The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill provides a non-defense discretionary total of $25.313 billion for programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee, $532 million (2.1%) below the FY23 enacted level and $3.62 billion (12.5%) below the FY24 President’s Budget Request. The Subcommittee’s allocation is $17.838 billion, and the House bill includes another $7.475 billion that is offset by clawing back the Democrats’ wasteful spending over the last two years and ending pandemic-era programs. The bill prioritizes agencies and programs that protect our nation’s food and drug supply; support America’s farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; and ensure low-income Americans have access to nutrition programs.

**TOP LINE MESSAGING**

- Supports our rural communities and strengthens our national security and food supply by:
  - Continuing critical investments in agriculture research, rural broadband, and animal and plant health programs;
  - Providing sufficient funds to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and medical devices;
  - Ensuring that low-income Americans have access to nutrition programs;
  - Reining in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals;
  - Preventing the purchase of agricultural land by foreign adversaries; and
  - Providing a $39 million increase for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to fully fund frontline meat and poultry inspectors.

- Reins in wasteful Washington spending and bureaucracy by:
  - Redirecting billions in the partisan bills that contained Democrats’ priorities (Inflation Reduction Act) to help America’s producers and rural communities;
  - Including a $32 billion decrease in mandatory SNAP spending from FY23 levels due to the end of increased pandemic-era benefits and a decrease in participation rates;
  - Restricting the USDA Secretary’s discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, non-emergency programs; and
  - Directing USDA to focus hiring efforts in state and county offices to assist producers and rural communities, rather than continuing to bloat the DC bureaucracy.

- Protects the lives of unborn children by:
  - Including a provision that ends mail-order chemical abortion drugs.
**Bill Highlights**

**Cuts to Wasteful Spending**

- Returns WIC benefits provided during COVID to a normal level, with the end of the public health emergency. Benefits will be maintained above pre-pandemic levels to account for food price inflation caused by the Biden economy.
- Rejects President Biden’s proposal for 4,700 new full-time equivalents (FTE) at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., saving taxpayers $296 million.
- Saves $1 billion by restricting the discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Eliminates funding for climate hubs and climate change research.
- Eliminates funding for conservation equity agreements.

**Claw-backs of Prior Appropriations**

- Rescinds $1 billion for a rural clean energy program created in the Inflation Reduction Act for wasteful ‘green’ climate initiatives.
- Rescinds $500 million for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Rescinds $2.275 billion for third-party entities to pay producers for alleged discrimination, after courts struck down a similar direct payment program for being unconstitutional.
- Rescinds $2 billion for loan cancellations for borrowers of Farm Service Agency loans provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.

**Conservative Priorities**

- Directs the Secretary to take action to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by those associated with China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran.
- Includes a funding increase and direction for USDA to improve the tracking system for foreign land ownership under the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act.
- Retains a prohibition on funding for government IT systems that do not block pornography, a provision the Biden Administration proposed to eliminate.
- Retains the gene editing provision, which prohibits the “editing” of heritable genes or altering of genes that can be passed on to offspring.
- Includes a provision ending mail-order chemical abortion.
- Prohibits implementation of the Biden Administration’s executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and prohibits funds for the USDA’s new DEI Office.
- Prohibits the use of funds to promote or advance critical race theory.
- Prohibits funds for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
**Department of Agriculture**

Provides $17.838 billion, which is $8.007 billion below FY23 and $11.057 billion below the request. The bill also provides $7.475 billion in funding repurposed from unobligated balances from pandemic-era programs.

- **$1.746 billion** for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), an increase of $1.2 million.
  - Includes increases for high-priority initiatives and reduces funding for climate hubs and climate change research.
- **$1.692 billion** for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), a decrease of $9.5 million.
  - Includes an increase of $5 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), USDA’s flagship competitive research program, and eliminates several low-priority research programs.
- **$4.039 billion** for Rural Development programs, prioritizing funding for home ownership and infrastructure lending.
  - Provides $260 million in ReConnect funding to meet continued strong demand.
  - Fully funds existing rental contracts to ensure rural residents will not be displaced.
- **$31.996 billion** for child nutrition programs, a $3.450 billion increase over FY23, which includes the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer Food Service Programs.
- **Maintains $6 billion**, the same level as FYs 20-23, for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), ensuring all eligible participants are served. The Secretary has a sufficient WIC contingency fund to meet unexpected demand.
- **$121.996 billion** for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), right-sizing the program to reflect the end of COVID and related benefits as well as a decrease in participation rates.
  - $373.5 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides food to low-income seniors, a $35 million increase above FY23.
- **$1.169 billion** for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a decrease of $2.1 million.
  - Includes increases of $10 million for animal disease traceability, $2.5 million for avian health, and $8.5 million for specialty crop pests.
- **$1.197 billion** for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), an increase of $38.8 million to fully fund our nation’s frontline meat and poultry inspectors.
- **$911.399 million** for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a decrease of $29.7 million.
  - Eliminates funding for equity initiatives and climate change.
- **$184.7 million** for the Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), a decrease of $53 million.
o Decreases Packers & Stockyards Division by $5 million to eliminate new FTEs included in the FY23 Budget Request to enact marketing rules.

- $1.215 billion for the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
  o Provides level funding for FSA salaries and expenses and increases funds to improve the tracking system of foreign land ownership.

- $10.686 billion for the FSA Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF).
  o Provides $10.685 billion in total Program Loan Authorizations, an increase of $33.3 million above FY23. This includes an increase of $33 million for Emergency Loans to meet higher anticipated loan demand due to higher interest rates.

- $63.637 million for the Risk Management Agency (RMA), a decrease of $3.2 million, including defunding climate and racial equity initiatives.

- $2.2 billion for the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), including level funding for FAS Salaries and Expenses, a reduction of $10 million for Food for Peace, and a reduction of $3.3 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants.

**Food and Drug Administration**

Provides $6.579 billion, an increase of $16 million above FY23 due to increased User Fees collected by the agency, to support the FDA’s work in protecting our food and drug supply.

**Commodity Futures Trading Commission**

Provides $345 million and rejects the Administration’s user fee proposal, resulting in a decrease of $20 million below FY23 and $66 million below the Budget request.

**Community Project Funding**

Includes $485 million in Community Project Funding for 396 projects requested by 165 Members.