant botulism. The Committee understands that the FDA currently only requires infant formula manufacturers to test for Cronobacter and Salmonella during the production process but given recent recalls in the United States and abroad, the Committee believes that additional pathogens should be tested for. The Committee directs the FDA to promulgate rulemaking to expand the list of pathogens, as appropriate, that are tested for during the manufacturing process to verify the safety of all infant formula products. Further, the Committee directs FDA to coordinate with CDC to determine whether they retain the capacity to identify potential outbreaks in coordination with State and local public health departments.

*Inspections*.—The Committee recognizes that inspecting a facility for a new drug application is highly complex because the FDA must thoroughly evaluate whether the manufacturing site can consistently produce the drug with the identity, strength, quality, and purity claimed in the application, which involves detailed audits of records, equipment, processes, and data integrity. This process requires coordination among multidisciplinary experts who assess compliance with current good manufacturing practices [CGMP] and verify that the facility's operations align precisely with the application's Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls [CMC] information, often under tight timelines and with global supply chain considerations. However, the Committee is concerned with reports that the FDA is issuing Complete Response Letters [CRLs] for drug applications due to a lack of timeliness and therefore what appears to be a pause only to allow the FDA time to fully complete the inspection which results in no finding of a concern. Or, a CRL is issued based on facility inspection issues unrelated to that specific drug application. Both circumstances could force delays in the approval process since these inspections are often conducted late in the review cycle, leaving insufficient time for sponsors to address deficiencies. The Committee fully supports the FDA's efforts to ensure that drug production facilities are safe and meet CGMP standards; however in order to better understand this issue the FDA is directed to report

back to the Committee on the number of CRLs associated with inspections, (i.e, CRLs resulting solely from inspections with Official Action Indicated [OAI] or potential OAI [pOAI] outcomes), or from inspections that were Pre-Approval Inspections [PAI].

*Inspection Frequency*.—The Committee is concerned that food facilities are not inspected frequently enough to adequately identify and respond to risks. Under the Food Safety Modernization Act, high-risk domestic facilities must be inspected every 3 years, and other domestic facilities must be inspected every 5 years. The Committee believes the Food and Drug Administration should inspect facilities more frequently than the statutory minimum and directs the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, to provide a report to the Committee outlining strategies to increase the frequency of inspections to every 18 months for high-risk domestic facilities and every 3 years for non-high-risk domestic facilities. This report should include projected cost estimates to increase the frequency of inspections.

*Inspection Training and Staffing Capacity*.—The Committee recognizes the critical role of FDA investigators and scientific staff in ensuring compliance with current good manufacturing practice [CcGMP] and maintaining drug quality and patient safety. The Committee has reviewed Government Accountability Office report GAO–26–107779, FDA: Oversight Responsibilities and Funding from fiscal years 2008 through 2024, published February 3, 2026, which identifies significant capacity challenges affecting FDA's ability to fulfill its oversight responsibilities across all product areas. The Committee remains concerned about the adequacy of FDA's resources, training standards, and consistency in conducting pre-approval and prelicensure inspections [PAI/PLI], particularly in light of evidence of compressed inspection timelines and variability in inspection quality, as well as GAO's documentation of persistent staffing challenges that have compromised FDA's inspection capacity-concerns that are further heightened by the workforce reductions announced in March 2025. The Committee directs FDA to implement standardized, transparent training practices across FDA to promote scientific consistency and the uniform application of inspection standards for PAI/PLI. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit a comprehensive report that includes: risk assessment processes for PAI/PLI evaluations; plans to harmonize training programs across personnel conducting PAI/PLI; and a plan, including timelines, for improving staffing, recruitment, retention, and training.

*International Mail Facilities*.—The Committee remains concerned about illicit drug imports and imports of illegal tobacco products. The Committee supports the FDA's continued investments in International Mail Facilities and Ports of Entry to prevent illicit products from entering the United States.

*Institute for Food Safety and Health*.—The Committee understands that a lease at the Institute for Food Safety and Health, used by the Human Foods Program's Division of Food Processing Science and Technology, expires in 2031. The Committee directs FDA, in coordination with GSA, to provide a briefing on considerations for a replacement lease or use of Federal space.

*Islet Cells*.—The appearance of certain islet autoantibodies in the serum of individuals increases the chance of developing type 1 diabetes at some point in the future. Therefore, the Committee encourages the FDA to continue working with the type 1 diabetes community on the standardization of the assays for detection of the existing biomarkers and potential development of novel T1D biomarkers related to islet autoimmunity, which can help inform the design of future clinical studies to develop therapies to prevent T1D.

*Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs*.—The Committee notes that the 21st Century Cures Act established the Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs [LPAD], which gives the FDA tools to help with the approval of antibacterial and antifungal drugs to treat serious and life-threatening infections in a limited population of patients with unmet needs. The Committee is concerned because since 2016, only three antibacterial drugs have been approved through the LPAD pathway. The Committee directs the FDA to brief the Committee about LPAD, including challenges that industry has identified about challenges with using the pathway within 1 year of the enactment of this act. This briefing should include potential changes that the FDA proposes making in order to increase the use of LPAD.

*Listeria*.—The Committee recognizes that developing the Compliance Policy Guide [CPG] for Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods is a complex process and directs the FDA to work with stakeholders to ensure that the CPG outlines a policy that is reflective of the current scientific evidence and is practical to implement.

*Medical Device Authorities*.—The Committee is concerned about a recent Government Accountability Office [GAO] report (GAO–26107619), which recommended that HHS should re-evaluate the legislative authorities to address medical device recall challenges and inefficiencies. The Committee strongly supports a reassessment of these authorities and directs the FDA to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] to evaluate the need for additional legislative authorities that would be beneficial in overseeing medical device recalls. The Committee directs the FDA to submit a report on this assessment to the Committee no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act.

*Medical Device Review Transparency*.—Within 120 days of enactment, the FDA is directed to brief the Committee on additional steps it could take to improve transparency on medical device reviews (beyond quarterly and annual MDUFA performance reporting, public-facing databases, and independent external audits). This briefing shall include information on how the Agency can publicly share performance metrics, the number of device approvals by device risk classification (e.g., Class I, II, III) on an annual basis, and considerations for initiation of a pilot effort to publish additional anonymized summaries of marketing applications, to the extent allowed by law. The briefing shall include information on potential hurdles, such as authorities and cost.

*Medical Foods*.—The Committee recognizes the unique role medical foods play in the nutritional management of inborn errors of metabolism and encourages a flexible regulatory process that would enhance access to safe medical foods for individuals with serious or

life-threatening inborn errors of metabolism. The Committees encourages the FDA to continue focusing on this issue.

*Menopause and Mid-Life Women's Health*.—The Committee provides $2,000,000 for the FDA to continue outreach and engagement activities with healthcare providers and researchers on perimenopause, menopause, post-menopause and mid-life women's health, including the development and testing of new pharmacological (hormonal and non-hormonal) treatments for menopausal symptoms, as well as oversight and consumer protection efforts to assess the safety and effectiveness of new diagnostic tools for menopausal symptoms, including devices that use artificial intelligence. The Committee has not yet received the report as directed in fiscal year 2026, which directed the FDA to report on its activities, including specific information on staffing, outreach and engagement activities, and coordination with HHS agencies. The Committee expects timely responses from the agency. The Committee also directs the FDA to provide a briefing within 180 days of enactment to provide updates on this topic and the priorities of the Office of Women's Health.

*Menu Labeling*.—The Committee directs the FDA to finalize its 2023 draft guidance to strongly encourage covered establishments to voluntarily disclose added sugars as part of the additional nutrition information available upon request for standard menu items. The Committee encourages the FDA to evaluate whether establishments are voluntarily disclosing added sugars after finalizing the guidance to determine if further regulatory action is needed to provide this information to consumers.

*Metastatic Cancer*.—The Committee recognizes the FDA for ongoing efforts to gather input and patient-focused feedback from the metastatic cancer community. The Committee notes the ongoing challenge identified by patients of needing access to multiple therapeutic option and various sites of care due to the fact that patients with metastatic cancer often progress through multiple therapies, and encourages the FDA to continue working to ensure multiple safe and effective therapeutic options with varying delivery mechanisms are available.

*Microplastics Testing*.—The Committee requests an update on the FDA's work with the USG for the detection of microplastics in our food supply within 180 days of the enactment of this act.

*MoCRA*.—The Committee provides an additional $1,000,000 for the continued implementation of key provisions of the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act [MoCRA]. The Committee directs the FDA to provide quarterly briefings with the Office of Cosmetics and Colors to provide updates to the Committee regarding the process for developing proposed rules for the Good Manufacturing Practices and Fragrance Allergen Labeling Rules. The briefings shall commence no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act.

*National Center for Toxicological Research*.—The Committee recognizes the critical role of the National Center for Toxicological Research [NCTR] in conducting toxicological research that supports the missions of the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and the Department of Health and Human Services to protect and promote public health and the support it provides to the FDA product centers to fulfill their regulatory roles. The Committee commends the

research contributions of NCTR, especially in its work to improve the nutrition of school lunches, NanoCore research to ensure the safety of FDA-regulated products containing nanomaterials, and advancements in new approach methodologies. The Committee rejects the movement of NCTR outside of the FDA and prohibits the use of funds provided to relocate the NCTR, its personnel, or its core research functions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] or any other agency within the Department. The Committee further directs that the FDA Commissioner provide written notice of any determination to restructure or reorganize the functions of NCTR.

*Neurodegenerative Diseases*.—The Committee remains concerned that, notwithstanding recent announcements from the FDA, the Agency has not yet fully met the needs of patients suffering from neurodegenerative diseases in a manner consistent with congressionally authorized pathways such as breakthrough therapy designation and accelerated approval. The Committee is concerned by recent reporting that the FDA has issued multiple complete response letters and clinical holds, despite having worked with the sponsors on trial design and endpoints and directs the FDA to review these incidents to ensure that these actions were consistent with the law. The Committee is also concerned that drug development remains exceptionally lengthy and high-risk, with successful development often taking more than a decade and overall clinical attrition remaining unacceptably high. The Committee believes a more responsive regulatory framework is needed to prevent innovation and investment from migrating to foreign countries that have observed the FDA's retreat from using tools like accelerated approval and refined their regulatory requirements to bring speed and efficiency to reviewing novel treatments, without sacrificing safety. The Committee is concerned that FDA's recent actions have chilled innovation in the United States and other countries are filling the gap. In order to meet patient need, the Committee believes the FDA should explore how the use of small trial populations, natural history data, biomarkers, and other innovative approaches could speed the drug approval process. The Committee further directs FDA to explore how to strengthen cross center collaboration, including integrating the best capabilities of CDER and CBER by coordinating scientific expertise across centers, and improving consistency, transparency, and speed for drug development. The Committee notes that it has allocated funding in previous years to support these efforts and expects the FDA to lean in on drug discovery for rare and unmet conditions like ALS and Alzheimer's by strengthening and accelerating the use of existing pathways rather than relying on traditional evidentiary paradigms that may be ill-suited to these patient populations.

*Modernizing FDA for Rare Disease Drug Development*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA has long cited its existing authorities and flexibilities to stave off new legislation or regulations to modernize FDA's approach to rare diseases. For at least the last 2–3 PDUFA cycles, the FDA has repeatedly stated no additional Congressional action is required, and yet the Agency continues to struggle with applying existing laws and regulations to rare disease drug development with any transparency or consist-

ency. The Committee acknowledges recent actions at the FDA, from the new Rare Disease Innovation Hub and RDEP to new guidance on Bayesian models to Plausible Pathway, as evidence of strong Agency interest in bringing the FDA into the current scientific era. However, all these efforts continue to rely on the same exercise of flexibility that appears centered on defining limited exceptions to an assumed requirement for randomized studies. The pattern of not in fact using the flexibilities available makes new structures, offices, and guidance ill-equipped to solve the overwhelming and consistent frustration by patients and tangible signs of slowing rare disease drug development. These are not one-off, anecdotal examples any longer, but real and concerning to the Committee, and point directly to the need to modernize the FDA for rare diseases. The Committee expects a timely response to the recent Petition for Rulemaking filed with the FDA to modernize rare disease drug development to ensure a new rulemaking creates legally binding requirements on the FDA.

Building on lessons from the New Drugs Regulatory Program Modernization initiated in 2017, the Committee directs the Commissioner to submit, within 180 days of enactment of this act, a preliminary outline of rare disease "hot spots" and core principles that identifies key problem areas in rare disease drug and biologic development and review and describes the principles that will guide FDA's use of evidentiary flexibility while maintaining the statutory "substantial evidence" standard and applying a least burdensome approach. The outline should also describe the budgetary and staffing requirements needed to implement these principles. Within 270 days of enactment, the Committee directs FDA to submit a Rare Disease Standards Modernization Agenda that builds on this outline by clarifying cross-center application of evidentiary approaches and prioritizing guidance and policy updates, with timelines, that incorporate concise, plain-language bullet points explaining how evidentiary flexibility and least burdensome approaches apply in practice.

*Neuro Innovation Advancement Hub*.—The Committee provides a total of $8,000,000 to establish a nexus on neuro innovation advancement to support and coordinate neuroscience efforts across all areas of the FDA. The Committee directs the FDA, within 90 days of enactment of this act, to report to the Committee on how it will achieve these goals. This will include a spend plan for the provided funds. The Committee directs that the report to include incorporation of the work and staff of the Neurology Drug Program, steps that will be taken to engage regularly and systematically with patient representatives and subject matter experts across the brain and central nervous system continuum, and proposed coordination with the Rare Disease Hub.

*Neurotraumatic Therapeutics*.—Neurotraumatic conditions impact millions of Americans through conditions like traumatic brain injury [TBI] and traumatic spinal cord injury [tSCI]. Each year, approximately 18,000 people are newly affected by tSCI annually and over 300,000 are currently living with tSCI in the United States, yet no pharmacologic treatments exist to address the unmet needs of this condition, including the potential to repair nervous system damage. The FDA's use of accelerated approval pathways has suc-

cessfully spurred innovations and these same flexibilities for therapeutics in neurotraumatic conditions will help derisk the pipeline and spur innovation. The Committee encourages the FDA to facilitate the development and expedite the review of treatments for neurotramatic conditions, including through the use of accelerated approvals for such therapies as well as through openness to the use of a single adequate and well-controlled clinical investigation with confirmatory evidence to meet the statutory standard of substantial evidence of effectiveness.

*New Approach Methodologies*.—The Committee strongly supports the FDA initiatives to reduce and replace animal testing and advance new approach methodologies [NAMs] and appreciates FDA's Roadmap to Reducing Animal Testing in Preclinical Safety Studies (Roadmap). The Roadmap is a step in advancing FDA's work to replace animal testing for human drugs, biological products, and cosmetic products. The Committee agrees that NAMs, including in vitro tests and computational models, represent cost-effective, reliable, and human-relevant advances to support safety and efficacy testing of human pharmaceuticals and safety testing of cosmetic products. To encourage the use of NAMs by industry, the FDA is directed to revise its regulations to make clear where applicable that animal toxicology tests are not required to support clinical testing in humans within 1 year of enactment of this act. The FDA is directed to submit a written report to the Committee describing progress toward implementing Roadmap recommendations and revising regulations within 180 days of enactment of this act. The agency should prioritize the use of human data or existing animal data when human data is not available for evaluating the effectiveness of alternative methods. The agency should limit funding to carry out new animal tests to situations in which comparisons between an animal method and an alternative method are scientifically necessary and other data is not available for use.

*Niemann-Pick Type C [NPC]*.—The Committee continues to encourage the FDA to increase its understanding and focus on NPC, a rare progressive and universally fatal disease that impact children and young adults. The Committee encourages the FDA to use its existing authorities and pathways to meet the urgent unmet medical need of the current generation of NPC patients, including preserving access to existing experimental therapies already in use. The Committee further encourages the FDA to maximize the use of existing natural history data and real world evidence contributed by this small patient population through existing and past clinical studies and to continue to work with patients, scientists, and industry partners to bring to full fruition the work that is being accomplished through patient organizations, scientists, researchers, and other to fully benefit this generation of NPC patients.

*Nonprescription Drug Development*.—The Committee strongly agrees that safe and effective over-the-counter medicines empower American consumers with affordable and convenient choices while also producing meaningful savings to our Nation's healthcare system and supports the FDA's interest in improving the processes for the development of nonprescription drugs. The Committee further underscores the need for and importance of the timely implementation of provisions to increase the clarity and predictability of the

process for developing applications for Rx-to-nonprescription switches enacted in Public Law 119–37. The Committee requests that the FDA brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on the specific programmatic changes the agency plans to take to foster, more streamlined development of nonprescription drugs so Americans are able to benefit from newly available affordable and convenient nonprescription drugs sooner. Such briefing shall include an update on the status of the implementation of all the provisions of section 6507 of Public Law 119–37 [SMART OTC], and the specific actions the agency plans to take based on the comments received in response to the FDA's Request for Information, including on how to increase timely, meaningful scientific feedback and apply a more commonsense approach to the interpretation of probable risk and holistic view of benefit to American consumers, our society and our Nation's health care system.

Further, the Committee directs the FDA to conduct a comprehensive review of types of prescription drugs or attributes that may be appropriate for transition from prescription to over the counter. In conducting this review, the Committee encourages FDA to engage with stakeholders, including patients, scientists, health providers, and industry partners. Upon completion, FDA shall submit a report to the Committee detailing the findings of the review, including any identified types of drugs or specific drugs or attributes that may be appropriate for over-the-counter use in certain dosages or strengths or other conditions in accordance with suitable nonprescription labeling. The FDA shall update the Committee on their progress of this comprehensive review within 1 year of the enactment of this act.

*Office of Therapeutic Products*.—The Committee recognizes the FDA's efforts with regard to rare disease and oncology pilot programs and other positive initiatives, as well as recent increases to support staffing, especially within the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the Office of Therapeutic Products [OTP]. However, the Committee is concerned about the ability to consistently achieve the desired level of review timeliness and quality and encourages the FDA to implement and apply modern approaches to keep pace with the science. Specifically, the Committee encourages OTP to facilitate reviewers' understanding of the current scientific consensus and disease-specific considerations for current and future programs through consultation with subject matter experts, both internal and external to the FDA. The Committee is also concerned about insufficient patient and expert input when weighing benefits and risks of potentially life changing or lifesaving new treatments. Further, the Committee is concerned that despite Congress recently reinforcing the FDA's flexibilities and toolkit related to rare disease and unmet need, OTP is not fully utilizing these flexibilities and tools as Congress intended. The Committee notes the importance of use of these flexibilities and tools, as appropriate, and expects a briefing to the Committee on interim measures of progress within 1 year of enactment.

*Operational Imperatives*.—The Committee provides $41,600,000 in additional funding for the FDA to ensure the protection of all user fee agreements. This funding is necessary to allow the FDA to continue to collect and spend user fees as required by statute.

*Oversight Activities*.—The Committee provides $1,500,000 for the HHS Office of Inspector General specifically for oversight of the FDA's activities.

*Osteoarthritis*.—The Committee is concerned that more than 50 million Americans suffer from osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis and a leading source of chronic pain and disability in the United States. The Committee is further concerned that despite the prevalence of this debilitating condition there are no approved therapies that prevent or reverse disease progression in osteoarthritis patients. Given the importance of addressing this significant unmet need for millions of Americans, the Committee requests that the FDA brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act detailing the steps the FDA can take to ensure regulatory certainty and consistency to foster timely development and review of safe and effective therapies to address this unmet need for American patients.

*Parkinson's Disease Research*.—The Committee recognizes that Parkinson's disease [PD] is the fastest growing disease in the world that damages the brain, including an estimated more than 1 million people in the United States, more than 110,000 of whom are veterans. Aging, sex differences, genetic factors, harmful chemicals and other environmental exposures are all associated with the development of Parkinson's. The Committee applauds the FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research [NCTR] for its prior efforts to examine the role of diet and sex in the development of Parkinson's disease. The Committee further directs NCTR to promptly publish all relevant research data, discoveries and other outcomes from these efforts publicly on the FDA's website.

*Patient Medication Information*.—The FDA is encouraged to finalize the proposed rule for Patient Medication Information [PMI] with an option for patients to receive PMI electronically to enhance patient choice, education, and medication adherence for prescription drugs, including biological products, used, dispensed or administered on an outpatient basis and for blood and blood components transfused in an outpatient setting. This standardized information will provide patients with clear, concise, and accessible information about their medications, including drug names, important safety information, common side effects, and directions for use. Importantly, patients will always have the choice of paper information, ensuring all patients have access to their preferred format of medication information.

*Pasteurized Orange Juice*.—The Committee is concerned that pests, disease, and hurricanes are having a devastating impact on Florida's citrus growers and processors. These circumstances have resulted in a natural decline in the Brix level for Florida's mature oranges, with no known adverse health consequences for consumers. The Committee believes it is necessary to provide for analytical deviation in the minimum Brix level for pasteurized orange juice to account for these naturally occurring growing conditions. The Committee encourages USDA and FDA to continue to expedite work with Florida citrus growers and processors and other stakeholders as necessary to consider additional flexibility by modernizing requirements for pasteurized orange juice that better account for naturally occurring Brix variation. The Committee also urges

FDA to prioritize the issuance of a rule to increase the allowable percentage of C. reticulata to 15 percent.

*Patient Experience Data*.—The Committee supports efforts to identify standardized approaches to collecting and analyzing patient experience data to inform clinical research design and regulatory reviews under the patient-focused drug development process. The Committee encourages the FDA to make every effort to incorporate all relevant patient experience data, including from patient advocacy organizations, across its regulatory obligations.

*Pediatric Cancer*.—Many rare pediatric cancers have molecular and genetic characteristics that are unique to children, such as tumors with gene fusions, embryonic tumors, germline tumors, and many brain tumors. Developing new therapies for such rare cancers is difficult, leaving children with rare tumors with few or no therapeutic options. The FDA should prioritize the development of a public-private partnership to assume responsibility for conducting pediatric oncology drug development programs that may not be possible for industry to develop on its own. A January 2020 GAO report on pediatric vouchers recommended the implementation of "a collaborative agreement to share development risk and reward between a public or quasi public organization and one or more private developers".

*Pediatric Device Consortia Grants*.—Pediatric Device Consortia grants provide funding to assist innovators in developing medical and surgical devices designed for the unique needs of children, needs that often go unmet by devices currently available on the market. The Committee is pleased that the FDA-funded Pediatric Device Consortia have assisted in advancing the development of more than 2,500 potential pediatric medical devices since 2009. The Committee directs the FDA to provide a report within 365 days of the enactment about ethical evidence generation at PDC real-world evidence hubs that utilizes tools such as advanced computational models to increase data in support of pediatric device submissions.

*Pediatric Labeling*.—The Committee recognizes that the FDA is in the process of addressing concerns around pediatric acetaminophen dosing, through an FDA-initiated proposed order under section 505G(b)(2) of the Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics Act and made this change public in the Agency's most recent Annual Forecast for Planned Monograph Activities. The Committee appreciates the FDA taking this step and requests an update of addressing pediatric acetaminophen dosing within 180 days of the enactment of this act.

*Pediatric Therapies for IBD*.—The Committee is concerned about limited FDA-approved therapies to treat children impacted by Pediatric IBD-also known as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis-and the challenges associated with recruiting children into clinical trials. The Committee is aware of FDA efforts to address these challenges more broadly, including guidance on the use of pediatric extrapolation in drug development, as well guidance to industry focused on developing drugs to treat pediatric IBD. The Committee directs the FDA to work with patient, researcher, and therapy development stakeholders to focus on the use of pediatric extrapolation and other data sources, including real-world evidence, in clinical trials for pediatric IBD.

*PFAS in Cosmetics*.—The Committee is concerned about the presence of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl [PFAS] substances in cosmetics. The Committee directs the FDA to develop plan outlining research needed to inform regulatory decision-making, including potential development of a proposed rule to ban intentionally added PFAS substances in cosmetics. The Committee directs the Agency to provide a briefing to the Committee should the FDA pursue any proposed rules on this topic.

*Plant Based Product Labeling*.—The Committee is concerned that the current labeling practices of some plant based alternatives to animal-derived foods have the potential to cause consumer confusion. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2026 Report included a report on this that the Committee has not yet received and the Committee expects this report in a timely manner.

*Plausible Mechanism Framework*.—The Committee commends the Food and Drug Administration for its leadership in advancing individualized therapies for rare and ultra-rare genetic conditions, including through the establishment of the Plausible Mechanism Framework and the issuance of draft guidance on the Framework's application. The Committee recognizes that ongoing scientific and technological advances have made it possible to develop individualized treatments for patients with the greatest unmet medical needs. The Committee strongly encourages the FDA to collaborate with the Critical Path Institute, including through the One to Millions public-private partnership, to support scalable regulatory and scientific approaches for advanced therapies for highly individualized rare and ultrarare conditions. The Committee stresses that such efforts should include sustained collaboration with patients, families, clinicians, researchers, innovators, and industry to ensure that safe and promising therapies reach patients in a timely manner.

*Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome [PMOS]*.—The Committee recognizes the absence of FDA-approved treatments, specifically for Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome, formally known as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, and its profound impact on 10 percent of women, alongside the annual economic burden of over $15,000,000,000 in the United States. The Committee urges the FDA to support research and development and facilitate an expedited approval process for innovative, safe, and effective PCOS-specific therapies, diagnostics, and technology. The Committee commends the FDA for supporting the Externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development [EL–PFDD] meeting on PCOS in 2023 but has concerns that there have been no FDA approved treatments specific to PCOS. The Committee encourages the FDA, based on the findings of the EL–PFDD meeting, to support incentives for investigators and industry to develop safe new evidence-based therapies, diagnostics, devices, and technologies in collaboration with patients, practitioners, and researchers that address the identified needs and treatment priorities of PMOS patients.

*Post-Bariatric Hypoglycemia [PBH]*.—The Committee recognizes that post-bariatric hypoglycemia [PBH] is a serious and often underdiagnosed complication affecting a subset of individuals who have undergone bariatric surgery. PBH can lead to recurrent, severe hypoglycemic episodes that significantly impair quality of life,

increase healthcare utilization, and may limit the long-term benefits of bariatric procedures. The Committee notes that current management strategies for PBH are limited, often rely on off-label therapies, and do not adequately address the underlying pathophysiology or the risk of severe neuroglycopenic events. The Committee commends the FDA for issuing guidance in May of 2023 related to hypoglycemia and encourages the FDA to prioritize strategies to facilitate the development and approval of safe and effective treatments for PBH.

*Pregnant Women in Clinical Research*.—The Committee remains concerned about FDA's failure to issue final regulations relating to the protection of human subjects, including parts 50 and 56 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, with the latest regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the inclusion of pregnant women as subjects in clinical research, as required by 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255). Despite 90 percent of pregnant women taking prescription medication during their pregnancy, 70 percent of medications approved by the FDA have no human pregnancy data, and 98 percent have insufficient data to determine the risk to the infant, leaving both the mother and infant at risk to adverse health events. Following recommendations of the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women, the Committee urges the agency to issue final regulations. The agency shall provide further guidance about ethical issues to be considered and strategies for designing ethical studies to inform the inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in a clinical trial and facilitate their participation. No later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, the FDA shall brief the Committee on the status for final regulations and steps taken by the agency to include pregnant and lactating women in clinical trials.

*Protecting American Consumers*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of American consumers having confidence in the products they purchase from third-party sellers via online platforms, especially when such products are related to consumer health. The Committee requests the FDA provide a briefing not later than 120 days after enactment of this act regarding potential opportunities for FDA, in coordination with FTC, to strengthen the integrity of the chain of custody for consumer healthcare products sold by third-party sellers via online platforms as part of the FDA's work to protect American consumers.

*Prioritizing U.S. Biomanufacturing of Essential Medicines and Drugs in Shortage*.—The Committee directs the FDA to prioritize applications, including or supplements, that identify a domestic manufacturing facility or a manufacturing facility in the territory of a government or government agency that the FDA has determined to be capable of conducting inspections pursuant to a mutual recognition agreement, for essential medicines as identified by the FDA and/or products that are included, or have recently been included, on the FDA's drug shortage list. The FDA should prioritize pre-approval and pre-license inspections of U.S. manufacturing facilities identified in an original application for an essential medicine and pre-approval and pre-license inspections of U.S. manufacturing facilities newly identified in a supplement for an essential

medicine or product that is, or has recently been included, on the FDA's drug shortage list.

*Promoting Domestic Manufacturing*.—The Committee supports the Agency's work to promote the domestic manufacturing of drugs and biological products to help bolster supply chain resiliency. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase its efforts, consistent with its authorities, to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to expand and relocate drug manufacturing to the United States for this purpose. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue programs and policies that would encourage the pharmaceutical industry to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies, which could help prompt industry to relocate foreign manufacturing to the United States or expanding current domestic manufacturing.

*Psychedelics*.—The Committee recognizes the increased interest and need to study psychedelics, including MDMA, psilocybin, ibogaine, and 5–MeO–DMT, and their potential therapeutic effects. The Committee encourages the FDA to work with the VA, DoD, and NIH on leveraging clinical trials to improve our understanding of psychedelics The Committee also encourages the FDA and VA, DoD, and NIH to work together in developing and supporting public-private collaborations to advance psychedelic research for therapeutic purposes, with the FDA maintaining its independent regulatory authority as an observer. The Committee requests an update on such efforts within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Pulmonary Fibrosis*.—Pulmonary fibrosis, including idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis [IPF] and progressive pulmonary fibrosis [PPF] encompasses a spectrum of serious and progressive lung disease marked by irreversible lung scarring. IPF is a rare and fatal condition with an average life expectancy of 3 to 5 years following diagnosis. Survival rates with pulmonary fibrosis are worse than most forms of cancer. PPF affects a relatively small patient population and is characterized by continued progression resulting in significant morbidity. While the FDA approved therapies may slow disease progression, they do not halt or reverse lung scarring, and their side effect profiles, including significant gastrointestinal complications, limit tolerability and adversely affect quality of life. There remains no cure and a substantial unmet medical need for patients in the United States living with the disease. The Committee encourages the FDA to strengthen its scientific and clinical understanding of IPF and PPF and to recognize the unique challenges associated with developing therapies for these life-threatening conditions, including disease heterogeneity and limited validated endpoints. The Committee directs the FDA to consider patient experience data, natural history information, and real-world evidence where appropriate, and to apply regulatory flexibility consistent with existing authorities. The Committee further encourages continued engagement with patients, caregivers, clinicians, and industry to support development of therapies that meaningfully improve outcomes for individuals living with pulmonary fibrosis.

*Rare Diseases*.—The Committee is concerned that recent Complete Response Letters for rare and predominantly pediatric indications underscore the difficulty of applying traditional trial paradigms to ultra-small populations where few or no alternative treat-

ment options exist and every enrolled patient represents a meaningful proportion of the disease community. Consistent with widely accepted ethical frameworks, the Committee notes that randomized clinical trials for rare diseases are ethically justifiable only where there is genuine uncertainty within the medical community regarding the relative merits of the interventions under study and where patients assigned to a control arm receive at least the highest prevailing standard of care so that participants are not disadvantaged by being denied known effective or partially effective treatment. The Committee supports the FDA's use of congressionally authorized expedited programs and regulatory pathways—including fast track, breakthrough therapy designation, accelerated approval (including use of surrogate or intermediate endpoints), priority review, and rare pediatric disease priority review vouchers—to speed development and review of safe and effective therapies for serious and life-threatening rare diseases. The Committee expects the FDA, particularly in serious and life threatening rare diseases and high-risk pediatric populations, to follow the current law and carefully weigh the scientific advantages of placebo-controlled designs against the ethical and practical burdens of assigning individual patients to an inactive or less effective control, including risks of irreversible harm, loss of clinical opportunity, and deterrence of trial participation, and to align trial expectations with the flexibilities Congress has provided to support innovative trial designs and evidentiary approaches in this setting, including the appropriate use of well-designed single-arm trials with historical or self-controlled comparators where randomization to placebo is infeasible or unethical. The Committee affirms that for certain development programs a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial remains appropriate for generating robust evidence on safety and efficacy and that such trial designs are often central to FDA's regulatory decision-making. That being said, the Committee further directs the FDA to ensure that its review divisions transparently communicate how ethical principles, evolving standards of care, and the lived experience of rare disease patients and families are incorporated into decisions regarding control-arm selection, the acceptability of placebo use, and the evidentiary expectations applied in rare disease marketing applications, including the use of single-arm trials, accelerated approval, expedited programs, and other statutory pathways approved by Congress to facilitate earlier patient access while preserving post market obligations and safeguards.

*Rare Disease Innovation Hub*.—The Committee is pleased with the work of the FDA Rare Disease Innovation Hub in its first full year of operations including its launch of the RISE Workshop Series and its focus on improved alignment and coordination of rare disease activities across the FDA functions. The Committee appropriates an additional $5,000,000 to support the Hub's work and implementation of its current strategic agenda, particularly actions to expand opportunities for patient and clinical community stakeholders to engage earlier and more fully in the therapy development, and to enhance implementation of efforts to support and sustain cross-center consistency on rare disease review standards.

*Rare Diseases and Unmet Need*.—The Committee is concerned that recent Complete Response Letters for rare conditions, including pediatric indications, underscore the difficulty of applying traditional trial paradigms to small populations where few or no alternative treatment options exist and every enrolled patient often represents a meaningful proportion of the disease community. The Committee supports the FDA's use of congressionally authorized expedited programs and regulatory pathways—including fast track, breakthrough therapy designation, accelerated approval (including use of surrogate or intermediate endpoints), priority review and rare pediatric disease priority review vouchers—to speed development and review of safe and effective therapies for serious and life-threatening rare diseases. The Committee expects the FDA, particularly in serious and life-threatening diseases and high-risk pediatric populations, to follow the current law regarding rare diseases and carefully weigh the scientific advantages of placebo-controlled designs against the ethical and practical burdens of assigning individual patients to an inactive or less effective control, including risks of irreversible harm, loss of clinical opportunity, and deterrence of trial participation, and to align trial expectations with the flexibilities Congress has provided to support innovative trial designs and evidentiary approaches in this setting, including the appropriate use of well-designed single-arm trials with historical or self-controlled comparators where randomization to placebo is infeasible or unethical. The Committee expects the FDA to apply this approach to rare diseases and unmet need consistently across the agency. The Committee further directs the FDA to ensure that its review divisions transparently communicate how ethical principles, evolving standards of care, and the lived experience of rare disease patients and families are incorporated into decisions regarding control-arm selection, the acceptability of placebo use, and the evidentiary expectations applied in rare disease marketing applications, including the use of single-arm trials, accelerated approval, expedited programs, and other statutory pathways approved by Congress to facilitate earlier patient access while preserving post market safeguards and obligations (including through the use of real world evidence).

