

House Committee Approves FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The House Appropriations Committee released the draft report for the FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill which funds the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and other USDA Agencies. The bill was approved by the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on June 28, and will be considered in the full House Appropriations Committee tomorrow, July 12. The bill totals \$20 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$876 million lower than the FY 2017 enacted level and \$4.64 billion above the President's budget request. APLU's six core priority lines are all funded at the same levels as FY 2017.

The following table provides the complete NIFA account level detail:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture			
(All \$Millions)			
Research and Education Activities	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018
	Enacted	PBR	House
Hatch Act	243.701	243.238	243.701
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	33.961	28.867	33.961
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	54.185	54.082	54.185
Payments to the 1994 Institutions (tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program)	3.439	3.432	3.439
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions	19.336	19.299	19.336
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	9.219	9.202	9.219
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	3.194	3.188	3.194
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	1.801	1.798	1.801
Capacity Building Grants for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	5.000	0.000	0.000
Grants for Insular Areas	2.000	1.996	1.800
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	375.000	349.335	375.000
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	6.500	4.991	6.500
Veterinary Services Grant Program	2.500	0.000	2.500
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	4.000	0.000	4.000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	0.825	0.000	0.000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants	9.000	0.000	9.000
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	0.900	0.000	0.900
Aquaculture Centers	4.000	0.000	4.000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	27.000	19.009	24.667
Farm Business Management	1.450	0.000	0.000
Sun Grant Program	3.000	0.000	0.000
Alfalfa and Forage Research Program	2.250	0.000	0.000
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	11.913	11.890	11.913
Special Research Grants			

Global Change/UV Monitoring	1.405	0.000	0.000
Potato Research	2.250	0.000	2.000
Aquaculture Research	1.350	0.000	0.000
Necessary Expenses of Research & Education Activities			
Grants Management Systems	7.830	7.424	7.424
GSA Rent and DHS Security Expenses	5.960	0.000	0.000
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses	6.549	11.862	11.862
Subtotal	849.518	769.613	830.402
Extension Activities	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018
	Enacted	PBR	House
Smith-Lever Act, Sections 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension	300.000	299.430	300.000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	45.620	45.533	45.620
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	4.446	4.438	4.446
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	19.730	19.693	19.730
Renewable Resources Extension Act	4.060	0.000	4.060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	3.000	0.000	1.500
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program	1.250	1.248	1.250
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	0.400	0.000	0.400
Food Safety Outreach Program	5.000	4.990	5.000
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d) programs:			
Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP)	67.934	67.805	67.934
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	4.610	0.000	4.610
New Technologies for Agriculture Extension	1.550	0.000	1.550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8.395	8.379	8.395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	3.039	3.033	3.039
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities			
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom	0.552	0.551	0.552
Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses for Ext. Activities	7.805	7.791	7.790
Federal Administration - Eliminated New Hires	0.000	-0.439	
Federal Administration - Pay Costs	0.000	0.439	
Subtotal	477.391	462.890	475.876
Integrated Activities	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018
	Enacted	PBR	House
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	2.000	0.000	2.000
Organic Transition Program	4.000	0.000	4.000

Regional Rural Development Centers	2.000	0.000	1.000
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	8.000	5.684	8.000
Crop Protection / Pest Management Program	20.000	14.592	20.000
Subtotal	36.000	20.276	35.000
Total NIFA	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2018
	Enacted	PBR	House
	1362.909	1252.779	1341.278

Highlights

- *Biotechnology*: The report includes \$1,500,000 in funding and language directing the USDA and FDA to continue coordination efforts to, “provide education and outreach to the public on the safety and benefits of crop biotechnology and food and animal feed ingredients derived from biotechnology.”
- *Nutrition research*: The committee directs the Secretary to ensure both the USDA Research, Education, and Economics, and the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services mission areas, “coordinate and finalize the Food and Nutrition Service Research and Evaluation Plan submitted in FY 2018 to prevent duplication of efforts and resources.”
- *FSMA*: The bill includes \$5,000,000, the same amount provided in FY 2017. The Committee continues its past direction for NIFA to remain the sole agency providing education and technical assistance for farmers in implementing new requirements resulting from FSMA. The report also, “commends NIFA’s extension programs for the relationship they have built with our nation’s producers, and hopes that they will continue to build this trust through FSMA implementation.”
- *Agroterrorism*: Language is included directing the Secretary to, “explore the Department’s laboratory and response capacity to address the reality of agroterrorism, and how national response plans can better incorporate agroterrorism”, including coordination with DHS, HHS, intelligence agencies, Interior, EPA, and other agencies.

Next Steps

The FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill is expected to be approved by the House Appropriations Committee tomorrow, July 12. A path forward on House floor consideration of appropriations bills is not yet clear.

The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee may meet as early as next week to work on their version of the FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed as further developments occur.

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM