Rep. Andy Harris
FY25 – Agriculture
Amendment #1

Manager’s Amendment

In the bill

Page 5, line 12, strike “$11,337,000” and insert “$9,337,000”.

On page 18, line 20, strike “$8,000,000” and insert “$9,000,000”

On page 30, line 6, before the period, insert “: Provided further, That of the total amount available under this heading, $4,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to carry out the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program under section 222 of subtitle A of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923), as amended by section 12302 of Public Law 115–334”

On page 30, line 22, strike “: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $14,650,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities that increase fish or wildlife habitat, reduce drought impact, improve water quality or instream flow, or provide off-channel renewable energy production.” and insert “.”

On page 34, line 18, strike “$344,087,000” and insert “$346,087,000”.

On page 35, line 6, before the period, insert “Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program that assists rural hospitals to improve long-term operations and financial health by providing technical assistance through analysis of current hospital management practices”

On page 93, line 6, strike Section 722 and insert “Sec. 722. (a) Section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘(ss)(1) the term ‘natural cheese’ means cheese that is a ripened or unripened soft, semi-soft, or hard product, which may be coated, that is produced—

(A) by—

(i) coagulating wholly or partly the protein of milk, skimmed milk, partly skimmed milk, cream, whey cream, or buttermilk, or any combination of such ingredients, through the action of rennet or other suitable coagulating agents, and by partially draining the whey resulting from the coagulation, while respecting the principle that cheese-making results in a concentration of milk protein (in particular, the casein portion), and that consequently, the protein content of the cheese will be distinctly higher than the protein level of the blend of the above milk materials from which the cheese was made; or
(ii) processing techniques involving coagulation of the protein of milk or products obtained from milk to produce an end-product with similar physical, chemical, and organoleptic characteristics as the product described in subclause (i); and

(iii) including the addition of safe and suitable non-milk derived ingredients of the type permitted in the standards of identity described in clause (B) as natural cheese; or

(B) in accordance with standards of identity under part 133 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), other than the standards described in subparagraph (2) or any future standards adopted by the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (2)(I).

(b) Labeling.—Section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(z) If its label or labeling includes the term ‘natural cheese’ as a factual descriptor of a category of cheese unless the food meets the definition of natural cheese under section 201(ss), except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit the use of the term ‘natural’ or ‘all-natural’, or a similar claim or statement with respect to a food in a manner that is consistent with regulations, guidance, or policy statements issued by the Secretary.”.

(c) National Uniformity.—Section 403A(a)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343–1(a)(2)) is amended by striking “or 403(x)” and inserting “403(x), or 403(z)”.

On page 124, at the end of the bill before the Spending Reduction Account, insert the following new sections:

SEC. ___. A bank referenced in 12 U.S.C. 2128 may make and participate in loans and commitments and provide technical and other financial assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (except for the federal government) for the purpose of installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural area as defined in 12 U.S.C. 2128(f) for the processing or disposal of waste from any source, provision of telecommunication services, and producing electricity from any source for use or sale by the borrower.

Sec. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may be used to process Confirmation Request or Regulatory Status Review submissions by any entity subject to the ownership or control of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) or any other foreign country of concern as defined in 42 U.S.C. 19221(a) unless that entity had previously received a positive determination by the Secretary of Agriculture, until the Secretary of Agriculture reports to Congress that the PRC abides by all agricultural biotechnology commitments made under the Phase One economic and trade agreement signed by the United States and the PRC on January 15, 2020.
In the report

Page 3, before the paragraph entitled “CCC Obligations and Commitments”, insert the following new paragraph:

Agritourism Resources.—The Committee looks forward to seeing the publication of an updated agritourism resource manual as requested within a year of enactment of the fiscal year 2022 bill. The Committee additionally looks forward to seeing the results of the agritourism follow-on study, also requested in the fiscal year 2022 bill, now that the 2022 Census of Agriculture has been released.

On page 4, before the paragraph entitled “Fruit Fly Quarantine Areas”, insert the following new paragraph:

Feral Hogs.—The Committee is concerned about the growing threat posed by feral hogs and the mounting damages this invasive species is causing in Louisiana and other states. The damages nationwide are well over $1 billion and climbing, causing environmental and water resources destruction, natural plant species and crop destruction, and disruption to food production. The Committee encourages the Secretary to work with the EPA to find an expedited solution to arrive at a field trial testing regimen for a feral hog toxicant based on currently available knowledge.

On page 33, before the paragraph entitled “Biotechnology Regulatory Services”, insert the following new paragraph:

Biotechnology Approval.—The Committee notes that despite the fact that the People’s Republic of China (PRC) agreed in 2020 to adopt a transparent, predictable, and science-based regulatory system for products derived from agricultural biotechnology, the PRC has to-date refused to live up to these promises. The Committee notes that, despite broken promises by the PRC, USDA approved a PRC agriculture biotech firm’s genetically altered soybeans, thereby potentially undermining our trade position vis-à-vis the PRC. The Committee included language prohibiting USDA to return Confirmation Request and Regulatory Status Review submissions of any foreign adversary entity, including the PRC, but urges USDA to go further in suspending Permits granted to PRC entities until the PRC adopts a reciprocal framework that approves similar U.S. technology for distribution in the PRC.

On page 37, before the paragraph entitled “In- and Out-Bound Market Access Report”, insert the following new paragraph:

Improvements in USDA Animal Care Public Search Tool.—APHIS is directed to make the following changes to the USDA Animal Care Public Search Tool: any posted inspection report must contain a link to all other inspection reports for that licensee and, if USDA and/or DOJ have taken any official action(s) against a licensee and such action(s) is final, link(s) to all such action(s) shall be included the database shall be searchable for all direct and critical violations without the need to choose a specific regulatory violation.

On page 38, strike the paragraph entitled “Mormon Crickets”, and replace with the following
Mormon Crickets.—The Committee provides an increase of $1,500,000 for the suppression and control of Mormon crickets and grasshoppers on private and public lands. The Committee directs APHIS to make available additional emergency use applications, according to product use label standards, to states under circumstances of critical infestation, which is identified as more than two crickets per square yard after initial treatment or more than eight grasshoppers per square yard after initial treatment, or as determined by state survey data in consultation with APHIS.

On page 39, before the paragraph entitled “West Nile Virus”, insert the following two paragraphs:

Training.—The Committee notes that there have been nearly 1,300 violations related to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) reported in research facility inspection reports, including ARS facilities. The Committee directs APHIS to consider whether it needs to provide training materials to research institutions, including ARS, to achieve better compliance with IACUC requirements. The Committee also directs APHIS to ensure that its Animal Care inspectors are fully trained in their responsibilities related to the Endangered Species Act, including documenting all violations and working with other Federal agencies.

Transparency.—APHIS is directed to provide a table, updated quarterly, in a prominent place on the Animal Care website linked from the home page, showing the total number of inspections and violations, broken down by direct, non-critical and critical violations, and what enforcement action was taken or none, if applicable. The Committee also directs APHIS to similarly post a detailed report on instances of confiscation; the number of animals voluntarily surrendered by license holders to resolve alleged Animal Welfare Act violations, the process for confiscating animals from Animal Welfare Act license holders and the process for determining where confiscated or voluntarily surrendered animals will be relocated.

On page 41, before the header entitled “Limitation on Administrative Expenses”, insert the following new paragraph:

Wild Game Processing Technical Assistance.—The Committee recognizes the important role of wild game processing in rural food supply chains, especially in the business models of many small and very small processors. The Committee encourages AMS to expand the scope of the existing Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity – Technical Assistance Program to include assistance for processors interested in opening or expanding facilities that conduct custom-exempt wild game processing.

On page 45, before the paragraph entitled “Property Damage”, insert the following new paragraph:

Crawfish Disaster Assistance.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that disaster assistance programs are accessible for all sectors within the agriculture industry, including aquaculture. The Committee is aware of current policies at the Small Business Administration (SBA) that exclude assistance for certain crawfish producers who also engage in
rice farming. The Committee encourages the Secretary to collaborate with the Administrator of the SBA, if requested, to evaluate and update SBA policies related to disaster assistance programs to ensure that dual-crop farmers who have experienced losses in their aquaculture operations are not excluded from disaster relief.

On page 50, before the paragraph entitled “Pecan Revenue Policy”, insert the following new paragraph:

_Dairy-Revenue Protection._—The Committee recognizes that dairy farmers are relative newcomers to using crop insurance for milk and were largely unable to use crop insurance to insure milk losses for many years. The Committee is aware that producers use the Dairy-Revenue Protection (DRP) product to obtain near-term coverage but support improvements to DRP so that it offers affordable risk management during periods of long-term price decline. The Committee encourages RMA to work with Congress to identify improvements to DRP to provide this enhanced support to producers.

On page 53, before the paragraph entitled “White Oak Initiative”, insert the following new paragraph:

_Water Quality Data._—The Committee supports the Department’s creation of the National Water Quality Initiative and regional watershed initiatives for the Mississippi River and Chesapeake Bay. To promote transparency and understanding of the water quality benefits of voluntary conservation practices, the Committee urges USDA to utilize data collection to publish an annual report on the nutrient and sediment reductions achieved through conservation programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, similar to the Department’s annual progress report on the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative.

On page 69, after the paragraph entitled “Team Nutrition”, insert the following new paragraph:

_Yogurt Protein Crediting._—No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, FNS is directed to publish a policy memo that establishes a crediting system for yogurt reflecting that authentically strained Greek yogurts contain twice as much protein as traditional yogurts and Greek yogurts shall receive twice as many credits per 4 ounce serving.

On page 70, before the paragraph entitled “Milk Allowance in the WIC Food Package”, insert the following new paragraph:

_Breastfeeding Services._—The Committee remains interested in how to improve breastfeeding rates through consistent, collaborative, and high-quality breastfeeding services and supplies. Reports that some WIC agencies only make breast pumps and related supplies available to WIC participants who meet certain criteria are concerning and seem to be in opposition to the goals of encouraging breastfeeding. FNS is directed to provide a report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this Act detailing any conditions WIC agencies consider, or requirements they impose, when determining whether a WIC participant who intends to fully breastfeed her infant may access breastfeeding supplies and services. The report should also identify any waivers active or granted in the last five years allowing any state agency to spend less than required by WIC program regulations on breastfeeding promotion and support activities.
On page 79, in the paragraph entitled “Biosimilars” strike “1200” and insert “120”.

On page 80, before the paragraph entitled “Cell Cultured Meat Labeling”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Canned Tuna.*—While the Committee is pleased that FDA has issued a proposed rule on Canned Tuna standards of identity and standard of fill of container for canned tuna, the Committee is concerned that the proposed rule has not been finalized. FDA is directed to finalize the proposed regulations revising the standard of identity and standard fill for canned tuna.

On page 81, before the paragraph entitled “Device Inspections”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Device Authority.*—The Committee recognizes the FDA’s ability to restrict certain uses of a device under certain circumstances but directs the agency to do so in a manner that does not interfere with any court-approved treatment. When necessary, the FDA has the authority to ban a device for all uses when the device demonstrates substantial deception or unreasonable risk.

On page 82, before the paragraph entitled “FASTER Act”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Evidentiary Hearings.*—The Committee urges the FDA to conduct an evidentiary hearing as governed by 21 U.S.C. § 360b(e)(1)(B) and 21 C.F.R. Part 12 before removing any approved drug from the market. The Food Drug and Cosmetic Act and other federal laws require FDA to afford the sponsor of an animal drug due process before taking a drug off the market.