*Real Cost Campaign*.—From funds authorized for the Center for Tobacco Products in this bill, the Committee directs the FDA to allocate no less than fiscal year 2024 funding levels to maintain the Real Costs Campaign's national scope and public health impact consistent with evidence-based health communication campaign best practices.

*Medical Device Remanufacturing*.—The Committee is aware of the FDA's work on medical device remanufacturing and servicing requirements, including the May 2024 final guidance, and directs the agency to provide a report detailing the agency's efforts to implement the guidance. The report should outline outreach efforts that the FDA has undertaken to inform independent servicers (who aren't FDA-regulated and may not monitor Federal Register notices) about their responsibilities, including industry group communications and trade publication education. The report should also cover the FDA's surveillance of servicers and remanufacturers to ensure proper documentation of remanufacturing determinations

(this shall include a summary of conducted inspections and enforcement actions taken). Additionally, the report should include data on whether the guidance has increased establishment registrations or 510(k) submissions by remanufacturers and explain how the FDA is addressing concerns that the guidance might be misinterpreted to permit unsupervised device modifications by third parties, emphasizing independent servicers' understanding of their regulatory obligations. The Committee expects the report to be completed within 90 days of enactment with all relevant information posted on the FDA's public website.

*Operation Stork Speed*.—The Committee supports the goals of Operation Stork Speed [OSS] to improve the safety and availability of infant formula. The Committee urges the FDA to act swiftly to establish and enforce clear, consistent inspection and compliance standards for all infant formula products, regardless of their country of origin. Absent this regulatory alignment, the market risks being disrupted by products that fall short of the high standards set by OSS and the FDA. The Committee maintains that all manufacturers, whether domestic or foreign, should be held to the same regulatory standards, requirements, and inspection levels, including surprise inspections, to ensure a safe and transparent domestic infant formula supply chain. The Committee notes that the "Closer to Zero" initiative is focused on reducing heavy metals in infant and young children's foods to the lowest feasible levels and that an April 2026 FDA analysis found infant formula products in the United States to be broadly safe with respect to levels of heavy metals, pesticides, and PFAS. To ensure continued safety for American infants, the Committee encourages the swift adoption and implementation of the Closer to Zero action plan, including the establishment of a uniform Federal limit for heavy metals in infant formula.

*Orphan Products Grant Program*.—The Orphan Products Grants Program [OPGP] supports the development of new treatments for rare diseases and the FDA Rare Neurodegenerative Disease [RNDD] Grants Program supports the development of new treatments for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS] and other rare neurodegenerative diseases. In fiscal year 2026, over $19,000,000 was allocated for the OPGP and $5,000,000 was allocated for the RNDD Grants Program. For fiscal year 2027, the Committee directs that the fiscal year 2026 levels be maintained.

*Safe and Effective Products*.—The Committee supports FDA's efforts to ensure the safety, effectiveness, and integrity of drugs available to U.S. patients and expects strong enforcement against entities that circumvent the statutory framework governing drug approval and compounding. Compounding under sections 503A and 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [FDCA] is intended to serve individualized patient needs and must not function as a substitute for commercial manufacturing, such as when, without consideration of any patient need, the compounder makes minor changes to the approved product as a pretext for mass compounding. At the same time, the Committee reaffirms that lawful compounding plays a critical role in patient care. The Committee emphasizes that patient access to compounded medications must be preserved when FDA approved products cannot meet an

individual patient's specific medical needs and a prescriber determines that a compounded preparation makes a change that will produce a medically significant difference, consistent with section 503A. The Committee directs FDA to prevent the unlawful distribution or promotion of unapproved or misbranded drugs, including incretin products, and to ensure compounding activities remain within statutory guardrails while maintaining appropriate patient access. The Committee further directs FDA, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other Federal partners, to prevent the importation of unapproved, misbranded, counterfeit, illicit, or otherwise violative drug products or active pharmaceutical ingredients [APIs], in order to safeguard the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain. Within 60 days of enactment, FDA shall brief the Committee on the agency's comprehensive actions it has taken to address this issue to date and its strategy to support patient safety, regulatory clarity, lawful compounding, and supply chain integrity in the incretin marketplace.

*Safety of Steatite*.—The Committee directs the FDA to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine within 60 days of enactment of this act to conduct an analysis of the mineral Steatite and evaluate its safety. The Committee directs FDA to not take any action related to Steatite until the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine review is complete.

*Shrimp Imports*.—The Committee is concerned that the FDA is not taking adequate measures to prevent the importation of shrimp contaminated with antimicrobial resistant pathogens such as salmonella. The FDA's reporting shows a massive decline in the amount of entry lines of shrimp refused for the presence of salmonella even as the volume of shrimp imports have substantially increased, outbreaks of illness from salmonella have been tied to imported shrimp, and the agency has confirmed antibiotic resistance in salmonella found in shrimp imports. Further, the FDA's Import Alerts 16–18 and 16–35 reflect a lack of care and attention to the identification of companies exporting shrimp to the United States without being detained without physical examination. The bill provides that no funds shall be used to add any firms to these Import Alerts until the FDA ensures that firms added to the Green List have resolved the conditions that gave rise to the appearance of the violation. In addition, the FDA will submit a report on the steps taken by the agency to confirm that Import Alerts 16–18 and 16–35 correctly identify existing producers that are not subject to Detention Without Physical Examination and are able to adequately demonstrate that the firm has resolved the conditions that gave rise to the appearance of the violation. The Committee directs the FDA to submit this report to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this act and include a summary of the agency's actions to prevent the entry of shrimp contaminated with filth, decomposition, or harmful pathogens (such as salmonella) into the United States.

*State and Local Inspections*.—Of the total amount appropriated for the Human Foods Program and related field activities in the Office of Inspections and Investigations, no less than $116,000,000 shall be used for State and local programs.

*Seafood Labeling*.—The Committee continues to hear concerns with the labeling of certain foods as a fish or seafood product when the products are highly-processed plant-based foods rather than derived from actual fish or seafood, and the labeling of these products are misleading, deceptive, and confusing to consumers. The Committee is concerned the terms "plant-based" and "vegan" exempt the producer from describing the actual plant source as part of the product name, in opposition to other FDA guidance. The Committee directs the FDA to provide clarity around the labeling of these foods using seafood terminology to ensure they are labeled to avoid consumer confusion and align with the structure it has applied to the guidance it has related to the labeling of plant-based alternative foods.

*Science Based Communication*.—The Committee is concerned by the FDA's communication around FDA-approved products and the impact that it has on vaccine hesitancy and uptake, especially in children. The Committee acknowledges the importance of FDA communicating its decisions on FDA-approved products in a manner that is based in science and evidence.

*Shellfish Research*.—The Committee is aware of the public health challenge related to the impacts of birds on water quality and Campylobacter and Salmonella presence in shellfish farms. More scientific research is needed to develop proper controls that will reduce the risk to consumers and sustain a healthy domestic shellfish industry. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase funding for research into the determination of risk factors that lead to campylobacter and salmonella in shellfish farms, characterization of pathogenic species, development of rapid diagnostic tests, and risk management in shellfish farms.

*Smoking Cessation Treatments for Youth and Adults*.—The Committee continues to recognize the important work of advancing smoking cessation treatment innovation to help adult smokers be more successful in quitting and the critical role of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] in this work. The Committee further acknowledges the agency's October 2024 public meeting on advancing smoking cessation innovation which underscored the importance of bringing forward new pharmacotherapies for smokers seeking to quit and the key opportunity for CDER to be more modern and efficient in its work in this area. The Committee strongly encourages CDER to do more to modernize the regulatory framework for these products to reflect the real-world experience risk-benefit considerations, address unnecessary barriers to advancing vitally needed new cessation therapies for patients, and encourage smoking cessation pharmacotherapy innovation on behalf of our Nation's patients. The Committee requests an update from the Commissioner of Food and Drugs on new actions CDER will take to address the Committee's concerns not later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

The Committee is aware of alarming trends in youth e-cigarette use; recent survey data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that in 2024, nearly 8 percent of high school students reported e-cigarette use in the previous 30 days. At present, there are no FDA-approved nicotine cessation drugs that are approved for adolescent populations. With more than 2.5 mil-

lion young people using e-cigarettes, there is a need for development of nicotine cessation treatments in adolescents. The Committee encourages the FDA to provide additional guidance to drug manufacturers on the tools that the FDA can utilize to promote development and expedite approval of nicotine cessation treatments in adolescents.

*Sponsor Communication and Scientific Escalation*.—The Committee is concerned that FDA's increasing reliance on written-response-only communications, as well as unexplained departures from prior regulatory advice and unresolved disagreements regarding data interpretation, guidance application, or evidentiary expectations, can delay drug development, extend review timelines, and increase costs without commensurate public health benefit. The Committee is concerned that this pattern of interaction with sponsors is not consistent with congressional intent, particularly as it relates to cases of rare disease and unmet need. The Committee directs the FDA to offer face-to-face or teleconference meetings when requested by the sponsor, consistent with the FDA guidance, when such live exchanges are often necessary to resolve complex scientific questions, clarify regulatory expectations, and advance product development efficiently. The Committee further directs the FDA to establish mandatory, center-wide scientific escalation procedures across all product review divisions, including a requirement that a division director approve any FDA feedback that materially alters previously communicated development expectations. These procedures should also afford sponsors the opportunity to meet with the division director within 30 days of the issuance of such feedback.

*Staff Travel*.—The Committee is concerned by reports that significant amounts of taxpayer dollars are being spent on staff travel. The Committee understands staff travel is needed, especially to inspect facilities, attend important meetings, and stakeholder engagements, but is concerned that a significant amount of senior level staff do not live in the National Capitol Region and are commuting to the agency. Within 90 days of enactment, the Committee directs the FDA to provide a report to the Committee outlining how much funding is being spent on senior level staff travel, including travel for Center Directors.

*State and Regulatory Frameworks and Adequacy of Current Powers*.—The Committee urges the Food and Drug Administration, to improve data sharing and coordination between State and Federal authorities, such as by continuing to support the Food and Drug Administration's Cannabinoid Hemp Product 20.88 Information Sharing Agreement initiative.

*Substance Use Disorder Treatments*.—The Committee encourages the Food and Drug Administration to explore and, where appropriate, implement accelerated review approaches for qualifying substance use disorder treatments, including priority review, fast track designation, breakthrough therapy designation, and other expedited programs authorized under current law and available to the Commissioner. The Committee further encourages the FDA to evaluate whether additional regulatory tools or administrative pathways could reduce development and review timelines for high-

impact addiction treatments while maintaining rigorous standards for safety and efficacy.

*Sunscreen*.—The Committee directs FDA to expeditiously finalize its proposed administrative order OTC000039 to amend Over-the-Counter Monograph M020: Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use to add bemotrizinol as a sunscreen active ingredient, and implement section 6506 of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119–37). Specifically, the Committee directs the FDA to ensure its data requirements for active ingredients used in nonprescription drugs intended for topical administration, including sunscreens, allow for the consideration of additional testing methodologies, such as real-world evidence and non-animal testing methods, as intended by Congress.

*Supply Chain Resilience and Shortage Coordinator*.—To help address persistent shortages, the Committee urges the agency to prioritize further development of the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] Quality Management Maturity program to help strengthen supply chain reliability with priority given to manufacturers of essential medicines, including generic sterile injectable facilities. The agency should also ensure that the FDA drug and medical device shortage staff and supporting offices, as well as staff for inspection of 503B outsourcing facilities, are strengthened in order to prevent and respond effectively to shortages and supply chain disruptions. The Committee provides additional funding for at least one full-time employee to coordinate supply chain resilience activities at the FDA. This position shall also coordinate with other HHS supply chain resilience and shortage staff.

*Supply Shortages for Critical Medications*.—The Committee is concerned about continued reports of supply shortages for critical medications and devices, including diabetes, cancer, antibiotic, ADHD, and other drug shortages, which continue to pose a significant challenge and affect patients access to vital treatments and care. Within 90 days of enactment, the Committee requests a report from the FDA regarding its implementation of shortage-related authorities, and the status of shortage related guidance documents.

*Sodium Reduction*.—The Committee recognizes the importance of reducing sodium in the food supply. The Committee instructs FDA to report on the monitoring and evaluation plan for the Phase I targets to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees and publicly post the report to the FDA's website within 90 days of enactment. In its report, the FDA should describe detailed methods for how the agency is monitoring and evaluating industry progress, along with a timeline for when the Phase I evaluation will be complete and planned actions if industry has not complied with the targets. The report should also detail how the FDA will work with industry on voluntary compliance moving forward. The Committee further directs the FDA to finalize its Phase II sodium reduction targets.

*Tampons*.—The Committee is concerned by recent findings showing the presence of toxic metals in tampons, including some like lead, which have no "safe" exposure level. The Committee under-

stands that the FDA has conducted a study to assess the level of absorption of toxic metals into the human body, and the potential or evidenced health impacts of such absorption. Based on the findings of this study, the Committee directs the FDA to issue guidance to tampon manufacturers requesting that manufacturers provide assurance that contaminants are not present in tampons, or if present, assurance that the level of contaminants do not present a risk to health. The Committee also directs the FDA to post the findings of the study publicly on the FDA's website or otherwise secure publication.

*Temporomandibular Disorder*.—The Committee commends the agency for its leadership in advancing patient-centered regulatory science on TMD, including support for the development of a patient-led TMD registry. The Committee recognizes that TMD represents a heterogeneous group of conditions with poorly characterized patient trajectories, limited longitudinal safety data, and insufficient evidence regarding the effectiveness of existing treatments across clinically distinct subgroups. Given the substantial unmet clinical need, variability in treatment response, and lack of robust real-world data to inform regulatory and clinical decision-making, the Committee directs the FDA to provide sustained technical support for the TMD patient registry. The Committee expects the FDA to incorporate registry generated patient experience and real-world evidence data into regulatory science efforts to support the development and evaluation of safe and effective therapies. The Committee further directs the FDA to provide technical support to strengthen cross-sector coordination and accelerate evidence generation to address the urgent needs of patients living with TMD.

*Thyroid Treatment Access and Enforcement*.—The Committee is concerned about disruptions to patient access to desiccated thyroid extract [DTE] products. The Committee acknowledges FDA's recent announcement outlining a risk-based enforcement approach and its intent to issue guidance on enforcement priorities and approval pathways. The Committee directs the FDA to further clarify its enforcement posture and is directed to brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on its plans for such guidance, the status of any pending or anticipated biologics license applications, and its efforts to prevent disruptions for patients relying on DTE products, including through appropriate use of enforcement discretion during the transition period. The Committee further directs the agency to take steps to preserve access to both manufactured and patient- specific compounded DTE formulations.

*Timing and Sequencing of Cancer Immunotherapy*.—The Committee commends the FDA for supporting the rapid implementation of life-saving immunotherapies into the clinic. New data suggest the administration of immunotherapies early in the treatment timeline may be able to prevent or intercept cancers before they develop into serious disease, thus improving patient outcomes while simultaneously reducing monetary costs and physical burden. To support continued research in this area, the field must develop novel tools to efficiently run early-stage clinical trials. These tools include biomarkers that can detect early disease, inform appropriate treatments, and/or serve as surrogates for clinical endpoints. In addition, determination of early-stage clinical trial endpoints at

large that can characterize patient benefit are necessary for continued momentum. Therefore, the Committee urges the FDA to provide guidance on the development of early disease clinical trial tools, including early-stage biomarkers and clinical endpoints.

*Tissue Transplants*.—The Committee notes the tissue transplant industry is growing, with approximately 70,000 donors providing tissue allografts for 2.5 million transplants in the United States each year. Products in this space are highly innovative, effective and are used to repair, replace or regenerate human tissues or organs, and can be derived from various sources, including human organs, tissues, cells or cell lines. These medical innovations have provided solutions for patients and healthcare providers that support positive patient outcomes and improved quality of life. However, the Committee notes outbreaks of M. tuberculosis in 2021 and 2023 that has contaminated over 100 bone-allograft HCT/Ps implanted in patients, resulting in adverse events and negative patient outcomes. Given similarities between bone matrix HCT/Ps and other donor tissues and cells, the Committee requests the FDA in coordination with HHS as appropriate, to evaluate whether existing post HCT/P implant tracking and adverse reaction reporting requirements under 21 CFR Part 1271.290 and 1271.350, respectively, are sufficient to address the Committee's concerns regarding routine post-implant monitoring for HCT/P.

