



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**FY 2024**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

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## ***PREFACE***

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2024 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2022, enacted levels for 2023, and the President’s Budget request for 2024.

The performance tables throughout this document, unless otherwise noted, show target levels for 2023 and 2024 and a baseline amount for target comparison. Performance goals reflect performance levels at ongoing funding levels and do not include the effect of supplemental appropriations. Performance target levels are estimates and subject to change.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2022 and 2023. The sequestration rate for 2022 and 2023 is 5.7 percent. The 2024 sequestration rate was not released at the time of this publication, however, mandatory funds for 2024 reflect a sequester reduction of 5.7 percent.

## **DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION**

The Budget Summary is organized into four sections:

- Overview – provides an overview of USDA’s funding.
- Budget Highlights – describes key budget proposals and changes in budget authority and outlays.
- Mission Area and Agency Details – summarizes agency funding, programs, and performance goals.
- Appendix – Department-wide summary tables.

## **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PLAN TERMS:**

**Budget Authority (BA):** Authority to commit funds of the Federal Treasury. Congress provides this authority through annual appropriations acts and substantive legislation, which authorizes direct spending. The President's budget requests the Congress to appropriate or otherwise provide an amount of budget authority sufficient to carry out recommended Government programs.

**Obligations:** Commitments of Government funds that are legally binding. For USDA to make a valid obligation, it must have a sufficient amount of BA to cover the obligation.

**Outlays:** Cash disbursements from the Federal Treasury to satisfy a valid obligation.

**Program Level (PL):** The gross value of all financial assistance USDA provides to the public. This assistance may be in the form of grants, guaranteed or direct loans, cost-sharing, professional services, such as research or technical assistance activities, or in-kind benefits, such as commodities.

**Performance Goal:** The target level of performance at a specified time or period expressed as a tangible, measurable outcome against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate. A performance goal comprises a performance measure with targets and timeframes.

**Performance Measures:** Indicators, statistics, or metrics used to gauge program performance. Program performance measures include outcome, output, and efficiency measures.

### **DATA DISPLAY – ZERO TREATMENT**

Amounts in text and tables throughout this document are calculated with the greatest level of precision (decimal places) available and rounded for display purposes. Therefore, amounts in tables and charts may not add to displayed totals due to rounding. Due to rounding, amounts in this document may appear to be marginally different than those shown in the President’s Budget, which is developed in millions of dollars.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

### **DATA DISPLAY – SCALE**

The Budget is most often depicted or described using budget authority as the scale of measurement. However, there are some cases when other measures or scales are used, so the reader should be aware of the context. Note that the budget authority tables contained in this document reflect operating levels. In addition, performance goals reflect performance levels at ongoing funding levels and do not include the effect of supplemental appropriations. Performance data for 2023 and 2024 are estimates and subject to change.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

The 2022 Annual Performance Report and 2024 Annual Performance Plan, which provides performance information concerning USDA achievements in 2022 and plans for 2024, can be found at: <http://www.obpa.usda.gov>.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions may be directed to the Office of Budget and Program Analysis via e-mail at [obpa-deputy-directors@usda.gov](mailto:obpa-deputy-directors@usda.gov).

**OVERVIEW**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To serve all Americans by providing effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues with a commitment to delivering equitable and climate smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive.

**VISION STATEMENT**

An equitable and climate smart food and agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition and quality of life of all Americans, yields healthy land, forests and clean water, helps rural America thrive, and feeds the world.

**2024 FUNDING OVERVIEW**

Under the current law, the 2024 request for discretionary budget authority to fund programs and operating expenses is \$32.6 billion, slightly more than 14.4 percent increase, or \$4.7 billion, above the 2023 enacted level. The request also includes \$706 million in scorekeeping comprised of negative subsidies, cancellations, and change in mandatory programs.

The 2024 request for mandatory programs is \$181.7 billion, a \$32.8 billion decrease from 2023 enacted levels. USDA is requesting a total of \$214.4 billion in 2024. Compared to 2023, this amount represents a decrease of around \$28 billion.

The budget assumes a pay cost increase of 5.2 percent and includes an increase of \$454.8 million across the Department to cover the pay and benefit increases.

*Figure OV-1. USDA New Budget Authority*



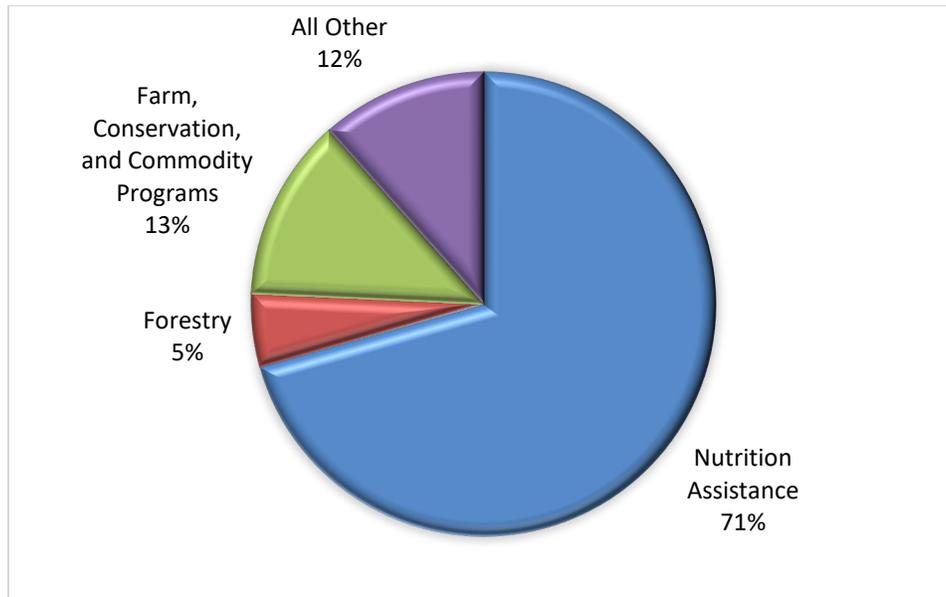
Under current law, USDA’s total outlays for 2024 are estimated at \$228.3 billion. Outlays for mandatory programs are \$190.8 billion, 83.6 percent of total outlays. Mandatory programs provide services required by law but are not funded through annual appropriations acts. Mandatory outlays include crop insurance, most nutrition assistance programs, farm commodity and trade programs,

and a number of conservation programs. The remaining \$37.5 billion, or 16.4 percent, of outlays are for discretionary programs such as: the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), food safety, rural development loans and grants, research and education, soil and water conservation technical assistance, animal and plant health, management of national forests, wildland firefighting, other Forest Service activities, and domestic and international marketing assistance.

**Figure OV-2. USDA 2024 Outlays**



**Figure OV-3. 2024 Mandatory and Discretionary Outlays (All Other includes Rural Development, Research, Food Safety, Marketing and Regulatory, and Departmental Management.)**



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## ***2024 BUDGET SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS***

### **OVERVIEW**

Since our founding in 1862, the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) -- the “People’s Department” -- has both inspired and helped all of America thrive through effective and innovative science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, and rural development. From global to local, the new challenges faced by American farmers, ranchers, foresters – and by every American food consumer, point to a pivotal moment in the history of agriculture. If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have the chance to go right. Now is the time to do all we can to help our nation’s farmers, ranchers and foresters lead the way as we work together to embrace the challenges and transform America’s food and agricultural systems to bring prosperity, wellbeing and new opportunity to rural America and all Americans.

It takes the entire USDA family to transform the agricultural system, working to strengthen our middle class and provide opportunity to those most in need. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed vulnerabilities in food and agricultural systems and with the support of communities and leaders across the country, USDA is embracing reimagining the food and agricultural system through every facet of our work. From farm to fork and every step along the way, we are committed to ensure all Americans have access to life’s essential services and resources and have taken new steps to strengthen our systems and provide equitable access to our programs. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, legislation like the American Rescue Plan (ARP), and the transformational and historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have provided critical investments (Appendix 9) to address the challenges of climate change to our nation’s food and agriculture systems and rebuild our nation’s foundational needs from the bottom up and the middle out.

USDA addressed the immediate hardships caused by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic with the support of ARP and provided over \$12 billion in nutrition assistance, and \$500 million for Community Facilities Program funds to help rural hospitals and local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines & food assistance USDA is using \$1.01 billion in ARP funding to create a racial equity commission and address longstanding discrimination across USDA by investing in land access, outreach, education, assistance overcoming barriers to access to USDA programs, business development, and more.

ARP investments continue to transform the food system through more than 60 programs by creating more and better markets for local and regional food producers; helping producers get back on their feet; and supporting those most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. BIL has supported investments in climate, energy, and the environment in rural America through the expansion of high-speed broadband to create jobs, help farmers use precision agriculture technologies, expand access to health care and educational services, and create economic opportunities for millions across the country. Through the BIL, USDA is investing over \$918 million to address resource concerns in our nation’s watersheds and over \$3 billion to build climate resilience, reduce the risk of wildland fire, and restore ecosystems. IRA invests in new and existing

USDA programs that help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners adopt climate-smart practices, support the transition to clean energy in rural America, and provide assistance to underserved farmers, ranchers, and foresters. Through IRA, an additional \$19.5 billion over five years will be available to support climate smart agriculture practices through several, often oversubscribed, conservation programs. These critical investments impact every corner of our nation and supports all Americans with the services they need related to our nation’s food, fuel, and fiber. USDA delivers on these investments and continues to confront challenges and invest in the future of agriculture.

The 2024 USDA President’s Budget request total \$209.7 billion (\$177 billion – mandatory; \$32.6 billion – discretionary) to continue advancing the vision to create an equitable and climate-smart food and agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition, and quality of life of all Americans, yields healthy land, forests and clean water, helps rural America thrive, and feeds the world. Under the Biden-Harris Administration and Secretary Vilsack’s leadership, USDA has tirelessly worked to strengthen America’s food system and transform the agricultural system through four cross-cutting strategic priorities: Addressing Climate Change via Climate Smart Agriculture, Forestry, and Clean Energy; Advancing Environmental Justice, And Support For Underserved And Disadvantaged Communities; Creating More and Better Market Opportunities; Tackling Food and Nutrition Insecurity; and Making USDA a Great Place to Work for Everyone. We know that when we work together with bold action, collaborative leadership, active dialogue, and a deep commitment to serving all Americans, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Through these investments, USDA will continue to be a leader in global agriculture and lead the way to a circular agriculture economy focusing on keeping jobs and income in rural America. We’ve done so much to work toward these goals, now let’s finish the job.

### **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Tackling climate change at home and abroad is one of the greatest challenges and opportunities of this century. Climate change presents real and increasing threats to U.S. agricultural production, forest resources, and rural economies. Producers and land managers across the country experience climate impacts on their operations through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfire. USDA is minimizing the risk of embracing climate smart solutions by investing in solutions and voluntary incentives that are inclusive for all agricultural producers, landowners, and communities. USDA is using resources provided by President Biden’s historical legislative agenda and is committed to supporting producers, farmers, and ranchers by investing more than \$12 billion in 2024, \$1.9 billion over 2023 enacted levels (Appendix 10), to combat the climate crisis through all aspects of the food and agricultural systems by focusing on climate science, clean energy innovation, mitigation via climate-smart land management practices, and adaptation and resilience.