On page 82, before the paragraph entitled “Food Advisory Committees”, insert the following new paragraph:

*FDA Modernization Act.*—The Committee urges the continued implementation of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, designed to modernize the drug development process and empower free market competition. Significant delays may sow confusion among drug sponsors and stifle free-market innovation in new drug development. The Committee requests a briefing 120 days after the enactment of this Act providing an update on implementation and timeline of future activities.

On page 83, before the paragraph entitled “Illicit Vapor Products”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Human Drug Review Performance Trends.*—The concurrent investment of discretionary resources and Prescription Drug User Fee Act [PDUFA] Program funds has resulted in a successful program for over three decades, enabling faster review times in the United States and allowing the American people to gain quicker access to FDA-approved prescription drugs. The Committee is aware of a recent decrease in FDA first cycle approval rates with an increasing number of Complete Response Letters [CRLs] being issued to drug manufacturers. This decline is observed across all human drug review programs, including novel drug approvals. In keeping
with the PDUFA Performance Goals to increase the first cycle approval rate for medicines that are ultimately approved, the Committee directs FDA to provide a report to the Committee with an analysis of how issues that led to CRLs for medicines over the past 5 years could have been resolved within the first review cycle.

On page 84, strike the paragraph entitled “Intoxicating Cannabidiols” and replace with the following paragraph:

*Intoxicating Cannabinoids.*—The Committee directs FDA to evaluate the public health and safety implications of ingestible, inhalable, or topical products on the market that contain intoxicating cannabinoids. The Committee encourages FDA to assert a stronger commitment to identifying lawful federal regulatory parameters that will protect the public health, such as labeling requirements on all hemp-derived products; testing procedures and standards to ensure product compliance and adverse event reporting; packaging requirements to prevent marketing to minors; and mandatory age limits for these products at the point of purchase. FDA should provide a briefing to the committee within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the authorities needed to adequately regulate cannabinoid hemp products, including authorities to support consumer safety.

On page 85, before the paragraph entitled “Neurological Conditions”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Net Weights.*—The Committee remains concerned that FDA has not devoted appropriate efforts to address suspected economic integrity issues, particularly with respect to net weights and treatment of seafood. The Committee appreciates the ongoing review of processes for gathering information about potential short-weighted seafood adulteration and how to best apply inspectional resources to this issue. The Committee believes short-weighted labeled products are in violation of the law and that, despite industry reporting such examples and Committee requests, FDA has not prioritized enforcement.

On page 89, before the paragraph entitled “Shrimp Import Testing”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Regional Medical Research Institutes.*—Consistent with Congressional intent that clinical trials include data representing diversified populations, the Committee encourages the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research to utilize its authority and engage with regional medical research institutes located in medically underserved areas on best practices for expanding access to and storing specimens from underrepresented populations, particularly those with high incidences of chronic disease, located in underserved communities. The Committee requests FDA provide a report on its intentions and progress no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

On page 89, before the paragraph entitled “Shrimp Import Testing”, insert the following new paragraph:

*Seafood Product Labeling.*—The Committee continues to hear concerns with the labeling of certain foods as a fish or seafood product when the products are highly-processed plant-based
foods rather than derived from actual fish or seafood, and the labeling of these products are misleading, deceptive, and confusing to consumers. The Committee is concerned that the terms “plant-based” and “vegan” exempt the producer from describing the actual plant source as part of the product name, in opposition to other FDA guidance, such as with Surimi (imitation crab), which is made from actual fish. The Committee directs FDA to provide clarity around the labeling of these plant-based foods and foods using seafood terminology to avoid consumer confusion and align with the structure it has applied to the draft guidance for the labeling of plant-based milk alternatives.

On page 105, strike the Community Project Funding table and insert updated version incorporating technical and conforming changes.