

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 provides a base discretionary total of \$26.65 billion in nondefense funding. This fiscally responsible bill invests in America's rural communities, supports our nation's farmers and ranchers, keeps our food and drug supply secure, and maintains nutritional and housing support for low-income American families. Earlier this year, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced the Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies bill by a unanimous vote of 27 to 0, and the full Senate passed the bill by a vote of 87 to 9 on August 1, 2025.

Key Takeaways

- **Cost Savings:** Reduces salaries and expenses accounts where appropriate by more than \$415 million to adjust funding for USDA and FDA's workforce to reflect staffing changes.
- **Food Safety:** Provides the requested funding increases for the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the FDA's state inspection programs to improve our food safety systems.
- **Nutrition:** Ensures that low-income American's will continue to have access to federal nutrition programs.
- **Hemp Products Ban:** Prevents the unregulated sale of intoxicating hemp-based or hemp-derived products, including Delta-8, from being sold online, in gas stations, and corner stores, while preserving non-intoxicating CBD and industrial hemp products.

Bill Highlights

- **Agriculture Research:** \$3.8 billion for agricultural research programs, including \$1.8 billion for the Agricultural Research Service and \$1.7 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to ensure that America maintains our competitive edge in terms of agricultural production and innovation.
 - Includes targeted funding increases for high-priority research projects while cutting funding for Biden-era priorities like Climate Hubs.
 - Maintains critical funding for land-grant universities and continues competitive grant opportunities to promote cutting-edge agriculture research and technology.
 - Fully funds the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility to support the protection of the U.S. agricultural economy and maintain our position as a global leader in animal health, biodefense, and biosecurity.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):** \$1.2 billion for APHIS, as requested by the Administration, to help protect more than \$325 billion worth of livestock, poultry, field crop, and specialty crop production.
 - \$13.5 million to assist ranchers with the cost of electronic identification (EID) tags to comply with animal disease traceability requirements.
 - Provides needed resources to combat emerging threats such as chronic wasting disease, new world screwworm, and avian influenza.

- **Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS):** \$211 million for AMS to facilitate the marketing of U.S. agricultural products, both domestically and internationally, support domestic commodity purchase programs to support our agricultural producers, and provide and market data to help producers make informed business decisions.
 - \$1 million to continue the Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program and maintains funding for enforcement activities related to the *Packers and Stockyard Act*.
- **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS):** \$1.2 billion for the FSIS to promote the safety and productivity of the nation's \$186 billion meat and poultry industry by supporting nearly 8,000 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,800 facilities in the U.S.
 - Includes a \$15 million increase for the State Meat and Poultry Inspection and Cooperative Interstate Shipment Programs, as requested by the Administration.
- **Farm Service Agency (FSA):** \$1.4 billion for the FSA to provide local support for our nation's farmers and ranchers.
 - Includes funding to support \$10 billion of farm loans to ensure that our producers have access to necessary capital.
 - Continues the prohibition on FSA county office closures.
 - Provides additional resources to improve the tracking system of foreign-owned land and maintains the Secretary of Agriculture's position on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. to protect our farmlands from being bought by our adversaries.
- **Conservation:** \$850 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to support America's working lands.
 - \$50 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations to support locally led water management projects and \$3 million for the rehabilitation of aging dam infrastructure to ensure safety and water access to rural communities.
 - Decreases funding for offices and programs solely benefiting urban agriculture.
- **Rural Development:** \$4.1 billion to support rural development programs across the U.S.
 - \$1.7 billion for affordable housing rental assistance for low-income families and seniors in rural communities, as requested by the Administration.
 - \$1 billion for Single-Family Housing direct loans and \$25 billion in for the guaranteed Single-Family Housing loans.
 - \$1.4 billion to prioritize revitalization of aging water and wastewater infrastructure through grants and loans.
 - \$1.8 billion in grants and loans for rural business and industry programs to promote economic growth.
 - \$109 million for rural broadband grants and loans aimed at the nation's most hard-to-reach areas.
 - Eliminates funding for the Biden-era Rural Partners Network initiative and maintains "Buy American" provisions that maximize the federal governments use of domestic products.

- **Nutrition:** \$8.2 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to ensure that low-income mothers and their babies have access to healthy and nutritious foods.
 - \$460 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to assist low-income seniors.
 - \$37.8 billion in mandatory funding for Child Nutrition programs, as requested by the Administration.
 - \$107 billion in mandatory funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as requested by the Administration.
 - Reimburses both the SNAP and WIC contingency reserves to account for expenditures during the government shutdown.
- **International Food Assistance:** \$1.2 billion for Food for Peace Title II Grants and \$240 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program to strengthen export markets and provide emergency food assistance.
 - Requires a report outlining the process and agency needs to support a transfer of the Food for Peace program from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the Foreign Agricultural Service.
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** \$7 billion to support the FDA, including \$3.4 billion in discretionary funding.
 - Includes targeted increases for Food Safety and Inspections, Cosmetics, Diabetes, and the Neurology Drug Program.
 - Provides the FDA with the resources and new authorities needed to crack down on the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes from China and other countries.
 - Retains provision that prohibits the “editing” of heritable genes or altering of genes that can be passed on to offspring.