

House Committee Approves FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations bill today. The bill, which funds the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), other USDA Agencies and the Food and Drug Administration, totals \$23.276 billion in discretionary funding, a \$14 million increase above the FY 2018 enacted level. Five of APLU's six core priority lines received increases:

| Account | FY 2018 Enacted | FY 2019 House | Difference | FY 2019 APLU Request |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|
| McIntire-Stennis | 33.961 | 36.000 | 2.039 | 40.572 |
| 1890 Extension | 45.620 | 45.620 | - | 54.500 |
| Evans-Allen | 54.185 | 55.000 | 0.815 | 64.732 |
| Hatch Act | 243.701 | 259.000 | 15.299 | 291.138 |
| Smith-Lever | 300.000 | 315.000 | 15.000 | 358.396 |
| AFRI | 400.000 | 415.000 | 15.000 | 418.129 |

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 2019 |
| | Enacted | Enacted | House |
| Hatch Act | 243.701 | 243.701 | 259.000 |
| McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act | 33.961 | 33.961 | 36.000 |
| Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program) | 54.185 | 54.185 | 55.000 |
| Payments to the 1994 Institutions (tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program) | 3.439 | 3.439 | 3.439 |
| Education Grants for 1890 Institutions | 19.336 | 19.336 | 19.336 |
| Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions | 9.219 | 9.219 | 9.219 |
| Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions | 3.194 | 3.194 | 3.172 |
| Research Grants for 1994 Institutions | 1.801 | 3.801 | 3.801 |
| Capacity Building Grants for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture | 5.000 | 5.000 | 5.000 |
| Grants for Insular Areas | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative | 375.000 | 400.000 | 415.000 |
| Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment | 6.500 | 8.000 | 8.000 |
| Veterinary Services Grant Program | 2.500 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Supplemental and Alternative Crops | 0.825 | 0.825 | 0.825 |
| Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants | 9.000 | 9.000 | 9.000 |
| Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education | 0.900 | 0.900 | 0.900 |
| Aquaculture Centers | 4.000 | 5.000 | 5.000 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education | 27.000 | 35.000 | 30.000 |
| Farm Business Management | 1.450 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Sun Grant Program | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Alfalfa and Forage Research Program | 2.250 | 2.250 | 2.250 |
| Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4) | 11.913 | 11.913 | 11.913 |
| Special Research Grants | | | |
| Global Change/UV Monitoring | 1.405 | 1.405 | 1.400 |
| Potato Research | 2.250 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| Aquaculture Research | 1.350 | 1.350 | 1.350 |
| Necessary Expenses of Research & Education Activities | | | |
| Grants Management Systems | 7.830 | 7.830 | 7.830 |
| GSA Rent and DHS Security Expenses | 5.960 | 0.000 | |
| Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses | 6.549 | 11.862 | 11.577 |
| Subtotal | 849.518 | 887.171 | 915.012 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 |
| Extension Activities | Enacted | Enacted | House |
| Smith-Lever Act, Sections 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension | 300.000 | 300.000 | 315.000 |
| Extension Services at 1890 Institutions | 45.620 | 45.620 | 45.620 |
| Extension Services at 1994 Institutions | 4.446 | 6.446 | 6.446 |
| Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions | 19.730 | 19.730 | 19.730 |
| Renewable Resources Extension Act | 4.060 | 4.060 | 4.060 |
| Rural Health and Safety Education Programs | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program | 1.250 | 2.500 | 2.500 |
| Women and Minorities in STEM Fields | 0.400 | 0.400 | 0.400 |
| Food Safety Outreach Program | 5.000 | 7.000 | 5.000 |
| Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d) programs: | | | |
| Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) | 67.934 | 67.934 | 67.934 |
| Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs | 4.610 | 4.610 | 4.610 |
| New Technologies for Agriculture Extension | 1.550 | 1.550 | 1.550 |
| Children, Youth, and Families at Risk | 8.395 | 8.395 | 8.395 |
| Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program | 3.039 | 3.039 | 3.039 |
| Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities | | | |
| Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom | 0.552 | 0.552 | 0.552 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Federal Administration - Other Necessary Expenses for Ext. Activities | 7.805 | 7.790 | 7.790 |
| Federal Administration - Eliminated New Hires | 0.000 | | |
| Federal Administration - Pay Costs | 0.000 | | |
| Subtotal | 477.391 | 483.626 | 495.626 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Integrated Activities | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 |
| | Enacted | Enacted | House |
| Methyl Bromide Transition Program | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Organic Transition Program | 4.000 | 5.000 | 4.000 |
| Regional Rural Development Centers | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative | 8.000 | 8.000 | 8.000 |
| Crop Protection / Pest Management Program | 20.000 | 20.000 | 20.000 |
| Subtotal | 36.000 | 37.000 | 36.000 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total NIFA | FY 2017 | FY 2018 | FY 2019 |
| | Enacted | Enacted | House |
| | 1362.909 | 1407.800 | 1446.638 |

Report Language Highlights

- NIFA Program Authorities and Consolidation Report.* —The Committee notes that the FY18 Consolidated Appropriations Act and report contains fifty appropriated lines covering the entirety of the agricultural research, education and extension realm. In addition, NIFA administers the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program. The Committee is concerned that some of these programs are duplicative or can be executed under the broad authorities of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Evans-Allen Program, 1890’s Extension, and Hatch and Smith-Lever Acts. In addition, the Committee notes that USDA’s annual budget submission routinely proposes the elimination of many of the smaller NIFA programs. Accordingly, the Committee directs NIFA to provide a report by September 30, 2019 that details the authority under which each funded NIFA program is administered and whether that program (its goals or priorities), or the challenges each program is intended to address, can be achieved under the authorities of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Evans-Allen Program, 1890’s Extension, and Hatch and Smith-Lever Acts or other appropriate programs.
- Rural Health and Safety Education Programs.* —The opioid abuse epidemic is one of the greatest threats facing rural America today, and the Committee supports all efforts to address this problem through improved health and safety education and outreach. The

Committee provides \$3,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education.

- *FDA Partnerships Under FSMA*. —The purpose of FSMA is to reform the nation’s food safety laws to ensure a safe public food supply. As FDA continues implementation of FSMA, the Committee encourages FDA to work in partnership with existing government food safety programs through MOUs to verify compliance with FSMA to rules once they are finalized as a way to eliminate duplication of activities under the law. In addition, the Committee continues to provide \$5,000,000 for the Food Safety Outreach Program under NIFA and expects that NIFA will serve as the sole agency providing food safety training, education, outreach, and technical assistance at the farm level.

Next Steps

The path forward on House floor consideration of the agriculture and other appropriations bills is not yet clear.

The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee may meet as early as next week to approve their version of the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

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

THE CORNERSTONE TEAM