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## **Lead Efforts to Address and Adapt to Climate Change through Agriculture and Forestry**

America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners play a critical role in addressing the climate crisis and USDA is investing in climate-smart practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase storage of carbon in soils and trees, and make their operations more productive. In recent years, carbon stored in cultivated cropland soils increased by more than 8.8 million tons annually thanks to their voluntary conservation efforts. Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are ready, and USDA offers resources to help. Through programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), USDA can support up to 280,000 farmers and ranchers and apply conservation to an estimated 125 million acres of land. The 2024 Budget supports continued investments in these critical programs and staffing to deliver assistance to landowners across the country and in areas that are most in need of climate solutions. The Budget requests \$1.02 billion for Private Lands Conservation Operations of which \$904million is for the CTA program that allows NRCS to work with landowners and managers to develop conservation plans that outline the specific conservation practices needed to improve farm operations and enhance farm environmental sustainability. Through additional investments provided by IRA, NRCS is advancing their ability to measure and monitor greenhouse gases and the impact of their programs, including investments in observing systems, demonstrations, modeling, data integration, and related research and technology development.

## **Strengthen Resilience of Rural Forested Lands to Climate Impacts**

Climate change increases the severity and frequency of wildfires. The summer of 2021 was one of the worst fire seasons in modern times – the Forest Service was at Preparedness Level 5 for a record 68 days, an unprecedented period marked by the highest demand for wildland fire suppression resources. Many geographic areas were below their 10-year averages for both number of fires and acres burned in 2022; however, nationally, there were 10,000 additional wildfires reported and an additional 451,000 acres burned in 2022 compared to 2021. Notably, 89 percent of wildfires are human-caused and human-caused fires account for about 97 percent of wildfires that threaten homes. Traditional 3- to 4-month fire seasons of the past have now extended to year-round events, with wildfires occurring outside of historic fire season timeframes. In 2023, USDA anticipates, and is prepared for, another significant fire year.

Wildfire risk management and forest restoration efforts improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of uncharacteristically severe wildfire. The Budget includes more than \$5 billion to restore our national forests and mitigate wildfire risk, an operational increase of \$647 million from 2023 enacted. This includes \$323 million for hazardous fuels reduction, an increase of \$116 million from 2023 enacted. This allows the agency to mitigate wildfire risk on 4.2 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas and build on the hazardous fuels funding the Forest Service received from the BIL and the IRA. This is a significant investment to prioritize and target landscape treatments across multiple jurisdictions under the agency's [10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#).

### **Combat Climate Change and Lower Clean Energy Cost**

USDA invests in rural communities to expand access to affordable clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades through programs like Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that supports clean energy and energy efficiency improvements allowing cooperatives to be eligible for clean energy tax credits. REAP provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. Through BIL, USDA invested an additional \$250 million in nearly 850 projects in 46 states that will help rural farmers, agricultural producers, and entrepreneurs purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The Budget requests an additional \$30 million in grants and \$50 million in lending authority to support the transition to clean energy. This is in addition to the \$50 million for grants and \$1 billion for loans assumed in the mandatory baseline in 2024. The Budget also requests \$15 million for administration and technical assistance for the Rural Clean Energy initiative, a partnership with Department of Energy and Department of Interior, that will clean energy goals and ensure funding reaches rural areas.

### **Climate Science, Adaptation, and Resilience**

USDA is investing more than \$350 million for climate science and research that will allow monitoring of greenhouse gases, support clean energy innovation, and adaptation and resilience activities. The Budget also supports the USDA Climate Hubs, a cross departmental effort to provide technical assistance in the tackling the climate crisis, by requesting an additional \$18 million to expand the reach of the hubs to Alaska and Hawaii and expand USDA's ability to develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies, with USDA agencies and partners, to agricultural and natural resource managers that enable climate-informed decision-making, and to provide access to assistance to farmers, ranchers, and foresters to implement those decisions. The Climate Hubs have already carried out extensive vulnerability assessments and are an integral part of [USDA's Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#).

### **ADVANCING EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

At USDA, we center the values of equity and inclusion rooted in justice and equal opportunity in everything we do. We know that stakeholder frustrations run deep and are rooted in their own daily battles to make ends meet, to maintain their land, to put food on their tables, and to see their children have a shot at economic opportunity. In order for our agricultural and rural communities to continue to thrive in the future, we must bring diverse skills, experiences, and knowledge into the field so that our partners and stakeholders look like the rest of the country. This is why we're making equity a priority and removing systematic barriers to better deliver resources and benefits to all Americans. The Budget requests over \$7 billion for direct and supporting funding across all of USDA for our minority serving programs (Appendix 11) that will lower barriers for underserved communities, address long standing inequities and advance opportunities for all those who have

been historically underserved. Additionally, the Budget request \$3.9 billion (Appendix 15) in programs in whole or in part, that benefit or are related to American Indians and Alaska Natives, including individuals, American Indian tribal governments, Alaska Native village governments, urban Indian organizations, and tribal communities. USDA is taking the steps to better serve tribal governments, citizens, and organizations and honor our nation's trust and treaty responsibility; these investments remove barriers to services and programs, incorporate Indigenous perspectives, and enhance tribal self-determination.

### **Justice40**

The USDA is committed to enhancing how economic, social, and ecological benefits associated with Justice40 covered programs accrue in disadvantaged communities and those with legacy Environmental Justice concerns. Given that the Justice40 Initiative leverages existing appropriations, agencies are accomplishing this goal by implementing program modifications (where permitted by statute and regulation) that enhance equity in the distribution of program benefits. As of early 2023, USDA has 78 covered programs across 10 agencies and program areas, 12 of these programs funded primarily through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In 2022, 12,335 competitive and non-competitive grants, agreements, and contracts associated with Justice40 covered programs promoting nearly \$7 billion in economic development. These programs focused on climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, affordable and sustainable housing, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and water and water infrastructure.

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), USDA's Justice40 Pilot Program, has thrived as a Justice40 program, expanding funding across rural communities with over \$60 million in grant funding and nearly \$600 million in guaranteed loans for renewables energy systems and energy efficiency projects across the country. This expansion of rural prosperity will continue to grow, with over \$2 billion in additional funding for REAP in the IRA. This unprecedented increase will build tens of thousands of new renewable energy systems and support small business owners in every State.

### **Create Opportunity for the Future of Agricultural Leaders**

USDA is fostering collaboration between state, federal, and tribal partners, land-grant universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and other strategic partners, to connect USDA programs and opportunities with the communities they are intended to serve. Through the investments from ARP and BIL, USDA provides up to \$550 million in funding to projects that enable underserved producers to access land, capital, and markets, and train the next, diverse generation of agricultural professionals. From this, \$250 million is dedicated to creating career development opportunities for the next generation of scholars at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI). USDA is committed to not only hiring, developing, and advancing a workforce that truly reflects America's rich and diverse characteristics, but also to creating an inclusive workplace environment so that everyone can rise to their highest potential and flourish in supporting our mission. We're committed to making USDA the best place to work so that we can attract and train the best and the brightest in the field of agriculture. The need for growing the next generation of professionals is timely and important and this funding is aimed at attracting, inspiring, and retaining diverse and talented students at eligible minority-serving institutions for

careers in food, agriculture, and related disciplines, with an emphasis on federal government sector employment. The 2024 Budget requests \$372 million directly invested in MSI programs fight against the historic inequity in access to higher education. Partnerships with MSI programs support capacity building initiatives, education, and pathways to employment for students and faculty and help develop a strong pipeline of talented individuals for USDA and USDA partner jobs. NIFA administers 19 different programs dedicated to strengthening research and education and extension capacity across the nation at minority-serving institutions and the ability of these institutions to continue their effective programming.

### **Expand Equity for Rural America**

USDA remains committed to supporting opportunities for rural people to build brighter futures, because we know when rural people thrive, America thrives. The Biden-Harris Administration launched the Rural Partners Network, an all-of-government approach to help 36 rural and Tribal communities access federal funding and resources. USDA is committed to ensuring rural America equitable access to all essential resources. An estimated 2.2 million people in the United States lack indoor plumbing and with the support of Environmental Protection Agency, USDA provides technical assistance to help historically underserved communities identify and pursue federal funding for modern, reliable wastewater systems. The Budget request \$2.38 billion to in the Water and Wastewater program to provide additional grants and loans that will improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas technical assistance, and lead pipe replacement.

The COVID-19 pandemic also amplified the need to ensure everyone has reliable, highspeed internet access. BIL provided nearly \$2 billion for expanding internet access. In 2022 alone, USDA provided \$548 million in the ReConnect program expanded access for 109,000 households, 14,520 farms, 5,900 businesses, 435 essential community facilities, 396 educational facilities and 51 health care facilities. USDA also provided \$940 million from annual appropriated funds to support this effort. This Budget requests \$400 million to reach more communities, homes, and businesses with reliable internet access.

### **Investment in Distressed Borrowers to Keep Farmers Farming**

USDA is committed to examining barriers faced by all underserved borrowers. Farm loans were especially critical this past year as producers struggled with rising interest rates, pandemic-driven supply chain issues, Russia's war-related shortages, increased input costs, rising farmland prices for those who want to start or expand their operation, and climate-induced natural disasters. These challenges pose an even greater hurdle for underserved producers, including beginning and veteran producers, along with producers working to find ways to diversify and add value to their operations. Agricultural producers knew Farm Service Agency (FSA) as the lender of last resort, but FSA is now striving to be the lender of first opportunity, providing the resources to succeed and helping producers receive the assistance they need to continue farming, to build and maintain their competitive-edge, and to access more, new, and better markets to achieve a robust and competitive agriculture sector. USDA, with support of the IRA, has invested over \$800 million in relief for distressed USDA borrowers and providing financial assistance through the Distressed Farm Loan Borrowers which could support nearly 14,000 borrowers. Additionally, the Technical Assistance Investment Program provided \$75 million from ARP to 20 organizations to provide

technical assistance to connect underserved producer communities on business and tax planning, financial assistance planning, market planning, farmer advocacy, and business curriculum development.

The Budget focuses on targeting assistance based on need, reaching everyone who is eligible, and removing the bureaucratic burden on producers. FSA proposes a suite of Budget neutral changes to FSA's diverse portfolio of farm loans to make more producers eligible for more of FSA's credit programs. The proposed changes would reduce barriers that have prevented producers from obtaining the financing that can mean the difference between successful operations and bankruptcy. Changes to FSA's direct loan programs eliminate lifetime term limits; increase the microloan borrowing limit; reduce the farming experience requirement to one year from three, or require a secretary-approved mentorship, or an honorable discharge for veterans; remove the written credit denial requirement for emergency loans; and revise the beginning farmer definition for all loans to include entities with non-related beginning farmers. These changes expand loan eligibility to more producers, reduce loan processing times, and better align FSA's programs with current business structures. In short, more producers would be able to get the financial assistance they need to keep farming and keep the farm in the family.

## **CREATING MORE AND BETTER MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AT HOME AND ABROAD**

USDA works to create more options for producers and consumers and improve the resiliency of our food supply chain. As we invest in new solutions, we must create new and better markets for all producers and consumers and promote a safe, healthy work environment for agricultural workers. USDA is working to transform the food system, from how food is produced to how it is purchased, by investing \$245 million (Appendix 12) in a fairer, more competitive, and more resilient system. These investments will benefit consumers, producers and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. The success of American agriculture hinges on innovation and the development of new markets, both at home and abroad, to ensure everyone has access to affordable nutritious food.

### **Expand Local and Regional Food Systems**

The pandemic and recent supply chain disruptions revealed the perils of a national food system that depends on capacity concentrated in a few geographic areas and requires many steps to get from farm to fork. To be more resilient, the food system of the future needs to be more distributed and local. Through \$400 million in investments from ARP, Regional Food Business Centers will assist small and mid-sized producers and food and farm businesses by providing coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building to help farmers, ranchers, and other food businesses access new markets and navigate federal, state and local resources, thereby closing the gaps or barriers to success with the goal of creating a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system. USDA's six regional business centers serve areas experiencing persistent poverty or other communities of high need/limited resources. The Budget invests \$240 million in supporting new supply chains and markets that uplift small and mid-sized farmers through programs such as the

Local Agriculture Market Program, Dairy Business Innovation, Farmers Market and Local Food Production, and Transportation and Market Development, through Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants and the Gus Schumaker Nutrition Incentive Program at NIFA, as well as through Farmers Market Nutrition Programs at Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Investments will also help strengthen supply chain resiliency by improving access to and encouraging consumption of locally grown foods, shortening the food supply chain by supporting direct farmer-to-consumer transactions.

