



FISCAL YEAR 2024 AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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 \$3.622 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.

DETAILED FUNDING SUMMARY

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.

HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS

REPUBLICANS

- 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).
 - 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).
 - 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.