

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

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Summary: Fiscal Year 2013 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The FY 2013 Continuing Resolution (CR) contains the full FY 2013 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The legislation will support American farmers and ranchers, encourage rural community economic development, and help sustain food safety efforts. American farmers and ranchers are the backbone of nearly every rural community in the nation. This bill provides responsible funding for the programs and services they need, helps promote development and economic growth in rural communities across the country, and promotes a healthy and safe food supply for American families.

Bill Highlights*:

The agencies and programs in this bill will receive a total of \$139.3 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding, a reduction of \$5.1 billion from the President's request. In total, the legislation includes \$20.5 billion in discretionary funding – an increase of \$762 million above last year's level (which included funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission**) and a cut of \$618 million below the President's budget request. These funding levels do not reflect the overall reductions from the President's sequestration order.

The production, promotion, research and marketing programs funded in this bill will help support an estimated \$142 billion in U.S. agricultural exports this year – supporting more than one million American jobs.

Agriculture Research – The bill provides \$2.5 billion for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. This is a reduction of \$3.7 million below last year's level. This funding will support high-priority research on crop diseases, food safety, and water quality. The bill also maintains responsible investments in the nation's land-grant colleges and universities.

Animal and Plant Health – The legislation includes \$804 million – \$15.4 million below last year's level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This funding will continue support for programs to help control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that can be devastating to U.S. farms and agricultural industries.

Conservation Programs – The bill provides \$825 million – a decrease of \$18.7 million below last year's level – for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners conserve, enhance, and protect their land. The bill also provides \$14.3

million in conservation funding for dam rehabilitation to help small communities ensure their small watershed projects meet current safety standards.

Rural Economic Development – The bill provides a total of \$2.2 billion for rural development programs – a decrease of \$32 million from last year’s level. These programs support basic rural infrastructure, provide opportunities for rural businesses and industries, and help ensure the availability of financing for rural homeowners to create an environment for job and economic growth across rural America.

- **Business and Industry Loans** – The legislation includes \$63 million – \$9 million above last year – for the rural business and industry loan program. This funding will support \$821 million in loans to help small businesses in rural areas, many of which face unique challenges due to local economic conditions and difficulty accessing capital.
- **Rural Infrastructure** – The legislation includes responsible investments in basic rural infrastructure needs. This includes \$511 million for rural water and waste programs, \$7.8 billion for rural electric and telephone infrastructure loans, and \$24 million for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program, which addresses educational and health needs in rural communities.
- **Rural Housing Loans and Rental Assistance** – The bill allows for a total of \$25 billion in loan authority for the Single Family Housing direct and guaranteed loan programs, which provide low-income rural families – many of who would have few options for purchasing a home because of their geographical location – with home loan assistance. In addition, \$884 million – \$20 million below last year’s level – is provided for rental assistance to provide affordable housing for low-income families and the elderly in rural communities.

Food Safety and Inspection Service – Including funding added via a Senate amendment, the legislation includes \$1.03 billion for food safety and inspection programs – which is a \$27 million increase above last year’s level. These mandatory inspection activities play a significant role in maintaining the safety and productivity of the country’s \$832 billion meat and poultry industry.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – The FDA receives a total of a \$2.5 billion in discretionary funding in the bill, an increase of \$13 million above last year’s level. Including user fees, total funding for the FDA is \$4.2 billion.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) – The legislation provides \$1.6 billion for the FSA, which is \$24.3 million below last year’s level. This funding will support the delivery of certain farm, conservation, loan, and emergency programs for American farmers and ranchers.

Food and Nutrition Programs – The legislation contains discretionary funding, as well as required mandatory funding, for food and nutrition programs within the Department of Agriculture. This includes funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,

Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Nutrition programs.

- **WIC** – The bill provides \$6.9 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, which is \$250 million above last year’s level and \$172 million below the President’s request. This program provides supplemental nutritional foods needed by pregnant and nursing mothers, and babies and young children. Language is included for oversight and monitoring requirements to ensure the proper use of taxpayer dollars, as well as food price tracking to ensure adequate resources to continue serving those eligible for program benefits.
- **Child nutrition programs** – The bill provides \$20 billion in required mandatory funding – which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee – for child nutrition programs. This is \$1.8 billion above last year’s level and \$225 million above the President’s request. This includes funding for an estimated 5.7 billion free or reduced-price school lunches and snacks for children who qualify for the program.
- **SNAP** – The bill provides for \$77.3 billion in required mandatory spending – which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee – for SNAP. This is \$3.1 billion below last year’s level and \$4.7 billion below the President’s budget request. This program provides food assistance to more than 47 million Americans every month. The legislation also includes new, stringent reporting requirements to help weed out and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, such as a requirement for states to include the fraud hotline number on all EBT cards, a directive to the Secretary of Agriculture to ban fraudulent vendors, and a requirement for states to share data with enforcement agencies.

*Funding levels do not reflect additional cuts due to sequestration.

** Funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission was included the FY 2012 Appropriations Bill. For FY 2013, this agency is within the jurisdiction of Financial Services Appropriations bill.

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