*Traceability Rule*.—The Committee reminds the FDA to continue execution of section 780 of division B of Public Law 119–37 in order to reach compliance of the Food Traceability Rule by July 20, 2028. The FDA shall continue to update the Committee on progress made with industry quarterly ahead of July 20, 2028.

*Type 1 Diabetes*.—The Committee directs the FDA to provide its current thinking, through publication and/or by updating existing regulatory guidance or developing new guidance, on cell replacement therapies for type 1 diabetes [T1D], developed in collaboration with stakeholders including researchers, people living with T1D and their caregivers, and patient advocacy organizations and through participation in public workshops. At a minimum, this current thinking should address appropriate animal models of T1D for nonclinical studies to support first-in-human trials, critical process parameters and quality attributes for manufactured T1D cell therapies, and clinical study considerations including inclusion and exclusion criteria, randomization and stratification strategies, selection of clinical and surrogate endpoints, incorporation of meaningful patient reported outcomes, and the use of innovative trial designs such as adaptive designs and well justified historical or external control groups. The Committee further directs the FDA to collaborate with patient advocacy organizations on the development of measures that directly capture patient experiences in clinical trials, including validated patient-reported outcome measures and continuous glucose monitor-derived metrics, and to participate in public workshops aimed at advancing the development and regulatory use of such measures, and to heavily weigh patient preferences and patient-reported outcomes—including patients' risk tolerance and the acceptability of outcomes known to be most important to patients—in its regulatory decision-making for T1D cell therapies. Finally, the Committee directs the FDA to publish a public report on its ex-

periences using patient experience data to inform regulatory decisions, including how often patient experience data is submitted to the FDA for T1D and related products, how such data are incorporated into benefit-risk assessments and labeling, and positive and negative case examples of when patient experience data informed different types of FDA decisions and when submitted data were not used.

*User Fee Agreements*.—Biopharmaceutical, medical device, and other medical product developers pay user fees to the FDA to ensure the agency has the resources and staffing needed for timely review of new and generic product applications, with an overall goal of shortening the time it takes for patients to access new safe and effective treatments in the United States. This statutory framework was developed for patients, to ensure that the FDA's medical product reviews occur in an efficient and predictable manner, while also supplementing the government resources, which has been successful for decades. It is imperative that the user fee money provided to the FDA is used in the manner intended and outlined in the user fee commitment letters which were passed by Congress and signed into law. This includes the agency maintaining the appropriate level of user-fee funded staff and other resources. To ensure the user fee programs operate as intended, section 765 of the bill directs the FDA to provide a report, validated by the FDA Chief Financial Officer, within 90 days of the enactment of this act, outlining how the FDA is ensuring that the user fee agreements are fully maintained and implemented, including details as to the current level of staff and other resources devoted to user fee commitments. Following the initial 90-day assessment, section 765 of the bill directs the FDA Chief Financial Officer to certify quarterly staffing and user fee spending for the FDA's reporting to the Committee.

*Vaccine Framework*.—The Committee understands that the Agency is considering revising the framework for the approval of the annual influenza vaccine. The Committee supports the goal of ensuring that the annual flu vaccine is as effective as possible. However, given the narrow time window between the Agency's strain selection and the start of the Northern Hemisphere influenza season, revisions could significantly impact the availability of seasonal influenza vaccines. The Committee directs the Agency to ensure that any revisions to the seasonal influenza vaccine framework are: developed transparently, with appropriate opportunity for stakeholder engagement and public comment, consistent with the FDA's good guidance practices under 21 CFR 10.115; implemented with sufficient lead time to avoid disruption to upcoming influenza seasons; and account for the extensive clinical and safety evidence accumulated over decades of seasonal influenza use. The Committee directs the agency to provide a briefing on any changes to the seasonal influenza vaccine framework no later than 60 days after enactment of this act.

*Vibrio*.—The Committee is aware of the public health challenge related to the naturally occurring bacteria called Vibrio parahaemolyticus that can accumulate in shellfish and believes that more scientific research is necessary to develop proper controls that will reduce the risk to consumers and sustain a healthy do-

mestic shellfish industry. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase funding for research into Vibrio illnesses associated with the consumption of raw molluscan shellfish, improve risk assessment models, and develop improved rapid detection methods for virulent Vibrio strains.

*Women's Health Innovation Program*.—The Committee recognizes that women's health includes conditions and diseases that differently, disproportionately and/or solely impact the health of women, sex differences are at the cellular level and should be considered in bringing medical innovations to market. The Committee further recognizes the value of consistently integrating women's health during the FDA review and approval process to help ensure timely and effective evaluation of medical products.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriations, 2026 | $5,000,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 5,000,000 |

The FDA maintains offices and staff in 49 States and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including field laboratories and specialized facilities, as well as the National Center for Toxicological Research complex. Repairs, modifications, improvements, and construction to the FDA headquarters and field facilities must be made to preserve the properties, ensure employee safety, meet changing program requirements, and permit the agency to keep its laboratory methods up to date.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $5,000,000 for the FDA buildings and facilities.

This funding shall be used to upgrade the FDA's facilities and laboratories which are currently below public safety standards and incapable of performing agency requirements. The Committee is aware that several FDA-owned facilities need significant renovations and repairs. The Committee understands that high-quality, reliable buildings are a necessity to support the FDA's mission-critical work.

## INDEPENDENT AGENCY

### FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Limitation, 2026 | $100,425,000 |
| Committee recommendation | 106,500,000 |

The Farm Credit Administration [FCA] is the independent agency in the executive branch of the Government responsible for the examination and regulation of the banks, associations, and other institutions of the Farm Credit System.

Activities of FCA include the planning and execution of examinations of Farm Credit System institutions and the preparation of examination reports. FCA also promulgates regulations, establishes standards, enforces rules and regulations, and approves certain actions of the institutions.

The administration and the institutions under its jurisdiction now operate under authorities contained in the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–181), effective December 10, 1971. Public Law 99–205, effective December 23, 1985, restructured FCA and gave the agency regulatory authorities and enforcement powers.

The act provides for the farmer-owned cooperative system to make sound, adequate, and constructive credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives, rural residences, and associations and other entities upon which farming operations are dependent, and to modernize existing farm credit law to meet current and future rural credit needs.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233) authorized the formation of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation [FAMC] to operate a secondary market for agricultural and rural housing mortgages. FCA, under section 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–181), as amended, is assigned the responsibility of regulating this entity and assuring its safe and sound operation.

Expenses of FCA are paid by assessments collected from the Farm Credit System institutions and by assessments to the FAMC.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of $106,500,000 on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

# TITLE VII

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following provisions:

Section 701. This section includes language regarding passenger motor vehicles.

Section 702. This section includes language regarding the Working Capital Fund.

Section 703. This section limits the funding provided in the bill to 1 year, unless otherwise specified.

Section 704. This section includes language regarding indirect costs.

Section 705. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 706. This section includes language regarding new information technology.

Section 707. This section includes language regarding Federal crop insurance.

Section 708. This section includes language regarding Rural Utilities Service program eligibility.

Section 709. This section includes language regarding information technology expenses.

Section 710. This section includes language regarding first-class travel.

Section 711. This section includes language regarding the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Section 712. This section includes language regarding advisory committees.

Section 713. This section includes language regarding information technology systems.

Section 714. This section includes language regarding section 32 activities.

Section 715. This section includes language regarding user fee proposals without offsets.

Section 716. This section includes language regarding the reprogramming of funds and notification requirements.

Section 717. This section includes language regarding fees for the guaranteed business and industry loan program.

Section 718. This section includes language regarding the appropriations hearing process.

Section 719. This section includes language regarding prepackaged news.

Section 720. This section includes language regarding details and assignments of Department of Agriculture employees.

Section 721. This section includes language regarding spending plans.

Section 722. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 723. This section includes language regarding Rural Housing Service programs.

Section 724. This section includes language regarding loans and loan guarantees.

Section 725. This section includes language regarding credit card refunds.

Section 726. This section includes language regarding SNAP.

Section 727. This section includes language regarding housing loan programs.

Section 728. This section includes language regarding new user fees.

Section 729. This section includes language regarding FSIS.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding APHIS inspections.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding domestic preference.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding lobbying.

Section 733. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 734. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 735. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 736. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 737. This section includes language regarding hemp.

Section 738. This section includes language regarding matching funds.

Section 739. This section includes language regarding land purchases.

Section 740. This section includes language regarding a pilot program.

Section 741. This section includes language regarding the Food for Peace program.

Section 742. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 743. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 744. This section includes language regarding biotechnology risk assessment.

Section 745. This section includes language regarding agency relocation.

Section 746. This section includes language regarding watershed programs.

Section 747. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 748. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank program.

Section 749. This section includes language regarding the Rural Development.

Section 750. This section includes language regarding REAP Zones.

Section 751. This section includes language regarding a Tribal pilot program.

Section 752. This section including language regarding Listeria.

Section 753. This section includes language regarding the Office of Tribal Relations.

Section 754. This section includes language regarding APHIS.

Section 755. This section includes language regarding horse slaughter.

Section 756. This section includes language regarding wetlands.

Section 757. ds. This section includes language regarding the PAWS Act.

Section 758. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 759. This section includes language regarding labeling.

Section 760.. This section includes language regarding the Institute for Rural Partnerships.

Section 761. This section includes language regarding a working group.

Section 762. This section includes language egarding the Office of the General Counsel.

Section 763. This section includes language regarding Agricultural Research Service closures.

Section 764. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 765. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration user fee reporting.

Section 766. This section includes language on Livestock Mandatory Reporting.

Section 767. This section includes language regarding sodium.

Section 768. This section includes language regarding a pilot program.

Section 769. This section includes language regarding the use of unobligated balances.

Section 770. This section includes language regarding food packages.

Section 771. This section includes language regarding Congressionally Directed Spending.

Section 772. This section includes language regarding terminations of grants, agreements, and awards.

Section 773. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 774. This section includes language regarding Vitamin D.

Section 775. This section language regarding the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

Section 776. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 777. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 778. This section includes language regarding a pilot program.

Section 779. This section includes language regarding Economic Research Service.

Section 780. This section includes language regarding APHIS.

Section 781. This section includes language regarding transportation of animals.
Section 782. This section includes language regarding unobligated balances.
Section 783. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.
Section 784. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.
Section 785. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.
Section 786. This section includes language on pulses.
Section 787. This section includes language regarding a property transfer.
Section 788. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.
Section 789. This section includes language regarding the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund
Section 790. This section includes language regarding the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund
Section 791. This section includes language regarding Food for Peace.
Section 792. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.
Section 793. This section includes language regarding the Food and Nutrition Service.
Section 794. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.
Section 795. This section includes language regarding grants.
Section 796. This section includes language regarding grants.
Section 797. This section includes language regarding unobligated balances.
Section 798. This section includes language regarding reporting.

## PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2027, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), the following information provides the definition of the term "program, project, and activity" for departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The term "program, project, and activity" shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2027, and the report.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2027 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 to all items specified in the explanatory notes submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in support of the fiscal year 2027 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition:

For the Agricultural Research Service the definition shall include specific research locations as identified in the explanatory notes.

For the Natural Resources Conservation Service the definition shall include individual flood prevention projects as identified in the explanatory notes and individual operational watershed projects as summarized in the notes.

For the Farm Service Agency the definition shall include individual, regional, State, district, and county offices.

## COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 7 of rule XVI requires that Committee reports accompanying general appropriations bills identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee is filing an original bill, which is not covered under this rule, but reports this information in the spirit of full disclosure.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities which currently lack authorization for fiscal year 2027:

—Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program

—Broadband Telecommunications Grants

—Child Nutrition Programs

—Summer Food Service Program

—National School Lunch Act—Information Clearinghouse
—School Meals Program—Compliance and Accountability
—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
—Farmers Market Nutrition Program
—Livestock Mandatory Reporting

## COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include "(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the Committee."

In compliance with this rule, changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

## TITLE 7—AGRICULTURE

### CHAPTER 38—DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SUBCHAPTER II—LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING

PART A—PURPOSE; DEFINITION

**§ 1635. Purpose**

* * * * * * *

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING

* * * * * * *

"SUBTITLE D—IMPLEMENTATION

"SEC. 942. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

"The authority provided by this title and the amendments made by this title (other than section 911 of subtitle A and the amendments made by that section) terminate on September 30, [2026] *2027*".

* * * * * * *

PART E—ADMINISTRATION

**§ 1636i. Termination of authority**

The authority provided by this subchapter terminates on September 30, [2026] *2027*.

* * * * * * *

## CHAPTER 109—ANIMAL HEALTH PROTECTION

**§ 8308a. Animal disease prevention and management**

**(c)National Animal Vaccine Bank**

**(1)Establishment**

The Secretary shall establish a national animal vaccine and veterinary countermeasures bank (to be known as the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank and referred to in this subsection as the "Vaccine Bank") to benefit the domestic interests of the United States.

**(2)Elements of Vaccine Bank**

Through the Vaccine Bank, the Secretary shall—

[(A)maintain sufficient quantities of veterinary countermeasures to appropriately and rapidly respond to the most damaging animal diseases affecting or with potential to affect human health or the economy of the United States; and]

*(A) maintain sufficient quantities of vaccines and veterinary countermeasures (including pest eradication tools such as sterile insects) to appropriately and rapidly respond to the most damaging animal diseases and pests of livestock affecting or with potential to affect human health or the economy of the United States; and*

---

# TITLE 12—BANKS AND BANKING

## CHAPTER 9—FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

SUBCHAPTER III—FARM HOUSING

**§ 321. Definitions; generally**

For the purposes of this chapter—

(a)(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

(ss) The term "critical food" means a food that is—

(1) an infant formula; or

(2) a medical food, as defined in section 360ee(b)(3) of this title.

*(tt)(1) The term "zootechnical animal food substance" means a substance that—*

*(A) is added to the food or drinking water of animals;*

*(B) is intended to—*

*(i) affect the byproducts of the digestive process of an animal;*

*(ii) reduce the presence of foodborne pathogens of human health significance in an animal intended to be used for food; or*

*(iii) affect the structure or function of the body of the animal, other than by providing nutritive value, by altering the animal's gastrointestinal microbiome; and*

*(C) achieves its intended effect by acting solely within the gastrointestinal tract of the animal.*

*(2) Such term does not include a substance that—*

*(A) is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in an animal;*

*(B) is a hormone;*

*(C) is an active moiety in an animal drug, which, prior to the filing of a petition under section 409 was approved under section 512, conditionally approved under section 571, indexed under section 572, or for which substantial clinical investigations have been instituted and for which the existence of such investigations has been made public;*

*(D) is an ionophore; or*

*(E) is otherwise excluded from the definition based on criteria established by the Secretary through notice and comment rulemaking.*

*(3) A zootechnical animal food substance shall be deemed to be a food additive within the meaning of subsection (s) and its introduction into interstate commerce shall be in accordance with a regulation issued under section 409. A zootechnical animal food substance shall not be considered a drug under subsection (g)(1)(C) solely because the substance has an intended effect described in paragraph (1).*

* * * * * * *

## CHAPTER 13—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

### § 1758. Program requirements

### (a) Nutritional requirements

* * * * * * *

### (h) Food safety

#### (1) In general

* * * * * * *

#### (3) Audits and reports by States

**[**For fiscal year 2026**]** *For fiscal year 2027*, each State shall annually—

* * * * * * *

#### (4) Audit by the Secretary

**[**For fiscal year 2026**]** *For fiscal year 2027*, the Secretary shall annually audit State reports of food safety inspections of schools submitted under paragraph (3).

* * * * * * *

**§ 1769g. Information clearinghouse**

**(a) In general**

* * * * * * *

**(d) Funding**

Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Secretary to provide to the organization selected under this section, to establish and maintain the information clearinghouse, $200,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 and 1996, $150,000 for fiscal year 1997, $100,000 for fiscal year 1998, $166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004, and $250,000 for each of fiscal years [2010 through 2026] *2010 through 2028*. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.

---

## TITLE 21—FOOD AND DRUGS

### CHAPTER 9—FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

SUBCHAPTER IV—FOOD

**§ 343. Misbranded food**

A food shall be deemed to be misbranded—

**(a) False or misleading label**

* * * * * * *

**(y) Dietary supplements**

If it is a dietary supplement that is marketed in the United States, unless the label of such dietary supplement includes a domestic address or domestic phone number through which the responsible person (as described in section 379aa–1 of this title) may receive a report of a serious adverse event with such dietary supplement.

*(z) If it is a zootechnical animal food substance and the labeling of the food does not include the statement required by section 409(l)(1).*

* * * * * * *

**§ 348. Food additives**

**(a) Unsafe food additives; exception for conformity with exemption or regulation**

* * * * * * *

**(b) Petition for regulation prescribing conditions of safe use; contents; description of production methods and controls; samples; notice of regulation**

(1) Any person may, with respect to any intended use of a food additive, file with the Secretary a petition proposing the issuance of a regulation prescribing the conditions under which such additive may be safely used.

(2) Such petition shall, in addition to any explanatory or supporting data, contain-

(A) the name and all pertinent information concerning such food additive, including, where available, its chemical identity and composition;

(B) a statement of the conditions of the proposed use of such additive, including all directions, recommendations, and suggestions proposed for the use of such additive, and including specimens of its proposed labeling;

(C) all relevant data bearing on the physical or other technical effect such additive is intended to produce, and the quantity of such additive required to produce such effect;

(D) a description of practicable methods for determining the quantity of such additive in or on food, and any substance formed in or on food, because of its use; and

(E) full reports of investigations made with respect to the safety for use of such additive, including full information as to the methods and controls used in conducting such investigations.

*(3) In the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, such petition shall, in addition to any explanatory or supporting data, contain—*

*(A) all relevant data bearing on the effect the zootechnical animal food substance is intended to have and the quantity of such substance required to produce the intended effect; and*

*(B) full reports of investigations made with respect to the intended use of such substance, including full information as to the methods and controls used in conducting such investigations.*

**[**(3)**]** *(4)* Upon request of the Secretary, the petitioner shall furnish (or, if the petitioner is not the manufacturer of such additive, the petitioner shall have the manufacturer of such additive furnish, without disclosure to the petitioner) a full description of the methods used in, and the facilities and controls used for, the production of such additive.

**[**(4)**]** *(5)* Upon request of the Secretary, the petitioner shall furnish samples of the food additive involved, or articles used as components thereof, and of the food in or on which the additive is proposed to be used.

**[**(5)**]** *(6)* Notice of the regulation proposed by the petitioner shall be published in general terms by the Secretary within thirty days after filing.

**(c) Approval or denial of petition; time for issuance of order; evaluation of data; factors**

(1) The Secretary shall—

**[**(A) by order establish a regulation (whether or not in accord with that proposed by the petitioner) prescribing, with respect to one or more proposed uses of the food additive involved, the conditions under which such additive may be safely used (including, but not limited to, specifications as to the particular food or classes of food in or in which such additive may be used, the maximum quantity which may be used or permitted to remain in or on such food, the manner in which such

additive may be added to or used in or on such food, and any directions or other labeling or packaging requirements for such additive deemed necessary by him to assure the safety of such use), and shall notify the petitioner of such order and the reasons for such action; or]

*(A)(i) by order establish a regulation (whether or not in accord with that proposed by the petitioner) prescribing—*

*(I) with respect to one or more proposed uses of the food additive involved, the conditions under which such additive may be safely used (including specifications as to the particular food or classes of food in or on which such additive may be used, the maximum quantity which may be used or permitted to remain in or on such food, the manner in which such additive may be added to or used in or on such food, and any directions or other labeling or packaging requirements for such additive as the Secretary determines necessary to assure the safety of such use); and*

*(II) in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, the conditions under which such substance may be used to achieve the intended effect; and*

*(ii) notify the petitioner of such order and the reasons for such action; or*

(B) by order deny the petition, and shall notify the petitioner of such order and of the reasons for such action.

(2) The order required by paragraph (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection shall be issued within ninety days after the date of filing of the petition, except that the Secretary may (prior to such ninetieth day), by written notice to the petitioner, extend such ninety-day period to such time (not more than one hundred and eighty days after the date of filing of the petition) as the Secretary deems necessary to enable him to study and investigate the petition.

(3) No such regulation shall issue if a fair evaluation of the data before the Secretary—

(A) fails to establish that the proposed use of the food additive, under the conditions of use to be specified in the regulation, will be safe: *Provided*, That no additive shall be deemed to be safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal, or if it is found, after tests which are appropriate for the evaluation of the safety of food additives, to induce cancer in man or animal, except that this proviso shall not apply with respect to the use of a substance as an ingredient of feed for animals which are raised for food production, if the Secretary finds (i) that, under the conditions of use and feeding specified in proposed labeling and reasonably certain to be followed in practice, such additive will not adversely affect the animals for which such feed is intended, and (ii) that no residue of the additive will be found (by methods of examination prescribed or approved by the Secretary by regulations, which regulations shall not be subject to subsections (f) and (g)) in any edible portion of such animal after slaughter or in any food yielded by or derived from the living animal[; or] *;*

(B) shows that the proposed use of the additive would promote deception of the consumer in violation of this chapter or would otherwise result in adulteration or in misbranding of food within the meaning of this chapter**[**.**]** *; or*

*(C) in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, fails to establish that the proposed use of the substance, under the conditions of use to be specified in the regulation, will achieve the intended effect.*

* * * * * * *

**(k) Food additives intended for use in animal food**

(1) In taking action on a petition under subsection (c) for, or for recognition of, a food additive intended for use in animal food, the Secretary shall review reports of investigations conducted in foreign countries, provided by the petitioner.

* * * * * * *

(3) In the case of a food additive petition intended for use in animal food, the Secretary shall provide information to the petitioner on the required contents of such petition. If the Secretary requires additional studies beyond what the petitioner proposed, the Secretary shall provide the scientific rationale for such requirement.

*(l) The labeling of a zootechnical animal food substance—*

*(1) shall include the statement: "Not for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in animals."; and*

*(2) may include statements regarding the intended effect of the substance on the structure or function of the body of animals, as set forth in section 201(tt)(1).*

---

## TITLE 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

### CHAPTER 13A—CHILD NUTRITION

**§ 1786. Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children**

**(a) Congressional findings and declaration of purpose**

* * * * * * *

**(d) Eligible participants**

* * * * * * *

**(3) Certification.—**

(A) PROCEDURES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a person shall be certified for participation in accordance with general procedures prescribed by the Secretary.

(ii) BREASTFEEDING WOMEN.—A State may elect to certify a breastfeeding woman for a period of 1 year postpartum or until a woman discontinues breastfeeding, whichever is earlier.

(iii) CHILDREN.—A State may elect to certify participant children for a period of up to 1 year, if the State

electing the option provided under this clause ensures that participant children receive required health and nutrition assessments.

[(B) A State may consider pregnant women who meet the income eligibility standards to be presumptively eligible to participate in the program and may certify the women for participation immediately, without delaying certification until an evaluation is made concerning nutritional risk. A nutritional risk evaluation of such a woman shall be completed not later than 60 days after the woman is certified for participation. If it is subsequently determined that the woman does not meet nutritional risk criteria, the certification of the woman shall terminate on the date of the determination.

(C) PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and section 794 of title 29, each individual seeking certification or recertification for participation in the program shall be physically present at each certification or recertification determination in order to determine eligibility under the program.

(ii) WAIVERS.—If the agency determines that the requirement of clause (i) would present an unreasonable barrier to participation, a local agency may waive the requirement of clause (i) with respect to—

(I) an infant or child who—

(aa) was present at the initial certification visit; and

(bb) is receiving ongoing health care;

(II) an infant or child who—

(aa) was present at the initial certification visit;

(bb) was present at a certification or recertification determination within the 1-year period ending on the date of the certification or recertification determination described in clause (i); and

(cc) has one or more parents who work; and

(III) an infant under 8 weeks of age—

(aa) who cannot be present at certification for a reason determined appropriate by the local agency; and

(bb) for whom all necessary certification information is provided.]

*(B) PRESENCE FOR CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND EVALUATIONS.—Each individual seeking certification, recertification, or a nutritional risk evaluation for participation in the program authorized under this section shall be provided an appointment that is, at the option of the household, in person or through one of the following formats: (i) by telephone; or (ii) through video technology that permits 2-way, real time interactive communications. Any format made available for an appointment shall*

*be accessible to an individual in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794). If an individual certifies for participation through a format other than in-person, as determined by the Secretary, a State agency shall plan to collect anthropometric data necessary to evaluate the nutritional risk of that individual within 30 days of the appointment and shall collect such data not later than 90 days after the appointment.*

*(C) INTERIM ELIGIBILITY FOR NUTRITIONAL RISK.—A State agency may consider an applicant who meets the eligibility standards under this section, with the exception of completion of a nutrition risk evaluation, to be eligible on an interim basis to participate in the program and may certify any such individual for participation immediately, without delaying certification until a nutritional risk evaluation is made. A nutritional risk evaluation of such individual shall be completed not later than 90 days after the date of interim certification of the individual. If the individual is subsequently determined to not meet nutritional risk criteria, the interim certification of that individual shall terminate on the date of the determination.*

(D) INCOME DOCUMENTATION.—

* * * * * * *

**(f) Plan of operation and administration by State agency**

* * * * * * *

(6)(A) Local agencies participating in the program under this section shall notify persons of their eligibility or ineligibility for the program within twenty days of the date that the household, during office hours of a local agency, personally makes an oral or written request to participate in the program. The Secretary shall establish a shorter notification period for categories of persons who, due to special nutritional risk conditions, must receive benefits more expeditiously.

(B) State agencies may provide for the delivery of vouchers to any participant who is not scheduled for nutrition education and breastfeeding counseling or a recertification interview through means, such as mailing, that do not require the participant to travel to the local agency to obtain vouchers. The State agency shall describe any plans for issuance of vouchers by mail in its plan submitted under paragraph (1). The Secretary may disapprove a State plan with respect to the issuance of [vouchers by mail] *food instruments by mail, remote issuance, or other means* in any specified jurisdiction or part of a jurisdiction within a State only if the Secretary finds that such issuance would pose a significant threat to the integrity of the program under this section in such jurisdiction or part of a jurisdiction.

# CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023, PUBLIC LAW 117–328

## DIVISION N—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

### TITLE I

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

#### RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

##### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For an additional amount for "Rural Housing Assistance Grants", $60,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to homes damaged by Presidentially declared disasters in [calendar year 2022] *calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024*: *Provided*, That 42 U.S.C. 1471(b)(3) shall not apply: *Provided further*, That the income limit shall be capped at 80 percent of the area median income: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 1490m(c)(2) of such title, a grant made under 42 U.S.C. 1490m of such title using funds made available under this heading in this Act, may not exceed $50,000.

##### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for "Rural Community Facilities Program Account", $75,300,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $50,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses for grants to repair essential community facilities damaged by Presidentially declared disasters in [calendar year 2022] *calendar years 2022 and 2024*: *Provided further*, That the percentage of the cost of the facility that may be covered by a grant pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be 75 percent.

## DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

The Constitution vests in the Congress the power of the purse.μ The Committee believes strongly that Congress should make the decisions on how to allocate the people's money. As defined in Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator, providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative, formula-driven, or competitive award process. For each item, a Member is required to provide a certification that neither the Member nor the Member's immediate family has a pecuniary interest in such congressionally directed spending item. Such certifications are available to the public on the website of the Senate Committee on Appropriations (https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending-requests). Following is a list of congressionally directed spending items included in the Senate recommendation discussed in this explanatory statement, along with the name of each Senator who submitted a request to the Committee of jurisdiction for each item so identified. Neither the Committee recommendation nor this explanatory statement contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV.

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | CA | USDA–ARS Citrus Breeding Research Facility | USDA ARS, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Research Center. | 2,000,000 | Schiff |
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | HI | Pacific Regional Lab for Control of Agricultural Pests. | ARS, Hilo | 2,100,000 | Schatz |
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | IL | Capital Improvements | ARS, Peoria | 2,000,000 | Durbin |
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | ME | USDA–ARS PFAS Research Facilities Upgrades | USDA–ARS New England Center for Sustained Soil and Water Health Laboratory. | 8,000,000 | Collins |
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | NE | ARS National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture. | USDA Agricultural Research Service co-located at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. | 32,000,000 | Fischer |
| Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities | OR | Horticultural Crops Disease and Pest Management Unit, Corvallis OR Deferred Maintenance. | Horticultural Crops Disease and Pest Management Unit, Corvallis OR. | 500,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | GA | Fort Valley State University Integrated Pest Management Center. | Fort Valley State University | 580,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | GA | UGA Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Capacity Expansion. | University of Georgia | 2,000,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | HI | Managing Plant Disease | Hawaii Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity | 786,000 | Schatz |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | HI | Kona Domestic Arrival Biosecurity Screening Pilot Program. | Hawaii Department of Transportation | 1,700,000 | Hirono |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | HI | Early Detection of Wildlife Disease | University of Hawaii—School of Life Sciences | 999,000 | Hirono, Schatz |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | KY | Enhancing Equine Health, Safety, and Disease Management. | University of Kentucky | 4,000,000 | McConnell |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | MS | Wildlife Damage Management—Mississippi Fish-Eating Bird Control Program. | APHIS–MS | 1,000,000 | Hyde-Smith |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | OR | Wolf-Livestock Non-lethal Management Activities. | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | 480,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | RI | RIDEM Tick Analysis | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. | 250,000 | Reed |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | RI | DEM Invasive Plant Treatment | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. | 500,000 | Reed |
| APHIS Salaries and Expenses | VT | Managing Human Conflicts with Black Bears | Vermont Agency of Natural Resources—Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. | 464,000 | Welch |
| Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program | OH | Wyandot Connected Care Project | Wyandot Memorial Hospital | 1,000,000 | Husted |
| Research Facilities Act Program | KS | Large Animal Imaging Equipment for BSL–3 Research. | Kansas State University | 4,500,000 | Moran |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Research Facilities Act Program | KS | Biosecurity Research Institute Large Animal Imaging Expansion. | Kansas State University | 5,000,000 | Moran |
| Research Facilities Act Program | MN | Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Upgrades | University of Minnesota | 1,500,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Research Facilities Act Program | NH | Establishing an Agricultural Research Station for Northern New Hampshire. | University of New Hampshire | 500,000 | Shaheen |
| Research Facilities Act Program | NM | Farmington Agricultural Science Center Site | New Mexico State University | 2,000,000 | Heinrich |
| Research Facilities Act Program | OH | Soybean Research Equipment Modernization | The Ohio State University | 785,000 | Husted, Moreno |
| Research Facilities Act Program | SC | Poultry Research Facilities | Clemson University Agricultural Experiment Station. | 8,200,000 | Graham |
| Research Facilities Act Program | SD | Agriculture Research Facilities Restoration Project. | South Dakota State University | 600,000 | Rounds |
| Research Facilities Act Program | VA | Virginia Tech Controlled Environment Agriculture Greenhouse. | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. | 850,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Energy Storage System for AGSD Energy Infrastructure. | Alaska Gateway School District | 1,061,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Heavy Equipment to Support Rural Safety Needs. | Alaska Municipal League | 8,031,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Heavy Equipment | Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council | 472,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Boys and Girls Club Young Building Boiler Replacement. | Boys & Girls Club Nome Community Center | 30,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Heavy Equipment for Flood Recovery and Infrastructure Rehabilitation. | Circle Native Community | 1,154,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Akutan Power Generator Replacement | City of Akutan | 276,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Emergency Medical Response ATVs | Eastern Aleutian Tribes | 59,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Tribal Transportation Program Snow Removal Equipment. | Native Village of Kotzebue | 389,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Construction of Cold Storage Facilities | Northwest Arctic Borough | 2,438,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AK | Kasaan EMS/Fire Hall | Organized Village of Kasaan | 875,000 | Murkowski |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Emergency Infrastructure Upgrades | Blount County Commission | 165,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Fire Truck Replacement | City of Centreville | 450,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | City of Fort Payne Fire Safety | City of Fort Payne | 200,000 | Tuberville |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Emergency Services Equipment | City of Ozark Fire Department | 51,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Mini-Pumper Fire Rescue Truck | City of Thomasville | 618,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Emergency Services Infrastructure | Escambia County Commission | 195,000 | Britt, Tuberville |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Mini-Pumper Fire Truck | Fowl River Volunteer Fire District | 473,000 | Britt |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Emergency Services Equipment | Mount Andrew Volunteer Fire Department | 457,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | City Services Equipment | The Town of Leighton | 248,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Emergency Services Equipment | Town Creek Fire and Rescue Department | 375,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department | Town of Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department. | 37,000 | Tuberville |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AL | Fire Tanker Truck | Vance Fire Protection District | 375,000 | Britt |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AR | City of Luxora Fire and Public Safety Building | City of Luxora, Arkansas | 1,500,000 | Boozman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AR | Woodruff County Community Facility | Woodruff County Government | 5,000,000 | Boozman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | City of Globe Fire Truck | City of Globe | 1,000,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | Greer Fire District Fire Engine | Greer Fire District | 218,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | Mayer Fire District Station Replacement | Mayer Fire District | 1,200,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | Ponderosa Fire District Fire Truck and Equipment. | Ponderosa Fire District | 553,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | Sunsites Pearce Fire Engine | Sunsites Pearce Fire District | 361,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | AZ | Tusayan Flood Warning System | Town of Tusayan | 263,000 | Gallego, Kelly |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CA | Sutter Pointe Radio Tower | County of Sutter | 1,125,000 | Padilla |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CA | Food Bank of El Dorado County Emergency Resource Center. | Food Bank of El Dorado County | 525,000 | Padilla, Schiff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CO | Beulah Fire Water Tender | Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District | 416,000 | Bennet, Hickenlooper |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CO | Sedgwick County Community Center | Community Economic Development of Sedgwick County. | 1,000,000 | Bennet, Hickenlooper |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CO | Parachute/Battlement Mesa Childcare Center | Garfield County School District No 16 | 1,500,000 | Bennet, Hickenlooper |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CO | Seed House Community Hub Renovation | Small Town Project | 600,000 | Hickenlooper |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Community Education Space and Art Galleries | Florence Griswold Museum, Inc. | 1,000,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Henry Carter Hull Library Renovations | Henry Center Hull Library | 500,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Town Hall Campus Updates | Town of Colchester | 3,375,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Community Center | Town of East Granby | 375,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Fire Station Equipment Upgrades | Town of Norfolk | 750,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | CT | Fire Station Technology Upgrades | Town of Waterford | 218,000 | Blumenthal, Murphy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware—New Georgetown Club. | Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware | 1,000,000 | Blunt Rochester, Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | City of Harrington—New Municipal Building | City of Harrington | 500,000 | Blunt Rochester, Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | Food Bank of Delaware—Equipment | Food Bank of Delaware | 263,000 | Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | Milford Advocacy for the Homeless—Equipment Purchase. | Milford Advocacy for the Homeless, Inc. | 171,000 | Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | TidalHealth Nanticoke—Medical Equipment | TidalHealth Nanticoke | 3,000,000 | Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | Town of Cheswold—New Municipal Complex | Town of Cheswold | 1,000,000 | Blunt Rochester, Coons |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | DE | Town of Laurel—Police Department Improvements. | Town of Laurel | 581,000 | Blunt Rochester, Coons |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Ben Hill Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck | Ben Hill Volunteer Fire Department | 127,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Brooks County Fire Station | Brooks County Fire Department | 378,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | City of Cochran Historic Auditorium and Municipal Building Restoration. | City of Cochran | 179,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | City of Hawkinsville Fire Truck Replacement | City of Hawkinsville | 525,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | City of Jonesboro Fleet Vehicles | City of Jonesboro | 240,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Waycross Community Center Renovation | City of Waycross | 1,120,000 | Ossoff, Warnock |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Columbia County Mobile Emergency Operations Center. | Columbia County Emergency Management Agency. | 988,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Cook County Fire Engine Replacement | Cook County Board of Commissioners | 289,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Dodge County Firefighting Water Flow Upgrade | Dodge County | 35,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Tybee Post Theater Arts Annex | Friends of Tybee Theater | 1,240,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Hazlehurst Municipal Airport Fire Station | Hazlehurst Jeff Davis County Fire Rescue | 40,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Lanier County Municipal Service Vehicle | Lanier County | 204,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Lanier County Firefighter Equipment Modernization. | Lanier County | 241,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Sumter County Fire Station | Sumter County Commission | 1,063,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Northeast Georgia Rural Workforce and Infrastructure Initiative. | The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia | 908,000 | Warnock |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Twiggs County Fire Engine Replacement | Twiggs County Board of Commissioners | 372,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Union County Fire Truck Replacement | Union County Fire Department | 525,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | GA | Wilkinson County Fire Truck Replacement | Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners | 674,000 | Ossoff |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | HI | Meat Processing Facility on Molokai | Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. | 563,000 | Hirono, Schatz |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | HI | Kauai Community Ag Park | Malama Kauai | 1,888,000 | Hirono, Schatz |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Infrastructure Improvements | Blackburn University | 450,000 | Durbin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Medical Technology Upgrades | Blessing Care Corporation | 262,000 | Durbin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Lawrenceville Public Works Vehicle Project | City of Lawrenceville, Illinois | 281,000 | Duckworth |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Maternal Care Access Initiative | Deaconess Illinois Medical Center | 688,000 | Duckworth |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Hospital Improvements | Franklin Hospital District | 385,000 | Durbin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | New Library Project | Greenville Public Library | 1,000,000 | Durbin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Outpatient Healthcare Services Expansion Project. | Mason District Hospital, Critical Access Hospital in Havana, Illinois. | 1,275,000 | Duckworth, Durbin |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | IL | Information Technology Upgrades | Sparta Community Hospital District | 1,000,000 | Durbin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KS | City Mullinville Emergency Alert System | City of Mullinville | 23,000 | Moran |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KS | Patterson Health Center Infrastructure Improvement. | Hospital District No 6 of Harper County, Kansas. | 487,000 | Moran |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KS | Minneapolis Fire Station Expansion | Minneapolis Volunteer Fire Department | 260,000 | Moran |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KS | Morton County Rural Fire Department Brush Truck. | Morton County | 169,000 | Moran |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KS | Tabor College Library | Tabor College | 188,000 | Moran |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | KY | Ambulance Replacement | Lewis County Ambulance Service | 263,000 | McConnell |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Tractors & Rotary Cutters for Infrastructure Maintenance. | Acadia Parish Police Jury | 198,000 | Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Fire Station Construction Project | City of Minden | 2,014,000 | Cassidy, Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Animal Control Shelter | Evangeline Parish Police Jury | 605,000 | Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Community Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Coordination and Outreach Facility Project. | Jackson Parish Ambulance Service District | 375,000 | Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Rural Comprehensive Care Initiative | Richardson Medical Center | 1,399,000 | Cassidy, Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Acadiana Real-Time Crime Center | St Martin Parish Law Enforcement District | 1,375,000 | Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Justice Center Engineering and Design Project | Tangipahoa Parish Government | 392,000 | Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Operations Facility | Town of Lake Arthur | 900,000 | Cassidy, Kennedy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | LA | Union General Hospitall Facility Improvements | Union General Hospital | 300,000 | Cassidy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Greenfield Regional Food Aggregation and Distribution Infrastructure Project. | Just Roots Inc. | 350,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | MCLA Early Education Center | Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts | 1,000,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | A New Otis Library | Otis Library | 500,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Rural Recovery Mobile Access Initiative | Rural Recovery Resources Inc | 200,000 | Markey |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Washington Emergency Response Building | The Town of Washington | 94,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Douglas Fire Department Station Addition | Town of Douglas | 443,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Dunstable Fire Station Upgrades | Town of Dunstable | 500,000 | Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Warwick Water Supply Improvements to 3 Buildings on Town Common. | Town of Warwick | 17,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MA | Wendell Meetinghouse Community Center Service Addition and Repairs. | Wendell Meetinghouse Community Center Service Addition and Repairs. | 375,000 | Markey, Warren |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MD | Aaron's Place Food Hub | Aaron's Place, Inc. | 1,500,000 | Alsobrooks, Van Hollen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MD | Diakonia Supportive Living Campus | Diakonia, Inc. | 1,000,000 | Alsobrooks, Van Hollen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MD | Hancock Fire Company Engine Replacement | Hancock Fire Company, Inc. | 1,125,000 | Alsobrooks, Van Hollen |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MD | Rural Veterinary Educational Training and Outreach Center—University of Maryland Eastern Shore. | University of Maryland Eastern Shore | 2,000,000 | Van Hollen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MD | Addiction Healing Center | Westminster Rescue Mission, Inc. | 750,000 | Alsobrooks, Van Hollen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Ellsworth Public Library—Renovations | Ellsworth Public Library | 1,500,000 | Collins, King |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Heart of Maine—Community Resource Center Renovations. | Heart of Maine Resource Center | 600,000 | Collins, King |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Medical Services Facility Upgrade | Islands Community Medical Services | 350,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Madawaska Historical Society Building | Madawaska Historical Society | 235,000 | Collins, King |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Buckfield Municipal Center | Town of Buckfield | 306,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Camden Fire and EMS Station | Town of Camden | 666,000 | Collins, King |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Eustis Fire Station | Town of Eustis | 4,125,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Fryeburg Fire Station and Municipal Complex | Town of Fryeburg | 4,000,000 | Collins, King |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Mapleton, Castle Hill, and Chapman Joint Town Garage. | Town of Mapleton | 750,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Otisfield Fire Department Infrastructure Improvements. | Town of Otisfield | 1,122,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Plymouth Salt and Sand Facility | Town of Plymouth | 385,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Tremont Public Safety Building | Town of Tremont | 6,035,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | ME | Windsor Educational Building | Windsor Fair Agricultural Education | 2,093,000 | Collins |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Alpena Community College Lineworker Training Facility Improvements. | Alpena Community College | 1,750,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Arcadia Community Center Campus Renovation and Expansion. | Arcadia Community Center | 1,000,000 | Slotkin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | City of Cadillac Fire Truck Replacement | City of Cadillac | 1,000,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | City of Caspian Department of Public Works Equipment Acquisition. | City of Caspian | 825,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | City of Iron River Plow Truck and Front-End Loader Acquisition. | City of Iron River | 525,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Marysville Youth Workforce Development Center | City of Marysville | 688,000 | Slotkin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Clark Township Fire Truck Replacement | Clark Township | 550,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Eaton County Animal Control Shelter | Eaton County | 1,375,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Fowlerville Fire Truck Replacement | Fowlerville Area Fire Authority | 650,000 | Slotkin |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Great Lakes Incubator Farm Infrastructure Improvement Project. | Grand Traverse Conservation District | 46,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MI | Harbor Beach Community Schools Future Farmers of America Infrastructure Improvement Project. | Harbor Beach Community Schools | 300,000 | Peters |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MN | Cass Lake Rural Fire Department Building Project. | Cass Lake Volunteer Fire Department | 1,500,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MN | City of Chisholm City Hall Renovations | City of Chisholm | 1,000,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MN | City of Jeffers New Fire Hall | City of Jeffers | 675,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MN | Soaring Eagles Child Care Center Expansion | City of Windom | 1,125,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MN | Madison Mercantile Food Aggregation Hub | Madison Art and Innovation Center | 90,000 | Klobuchar, Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MS | Delta Advantage Center Construction | Delta Advantage Center | 938,000 | Wicker |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MS | Medical Clinic Construction in Poplarville, Mississippi. | Forrest County General Hospital | 2,500,000 | Hyde-Smith, Wicker |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MS | Jefferson Davis County Courthouse Roof Rehabilitation. | Jefferson Davis County | 1,238,000 | Hyde-Smith |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MS | Panola County Emergency Operations Center Annex. | Panola County | 880,000 | Hyde-Smith, Wicker |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MS | Pelahatchie Fire Engine | Town of Pelahatchie | 405,000 | Hyde-Smith, Wicker |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MT | Equipment Purchases | Ekalaka Volunteer Fire Department | 78,000 | Sheehy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | MT | Health Emergency and Response Services Building Improvements. | Teton County | 122,000 | Sheehy |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NC | Vehicles for Macon County Community Center | The Boys & Girls Club of the Plateau | 1,572,000 | Tillis |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NC | Wilkesboro Emergency Services Substation Project. | Town of Wilkesboro | 4,000,000 | Tillis |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Berlin & Coos County Historical Society Solar Project. | Berlin & Coos County Historical Society | 82,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Bethlehem Elementary—Building Improvements | Bethlehem School District | 1,500,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Operating Room, Day Surgery and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit Renovation. | Cottage Hospital | 1,574,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Farmington School District for Henry Wilson Memorial School Window Replacements. | Farmington School District | 1,500,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Sterile Processing Department Equipment Replacement and Redundancy Project. | Huggins Hospital | 601,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Monadnock Community Hospital Surgical Air Handling Unit (AHU–2) Replacement Project. | Monadnock Community Hospital | 825,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | NHPR's Seacoast Signal Expansion | New Hampshire Public Radio, Inc. | 124,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Canterbury Elementary—Improving Air and Safety. | Shaker Regional School District | 909,000 | Shaheen |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Replacement of End-of-Life Chillers to Sustain Critical Access Hospital Operations. | Speare Memorial Hospital | 598,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Central Fire Station | Town of Alton | 1,300,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Dalton Fire Truck Tanker Replacement | Town of Dalton | 416,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Groton Highway Department Plow Truck with Sander. | Town of Groton | 32,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Regional EMS Building, Site work and Renovations. | Town of Groton | 250,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Hinsdale's Fire Station Renovation | Town of Hinsdale | 1,300,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Lancaster Fire/EMS Rescue Vehicle & Public Works Vehicles. | Town of Lancaster | 152,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Lee Historic Community Town Hall Restoration | Town of Lee | 900,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Littleton Fire Department Fire Station/Emergency Operations Center Addition and Renovation. | Town of Littleton | 750,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Madison, NH Department of Public Works Road Salt Storage Shed. | Town of Madison, NH | 300,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Northumberland Emergency Responder Fire Engine. | Town of Northumberland | 637,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Sandown Fire-Rescue Upgraded Exhaust Removal System. | Town of Sandown | 55,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Troy Town Hall Steeple Rehabilitation | Town of Troy | 150,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department Station Proposal. | Town of Wentworth | 1,300,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | Westmoreland Town Hall Community Center | Town of Westmoreland | 329,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NH | White Horse Recovery Restoration House | White Horse Addiction Center Inc. | 250,000 | Shaheen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NJ | Rural Hospital Modernization Project for Salem County. | Inspira Health Network | 1,474,000 | Booker, Kim |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NJ | Meeting the Moment: Expanding SCCC's Gym to Support Growing Community Initiatives. | Sussex County Community College | 2,000,000 | Booker, Kim |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | CHIYAAN Community Food and Nutrition Hub | BEN Initiative | 550,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | City of Belen Old City Hall | City of Belen | 500,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | El Rito Public Library Repairs | El Rito Public Library | 75,000 | Luján |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Tana Shredder Equipment | Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority | 839,000 | Luján |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Gila Valley Library | Grant County | 150,000 | Luján |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Guadalupe Election Vehicle | Guadalupe County Clerk's Office | 75,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | NMHU Expanding Direct Clinical Services | New Mexico Highlands University | 945,000 | Luján |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Pueblo of Zia Equipment | Pueblo of Zia | 750,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Zuni Fire Department Ladder Truck | Pueblo of Zuni | 1,650,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | San Cristobal Community Center | San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association. | 500,000 | Heinrich |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Sandoval County Fire Truck | Sandoval County | 938,000 | Heinrich, Luján |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NM | Village of Mosquero Fire Station | Village of Mosquero | 500,000 | Heinrich, Luján |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NV | City of Ely—Historic Ely City Hall Renovation | City of Ely | 712,000 | Cortez Masto, Rosen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NV | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes—Owyhee Combined School. | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. | 3,000,000 | Cortez Masto, Rosen |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | Community Memorial Hospital—Clinic Development Project. | Community Memorial Hospital | 1,500,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | EverGreen Meadow Services—Rural Health Facility. | EverGreen Meadow Services, Inc | 1,000,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | Saunders Finger Lakes Museum—Community Facility Enhancements. | Finger Lakes Cultural & Natural History Museum. | 1,000,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks dba The Wild Center—Center of Excellence in Natural Science Education. | Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks dba The Wild Center. | 1,000,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | Norwich Family YMCA Safety and Accessibility Improvements. | Norwich Family YMCA | 794,000 | Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | SUNY Canton—Childcare Facility | State University of New York College of Technology at Canton. | 1,000,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | The Center for Discovery—Skilled Nursing Facility. | The Center for Discovery, Inc. | 1,000,000 | Gillibrand, Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | NY | Fallsburg Highway Garage Relocation | Town of Fallsburg | 1,000,000 | Schumer |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Rural Workforce Development Laboratory | Ohio State Grace L Drake Agricultural Laboratory. | 1,000,000 | Husted |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Plymouth Township Fire Station Renovation/Addition Project. | Plymouth Township | 1,000,000 | Husted |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Countywide 911 Communications Infrastructure Initiative. | Trumbull County Commissioners | 975,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Industrial Park Lift Station | Village of Gallipolis | 770,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Fire Hydrant Replacement | Village of Mingo Junction | 17,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Police & Regional Law Enforcement Training Facility. | Milton Township | 3,119,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Welding and Industrial Maintenance Lab Renovation and Expansion Project. | Gallia-Jackson-Vinton Joint Vocational School District. | 566,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Emergency Communications Tower | Auglaize County Commissioners | 500,000 | Moreno |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Public Safety and Emergency Response Improvement. | Village of Waverly | 1,815,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OH | Agricultural Society Exposition Building Addition. | Holmes County Agricultural Society | 1,000,000 | Moreno |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OR | Bonanza Rural Community Facility Project | Bonanza | 347,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OR | Aumsville Rural Health Clinic Construction | Santiam Memorial Hospital dba Santiam Hospital & Clinics. | 2,000,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | OR | Southwestern Polk County Rural Fire District New Ambulance. | Southwestern Polk County Rural Fire District | 336,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Goodley Road Culvert Replacement | Bethel Township | 330,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Blue Valley Rescue Squad—New Rescue Truck | Blue Valley Rescue Squad Inc. | 220,000 | McCormick |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Equipment and Vehicle Upgrades for Centre Care Inc.. | Centre Care Inc. | 70,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Cherryhill Township Volunteer Fire Company Mobile Air Truck. | Cherryhill Township Volunteer Fire Company | 103,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Wyoming County Commission on Economic Opportunity Facility. | Commission On Economic Opportunity | 175,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Fayette County Emergency Management Shelter | County of Fayette | 23,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Fayette County Fire School | County of Fayette, Pennsylvania | 228,000 | McCormick |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | McKean County Courthouse Improvements | County of McKean | 14,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Derry Township VFD Fire Station Expansion | Derry Township Volunteer Fire Department of Bradenville. | 57,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Greater Washington County Food Bank Vehicle Acquisition. | Greater Washington County Food Bank | 128,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Mobile Deer Processing Unit | Hunters Sharing the Harvest Inc | 225,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Northern Regional Police Department Station Renovation. | Northern Regional Police Department | 2,000,000 | McCormick |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | Sipesville Volunteer Fire Company Tanker Refurbishment. | Sipesville Volunteer Fire Company | 342,000 | McCormick |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | SAMA Ligonier HVAC System Equipment Replacement. | Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art | 25,000 | Fetterman |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | PA | St. Marys Ambulance Purchase of New Emergency Medical Vehicle. | St. Marys Area Ambulance Service, Inc. | 112,000 | Fetterman, McCormick |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Strengthening Marine Mammal Response and Public Safety on Block Island. | Block Island Maritime Institute | 279,000 | Whitehouse |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | New England Institute of Technology Innovation Center for Building Sciences. | New England Institute of Technology | 2,050,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Portsmouth Police Patrol Boat Engine Replacement. | Portsmouth Police Department | 32,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Alton Jones Environmental Education | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. | 100,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Scituate Police Communications Equipment | Scituate Police Department | 666,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Tiverton Police Equipment | Tiverton Police Department | 281,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum | Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum | 1,625,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | West Greenwich Fire Department Portable Radios. | Town of West Greenwich | 176,000 | Reed, Whitehouse |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | RI | West Greenwich Police Vehicles | West Greenwich Police Department | 168,000 | Reed |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | SC | Barnwell County Fire Department | Barnwell County | 937,000 | Graham |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | SC | Northside Fire Department Fire Engine Replacement. | Northside Fire Department | 450,000 | Graham |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | SC | Richland County Rural Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Network. | Richland County | 720,000 | Graham |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | UT | Bluff Rural Innovation and Civic Center Project | City of Bluff | 2,360,000 | Curtis |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Bland County High School Emergency Roof Replacement. | Bland County, Virginia | 825,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Franklin County Emergency Vehicle Replacement. | Franklin County, Virginia | 390,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | God's Storehouse Soup Kitchen Equipment | God's Storehouse Soup Kitchen | 20,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Dante Community Fire Department Replacement. | Russell County, Virginia | 602,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Caroline County Rural Mental Health Center | Town of Chilhowie, Virginia | 350,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Town of Chilhowie Municipal Vehicle Replacement. | Town of Chilhowie, Virginia | 386,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Town of Haysi Community Center Renovation | Town of Haysi, Virginia | 150,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VA | Town of Marion Snow Removal Vehicle Replacement. | Town of Marion, Virginia | 520,000 | Kaine, Warner |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Franklin County Senior Center Accessibility Upgrades. | Franklin County Senior Center Inc. | 182,000 | Sanders |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Woodlands Campus Child Care Project | Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation. | 350,000 | Sanders, Welch |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Open Library Project | Manchester Community Library | 113,000 | Sanders |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Nature Education & Childcare Center—Pre-Construction Engineering and Design. | Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary | 120,000 | Welch |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Community Center and Farm Market Remodel | Smokey House Center | 798,000 | Welch |

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

| Account | State | Project | Recipient | Recommendation ($) | Requestor(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Springfield Area Parent Child Center Workforce Development and Training Center. | Springfield Area Parent Child Center | 649,000 | Sanders |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | James Herbert Bellows Fairfax Community Center. | Town of Fairfax | 500,000 | Sanders |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | VT | Plainfield Town Hall Capital Improvements | Town of Plainfield | 293,000 | Sanders |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Coupeville Boys & Girls Club Rural Youth and Childcare Expansion Project. | Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County | 1,100,000 | Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Community Opportunity Center | City of College Place | 2,000,000 | Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Republic Library, Childcare, & Community Center. | City of Republic | 2,000,000 | Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Cowlitz County Administrative Building Rehabilitation. | Cowlitz County | 330,000 | Cantwell |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Summit Pacific Hospital Upgrades | Grays Harbor County Public Hospital District No. 1. | 2,800,000 | Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Snoqualmie Valley Health Surgical Services and Imaging Project. | King County Public Hospital District #4 dba Snoqualmie Valley Health. | 1,000,000 | Cantwell |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Advancing Rural Surgical Services Project | Klickitat County Public Health Hospital District No. 2. | 1,700,000 | Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WA | Jamie's Place Elder Care and Housing Expansion Project. | Methow Valley Family Home Center Association dba Jamie's Place. | 1,000,000 | Cantwell, Murray |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WI | Boscobel and Rural Fire Department | Boscobel and Rural Fire Department | 5,750,000 | Baldwin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WI | Town of Algoma Fire Station | Town of Algoma Fire Department | 658,000 | Baldwin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WI | Zion Road Pavement Replacement | Town of Palmyra | 210,000 | Baldwin |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | HVAC Modernization | Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center | 645,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Fire Department Improvements | City of Logan | 974,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Snow Removal Vehicle Replacement Project | City of Oak Hill Public Works | 99,000 | Capito, Justice |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Bradshaw Senior Center Replacement Project | McDowell County Commission on Aging, Inc. | 1,165,000 | Capito, Justice |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Former Potomac Valley Hospital Redevelopment | Mineral County Development Authority | 1,200,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Fire Station Replacement | Moorefield Volunteer Fire Co. 46 | 7,245,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Pocahontas County 911 Communication Tower | Pocahontas County Commission | 300,000 | Justice |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Police Cruiser | Town of Gauley Bridge | 64,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Outdoor Warning System | Wetzel County OEM/E–911 | 278,000 | Capito |
| Rural Community Facilities Program | WV | Swiftwater Training Facility | WILD Institute, Inc. | 2,007,000 | Capito, Justice |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | AR | Improving Farm Profitability by Helping Farmers Conserve Arkansas Groundwater. | Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division. | 55,000 | Boozman |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | AR | White River Irrigation Demonstration Project | White River Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District. | 10,000,000 | Boozman |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | CA | Tulelake Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project. | Tulelake Irrigation District | 2,000,000 | Padilla, Schiff |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | CO | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Watershed Plan | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe | 800,000 | Bennet, Hickenlooper |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | DE | Town of Wyoming—Wyoming Lake Stabilization | Town of Wyoming | 55,000 | Blunt Rochester, Coons |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | KS | Rattlesnake Creek Watershed | Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5. | 1,576,000 | Moran |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MS | Mississippi Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. | NRCS–MS | 8,756,000 | Hyde-Smith |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Fort Peck Wiota and Frazer Pumping Plants Modernization. | Assiniboine and Sioux Fort Peck Tribes | 55,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Simms Creek Siphon Rehabilitation | Fort Shaw Irrigation District | 55,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Sinclair Creek Siphon Modernization Project | Glen Lake Irrigation District | 55,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Milk River Watershed Plan-EIS Drop Structure Replacement. | Milk River Irrigation Project Joint Board of Control. | 3,000,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Petrolia Main Canal Modernization Project | Petrolia Irrigation District | 55,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Tiber Water Sollid Road Improvements | Tiber County Water District | 55,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | MT | Cowles Creek Flume Replacement | Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District | 525,000 | Sheehy |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | OR | Aging Infrastructure Modernization | Klamath Irrigation District | 1,845,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | OR | Irrigation Modernization Project | Powder Valley Water Control District | 2,000,000 | Merkley, Wyden |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | RI | Pocasset Flood Mitigation Project | Northern Rhode Island Conservation District | 700,000 | Reed |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) | UT | Centerville City Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project—Fire Break Road (Phase 1). | Centerville City | 55,000 | Curtis |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS | | | |
| Processing, Research, and Marketing | | | |
| Office of the Secretary | | | |
| Office of the Secretary | 7,000 | 7,000 | ..... |
| Office of Homeland Security | 1,700 | 15,259 | + 13,559 |
| Office of Tribal Relations | 5,190 | 5,190 | ..... |
| Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement | 5,250 | 5,250 | ..... |
| Departmental Administration | | | |
| Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration | 1,706 | 1,706 | ..... |
| Departmental Administration | 17,015 | 17,015 | ..... |
| Subtotal, Departmental Administration | 18,721 | 18,721 | ..... |
| Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs | 3,500 | 3,500 | ..... |
| Office of Communications | 5,000 | 5,000 | ..... |
| Total, Office of the Secretary | 46,361 | 59,920 | + 13,559 |
| Executive Operations | | | |
| Office of the Chief Economist | 29,500 | 30,500 | + 1,000 |
| Office of Hearings and Appeals | 14,500 | 14,500 | ..... |
| Office of Budget and Program Analysis | 14,967 | 14,967 | ..... |
| Office of the Chief Information Officer | 85,000 | 85,000 | ..... |
| Office of the Chief Financial Officer | 5,867 | 5,867 | ..... |
| Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights | 1,466 | 1,466 | ..... |
| Office of Civil Rights | 30,000 | 30,000 | ..... |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture Buildings and Facilities | 15,000 | 20,000 | +5,000 |
| Hazardous materials management | 1,619 | 1,619 | ..... |
| Office of Safety, Security, and Protection | 24,000 | 19,100 | −4,900 |
| Office of Inspector General | 103,000 | 103,000 | ..... |
| Office of the General Counsel | 60,537 | 58,000 | −2,537 |
| Office of Ethics | 4,500 | 4,500 | ..... |
| Total, Executive Operations | 389,956 | 388,519 | −1,437 |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics | 1,384 | 1,384 | ..... |
| Office of the Chief Scientist | 500 | 500 | ..... |
| Subtotal | 1,884 | 1,884 | ..... |
| Economic Research Service | 90,612 | 90,612 | ..... |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service | 185,000 | 189,500 | +4,500 |
| Census of Agriculture | (46,000) | (48,500) | (+2,500) |
| **Agricultural Research Service** | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | 1,793,063 | 1,832,003 | +38,940 |
| Buildings and facilities | 3,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 57,650 | 46,600 | −11,050 |
| Subtotal | 60,650 | 49,600 | −11,050 |
| Total, Agricultural Research Service | 1,853,713 | 1,881,603 | +27,890 |
| **National Institute of Food and Agriculture** | | | |
| Research and education activities | 1,062,250 | 1,076,820 | +14,570 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 13,560 | 23,935 | +10,375 |
| Subtotal, Research and Education Activities | 1,075,810 | 1,100,755 | +24,945 |
| Native American Institutions Endowment Fund | (11,880) | (11,880) | ..... |
| Extension activities | 561,100 | 567,230 | +6,130 |
| Integrated activities | 40,100 | 40,100 | ..... |
| Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture | 1,677,010 | 1,708,085 | +31,075 |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs | 1,617 | 1,617 | ..... |
| Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | 1,146,150 | 1,163,810 | +17,660 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 11,384 | 12,759 | +1,375 |
| Subtotal | 1,157,534 | 1,176,569 | +19,035 |
| Buildings and facilities | 500 | 1,000 | +500 |
| Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service | 1,158,034 | 1,177,569 | +19,535 |
| Agricultural Marketing Service | | | |
| Marketing Services | 211,367 | 220,801 | +9,434 |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected) | (62,596) | (62,596) | ..... |
| Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32): | | | |
| Permanent, (Section 32) | 1,716,293 | 1,714,000 | −2,293 |
| Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from Section 32) | (23,880) | (24,464) | (+584) |
| Payments to States and Possessions | 500 | 1,000 | +500 |
| Limitation on inspection and weighing services expenses | (55,000) | (55,000) | ..... |
| Total, Agricultural Marketing Service | 2,045,756 | 2,053,397 | +7,641 |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety | 1,117 | 1,117 | ..... |
| Food Safety and Inspection Service | 1,215,200 | 1,226,000 | +10,800 |
| Lab accreditation fees | (1,000) | (1,000) | ..... |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total, title I, Agricultural Programs | 8,548,664 | 8,662,227 | +113,563 |
| (By transfer) | (23,880) | (24,464) | (+584) |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses) | (117,596) | (117,596) | |
| TITLE II—FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS | | | |
| Farm Production Programs | | | |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation | 1,527 | 1,527 | |
| Farm Production and Conservation Business Center | 167,633 | 225,000 | +57,367 |
| (by transfer from CCC) | (70,740) | (70,740) | |
| Farm Service Agency | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | 1,125,000 | 1,210,000 | +85,000 |
| (by transfer from ACIF) | (305,803) | (305,803) | |
| Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers) | 1,430,803 | 1,515,803 | +85,000 |
| State mediation grants | 6,500 | 6,500 | |
| Grassroots source water protection program | 7,500 | 7,000 | −500 |
| Dairy indemnity program | (500) | (500) | |
| Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers | 3,500 | 3,500 | |
| Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund [ACIF] Program Account: | | | |
| Loan authorizations: | | | |
| Farm ownership loans: | | | |
| Guaranteed | (3,500,000) | (3,500,000) | |
| Direct | (2,580,000) | (2,580,000) | |
| Subtotal | (6,080,000) | (6,080,000) | |
| Farm operating loans: | | | |
| Unsubsidized guaranteed | (2,000,000) | (2,000,000) | |
| Direct | (1,633,000) | (1,633,000) | |
| Subtotal | (3,633,000) | (3,633,000) | |
| Emergency loans | (14,388) | (14,388) | |
| Indian tribe land acquisition loans | (20,000) | (20,000) | |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conservation loans: | | | |
| Guaranteed | (150,000) | (150,000) | |
| Relending program loans | | | |
| Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans | | | |
| Boll weevil eradication loans | (60,000) | (60,000) | |
| Total, Loan authorizations | (9,957,388) | (9,957,388) | |
| Loan subsidies: | | | |
| Emergency Loans | 1,000 | 1,062 | +62 |
| Farm operating loans: | | | |
| Unsubsidized guaranteed | | | |
| Farm Ownership Loans: | | | |
| Direct (ownership) | 32,766 | 63,468 | +30,702 |
| Subtotal | 33,766 | 64,530 | +30,764 |
| Relending program loans | | | |
| Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans | | | |
| Boll weevil eradication loans | 84 | | −84 |
| Total, Loan subsidies and grants | 33,850 | 64,530 | +30,680 |
| ACIF administrative expenses: | | | |
| Administrative Expenses | 326,053 | 326,053 | |
| (Program Loan Cost Expenses) | (20,250) | (20,250) | |
| (Transfer out to FSA Salaries and expenses) | (−305,803) | (−305,803) | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account | 359,903 | 390,583 | +30,680 |
| (Loan authorizations) | (9,957,388) | (9,957,388) | ..... |
| Total, Farm Service Agency | 1,502,403 | 1,617,583 | +115,180 |
| **Risk Management Agency** | | | |
| RMA Salaries and Expenses | 60,000 | 60,345 | +345 |
| Total, Farm Production Programs | 1,731,563 | 1,904,455 | +172,892 |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service: | | | |
| Conservation Operations | 815,375 | 870,000 | +54,625 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 34,625 | ..... | −34,625 |
| Subtotal | 850,000 | 870,000 | +20,000 |
| Farm Security and Rural Investment Program: | | | |
| Administrative expenses-FPAC Business Center (transfer out) | (−70,740) | (−70,740) | ..... |
| Watershed flood and prevention operations | 17,640 | 20,000 | +2,360 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 32,360 | 31,642 | −718 |
| Subtotal | 50,000 | 51,642 | +1,642 |
| Watershed rehabilitation program | 3,000 | 1,000 | −2,000 |
| Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service | 903,000 | 922,642 | +19,642 |
| **Corporations** | | | |
| Federal Crop Insurance Corporation: | | | |
| Federal crop insurance corporation fund | 15,346,000 | 18,036,000 | +2,690,000 |
| Commodity Credit Corporation Fund: | | | |
| Reimbursement for net realized losses | 13,953,731 | 18,898,844 | +4,945,113 |
| Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses) | (15,000) | (15,000) | ..... |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total, Corporations | 29,299,731 | 36,934,844 | +7,635,113 |
| Total, title II, Farm Production and Conservation Programs | 31,934,294 | 39,761,941 | +7,827,647 |
| (By transfer) | (376,543) | (376,543) | |
| (Transfer out) | (−376,543) | (−376,543) | |
| TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT | | | |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development | 1,620 | 1,620 | |
| Rural Development | | | |
| Rural development expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | 312,000 | 335,000 | +23,000 |
| (by transfer from RHIF) | (412,254) | (412,254) | |
| (by transfer from RDLFP) | (4,468) | (4,468) | |
| (by transfer from RETLP) | (33,270) | (33,270) | |
| Subtotal, transfers from program accounts | 449,992 | 449,992 | |
| Total, Rural development expenses (including transfers) | 761,992 | 784,992 | +23,000 |
| Rural Housing Service | | | |
| Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account: | | | |
| Loan authorizations: | | | |
| Single family direct (Sec 502) | (1,000,000) | (1,000,000) | |
| Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes | (5,000) | (6,000) | (+1,000) |
| Unsubsidized guaranteed | (25,000,000) | (25,000,000) | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subtotal, Single family | 26,005,000 | 26,006,000 | +1,000 |
| Housing repair (Sec 504) | (25,000) | (25,000) | ..... |
| Rental housing (Sec 515) | (50,000) | (50,000) | ..... |
| Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec 538) | (400,000) | (400,000) | ..... |
| Single family housing credit sales | (10,000) | (10,000) | ..... |
| Self-help housing land development housing loans (Sec 523) | (5,000) | (5,000) | ..... |
| Site development loans (Sec 524) | (5,000) | (5,000) | ..... |
| Farm Labor Housing (Sec514) | (15,000) | (15,000) | ..... |
| Total, Loan authorizations | 26,515,000 | 26,516,000 | +1,000 |
| Loan subsidies: | | | |
| Single family direct (Sec 502) | 130,600 | 132,900 | +2,300 |
| Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes | 2,125 | 2,653 | +528 |
| Housing repair (Sec 504) | 4,333 | 4,270 | −63 |
| Self-Help Land Development Housing Loans (Sec523) | 657 | 655 | −2 |
| Site Development Loans (Sec524) | 502 | 471 | −31 |
| Rental housing (Sec 515) | 15,130 | 16,640 | +1,510 |
| Multi-family housing revitalization program | 30,000 | 30,000 | ..... |
| Farm labor housing (Sec514) | 4,761 | 5,057 | +296 |
| Total, Loan subsidies | 188,108 | 192,646 | +4,538 |
| Farm labor housing grants | 6,000 | 6,000 | ..... |
| RHIF administrative expenses | 412,254 | 412,254 | ..... |
| (transfer out to Rural Development) | (−412,254) | (−412,254) | ..... |
| Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program | 606,362 | 610,900 | +4,538 |
| (Loan authorization) | (26,515,000) | (26,516,000) | (+1,000) |
| Rental assistance (Sec 521) | 1,715,000 | 1,795,000 | +80,000 |
| Rural Housing Vouchers | 48,000 | 48,000 | ..... |
| Mutual and self-help housing grants | 25,000 | 30,000 | +5,000 |
| Rural housing assistance grants | 27,000 | 26,000 | −1,000 |
| Rural community facilities program account: | | | |
| Loan authorizations: | | | |
| Community facility: | | | |
| Direct | (1,250,000) | (1,250,000) | ..... |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guaranteed | (650,000) | (650,000) | ..... |
| Total, Loan authorizations | 1,900,000 | 1,900,000 | ..... |
| Loan subsidies and grants: | | | |
| Community facility: | | | |
| Community Facilities Direct Loans | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Grants | 5,000 | 15,376 | +10,376 |
| Congressionally Directed Spending | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Derivation by Transfer (IIJA) | ..... | (200,000) | (+200,000) |
| Congressionally Directed Spending | 659,161 | 34,064 | −625,097 |
| Subtotal, Congressionally Directed Spending | 659,161 | 234,064 | −425,097 |
| Rural community development initiative | 5,000 | 5,000 | ..... |
| Tribal college grants | 8,000 | 8,000 | ..... |
| Subtotal, Loan subsidies and grants | 677,161 | 62,440 | −614,721 |
| Total, grants and payments | 729,161 | 118,440 | −610,721 |
| Total, Rural Housing Service | 3,098,523 | 2,572,340 | −526,183 |
| (Loan authorization) | (28,415,000) | (28,416,000) | (+1,000) |
| Rural Business-Cooperative Service: | | | |
| Rural Business Program Account: | | | |
| (Guaranteed business and industry loan authorization) | (1,750,000) | (1,700,000) | (−50,000) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Loan subsidies and grants: | | | |
| Guaranteed business and industry subsidy | 15,575 | 32,810 | +17,235 |
| Rural business development grants | 25,000 | 25,000 | ..... |
| Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, and Southwest Border Regional Commission | 10,000 | 12,000 | +2,000 |
| Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants | 50,575 | 69,810 | +19,235 |
| Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account: | | | |
| (Loan authorization) | (9,000) | (9,000) | ..... |
| Loan subsidy | 2,495 | 2,631 | +136 |
| Administrative expenses | 4,468 | 4,468 | ..... |
| (transfer out to Rural Development) | (−4,468) | (−4,468) | ..... |
| Total, Intermediary Relending Program Account | 6,963 | 7,099 | +136 |
| Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account: | | | |
| (Loan authorization) | (50,000) | (75,000) | (+25,000) |
| Limit cushion of credit interest spending | (75,000) | (75,000) | ..... |
| Rural Cooperative Development Grants: | | | |
| Cooperative development | 5,000 | 5,000 | ..... |
| Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas | 3,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Grants to assist minority producers | 3,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Value-added agricultural product market development | 8,000 | 8,000 | ..... |
| Agriculture innovation centers | 1,000 | 1,000 | ..... |
| Total, Rural Cooperative development grants | 20,000 | 20,000 | ..... |
| Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program: | | | |
| (Loan authorization) | (17,000) | (15,000) | (−2,000) |
| Loan subsidy and grants | 4,000 | 4,000 | ..... |
| Rural Energy for America Program: | | | |
| (Loan authorization) | (100,000) | (100,000) | ..... |
| Loan subsidy | ..... | 3,780 | +3,780 |
| Healthy Food Financing Initiative | 50 | 50 | ..... |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service | 81,588 | 104,739 | +23,151 |
| (Loan authorizations) | (1,926,000) | (1,899,000) | (−27,000) |
| Rural Utilities Service: | | | |
| Rural water and waste disposal program account: | | | |
| Loan authorizations: | | | |
| Direct | (1,000,000) | (1,000,000) | |
| 1% Direct | (15,000) | (15,000) | |
| Guaranteed | (50,000) | (50,000) | |
| Total, Loan authorizations | 1,065,000 | 1,065,000 | |
| Loan subsidies and grants: | | | |
| Water and waste revolving fund | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| Water well system grants | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| 306A(i)(2) grants | 7,000 | 7,000 | |
| Colonias and AK/HI grants | 60,000 | 60,000 | |
| Water and waste technical assistance | 35,000 | 35,000 | |
| Circuit rider program | 23,900 | 24,000 | +100 |
| Solid waste management grants | 4,000 | 4,000 | |
| Direct subsidy | 47,600 | 71,600 | +24,000 |
| 1% Direct subsidy | 3,876 | 4,224 | +348 |
| High energy cost grants | 8,000 | 8,000 | |
| Water and waste disposal grants | 140,000 | 275,000 | +135,000 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 110,489 | | −110,489 |
| Total, Loan subsidies and grants | 445,865 | 494,824 | +48,959 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account: | | | |
| Loan authorizations: | | | |
| Electric: | | | |
| Direct, FFB | (2,667,000) | (3,584,000) | (+917,000) |
| Electric Direct, Treasury Rate | (4,333,000) | (5,666,000) | (+1,333,000) |
| Guaranteed underwriting | (910,000) | (910,000) | ..... |
| Rural Energy Savings Program | (25,000) | (25,000) | ..... |
| Subtotal, Electric | 7,935,000 | 10,185,000 | +2,250,000 |
| Telecommunications: | | | |
| Telecomm Direct, Treasury | (350,000) | (350,000) | ..... |
| Telecomm Direct, FFB | (200,000) | (200,000) | ..... |
| Total, Loan authorizations | 8,485,000 | 10,735,000 | +2,250,000 |
| Loan Subsidy: | | | |
| Telecommunications Direct, Treasury Rate | 3,570 | 3,185 | −385 |
| Rural Energy Savings Program | 4,200 | 4,535 | +335 |
| RETLP administrative expenses | 33,270 | 33,270 | ..... |
| (transfer out to Rural Development) | (−33,270) | (−33,270) | ..... |
| Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account | 41,040 | 40,990 | −50 |
| (Loan authorization) | (8,485,000) | (10,735,000) | (+2,250,000) |
| Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program: | | | |
| Loan subsidies and grants: | | | |
| Distance learning and telemedicine: | | | |
| Grants | 30,000 | 35,000 | +5,000 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 10,767 | 1,000 | −9,767 |
| Subtotal | 40,767 | 36,000 | −4,767 |
| Broadband telecommunications: | | | |
| Broadband Re-Connect: | | | |
| Loan subsidies and grants | 50,000 | 40,000 | −10,000 |
| Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending | 750 | ..... | −750 |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Community Connect Grants | 17,000 | 20,000 | +3,000 |
| Subtotal | 67,750 | 60,000 | −7,750 |
| Total, Loan subsidies and grants | 108,517 | 96,000 | −12,517 |
| Total, Rural Utilities Service | 595,422 | 631,814 | +36,392 |
| (Loan authorization) | (9,550,000) | (11,800,000) | (+2,250,000) |
| Total, title III, Rural Development Programs | 4,089,153 | 3,645,513 | −443,640 |
| (By transfer) | (449,992) | (449,992) | |
| (Transfer out) | (−449,992) | (−449,992) | |
| (Loan authorizations) | (39,891,000) | (42,115,000) | (+2,224,000) |
| TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS | | | |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services | 1,127 | 1,127 | |
| Food and Nutrition Service: | | | |
| Child nutrition programs | 37,825,674 | 37,890,930 | +65,256 |
| Farm to School | 5,000 | 5,000 | |
| School breakfast program equipment grants | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| Child Nutrition Training (Sec 735) | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| Total, Child nutrition programs | 37,841,674 | 37,906,930 | +65,256 |
| Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC) | 8,200,000 | 8,500,000 | +300,000 |
| Emergency | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subtotal | 8,200,000 | 8,500,000 | +300,000 |
| Supplemental nutrition assistance program: | | | |
| Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | 101,473,220 | 101,233,946 | −239,274 |
| Reserve | (6,000,000) | (3,000,000) | (−3,000,000) |
| FDPIR nutrition education services | 998 | 998 | |
| Healthy Fluid Milk | 4,000 | 5,000 | +1,000 |
| Tribal Demonstration Projects | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| Total, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | 101,481,218 | 101,242,944 | −238,274 |
| Commodity assistance program: | | | |
| Commodity supplemental food program | 460,000 | 495,000 | +35,000 |
| Farmers market nutrition program | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| Emergency food assistance program | 80,000 | 80,000 | |
| Pacific island and disaster assistance | 1,070 | 1,070 | |
| Total, Commodity assistance program | 551,070 | 586,070 | +35,000 |
| Nutrition programs administration | 160,000 | 160,000 | |
| Congressional Hunger Center | (2,000) | (2,000) | |
| Total, Food and Nutrition Service | 148,233,962 | 148,395,944 | +161,982 |
| Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs | 148,235,089 | 148,397,071 | +161,982 |
| TITLE V—FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS | | | |
| Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs | 932 | 932 | |
| Office of Codex Alimentarius | 4,922 | 4,922 | |
| Foreign Agricultural Service | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | 222,000 | 230,000 | +8,000 |
| (By transfer from export loans) | (6,063) | (6,063) | |
| Food for Peace Title II Grants: | | | |
| Expenses | 1,200,000 | 1,380,000 | +180,000 |
| McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program grants | 240,000 | 240,000 | |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Commodity Credit Corporation Export (Loans): | | | |
| Credit Guarantee Program Account | 6,063 | 6,063 | ..... |
| Foreign Agriculture Service, Salaries and expenses (transfer out) | (−6,063) | (−6,063) | ..... |
| Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs | 1,673,917 | 1,861,917 | +188,000 |
| (By transfer) | (6,063) | (6,063) | ..... |
| (Transfer out) | (−6,063) | (−6,063) | ..... |
| TITLE VI—RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES | | | |
| Food and Drug Administration | | | |
| Salaries and expenses | | | |
| Direct appropriation | 3,422,150 | 3,522,150 | +100,000 |
| Transfer to OIG (transfer out) | (−1,500) | (−1,500) | ..... |
| Spending from appropriated user fees: | | | |
| Prescription drug user fees | 1,556,039 | 1,639,642 | +83,603 |
| Medical device user fees | 478,166 | 560,251 | +82,085 |
| Human generic drug user fees | 670,900 | 704,432 | +33,532 |
| Biosimilar biological products user fees | 55,841 | 61,985 | +6,144 |
| Animal drug user fees | 36,152 | 36,374 | +222 |
| Animal generic drug user fees | 26,724 | 28,559 | +1,835 |
| Tobacco product user fees | 712,000 | 712,000 | ..... |
| Subtotal, user fees (appropriated) | 3,535,822 | 3,743,243 | +207,421 |
| Subtotal (including appropriated user fees) | 6,957,972 | 7,265,393 | +307,421 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mammography user fees | 19,758 | 19,758 | ..... |
| Export user fees | 5,185 | 5,185 | ..... |
| Color certification user fees | 11,109 | 11,109 | ..... |
| Food and Feed Recall user fees | 1,769 | 1,825 | +56 |
| Food Reinspection fees | 7,907 | 8,157 | +250 |
| Voluntary qualified importer program fees | 6,536 | 6,742 | +206 |
| Pharmacy compounding fees | 1,874 | 1,932 | +58 |
| Priority review vouchers (PRV) pediatric disease | 9,479 | 9,779 | +300 |
| Priority review vouchers (PRV) tropical disease | 3,030 | 3,126 | +96 |
| Priority review vouchers (PRV) medical countermeasures | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Third party auditor | 878 | 906 | +28 |
| Over-the-Counter Monograph fees | 37,981 | 44,055 | +6,074 |
| Increased export certification fees (leg proposal) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Expand tobacco products fees (leg proposal) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Subtotal, spending from FDA user fees | 3,641,328 | 3,855,817 | +214,489 |
| Total, Salaries and expenses (including user fees) | 7,061,978 | 7,376,467 | +314,489 |
| HHS Office of Inspector General (by transfer) | (1,500) | (1,500) | ..... |
| Buildings and facilities | 5,000 | 5,000 | ..... |
| FDA Innovation account, Cures Act | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Offset of appropriation pursuant to Section 1002 (b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (PL 114–255) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Spending of FDA innovation account (transfer) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals) | 7,068,478 | 7,382,967 | +314,489 |
| Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only) | 7,068,478 | 7,382,967 | +314,489 |
| FDA user fees | −3,641,328 | −3,855,817 | −214,489 |
| Total, Food and Drug Administration (excluding user fees) | 3,427,150 | 3,527,150 | +100,000 |
| INDEPENDENT AGENCIES | | | |
| Commodity Futures Trading Commission | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses) | (106,500) | (106,500) | ..... |
| Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration | 3,427,150 | 3,527,150 | +100,000 |

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

| Item | 2026 appropriation | Committee recommendation | Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or −) 2026 appropriation |
|---|---|---|---|
| TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS | | | |
| Protecting Animals with Shelter Grants | 3,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Water Bank program | 2,000 | 2,000 | ..... |
| Maturing mortgage pilot | 2,000 | 2,000 | ..... |
| Mitigation banking | 2,000 | 2,000 | ..... |
| NOAA working group | 500 | 500 | ..... |
| Institute for Rural Partnership | 5,250 | 6,000 | +750 |
| Bison Inspection Waiver | 700 | 700 | ..... |
| Sugar Inspection | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Broadband Treasury Rate Loan Program (rescission) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| NIFA Research and Education (rescission) | −22,000 | ..... | +22,000 |
| Tribal Pilot | 2,000 | 2,000 | ..... |
| Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Grants | 2,000 | ..... | −2,000 |
| NRCS (recission) | −30,000 | ..... | +30,000 |
| Working Capital Fund (rescission) | −78,000 | ..... | +78,000 |
| State Conservation Grants | ..... | 4,000 | +4,000 |
| Firefighter Support Grants | ..... | 10,000 | +10,000 |
| ERS Partnership | ..... | 2,500 | +2,500 |
| AMS Marketing Services (rescission) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| ReConnect (rescission) | −20,000 | ..... | +20,000 |
| Energy Circuit Rider Pilot | 3,000 | 3,000 | ..... |
| Pulses in School Lunches | 4,000 | 2,000 | −2,000 |
| ARS East Lansing Federal Lab | ..... | 2,000 | +2,000 |
| Children's Health Insurance Fund CHIMP | ..... | −300,000 | −300,000 |
| Denali Housing | 1,000 | 1,000 | ..... |
| Manufactured Housing Technical Assistance Pilot | ..... | 5,000 | +5,000 |
| Senior Farmers'' Market Nutrition Program | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| NEF Repurposing—Ag B&F | ..... | (50,000) | (+50,000) |
| NEF Repurposing— FPAC IT Upgrades | ..... | (25,000) | (+25,000) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes | ..... | (15,000) | (+15,000) |
| Total, title VII, General Provisions | −122,550 | −252,300 | −129,750 |
| Grand total | 197,785,717 | 205,603,519 | +7,817,802 |
| Appropriations | (201,577,045) | (209,456,836) | (+7,879,791) |
| Emergency appropriations | ..... | (−200,000) | (−200,000) |
| Emergency advance appropriations | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Offsetting collections | (−3,641,328) | (−3,855,817) | (−214,489) |
| Rescissions | (−150,000) | (2,500) | (+152,500) |
| (By transfer) | (1,666,696) | (1,666,696) | ..... |
| (By transfer) (emergency) | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| (Transfer out) | (−1,666,696) | (−1,666,696) | ..... |
| (Loan authorization) | (49,848,388) | (52,072,388) | (+2,224,000) |
| (Limitation on administrative expenses) | (239,096) | (239,096) | ..... |
| Grand total, excluding Other Appropriations | 197,785,717 | 205,603,519 | +7,817,802 |