AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY 2027

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2027 provides a base discretionary total of $27.3 billion. This fiscally responsible bill invests in America's rural communities, supports our nation's farmers and ranchers, protects our food and drug supply, and maintains nutritional and housing support for low-income American families.

Key Takeaways

- Maintains strong support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) frontline service agencies, including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development, and Natural Resources Conservative Service (NRCS) offices that serve farmers, ranchers, and rural communities nationwide.
- Provides the requested funding increases for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) state inspection programs to bolster food safety systems.
- Ensures low-income Americans will continue to have access to federal nutrition and rural housing assistance programs.

Bill Highlights

- **Agriculture Research**: $3.5 billion for agricultural research programs, including $1.8 billion for the Agricultural Research Service, $1.7 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture – including an increase for land grant formula funding to research and extension programs which have been level since FY22 – and $440 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The bill also fully funds the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**: $1.2 billion for APHIS, as requested by the Administration, to help protect more than $540 billion worth of livestock, poultry, field crops, and specialty crop production.
    - Includes $15 million to assist ranchers with the cost of electronic identification (EID) tags to comply with animal disease traceability requirements.
    - Provides resources to combat threats to livestock and wildlife health, such as chronic wasting disease and avian influenza, as well as an increase of $5 million to support the Department's efforts to prevent and control New World Screwworm (NWS).

- **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS):** $221 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 market data to help producers make informed business decisions.
    - Provides $1 million to continue the Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program and maintain funding for enforcement activities related to the Packers and Stockyard Act.
    - Provides funding increases to country-of-origin labeling, Hemp Production Program, and grain regulation activities, as requested by the Administration.

- **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS):** $1.2 billion for the FSIS to promote the safety and productivity of the nation's $311 billion meat and poultry industry. Supports nearly 7,500 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 7,100 facilities in the U.S.
    - Includes a $10.8 million increase for the State Meat and Poultry Inspection and Cooperative Interstate Shipment Programs, as requested by the Administration.

- **Farm Service Agency (FSA):** $1.2 billion for the FSA. Continues the prohibition of FSA county office closures. The bill also includes nearly $10 billion of farm loans to ensure that producers have access to capital. Provides an increase of $85 million to ensure FSA has the appropriate staffing levels in county offices.

- **Conservation:** $870 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers.
    - Includes $51 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations to support locally-led water management projects and $1 million for the rehabilitation of aging dam infrastructure to ensure safety and water access to rural communities.
    - Promotes access to technical assistance by ensuring that NRCS field offices remain adequately staffed.

- **Rural Development:** $4.1 billion to support rural development programs across the U.S.
    - Includes $1.7 billion for affordable housing rental assistance for low-income families and seniors in rural communities, as requested by the Administration.
    - Provides $1 billion for Single-Family Housing direct loans and $25 billion for the guaranteed Single-Family Housing loans to increase access to affordable housing in rural America.
    - Includes $1.4 billion to prioritize revitalization of aging water and wastewater infrastructure through grants and loans.
    - Promotes rural economic growth in rural America by including $1.95 billion in grants and loans for rural business programs.
    - Continues to bring Americans online through $96 million for rural broadband grants and loans aimed at the nation's most hard-to-reach areas.

  - Provides $10 million for expanded last acre broadband access to meet the needs for agricultural technology innovations.

- **Nutrition:** $8.5 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to ensure that low-income mothers and their babies have access to healthy and nutritious foods.
  - Provides $495 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to assist our low-income seniors.
  - Provides $37.9 billion in mandatory funding for Child Nutrition programs, as requested by the Administration.
  - Provides $101.2 billion in mandatory funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as requested by the Administration.

- **International Food Assistance:** $1.38 billion for Food for Peace Title II Grants and $240 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program. This funding bolsters export markets, provides emergency food assistance and supports the continuation of program administration at USDA.

- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**: $7.265 billion to support the FDA, including $3.5 billion in discretionary funding.
  - Includes targeted increases to improve American competitiveness in pharmaceuticals, global inspections capabilities, funding for food safety innovation, and Cosmetics, Diabetes, and Neuro Innovation Advancement.
  - Provides the FDA resources and directives to crack down on the illegal importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes from China and other countries.
  - Provides necessary discretionary funding to ensure statutory obligations are met to maintain user fee funding.
  - Retains prohibition on the “editing” of heritable genes or altering of genes that can be passed on to offspring.