

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2024

\$26.228 billion in total base discretionary funding

The Fiscal Year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides a base discretionary total of \$26.228 billion. This bill prioritizes programs that protect our nation's food and drug supply; support our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; and provide nutrition assistance to low-income Americans.

- Protects our nation's farmland by making the Secretary of Agriculture a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review covered foreign agricultural transactions.
- Prioritizes hiring of field office staff to support our farmers and ranchers and rural communities over growing the bureaucracy in Washington, DC.
- Fully funds essential nutrition assistance for children, families, and seniors.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture Research: More than \$3.8 billion for agricultural research programs, including \$1.79 billion for the Agricultural Research Service and \$1.076 billion for National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which allocates \$445 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The bill also 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): \$1.16 billion for APHIS. The funding will help protect the nation's animal and plant resources from foreign and domestic diseases and pests, such chronic wasting disease, African swine fever, and avian influenza. The bill also provides \$15 million for electronic identification tags and related infrastructure needed for stakeholders to comply with federal Animal Disease Traceability rules.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS): \$1.19 billion for the FSIS, a \$32 million increase above FY 2023 enacted levels. This funding promotes 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 United States.

Farm Service Agency (FSA): \$1.21 billion for FSA staffing to ensure that our nation's farmers and ranchers have effective delivery of USDA's farm support programs. The bill prohibits the closure of FSA county offices and provides \$10.7 billion for Farm Loan Programs to fully fund anticipated loan demand needs and protect producers' access to capital.

The bill also protects our nation's valuable farmland and resources from foreign adversaries by making the Secretary of Agriculture a member of CFIUS for the purposes of reviewing foreign agricultural purchases of national concern, provides the Office of Homeland Security with

increased resources for CFIUS-related work, and includes additional funds for the design of a new data system to comply with the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act.

Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC): The bill fully reimburses the CCC for the FY 2024 net realized losses and requires the Secretary to submit a detailed spend plan to the Appropriations Committee prior to the transfer of CCC funds to other agencies under its discretionary authority.

Conservation: \$915 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Conservation Operations to protect and conserve natural resources on private lands and \$35 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.

Rural Development: \$4.07 billion to support rural development programs across the United States, including \$1.6 billion for affordable housing rental assistance that supports 270,000 low-income families and seniors in rural communities. The bill includes a provision allowing USDA to implement a pilot program to decouple rental assistance from Section 515 loans, which will preserve thousands of affordable housing units. The bill also provides \$880 million in lending authority for Single-Family Housing direct loans and \$25 billion in lending authority for the guaranteed Single-Family Housing loans; \$1.5 billion for rural water and waste grants and loans; \$1.65 billion in grants and loans for rural business and industry programs that promote small business growth in rural areas; \$6.5 billion in lending authority for rural electric loans; and \$169 million for rural broadband grants and loans.

Nutrition: The bill fully funds anticipated nutrition assistance needs to ensure that low-income Americans have access to important nutrition programs. This includes \$7 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and \$389 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The bill also includes a \$32 billion decrease in mandatory SNAP spending from FY 2023 due to the end of pandemic-era benefits and decreases in participation rates.

International Food Assistance: \$1.69 billion for Food for Peace Title II Grants and \$240 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): \$6.72 billion for the FDA, including \$3.52 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$3.2 billion in user fees. The bill directs FDA to increase resources for Cosmetics Regulation Implementation and Reduce Animal Testing through Alternative Methods, and protects funding increases for the Neurology Drug Program and the Emerging Chemical and Toxicology Issues Program. The bill also provides \$50 million as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC): Maintains funding for the CFTC at \$365 million.