Additionally, USDA is expanding local food systems through urban agriculture which supports communities' capacity to gather, process, move and store food in different geographic areas of the country. Urban agriculture will provide more options for producers to create value-added products and sell locally, which will support new economic opportunities and job creation in underserved communities. Over \$43 million has already been invested in support of a fairer and more accessible food system and investments help urban communities produce fresh and healthy food locally, reducing food waste while building nutrient rich compost. In 2024, USDA is investing over \$157 million in urban agriculture and innovation production initiatives across the department. (Appendix 13).

### **Connect Local Farmers to Students and Schools Across the Country**

The ARP invests \$60 million in our Nation's farmers and feeding our children by expanding FNS Farm to School program. This funding has already supported every state across the nation in more than 5,000 schools. Farm to School Grants play an important role in expanding USDA's farm to school efforts across the country and strengthening the school meal programs. Farm to School Grants help fund projects that will increase the amount of local foods served through child nutrition programs and help educate children about where their food comes from. Farm to school efforts make school meal programs more resilient in the face of recent supply chain disruptions by building connections within local communities and can also create healthier school food environments and improve student health behaviors. The Budget request an additional \$12 million in the Farm to School Program that assists in making local food and agricultural education available to child nutrition program participants through grants, research, technical assistance, and training. Producers, large or small, have additional market opportunities in their own backyard and a chance for their bounty to nourish children in their community. It also improves access to fresh, local, nutritious foods for school children.

### **Support Green Energy and Create New Opportunity through Biobased Fuels and Products**

The Budget supports investments in promoting a bio-based economy to assist in transitioning away from fossil fuels while creating manufacturing jobs across rural America. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Grand Challenge, in partnership with Department of Energy and Department of Transportation, is meeting the demand to reduce cost, enhance sustainability, and expand SAF production. There is already high demand for SAF, through months of engagement on trade policy supported by the Foreign Agricultural Services, Japan pledged to take all available measures to double demand for ethanol by 2030 for vehicle and SAF. In 2021, United States exported \$218 million of ethanol-derived fuel to Japan, which could double by 2030. USDA is committed to

continuing investments and building expertise in sustainable crop and other biomass production system and supply chains; investing in biomanufacturing capability, workforce development, and community and individual education; providing outreach and technology transfer to producer's processors. USDA ensures farmers, foresters, small businesses, and rural economies benefit from these opportunities with attention to cost, quality and quantity of agricultural-based feedstock for producing SAF. The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program promotes the creation and expansion of rural businesses, such as local and regional food and the bioenergy/bioeconomy, by providing additional access to start-up capital, financing of business expansion, and creating jobs, which helps to diversify the rural economy. The Budget supports \$2 billion in B&I loan guarantees, an increase of \$200 million of loan level from the 2023 enacted level. The Budget requests investments in research to support biomass feedstock genetic development, sustainable crop and forest management, and post-harvest supply chain logistics such as through transportation, storage, preprocessing and regional supply chain integration, optimization and greenhouse gas reductions.

### **Transform and Create a More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain**

For too long, farmers and ranchers have seen the value and the opportunities they work so hard to create move away from the rural communities where they live and operate. USDA has invested \$1 billion in expanding meat and poultry processing capacity. Of which USDA invested \$200 million to strengthen the food supply chain and create opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural communities through the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program and \$25 million in technical assistance. In response to the pandemic and vulnerabilities in the supply chain, USDA, with funds from ARP, created the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program which will finance food systems projects, specifically for the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain. The program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution to increase capacity and create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.

### **Expand International Markets for U.S. Agricultural Exports**

The Budget includes \$262 million for the Foreign Agricultural Service to reduce trade barriers that disadvantage U.S. agricultural exports and to open new markets for U.S. farm products. The value of agricultural exports resulting from participation in foreign food and agricultural trade shows and missions is expected to reach \$2.2 billion in 2024. Throughout 2022, USDA agencies working in conjunction with the United States Trade Representative expanded potato exports to Mexico by an estimated \$250 million over the next 5 years opened the processed meat products market in Israel, addressed halal concerns to expand exports to Indonesia and Egypt, and increased ethanol exports to Japan. U.S. agricultural producers and exporters gained access to potential markets worth nearly \$6.4 billion in 2022.

## **TACKLING FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY WHILE MAINTAINING A SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD SUPPLY**

All Americans benefit from investments that provide consistent access to safe, healthy, and affordable food. No one should have to worry where the next meal comes from. The COVID-19

pandemic heightened the importance of USDA's nutrition programs to the public as many received additional benefits, relied on emergency food providers, or received free school meals. It is not enough to return to where we were before the pandemic. As a nation, we must build a better America where no one is left without consistent access to healthy, nutritious food. To more effectively promote healthier diets and racial equity, we need to transform the federal nutrition safety net to not only focus on food security, but also nutrition security. We must ensure all people have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being. In 2024, USDA is investing more than \$148 billion (Appendix 14) in the nation's nutrition security by providing meaningful support to program participants, addressing disparities in diet related diseases from long standing inequities, connecting healthy foods directly to people in need, and collaboration with health professionals, food and retailer industries, and other key stakeholders to advance nutrition research that considers culturally diverse perspectives of food and health.

### **Protect the Nation's Food Supply**

The budget includes \$1.29 billion to fully fund the costs necessary to support nearly 8,600 FSIS personnel who ensure the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products at 6,800 processing, slaughter, and import establishments in the U.S. Nearly 90 percent of these personnel act as frontline inspectors and investigators and provide surveillance to protect the Nation's food supply. The Budget includes an investment of \$37.9 million for mission critical information technology (IT) infrastructure that will be used by inspectors, veterinarians, and frontline public health professionals. These funds will ensure that FSIS systems maintain high reliability; support industry and stakeholders; facilitate domestic and international trade; and improve performance of its food safety mission. State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs are an integral part of the nation's food safety system and FSIS aids in the sustainment and expansion of these programs. MPI programs further supply-chain resiliency within states, ensuring American families have plentiful access to safe meat and poultry products in their local markets. FSIS requests and additional \$6.1 million to fund States under a cooperative agreement, which is especially helpful to small and very small meat and poultry processors in building their local and state markets. The Budget also requests \$30 million for FSIS to create stronger and fairer markets by reducing the costs of overtime and holiday inspection fees for small and very small establishments. This will allow operations to be more competitive and expand their operations, while providing smaller farmers with more market options and increasing supply chain capacity.

### **Promote Nutrition Assistance and Security**

Building on investments from ARP, the Budget seeks to cement recent progress and continue to provide access to the array of nutrition programs used by households across the nation. In 2024, estimated participation levels average 43.5 million per month for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and 6.5 million per month for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The Budget includes funding of \$122.1 billion for the SNAP and \$6.3 billion for WIC, continuing the longstanding bipartisan commitment to fully funding the program to serve all projected participants. The Budget also includes \$100 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to support soup kitchens and food

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banks and \$165 million for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to improve nutrition and provide culturally appropriate foods.

The Budget provides \$32 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, providing healthy, nutritious meals to help kids meet their nutritional needs, foster healthy eating habits, and safeguard their health with a goal of reducing the number of overweight and obese children. In 2024, the Budget projects serving 5 billion lunches and snacks and 2.6 billion breakfasts in schools, 1.9 billion meals in child and adult care food programs, 182 million meals through the Summer Food Service Program, and Summer EBT benefits to an estimated 27 million children to effectively reduce food insecurity during the summer months. These funding levels support the goals of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, which President Biden launched to improve health outcomes and reduce diet-related disease by 2030. The Budget also includes an important legislative proposal discussed during the Conferences that would advance a pathway to free school meals for an additional 9 million school children through increased take up of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) among schools and States. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will continue evaluating and implementing effective strategies to tackle food and nutrition security and improve health outcomes for all Americans.

### **Provide International Food Assistance**

USDA supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, improved market information, statistics and analysis, as well as direct food assistance. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) contributes to these efforts by carrying out a variety of food aid programs that support economic growth and development in recipient countries. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ARP provided \$800 million in additional food assistance through additional grants in Food for Peace. The Budget requests \$1.8 billion for P.L 480 Title II and \$243 million for the McGovern Dole International Food for Education program to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, especially for girls.

### **Discover Innovative Solutions to Feed a Growing Population**

USDA's work on nutrition security is driven by research and grounded in science. USDA is investing across the department to integrate nutrition science into policy, systems, and environments to set all Americans up for success. In addition to the extensive research performed by FNS that is critical in connecting Americans, across all life stages, with healthy, safe, and affordable food the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area conducts significant nutrition research. For example, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) operates six human nutrition research centers that promote healthy diet choices based on scientific evidence and link agricultural practices to beneficial health outcomes. In addition, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) advances food and nutrition security through research, education, extension, and innovation while the Economic Research Service (ERS) also studies topics central to food and nutrition security. This work is also driven by the lived experiences of staff and stakeholders. The Budget provides over \$2 billion in research which supports the fight against nutrition insecurity and the discovery of agricultural practices that advance public health and food security.

## **MAKING USDA A GREAT PLACE TO WORK FOR EVERYONE**

We strive to ensure an exceptional work environment across USDA. This requires an inclusive, engaged, and diverse workforce—one with leaders and staff working together to build a welcoming, respectful, accountable, and supportive culture that empowers everyone to reach their highest potential. We’re investing to attract, hire, develop, and empower talented public servants who reflect the diversity of our nation, so we are better able to deliver on our mission and serve all communities.

### **Deliver Excellent, Equitable, and Secure Federal Services and Customer Experience**

USDA is committed to being “of the people, by the people, and for the people” to solve challenges of our modern environment. Every day, USDA interacts with millions of Americans. We provide vital services during critical moments in people’s lives and strive to improve service by streamlining services and listening to customer needs. Through human centered design, USDA developed action plans to identify opportunities to reduce individuals' and families' burdens by simplifying enrollment and recertification for nutrition assistance programs such as the SNAP and the WIC; and design and implement a simplified direct farm loan application process. The Budget request \$38 million to support the USDA Customer Experience office, which delivers support for agencies across the Department and enhances our ability to provide Americans with the services and programs they need, when they need them.

### **Strengthening and Empowering the Federal Workforce**

USDA would not be able to deliver our programs and services to Americans without our dedicated staff, USDA is finding new ways to support talent teams to strengthen recruitment and hiring by expanding early career hiring, internship opportunities, and removing barriers to equal opportunity. USDA employs nearly 100,000 people across the nation and must be a model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, where all employees are treated with dignity and respect. The Budget request \$3 million to establish The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace. The Budget request \$2.1 million increase for the Talent Management Division in the Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) which will allow the office to administer a program that further develops the skillsets of our employee population coupled with fostering innovative training modalities for the hybrid work environment. The program is working to address workforce development needs and lead in creating a “best-in class” learning organization to ensure that USDA has training and developmental opportunities to enhance employees’ skills and competencies while expanding career paths options for employees and upward mobility and leadership role opportunities.

### **Firefighter Workforce Reform**

The Budget requests \$569 million for a suite of critically needed wildfire firefighter workforce reforms—including improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, vital health and well-being assistance, and improved housing. The Budget ensures that no Federal firefighter would make less than \$15 an hour and advances the Administration’s commitment to invest in the Federal wildland fire management workforce through a new comprehensive and equitable compensation

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structure. These reforms build upon the historic but temporary (through the end of 2023) reforms in the BIL by providing a permanent solution for federal wildland firefighters' compensation and taking steps to improve their quality of life. These pay reforms will increase federal wildland firefighters' base pay to provide a more livable wage and address long-term competitiveness and equity issues to ensure stable recruitment and strong retention. These investments in Federal wildland fire management workforce take another significant step forward in ongoing efforts to build a more robust, year-round workforce that is better aligned to meet the challenges of today's wildfire activity which are expected to continue to increase due to climate change.

## **THE NEXT FARM BILL**

The Budget provides USDA with the staffing resources necessary to implement the 2023 Farm Bill and we look forward to working this year with the Congress, partners, stakeholders, and the public to identify shared priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill that position USDA to seamlessly continue implementation and build on the historic legislative achievements of the first two years of the Biden Administration. The 2023 Farm Bill is a historic opportunity for American agriculture and rural America to transform the food and agricultural system from one that benefits a few to one that benefits many. To advance this vision of agriculture and rural economies building opportunity from the bottom up and middle out, USDA also looks forward to working with the Congress to continue to create opportunity and new revenue streams for American farmers, ranchers, and producers of all sizes through climate smart agriculture and forestry, biobased products, renewable energy, local and regional food systems, and other value-added opportunities. Likewise, USDA is committed to policies that advance fair competition, trade, supply chain resilience, and address labor issues to ensure that American farmers and ranchers can produce and sell agricultural products in robust and just markets.

USDA looks forward to working with the Congress to support new and beginning farmers, shore up the Federal Government's commitment to agricultural research, address climate change through voluntary incentives to reduce climate risk and improvements to crop insurance, maintain a commitment to conservation programs and investments in clean energy, continue efforts on food loss and waste, and implement climate-smart agriculture and forestry actions to open new market opportunities and provide a competitive advantage for American producers, including small and historically underserved producers and early adopters. In addition, the USDA seeks to protect rural communities by exploring solutions related to chemical contaminations of crops, livestock, and water, along with strengthening biodefense and animal health and disease protection. The 2023 Farm Bill is also a critical opportunity to ensure that the wealth created in rural America stays there and to empower rural communities with the tools necessary to advance their locally-led vision.

In addition, USDA's nutrition programs are among the most far-reaching tools available to improve the health and well-being of Americans. The 2023 Farm Bill is an opportunity to make progress toward the goal that all Americans have access to healthy, affordable, food, as emphasized in the Biden-Harris Administration's National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. This is an important moment to reconsider strengthening cross enrollment capabilities across Federal assistance programs and eliminating barriers to food assistance for vulnerable groups. These barriers make it difficult for underserved groups to succeed, including low-income college students, individuals reentering society and seeking a second chance, youth who have aged out of

foster care, kinship families, low-income individuals in the U.S. Territories, and SNAP recipients facing time limits. And, rather than reducing obstacles to employment, research demonstrates that time limits on SNAP eligibility amplify existing inequities in food and economic security. Beyond removing barriers to food access, we also have an opportunity to make healthier choices easier by expanding food purchasing options, fruit and vegetable incentives, and local food procurement, through our federal nutrition programs, including by building upon efforts USDA is already piloting. The Farm Bill reauthorization process is also an opportunity to strengthen program integrity to address new risks and vulnerabilities, while ensuring that USDA can continue to support the needs of all eligible households.

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## *FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION*

### **MISSION**

The Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area focuses on domestic agricultural issues. Locating the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Risk Management Agency (RMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the FPAC Business Center under one mission area provides a simplified one-stop shop for USDA's primary customers, the farmers, ranchers, and forest managers across America. FSA, RMA, and NRCS implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance, conservation programs and technical assistance, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs.

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed roughly \$1.264 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, a 5.4-percent share. The output of America's farms contributed \$164.7 billion of this sum—about 0.7 percent of U.S. GDP. The overall contribution of agriculture to GDP is larger though because sectors related to agriculture rely on agricultural inputs to contribute added value to the economy. In 2021, 21.1 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors—10.5 percent of total U.S. employment. Direct on-farm employment accounted for about 2.6 million of these jobs, or 1.3 percent of U.S. employment. Employment in agriculture- and food-related industries supported another 18.5 million jobs. The agricultural sector has a significant impact on not only the rural economy, but the National economy as well.

When American farmers are financially healthy, they not only support themselves and their families, but also their employees, local equipment dealers, farm service suppliers and the rural communities where they live and do business. USDA's farm safety-net and disaster programs play a critical role to help ensure that American agriculture continues to be financially healthy.

In 2022, the FPAC Mission Area worked to make several changes, as authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), to strengthen USDA's commodity, disaster, conservation, and farm loan programs. The 2018 Farm Bill repealed certain programs, continued some programs with modifications and authorized several new programs, including improving the safety net for dairy producers. The 2018 Farm Bill included a number of changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) such as dedicating 2 million acres for grassland enrollment and gradually increasing the CRP acreage cap to 27 million acres by 2023. The 2018 Farm Bill also reauthorized and increased funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), eliminated the former Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill and authorized a new dollar capped CSP that is more closely aligned with EQIP. The 2018 Farm Bill continued to strengthen the Federal crop insurance program and increased the loan limits under the FSA farm ownership and operating loan programs.

The FPAC Business Center was created in 2018 to provide mission support services to FSA, RMA, and NRCS including acquisition, budget, economic analysis, finance, homeland security, human resources, information technology, performance, and related activities.

In 2022, FSA provided over \$2.2 billion in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments to producers for crop year 2020. ARC and PLC are an important part of the farm safety net and provide assistance during crop revenue or commodity price downturns.

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized several changes to the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) and renamed the program as the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. As part of a subsequent effort by Congress to help the dairy industry respond to the pandemic and other challenges, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 established Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage Payments for calendar years 2021-2023. These payments are limited to farms enrolled in DMC with a production history of less than 5,000,000 pounds and reflect increases in their production since 2014. Supplemental DMC is projected to provide \$580 million to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that have increased production over the years but were not able to enroll that additional production.

FSA continues to provide tools for America's farmers to be good stewards of the land. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has protected and conserved environmentally sensitive land since 1986. To target climate impacts, in spring 2021, FSA made several improvements to the CRP including providing higher rental rates to increase producer interest and enrollment; establishing a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP general and continuous signups to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and rolling out a CRP Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative to measure program climate impacts and increase climate outcomes over time. Grassland, forest, and wetland assessment teams have been laying the groundwork and fanning out to monitor climate mitigation impacts of over one thousand enrollments. The teams are working with NRCS to provide training opportunities to conservation planners during field visits. In 2022, producers enrolled 22 million acres in CRP through the General, Continuous, and Grassland signups. Of note, more than 4.3 million acres were offered for Grasslands enrollment, the highest in Grasslands history; 3.1 million acres were accepted in this competitive enrollment program.

FSA farm loan programs provide an important safety net for producers, by providing a source of credit to producers commercial lenders typically cannot serve adequately. The majority of FSA's direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans are targeted to underserved populations such as beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged producers, who generally have had a more difficult time obtaining credit to maintain and expand their operations. In 2022, FSA provided more than 24,000 direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers, totaling about \$5.8 billion.

Crop insurance is designed to allow farmers and ranchers to effectively manage their risk through difficult periods, helping to maintain America's food supply and the sustainability of small, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other underserved farmers. In crop year 2022, the Federal crop insurance program provided protection for \$194 billion in crop and livestock production.

NRCS works in partnership with private landowners, communities, local governments, and other stakeholders to promote the sustainable use and safeguard the productivity of the Nation's private working lands. The agency provides conservation planning, technical assistance, and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and foresters to help them conserve, enhance and protect natural resources. In addition, NRCS works with these partners to leverage resources and innovative ideas to make the landscape and critical infrastructure more resilient. In 2022, NRCS developed conservation plans covering over 31 million acres. In accordance with those plans and utilizing Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program support, conservation practices and systems designed to improve soil quality were applied to 3.5 million acres of cropland.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

FSA supports the delivery of farm loans, commodity, conservation, disaster assistance, and related programs. FSA utilizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), which funds most of the USDA commodity, export, and conservation programs.

*Table FPAC-1. FSA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FSA Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation) .....	\$1,173	\$1,215	\$1,262
Transfer from Program Accounts.....	294	306	322
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	1,467	1,521	1,584
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:			
Loan Subsidy.....	62	47	54
Recission of Unobligated Subsidy BA.....	-90	-73	-
Loan Program Expenses.....	21	21	20
Total, ACIF Program Account.....	-7	-5	74
State Mediation Grants.....	7	7	7
Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.....	7	7	7
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.....	3	4	4
Total, Ongoing Discretionary Programs	1,477	1,534	1,676
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	1,477	1,534	1,676
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Dairy Indemnity Program.....	(500)	(500)	(500)
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	(500)	(500)	(500)
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (2023 Omnibus).....	-	27	-
Infrastructure Restoration Act.....	3,100	-	-
Total, Supplemental Programs.....	3,100	27	-
Total, Current Law	4,577	1,561	1,676
Proposed Legislation	-	-	-
Total, FSA.....	4,577	1,561	1,676

Totals may not sum due to rounding

**Salaries and Expenses**

The Budget includes about \$1.58 billion to support Federal and non-Federal staffing. FSA delivers its programs through more than 2,100 USDA Service Centers, 50 State offices, and an area office in Puerto Rico. For 2024, the Budget requests an additional \$2.7 million for lease space for the Urban Agriculture Initiative, which would support county committees to facilitate urban agricultural production and help address climate change. The Budget also requests \$10.3 million for staffing to enhance equity, outreach, internal controls, and effectively implement a variety of programs.

### State Mediation Grants

Funding for State Mediation Grants is proposed at \$7 million. These grants are made to States to support certified programs to provide alternative dispute resolution. The Budget extends this resource to all U.S. territories and Tribes to ensure broader inclusion and support for agricultural producers. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded the issues covered under these program funds, such as lease issues, family farm transition, and farmer-neighbor disputes.

### Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Funding for the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program (GSWPP) is proposed at \$7 million. GSWPP is designed to help prevent source water pollution in States through voluntary practices installed by producers and other landowners at the local level. State rural water associations deliver assistance in developing source water protection plans within watersheds to help prevent contamination of drinking water supplies.

### Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

The budget includes \$4 million for geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program (RTCP). The Program reimburses eligible producers for a portion of the cost to transport agricultural commodities or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.

*Table FPAC-2. FSA Staff Years*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
Federal	2,935	3,117	3,218
Non-Federal:	6,739	7,168	7,168
Permanent Full-Time	9,674	10,285	10,386
Temporary	393	717	717
Total, Non-Federal	7,132	7,885	7,885
<b>Total, FSA Staff Years</b>	<b>10,067</b>	<b>11,002</b>	<b>11,103</b>

*Table FPAC-3. ACIF Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Farm Operating Loans:						
Guaranteed Unsubsidized	\$2,118	\$17	\$2,118	\$11	\$2,118	\$1
Direct	1,633	40	1,633	24	1,633	28
Total, Operating Loans	3,752	57	3,752	35	3,751	29
Farm Ownership Loans:						
Guaranteed Unsubsidized	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-
Direct	2,800	-	3,100	-	3,100	-
Total, Ownership Loans	6,300	-	6,600	-	6,600	-
Emergency Loans	38	0	4	0	38	4
Indian Land Acquisition Loans	20	-	20	-	20	-
Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loans	5	0	5	1	5	2
Boll Weevil Eradication Loans	60	-	60	-	60	0
Guaranteed Conservation Loans	150	-	150	-	150	-
Heir's Relending Program	61	5	61	11	61	19
Total, ACIF	10,386	62	10,652	47	10,686	54

Totals may not sum due to rounding

The Farm Loan Programs serve as an important safety net for America's farmers by providing a source of credit when credit from commercial sources cannot or does not meet their actual needs. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the loan limits for many of the farm loan programs, thereby increasing loan demand, particularly Direct Farm Ownership loans. To meet the anticipated demand for farm credit, the Budget supports almost \$10.7 billion in farm loans. The Budget also includes a number of legislative changes to the Farm Loan Programs that are designed to expand program access and utilization, connecting more producers with the financing they need for successful farm operations. These changes are long overdue and will improve program delivery for those most in need. Specifically, the proposals will 1) give the Secretary maximum flexibility for applicant eligibility for emergency loans; 2) increase the microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000; 3) eliminate the number of years that a borrower can apply for Direct Operating Loan or Direct Farm Ownership loan, 4) revise beginning farmer definition to require individuals of an entity to be beginning farmers without regard to relationship, 5) reduce required farming experience for Direct Farm Ownership Loans from 3 years to 1 year, with a waiver of experience for those who have an established mentorship, 6) correct the historical linkage for Farm Ownership down payment direct loan limit to match the direct Farm Ownership loan limit, and 7) revise beginning farmer lending targets required "to the extent practicable." This suite of changes expands access to farm loans to strengthen agriculture while remaining budget neutral.

The Budget is projected to support over 30,000 loans to farmers and ranchers by financing operating expenses and providing opportunities to acquire a farm or keep an existing one. The availability of farm operating loans provides farmers with short-term credit to finance the costs of continuing or improving their farming operations, such as purchasing seed, fertilizer, livestock, feed, equipment, and other supplies. For farm operating loans, the Budget supports over \$1.6 billion in direct loans and over \$2.1 billion in guaranteed loans. The requested loan levels for

operating loans will serve approximately 19,000 loans to farmers, of which about 16,000 will be direct loans and over 3,000 will be guaranteed loans. For farm ownership loans, the Budget includes funding to support \$3.1 billion in direct loans and \$3.5 billion for guaranteed loans. These loan levels will provide an estimated 10,000 loans to farmers with the opportunity to either acquire their own farm or keep an existing one; an estimated 6,000 will be direct loans and about 4,000 will be guaranteed loans.

The Budget will provide \$61 million for the Heirs' Property Relending Program, authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, to resolve ownership and succession of farmland. Also, the Budget supports an almost \$38 million loan level for emergency (EM) loans, an increase of nearly \$34 million from the 2023 enacted level. The Budget removes the current Emergency Loan Program requirements for written credit denial, while also allowing the Secretary to determine the production loss percent threshold, rather than using an arbitrary 30 percent. Removing the credit denial requirement better aligns eligibility requirements with the Farm Ownership and Operating Loans and improves producer access to emergency funding. The Budget also supports \$60 million in boll weevil eradication loans, \$20 million in Indian Land Acquisition loans and \$5 million in funding for the Highly Fractionated Indian Loan Program.

*Table FPAC-4. FSA Key Performance Indicators Measures*

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Restored wetland acreage (million acres)	2.39	2.76	2.96
Average number of days to process direct loans	31	34	33
Percentage of direct and guaranteed loan borrowers who are beginning farmers	60.9	59.9	59.9
First installment delinquency rate on direct loans	8.4	9	9
Direct loan delinquency rate	4.5	7	7

**COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC) PROGRAMS****COMMODITY PROGRAMS***Table FPAC-5. CCC Net Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund .....	\$6,238	\$10,709	\$3,347

The commodity programs provide risk management and financial tools to farmers and ranchers. These programs, including the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, provide protection against adverse market fluctuations. As a result, outlays for many of these programs vary significantly from year to year as market conditions change. Total CCC net outlays are about \$6 billion, a decrease of about \$1.3 billion from the 2023 estimate.

*Table FPAC-6. CCC Net Outlays (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Commodity Programs:</b>			
Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage	\$2,204	\$876	\$69
Marketing Assistance Loans	-467	336	90
Loans Made	5,745	6,221	6,756
Loans Repaid	-6,212	-5,885	-6,666
Loan Deficiency Payments	5	4	4
Loan Implementation	137	137	137
Dairy Margin Coverage*	391	1,671	1,226
Other, Commodity Programs	40	43	36
<i>Total, Commodity Payments</i>	<i>2,310</i>	<i>3,067</i>	<i>1,562</i>
<b>Conservation Programs:</b>			
Conservation Reserve Program	1,808	2,174	2,254
Other, Conservation Programs	6	7	7
<i>Total, Conservation Programs</i>	<i>1,814</i>	<i>2,181</i>	<i>2,261</i>
<b>Disaster Programs</b>			
Supplemental Disaster Programs	1,524	1,225	1,233
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program	239	177	177
<i>Total, Disaster Programs</i>	<i>1,763</i>	<i>1,402</i>	<i>1,410</i>
<b>Foreign Assistance Programs:</b>			
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust	32	135	48
Food for Progress	127	245	245
Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program	233	283	283
<i>Total, Foreign Assistance Programs</i>	<i>392</i>	<i>663</i>	<i>576</i>
<b>CCC Charter Act Programs:</b>			
<i>Total, CCC Charter Act Programs</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>80</i>
<b>Additional Authorities:</b>			
<i>Total, Additional Authorities</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>18</i>
<b>Mandatory Appropriations:</b>			
<i>Total, Mandatory Appropriations</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>214</i>	<i>98</i>

All Other**	168	181	578
<i>Sequestration***</i>	-	-632	-591
<i>Total, CCC Commodity Programs</i>	<i>6,638</i>	<i>7,300</i>	<i>5,992</i>
<b>Total CCC Fund, NET Outlays</b>	<b>6,638</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>5,992</b>
<b>Other Activities:</b>			
CCC Export Loans (current, discretionary)	6	6	6
Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund	16	16	16
Agricultural Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund	30	30	30
<i>Total, Other Programs</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>52</i>
Total, Current Law	6,690	7,352	6,044
<b>Total, CCC</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>7,352</b>	<b>6,044</b>

\* Includes Collections for Premiums for Dairy Margin Coverage

\*\*All Other includes Interest, Operating Expenses, and Discretionary Appropriations

\*\*\*The 2022 figures reflect outlays after sequestration and estimates in 2023 and 2024 reflect projected outlays prior to sequestration. The sequestration percentage in 2023 and 2024 is 5.7%.

ARC and PLC provide assistance only when commodity revenue or price downturns occur. Under ARC, producers were given the choice to elect ARC-County (ARC-CO) or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC). ARC-CO offers revenue protection on a county basis. ARC-IC offers revenue protection on an individual farm basis. Producers are able to elect PLC or ARC-CO on a commodity-by-commodity basis, but ARC-IC has to be elected on a farm basis. Payments under PLC occur if the U.S. average market price for the crop is less than the effective reference price, therefore offering price protection. Payments under ARC-CO occur when actual crop revenue is below the ARC revenue guarantee for a crop year. Under ARC-IC, payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenues, summed across all covered commodities on the farm, are less than ARC individual guarantees summed across those covered commodities on the farm. ARC and PLC payments are issued after October 1 or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the end of the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity. The ARC and PLC payments issued in fiscal year 2022 were primarily for crop year 2020, and similarly the payments to be made in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 are for crop years 2021 and 2022, respectively. The 2018 Farm Bill allowed producers the opportunity to elect either ARC-CO or PLC by crop for both the 2019 and 2020 crop years. Then, starting with crop year 2021, the choice between ARC-CO and PLC can be made for each crop year through 2023. Also, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized a nationwide one-time PLC yield update that will be in effect for 2020-2023 crops. In addition, the PLC reference price now has an escalator option, not to exceed 115 percent of the statutory reference price.

The 2018 Farm Bill replaced the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) with the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. Changes included lowering premiums, adding new levels of coverage, and allowing producers to make a separate election for covered production over 5 million pounds. The 2018 Farm Bill also provided for the repayment of premium previously paid under MPP-Dairy by allowing a 50 percent cash payment or a 75 percent credit toward new premiums, based on the amount of premium the dairy operation paid for coverage during 2014 to 2017. Further, the Dairy Product Donation Program was repealed and replaced with a new fluid milk donation program. In a December 2021 rule, as part of Congress' efforts to provide broader pandemic assistance, USDA expanded DMC to include coverage for supplemental production. Supplemental DMC is projected to provide \$580 million to better help small- and mid-sized dairy

operations that have increased production over the years but were not able to enroll that additional production.

*Table FPAC-7. CCC Gross Outlays by Commodity\* (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Commodity:</b>			
Feed Grains	\$1,113	\$1,807	\$1,828
Wheat	926	258	178
Rice	494	261	174
Extra Long Staple Cotton	97	111	134
Upland Cotton	2,059	1,304	1,663
Seed Cotton	480	16	41
Lentils	11	5	4
Honey	2	5	4
Dairy and Products	397	1,754	1,305
Soybeans	512	743	756
Other Oilseeds	38	50	42
Sugar	930	1,013	1,035
Peanuts	1,322	1,488	929
Other Commodities	145	220	213
<b>Total, Commodity Payments</b>	<b>8,527</b>	<b>9,035</b>	<b>8,307</b>

\*The table represents gross outlays for all commodity programs, i.e., ARC/PLC, MALS etc. Loan repayments are not reflected in amounts shown.

## Conservation Programs

Most of the conservation programs administered by FSA and NRCS (see NRCS section for further information) are funded through the CCC. These programs help farmers adopt and maintain conservation systems that protect water and air quality, reduce soil erosion, protect and enhance wildlife habitat and wetlands, conserve water, and sequester carbon.

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The purpose of CRP is to assist farm owners and operators in conserving and improving soil, water, air, and wildlife resources by converting highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage normally devoted to the production of agricultural commodities to a long-term resource-conserving cover. CRP participants enroll in contracts for periods from 10 to 15 years in exchange for annual rental payments and cost-share and technical assistance for installing approved conservation practices. Amounts for CRP include financial and technical assistance. CRP enrolls highly erodible cropland, and also cropland and marginal pastureland in areas adjacent to lakes and streams that are converted to buffers, and cropland that can serve as restored or constructed wetlands, cropland contributing to water quality problems, and cropland converted to valuable wildlife habitat.

CRP enrolls land through general signups and continuous signups, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP agreements are Federal/State partnerships designed to address specific environmental objectives. Under general signup provisions, producers compete nationally during specified enrollment periods for acceptance based on an environmental benefits index. Under continuous signup provisions, producers enroll specified high-environmental value lands such as wetlands, riparian buffers, and various types of habitats at any time during the year without competition.

The 2018 Farm Bill extended and modified the authorization for CRP through 2023. The acreage cap increased from 24 million acres to 27 million acres by 2023 and included 8.6 million acres for continuous practices and 2 million acres for grasslands. Two new pilot programs were created: the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers initiative (CLEAR 30, which has 30-year contracts) and the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP). FSA is expected to target at least 40 percent of continuous CRP acres to the practices considered as CLEAR 30. A proportional, historic State acreage allocation was included for a portion of the acres available for enrollment.

As of November 2022, over 3.3 million acres in 45 States were enrolled in CLEAR contracts, and more than 3,000 acres in SHIPP, which focuses on the prairie pothole States of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized up to \$12 million in incentive payments for tree thinning and related activities and provides additional haying and grazing flexibilities. In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized up to \$50 million for the Transition Incentive Program (TIP) through 2023. The TIP encourages the transition of expiring CRP land to a beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmer or rancher so land can be returned to sustainable grazing or crop production. By early 2022, over 205,000 acres were enrolled in TIP across 28 States.

Total CRP enrollment at the end of 2022 was about 22 million acres, of which about 10.1 million acres were enrolled under general signups, 8 million acres under continuous signups and 3.9 million acres under grasslands signups. About 2 million acres in CRP will be expiring at the end of 2023 and 0.5 million expiring at the end of 2024.

CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

Several assessments of CRP-related outcomes are ongoing. These include a trio of projects that will monitor the impact on soil carbon, as well as greenhouse gas emissions and biomass carbon, of marginal cropland conversion to perennial cover. These projects involve visiting roughly 1,000 grass, tree, and wetland enrollments at least twice over the next five years to collect and analyze samples.

Riparian and grass buffers improve water quality and provide vital habitat for wildlife. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, riparian and grass buffers protect groundwater and help improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

*Table FPAC-8. KPI – CRP Acreage Enrolled*

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Acreage enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) riparian and grass buffers (Cumulative, Million Acres)	1.37	1.56	1.61

### **Agricultural Disaster Assistance**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) were authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2011, under the USDA Supplemental Disaster Assistance Program. The 2018 Farm Bill made changes to several of them.

*Table FPAC-9. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Gross Outlays (millions of dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Estimate</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
<b>Commodity:</b>			
LFP .....	\$1,242	\$935	\$939
LIP .....	22	23	22
TAP .....	11	11	17
ELAP .....	249	186	185
Total, Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance .....	1,524	1,155	1,163

LIP provides benefits to producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government. The 2018 Farm Bill amends LIP to include coverage for: 1) death or sale loss resulting from diseases caused by, or transmitted by, a vector that cannot be controlled by vaccination or acceptable management practices; and 2) death of unweaned livestock due to adverse weather. In addition, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 eliminated the payment limit for LIP. LFP provides compensation to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. It also provides compensation to producers who have suffered grazing losses due to fire on rangeland managed by a Federal agency.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP. In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill eliminated the payment limit for ELAP.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. The 2018 Farm Bill raised the number of acres for which payments could be received from 500 to 1,000 acres.

In addition to the disaster programs authorized by the Farm Bill, the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) provided payments to producers to offset losses from

hurricanes, wildfires, and other qualifying natural disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019. WHIP+ covered losses of crops, trees, bushes, and vines that occurred as a result of those disaster events, milk losses due to adverse weather conditions, and losses to on-farm stored commodities. The enrollment period for WHIP+ ended on October 30, 2020.

Supplemental disaster assistance authorized by Congress in the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43) made \$10 billion available for a broader range of disasters and extended WHIP+ payments to cover losses in calendar years 2020 and 2021. The expanded program includes \$750 million specifically for livestock producers with losses in 2021 due to drought and wildfire. To expedite distribution of those funds under the Emergency Relief Program and the Emergency Livestock Relief Program, FSA and RMA leveraged existing data to streamline an application process and provide money to producers faster than previous ad hoc programs without burdening producers. As of December 31, 2022, FSA processed more than 100,000 applications totaling nearly \$670 million in payments to livestock producers and more than 255,000 applications totaling over \$7.2 billion in payments to commodity and specialty crop producers.

Related to the above assistance, Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-348) provided \$3.7 billion that is available until expended to cover specified losses of crops, trees, bushes and vines from weather-related events occurring in calendar year 2022. Of this amount, up to \$494.5 million is directed to provide assistance to livestock producers from losses incurred during calendar year 2022 due to drought and wildfire.

### **Pandemic Assistance for Producers**

USDA announced in March 2021, the Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program to bring financial assistance to a broader set of farmers and ranchers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. As part of this broader program, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) was re-opened and updated to include additional payments for eligible cattle and row crop producers and the processing of payments for certain applications filed as part of CFAP Additional Assistance. Additional initiatives support transitioning organic producers, cotton and wool apparel manufacturers, biofuel producers, producers who sold hogs through a spot market sale, livestock producers impacted by insufficient access to processing, timber harvesting and hauling businesses, and dairy farmers who received a lower value due to market abnormalities. In addition to program design and efforts to increase outreach and partnership through cooperative agreements. USDA has seen an increase in enrollment by underserved producers.

Announced in January 2023, USDA is providing critical support to producers impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak through the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP). PARP provides direct financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who suffered at least a 15 percent loss in gross revenue in calendar year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. To address those gaps in assistance, PARP targets overall revenue losses and supports producers of certain commodities that were not previously eligible for pandemic assistance.

**RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY***Table FPAC-10. RMA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
RMA Salaries and Expenses Appropriations .....	\$63	\$67	\$78
Transfer from FCIC (Mandatory) .....	7	7	7
Total, Salaries and Expenses	70	74	85
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Indemnities Net of Producer Paid Premium <sup>a</sup> .....	7,376	11,580	10,709
Delivery Expense <sup>b</sup> .....	2,208	1,736	1,753
Underwriting Gain <sup>c</sup> .....	2,731	2,054	2,208
FCIA Initiatives .....	21	21	21
Mandatory Appropriations .....	12,336	15,391	14,691
Delivery Expense (GP 771) .....	-	25	-
Total, RMA (before adjustments) .....	12,406	15,490	14,776
Proposed Legislation <sup>d</sup> .....			75
Total, RMA .....	12,406	15,490	14,851

<sup>a</sup> The amount of premium subsidy paid by the Federal government is not reflected in the table above. The Budget for the Federal Crop Insurance Program assumes a crop year loss ratio (gross indemnities/total premium) of 1.0 for 2023. However, the fiscal year loss ratio could be higher or lower than 1.0 due to differences in the timing of certain cash flows (see discussion below on estimated indemnities).

<sup>b</sup> Reimbursements to private companies.

<sup>c</sup> Payments to private insurance companies. The 2024 underwriting gains reflect a projected 1.0 loss ratio for the 2024 crop year.

<sup>d</sup> Budget includes a mandatory proposal to make permanent the Cover Crop Incentive Program.

**Discretionary Funding – Salaries and Expenses**

Discretionary funds for the Federal crop insurance program cover most of Federal salaries and related expenses to manage the program. The Budget includes \$78 million in discretionary appropriations for these costs. Of note, an additional \$5.2 million will be used for additional staff to conduct reviews and investigations to ensure adequate oversight of the Federal Crop Insurance Program and continue program expansion to meet producer needs for an effective safety net. RMA will enhance and expand products to reach specialty crop and underserved producers. Another \$1 million will be used to better serve underserved communities, enter into cooperative agreements for outreach with local non-profits or universities, and collect demographic data on program participants. Further, the RMA plans to transfer \$7 million each fiscal year from mandatory funding to RMA's Salaries and Expenses for program compliance and integrity reviews.

**Mandatory Funding**

The Federal crop insurance program provides a safety net that protects producers from a wide range of risks caused by natural disasters, as well as the risk of price fluctuations. The crop insurance program covers around 130 crops. However, the ten principal row crops (barley, corn, cotton, peanuts, potatoes, rice, sorghum, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat) account for around 76

percent of total insured value. The participation rate is high for the principal row crops with around 89 percent of acres covered by insurance.

Federal crop insurance is delivered to producers through private insurance companies that share in the risk of loss and opportunity for gain. The companies are reimbursed for their delivery expenses and receive underwriting gains in years of favorable loss experience. The costs associated with the Federal crop insurance programs include premium subsidies, indemnity payments (in excess of producer paid premiums), underwriting gains paid to private companies, reimbursements to private companies for delivery expenses, and other authorized expenditures.

A key performance measure for the Federal crop insurance program is the normalized value of risk protection provided by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)-sponsored insurance – shown in table FPAC-9 on a crop year basis. The value of FCIC risk protection is the actual dollar insurance liability for a given crop year. However, this value is strongly influenced by commodity price swings or trends. The normalized value of risk protection uses a five-year baseline to smooth variations caused by these trends. The baseline model uses the most recent crop insurance data, and other USDA market conditions data, to develop normalized value projections for major crops. For the 2022 crop year, the Federal crop insurance program provided about \$194 billion in crop and livestock risk protection or about \$94.4 billion in (normalized) risk protection. The 2022 and 2023 crop year targets reflect projections of normalized value of risk protection as described above.

Actual indemnities for 2022 reflect crop year 2021 losses that were paid out in 2022, plus the portion of crop year 2022 losses paid out in 2022. The loss ratio for the 2021 crop year was 0.70. Estimated losses for crop years 2023 and 2024 reflect the statutory target loss ratio of 1.0.

*Table FPAC-11. RMA Key Performance Indicators*

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Improper payment rate for all categories of payment (%)	2.58	2.26	2.58
The annual normalized value of risk protection provided to agricultural producers through the Federal Crop Insurance program (\$ billion)	94.4	78.5	78.8

In 2022, the Federal crop insurance programs cost about \$12.4 billion. Of this, about \$7.4 billion was for net indemnities to producers (gross indemnities minus producer paid premiums/fees). Another \$2.2 billion was paid to private insurance companies for delivery expenses, \$2.7 billion for underwriting gains, and \$21 million for Federal Crop Insurance Act initiatives.

### **Proposed Legislation**

The Budget proposes to make the Cover Crop Incentive Program permanent. The program offers a \$5 per acre incentive for farmers to use cover crops, which will benefit the environment and improve climate resilience. The estimated ten-year cost of this proposal is \$1 billion.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE***Table FPAC-12: NRCS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Conservation Operations .....	\$904	\$941	\$1,023
Watershed Rehabilitation Program .....	1	2	10
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	100	75	175
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production /a/ .....	-	9	14
Healthy Forests Reserve Program .....	-	7	20
Water Bank Program .....	-	-	4
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,005	1,034	1,246
Other funding: .....			
Water Bank Program .....	4	4	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking .....	5	5	5
Total, Other Funding .....	9	9	5
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
CCC Transfer .....	3,358	-	-
Farm Bill Programs:			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program .....	1,745	1,910	1,910
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program .....	424	424	424
Regional Conservation Partnership Program .....	283	283	283
Conservation Stewardship Program .....	754	943	943
Agricultural Management Assistance .....	5	5	5
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist .....	221	221	221
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention .....	47	47	47
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	6,837	3,833	3,833
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (IIJA) .....	500	-	-
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (2023 Omnibus) .	-	925	-
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (IIJA) .....	300	-	-
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (2022 Supp.) .....	275	-	-
Watershed Rehabilitation Program (IIJA) .....	118	-	-
Conservation Technical Assistance (IRA) .....	1,000	-	-
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment (IRA) .....	300	-	-
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (IRA) .....	-	250	1,650
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (IRA) .....	-	100	189
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (IRA) .....	-	250	754
Conservation Stewardship Program (IRA) .....	-	250	472
Total, Supplemental .....	2,493	1,775	3,065
Total, Current Law .....	10,344	6,651	8,149
Proposed Legislation .....	-	-	-
Total, NRCS .....	10,344	6,651	8,149

<sup>a/</sup> For 2022, Urban Agriculture (\$8.5 million) and Healthy Forests (\$7 million) were funded within the CO account.

## Conservation Operations (CO)

The proposed discretionary funding for CO for 2022 is \$1.02 billion, of which \$904 million is for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program, and \$118 million is for Soil Survey, Snow Survey, and Plant Materials Centers. Increases are requested to address the Administration's priority of addressing climate change (climate-smart agriculture and climate hubs), equity in conservation cooperative agreements, and will allow the agency to increase its staffing needed to provide assistance for its mandatory (Farm Bill) programs.

As support for climate-smart agriculture, NRCS will expand its greenhouse gas monitoring, measuring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) efforts as well as increase internal capacity related to climate change science. NRCS will integrate soil carbon monitoring work as part of a broader effort to establish a soil health monitoring network, including a network of soil sampling sites.

Funding for climate hubs will be used to establish regional and State-based projects that understand how natural resource conditions on working lands are affected by climate change. This is essential to improve the performance of programs that conserve the land and sustain agriculture production. Increased funding will assist the climate hubs expand NRCS outreach through more effective and efficient delivery of research to end users.

Targeted hiring and training will further expand NRCS' ability to deliver conservation planning and technical assistance that supports soil health and climate science.

An additional \$50 million in CTA funding will be used to continue Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements, two-year agreements which support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

Also within CO, the Soil Survey Program will continue to enhance evaluation of the effects of conservation practices on soil health, soil erosion, carbon sequestration, and other resource issues. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program will continue to enhance data collection and analysis to provide estimates of water availability, drought conditions, and flooding potential to water users (e.g., farmers, ranchers, recreationists) and to water managers (irrigation districts, soil and water conservation districts, municipal and industrial water providers, hydroelectric power utilities, fish and wildlife management, reservoir managers, Tribal Nations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and the countries of Canada and Mexico). NRCS Plant Materials Centers will continue development of information and training for field staff to meet emerging environmental challenges associated with climate change.

Technical assistance funding is shown below.

Table FPAC-13: NRCS Technical Assistance (millions of dollars)

NRCS Technical Assistance <sup>1</sup>	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 <sup>2</sup> Estimate
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Conservation Operations (Technical Assistance):			
Conservation Technical Assistance	\$779	\$827	\$904
Soil Surveys	89	87	89
Snow Surveys	9	17	17
Plant Materials	11	11	12
Watershed Projects	-	-	-
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program	9	-	-
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	2	-	-
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs</b>	<b>\$899</b>	<b>\$941</b>	<b>\$1,023</b>
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Farm Bill Programs (Technical Assistance):			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	625	635	604
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	219	235	178
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	347	393	270
Conservation Stewardship Program	427	474	277
Agricultural Management Assistance <sup>3</sup>	1	1	1
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist	328	269	242
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program	2	-	-
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot	1	2	-
Agriculture Water Enhancement Program	5	5	5
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program	40	32	6
Grassland Reserve Program	15	12	8
Wetland Reserve Program	11	5	1
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	5	5	5
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program	4	4	3
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	1	1	-
Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (Discretionary)	-	1	1
<b>Total, Mandatory Programs</b>	<b>\$2,031</b>	<b>\$2,074</b>	<b>\$1,601</b>
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Conservation Technical Assistance (IRA)	1,000	1,000	763
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment (IRA)	300	300	283
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (IRA)	-	76	581
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (IRA)	-	35	90
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (IRA)	-	25	70
Conservation Stewardship Program (IRA)	-	59	146
<b>Total, Supplemental Programs</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$1,495</b>	<b>\$1,933</b>
<b>Total, Technical Assistance</b>	<b>\$4,230</b>	<b>\$4,510</b>	<b>\$4,557</b>

<sup>1</sup> This table reflects the total estimated staff resources necessary to implement private lands conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This table reflects total estimates for discretionary technical assistance and associated science and technology programs provided through the Private Lands Conservation Operations account in addition to the total estimated technical assistance necessary to implement Farm Bill programs.

<sup>2</sup> The 2024 Budget assumes estimated carryover of \$366 million.

<sup>3</sup> NRCS is authorized to receive 50 percent of total AMA funding. The balance of the funds are allocated to the Risk Management Agency and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Through the CTA Program, NRCS works with landowners and managers to develop conservation plans that outline the specific conservation practices needed to improve farm operations and enhance farm environmental sustainability. NRCS partners with third-party private sector entities (known as Technical Service Providers) to collaborate and provide technical assistance for conservation planning and activities. In addition, \$1.3 billion in funding for CTA was provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including \$300 million to support an integrated greenhouse gas inventory and assessment monitoring and verification initiative.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

EQIP provides assistance to landowners who face serious natural resource challenges (such as soil erosion, air quality, water quality and quantity, and the sustainability of fish and wildlife habitat) that impact soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing lands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized EQIP and provided enhanced authorities, including new conservation planning activities, increased payments for certain incentive practices, and places a greater emphasis on soil testing and health. An additional \$8.45 billion in funding for EQIP was provided by the IRA, which will be used between 2023 and 2031.

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

ACEP has two components: agricultural land easements, under which NRCS assists eligible entities to protect agricultural land by limiting non-agricultural land uses; and wetland reserve easements, under which NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of wetlands reserve easements. NRCS continues to maintain existing easements and contracts formed under the previous programs. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized funding for ACEP and further authorized new enhancements to streamline the agricultural land easement process, which will build upon prior years' efforts to help farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. NRCS continues to maintain existing easements and contracts formed under the previous programs. An additional \$1.4 billion in funding for ACEP was provided by the IRA, which will be used between 2023 and 2031.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Producers receive technical and financial assistance through RCPP while NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities. These projects may focus on water quality and quantity, soil erosion, wildlife habitat, drought mitigation, flood control, and other regional priorities. Partners include producer associations, State or local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and institutions of higher education. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized funding for RCPP and created new opportunities for farmers. An additional \$4.95 billion in funding for RCPP was provided by the IRA, which will be used between 2023 and 2031.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP encourages participants to undertake new conservation activities to build upon existing conservation activities. CSP was authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. However, the 2018 Farm Bill eliminated the former program and created a new CSP that is closely aligned with EQIP, provided enhanced features, and modified the program to be dollar based (not acre-based) by eliminating the \$18-per-acre payment rate. An additional \$3.25 billion in funding for CSP was provided by the IRA, which will be used between 2023 and 2031.

*Table FPAC-14. NRCS Key Performance Indicators*

Key Performance Indicators	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Cropland with Applied Soil Health Management System Practices (Thousand Acres)	294	225	225
Cropland on Which at Least One Conservation Practice was Applied to Improve Soil Quality Under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Million Acres)	3.3	3.4	3.4
Cropland with Conservation Applied to Improve Soil Quality through Conservation Technical Assistance (Million Acres) 1/	3.4	6	N/A
Cropland with Conservation Applied to Improve Soil Quality through Conservation Technical Assistance (Million Acres) 2/	N/A	N/A	11.3
Cropland with Conservation Applied to Reduce Soil Erosion and Improve Soil Quality through Environmental Quality Incentives (Million Acres) 3/	N/A	N/A	3.1
Working Lands Protected by Conservation Easements (Thousand Acres)	167	129	129

1/ Beginning in 2024, NRCS will split this measure into two separate measures for the CTA-GEN program and the EQUIP program to better reflect the work. The two measures following this measure will replace this measure in 2024.

2/ Beginning in 2024, NRCS will use this measure instead of the joint CTA/EQIP measure.

3/ Beginning in 2024, NRCS will use this measure instead of the joint CTA/EQIP measure.

**FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER**

The FPAC BC was formed to consolidate mission administrative support functions within the FPAC mission area. FPAC BC is responsible for financial management, budgeting, human resources, information technology, acquisitions/procurement, customer experience, internal controls, risk management, strategic and annual planning, and other mission-wide activities in support of the customers and employees of FSA, NRCS, and RMA. The FPAC BC was established in 2018 via a transfer of funding and personnel from FSA, RMA, and NRCS. The FPAC BC also provides administrative support for the CCC.

The 2024 Budget provides \$266 million in discretionary funding for FPAC BC. This includes, among other changes, an increase of \$2 million for additional staff to support increased demands for administrative support to implement the mission-critical work of the programmatic agencies. This reflects an increased demand on key areas such as budget, financial management, grants and agreements, human resources, and information solutions. Investment in salaries for FPAC BC also supports the agencies that FPAC BC serves.

In addition, the Budget includes \$1 million for design of a new data system to comply with the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA), as specified by Sec. 773 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Lastly, the Budget includes \$5 million to support the modernization of Receipt for Service function – a statutory requirement for FSA, NRCS, and Rural Development to provide a receipt or documentation to producers requesting service. Including mandatory funding, the 2024 budget provides a total of \$326 million for the FPAC BC.

*Table FPAC-15. FPAC Business Center Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FPAC Business Center .....	\$238	\$249	\$266
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
NRCS-Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.....	8	8	8
NRCS-Conservation Stewardship Program.....	21	21	21
NRCS-Environmental Quality Incentives Program.....	31	31	31
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	60	60	60
Total, FPAC BC .....	298	309	326

## ***TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS***

### **MISSION**

Agricultural trade is essential for the vitality of the U.S. agricultural sector and the economy as a whole. Agricultural exports make a critical contribution to the prosperity of local and regional economies across rural America. Every \$1 billion worth of agricultural, forestry, fishing and hunting exports support an estimated 6,603 jobs and \$1.03 billion in additional economic activity. In 2022, U.S. farm and food exports reached a record \$196.4 billion.

The Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area (TFAA), works to reduce trade barriers that impede or disadvantage U.S. agricultural exports and open new markets for U.S. farm products. The mission area includes the activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the U.S. Codex Alimentarius Office, an interagency partnership that engages stakeholders in the development of international governmental and non-governmental food standards.

Recent U.S. successes in international trade include successfully renegotiating the beef safeguard level under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, reducing the probability of higher tariffs being imposed on U.S. beef and generating opportunities for \$150 million more in beef exports to Japan. In addition, Japan pledged to take all available measures to double demand for ethanol by 2030 for vehicle and sustainable aviation fuels. Over a six-year period FAS worked with Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and industry to inform Canadian regulators about the carbon intensity of U.S. biodiesel and ethanol; FAS efforts paid off when Canada revised its carbon intensity requirements that do not disadvantage a growing U.S. biofuels market worth \$1.1 billion. In 2022, FAS negotiated the release of hundreds of detained shipments valued well over \$40 million from the United States to dozens of countries.

### **FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

FAS administers a variety of programs that are designed to facilitate access to international markets and thereby support a competitive U.S. agricultural system. FAS also carries out activities that promote productive agricultural systems in developing countries and contribute to increased trade and enhanced global food security. Working bilaterally and with international organizations, FAS encourages the development of transparent and science-based regulatory systems that allow for the safe development and use of agricultural goods derived from new technologies. FAS works with other USDA agencies, USTR, and others in the Federal government to monitor and negotiate new trade agreements and enforce existing trade agreements. The United States has free trade agreements (FTA) with 20 countries around the world that expand export opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural producers.

*Table TFAA-1. FAS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FAS Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation).....	\$229	\$237	\$256
International Agricultural Educational Fellowship Program	1	1	-
Transfer from CCC Export Credit Program Account.....	6	6	6
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses.....	236	244	262
Foreign Food Assistance:			
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program..	237	243	243
P.L. 480 Title II Donations.....	1,740	1,750	1,800
P.L. 480 Title I Program Account: .....	-	-	-
P.L. 480 Title I Program Account: Transfer to FSA S&E.....	-	-	-
CCC Export Credit Program Account:			
Transfer to FSA and FAS Salaries and Expenses.....	-	-	-
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	2,313	2,237	2,305
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Quality Samples Program.....	3	3	3
Foreign Food Assistance:			
P.L. 480 Title II - American Rescue Plan.....	-	-	-
Food for Progress - CCC Funded .....	223	180	179
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.....	-	-	-
Farm Bill Market Development Programs:			
Market Access Program.....	189	189	189
Emerging Markets Program.....	8	8	8
Foreign Market Development (Cooperator) Program.....	33	33	33
Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program.....	8	8	8
Priority Trade Fund .....	3	3	3
Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Funds.....	15	15	15
Agricultural Wool Trust Fund .....	28	28	28
Total, Farm Bill Market Development Programs .....	284	284	284
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	510	467	466
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
P.L. 480 Title II.....	100	50	-
McGovern-Dole.....	-	5	-
Total, Supplemental.....	100	55	-
Total, Current Law .....	2,823	2,759	2,771
Total, FAS .....	2,823	2,759	2,771

**Table Footnotes**

<sup>a</sup> \$24 million can be used for local and regional procurement in 2023.

<sup>b</sup> Assets of the Trust can be released any time the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development determines that P.L. 480 Title II funding for emergency needs is inadequate to meet those needs in any fiscal year.

**CCC Export Credit Guarantee Programs (GSM-102)***Table TFAA-2. FAS CCC Export Credit Programs Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
GSM-102 Guarantees .....	\$3,403	-	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	-
Facilities Financing Guarantees....	-	-	500	-	500	-
Total, CCC Export Credit.....	3,403	-	5,500	-	5,500	-

The CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) export credit guarantee programs, administered by FAS in conjunction with USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), provide payment guarantees for the commercial financing of U.S. agricultural exports. These programs facilitate exports to buyers in countries where credit is necessary to maintain or increase U.S. sales.

The Budget includes an overall program level of \$5.5 billion for CCC export credit guarantees in 2024. This estimate reflects the statutory requirement to make that level of programming available for credit guarantees each fiscal year. However, the actual level of sales expected to be registered under the export credit guarantee programs could vary from this estimate, depending upon program demand, market conditions, and other relevant factors during the course of the year. Of the total program level for export credit guarantees in 2024, \$5 billion will be made available under the GSM-102 program, which provides guarantees on commercial export credit extended with short-term repayment terms (18 months).

The Budget also includes an estimated program level of \$500 million for guarantees under the Facility Guarantee Program. Under this program, CCC provides guarantees to facilitate the financing of goods and U.S. services to improve or establish agriculture-related facilities in emerging markets where demand is constricted due to inadequate storage, processing, or handling capabilities if determined that such guarantees will primarily promote the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

**Trade Shows**

In 2022, USDA endorsed a total of 22 trade shows, including one trade show postponed until 2023. In 2022, 577 U.S. companies and organizations participated in 21 USDA-endorsed trade shows in 14 countries, drawing buyers from all over the world. Projected 12-month sales reported by U.S. exhibitors were estimated at \$2.48 billion.

**Virtual Trade Events (VTEs)**

In 2022, FAS coordinated the implementation of seven virtual trade events, successfully promoting relationship-building between U.S. exporters and potential buyers and market promotion for U.S. agricultural and food products. These VTEs became a mainstay during COVID, but FAS has continued to leverage VTEs since they provide a user-friendly and functional platform, which enables U.S. exhibitors to establish short-, medium-, and long-term partnerships through sales in agri-food production, processing, inputs, and value-added products at a virtual USA Pavilion. VTEs have enabled FAS to reach new participants and others when in-person engagement was not possible to gain market insight from U.S. government representatives, Cooperators, and U.S. agribusiness companies and facilitate market briefings, meetings, and sales that enhanced U.S. agricultural exports around the world.

**Quality Samples Program (QSP)**

Under QSP, CCC provides funding to assist private entities to furnish samples of U.S. agricultural products to foreign importers in order to overcome trade and marketing obstacles. The program, which is carried out under the authority of the CCC Charter Act, provides foreign importers with a better understanding and appreciation of the characteristics of U.S. agricultural products.

**Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Programs**

FAS administers several programs, in partnership with private sector cooperator organizations or State agencies, which support the development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and products.

**Market Access Program (MAP)**

Under MAP, CCC funds are used to reimburse participating organizations for a portion of the cost of carrying out overseas marketing and promotional activities, such as consumer promotions. MAP participants include nonprofit agricultural trade organizations, State-regional trade groups, cooperatives, and state agencies. MAP has a brand promotion component that provides export promotion funding to small companies and thereby helps expand the number of small and medium-sized entities that export. The 2018 Farm Bill provides not less than \$200 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Emerging Markets Program (EMP)**

EMP authorizes CCC funding to be made available to carry out technical assistance activities that promote the export of U.S. agricultural products and address the food and rural business system needs of emerging markets. Many types of technical assistance activities are eligible for funding, including feasibility studies, market research, industry sector assessments, specialized training, and business workshops. The 2018 Farm Bill provides not more than \$8 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Foreign Market Development (Cooperator) Program**

This program provides cost-share assistance to nonprofit commodity and agricultural trade associations to support overseas market development activities that are designed to remove long-term impediments to increased U.S. trade. These activities include technical assistance, trade servicing, and market research. Unlike MAP, Cooperator Program activities are carried out on a generic commodity basis and do not include brand-name or consumer promotions. The 2018 Farm Bill provides not less than \$34.5 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program**

TASC is designed to address unique barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Under the program, grants are provided to assist U.S. organizations in activities designed to overcome sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers to trade. The 2018 Farm Bill provides \$9 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Priority Trade Fund**

When the amounts requested under applications for the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Programs exceed available funding for one or more of those programs, the 2018 Farm Bill provides an additional \$3.5 million per year through the Priority Trade Fund to access, develop, maintain, and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities via these programs. This funding is assumed in the baseline.

**Foreign Food Assistance**

USDA supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, improved market information, statistics and analysis, as well as food assistance. FAS contributes to these efforts by carrying out a variety of food aid programs that support economic growth and development in recipient countries.

**McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program**

The program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities and associated financial and technical assistance to carry out preschool and school feeding programs in foreign countries. Maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs also are authorized under the program. The Budget provides \$243 million for McGovern-Dole.

**International Food Aid**

Assistance provided under the authority of P.L. 480 is a primary means by which the United States provides foreign food assistance. Title I provides for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities governments and private entities of developing countries through concessional financing agreements, however, new Title I agreements are no longer utilized. P.L. 480 Title II provides emergency and development food assistance in foreign countries.

***P.L. 480 Title II***

P.L. 480 Title II grants fund emergency and development food aid programs authorized under Title II of the Food for Peace Act (P.L. 83-480). Funding for Title II is appropriated to the USDA and is administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Budget provides \$1.80 billion for P.L. 480 Title II.

***Food for Progress***

The Food for Progress Act of 1985 authorizes U.S. agricultural commodities to be provided to developing countries and emerging democracies that have made commitments to introduce and expand free enterprise in their agricultural economies. Food for Progress agreements can be entered into with foreign governments, private organizations, nonprofit agricultural organizations, cooperatives, or intergovernmental organizations. Agreements currently provide for the commodities to be supplied on grant terms. The Food for Progress authorizing statute provides for the use of CCC funding for commodity procurement, transportation, and associated non-commodity costs for the program. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes funding for this program based on metric tonnage, which is estimated to equate to \$179 million in 2024. This funding is assumed in the baseline.

***Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust***

The Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (the Trust) is a commodity and/or monetary reserve designed to ensure that the United States can meet its international food assistance commitments under P.L. 480 Title II. The Trust's assets can be released any time the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) determines that P.L. 480 Title II funding for emergency needs is inadequate to meet those needs in any fiscal year. When a release from the Trust is authorized, the Trust's assets (whether commodities or funds) cover all commodity costs associated with the release. All non-commodity costs, including ocean freight charges; internal transportation, storage, and handling overseas; and certain administrative costs are paid for by CCC.

In 2022, \$282 million in Trust funds were obligated to procure US food commodities to bolster emergency food operations in six countries facing severe food insecurity. No assistance has been provided using the Trust's authority to date in 2023. As of December 31, 2022, the Trust held \$79 million of cash and no commodities.

### Trust Funds

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized two trust funds for payments to reduce injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from U.S. tariffs on inputs to their manufacturing processes. These include the Agricultural Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, which provides CCC funding for up to \$30 million for reducing injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on wool fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of wool fabric, and the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund, which provides CCC funding of up to \$16 million for reducing injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on cotton fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of cotton fabric. Funding for both is assumed in the baseline. Payments are made to manufacturers that submit an affidavit certifying that U.S. tariffs caused them injury.

### Salaries and Expenses

*Table TFAA-3. FAS Salaries and Expenses (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Appropriated Programs .....	\$230	\$238	\$257
Reimbursable Program Activities:			
FAS Computer Facility and Other IRM Costs Funded by CCC...	19	19	17
USAID and Dept. of State Assist. and Reconstruction and Stabilization.....	27	28	28
Other Reimbursable Agreements.....	25	28	28
Total, Reimbursable Program Activities .....	71	75	73
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses.....	301	313	330

FAS headquarters staff and attachés covering more than 170 countries partner with other U.S. government agencies, trade associations, as well as regional and international organizations in a coordinated effort to negotiate trade agreements; establish transparent, science-based standards; and resolve trade barriers.

Unnecessarily restrictive sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations (to address human, animal, and plant health) are major barriers to the expansion of global agricultural trade. The proliferation of labeling, registration, certification, and quality standards requirements for routinely consumed food products can also result in unnecessary technical barriers to trade (TBT). Working in concert with other U.S. trade and regulatory agencies and in frequent communication with private sector stakeholders, FAS works to improve market access for U.S. agricultural products and reduce the harm to the industry resulting from unnecessarily restrictive regulations by monitoring and enforcing international rules, strengthening the global regulatory framework, and encouraging the adoption of international standards.

FAS promotes science-based standards and supports trade in U.S. agricultural products produced with new technologies by monitoring worldwide developments in technologies, including their adoption and regulation by trading partners, and promoting the use of new technologies in support of food security and sustainable agriculture. A proactive stance is critical, because the development

of divergent regulatory systems for new technologies could bring a virtual halt to trade in some commodities with a potential trade impact reaching billions of dollars.

*Table TFAA-4. KPI – Export Support (billions of dollars)*

Key Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Value of agricultural exports resulting from participation in foreign agricultural trade shows and trade missions	2.3	2.15	2.2
Value of trade preserved through resolution of foreign market access issues such as U.S. export detainment, restrictive SPS and TBT issues, and trade regulations	1.77	5.7	5.7

In 2024, FAS will conduct its activities and programs through offices in Washington, D.C. and at 95 overseas locations. The overseas offices represent and advocate for U.S. agricultural interests; provide reporting on agricultural policies, production, and trade for more than 170 countries; assist U.S. exporters, trade groups, and State export marketing officials in their trade promotion efforts; and help to implement technical assistance and trade capacity building programs that contribute to increased food security. The 2024 Budget request provides an appropriated funding level of \$256 million for FAS activities funded by Salaries & Expenses, an increase of \$18.8 million compared to 2023. This includes \$8 million in funding for current services increases for pay raises, International Cooperative Administrative Support Services, Capital Security Cost-Sharing, and non-CCC Information Technology (IT). Additionally, there are two program increases: \$8.5 million to modernize FAS’s critical IT; and \$2.3 million to implement the FAS International Climate Hubs initiative to help ensure market access for U.S. climate-smart agricultural products and translate climate-smart agriculture practices to the overseas context.

In addition, the Budget assumes an estimated \$73 million in funding to be made available to FAS through reimbursable agreements. This includes funding for technical assistance, training, and research activities that FAS carries out overseas on behalf of USAID, foreign governments, and international organizations, and development assistance activities that are funded by USAID and the Department of State. Although funded by other agencies, these activities are an important component of the Department’s efforts to support economic development and enhance food security in developing countries. Six million will be transferred from CCC for administrative expenses to carry out the CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program.

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## ***RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

### **MISSION**

USDA's Rural Development (RD) serves a leading role in facilitating rural prosperity and economic development by financing investments in rural utilities, housing, and business investments. Building and modernizing rural America's infrastructure is critical to create jobs and increase our country's productivity of vital goods and services. Additionally, communities that do not invest in critical infrastructure upgrades risk losing their ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable water; electric, broadband, health, other community services; and business growth. Continued investment will be required to close infrastructure gaps and connect rural residents and businesses to nationwide and global commerce. RD is comprised of three agencies: (1) Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS) provides assistance for the development of business and industry, including small businesses, and renewable energy and energy improvement projects; (2) Rural Housing Service (RHS) provides assistance for home ownership, multi-family housing, and essential community facilities such sectors as healthcare, education, and public safety; and (3) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides financing to build or improve rural water and waste disposal, rural electric and telecommunications infrastructure (including broadband access).

RD is committed to driving prosperity across rural America, securing environmental justice, and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized, overburdened by pollution, and have experienced underinvestment in essential services. Through the programs administered by RD, USDA will promote job creation, economic development, increase availability of high-speed e-connectivity, strengthen community infrastructure, provide affordable and safe housing, advance education opportunities, modernize healthcare, strengthen utility infrastructure, and support workforce training and veterans' employment to enhance quality of life in the rural communities. RD programs will also continue to expand stakeholder participation and facilitate the involvement of local, tribal, and State governments to support inclusive rural prosperity efforts.

The type of assistance offered includes direct and guaranteed loans, grants, and other payments. RD staff and partners also provide technical assistance to help communities access RD's programs. Several programs require and/or encourage recipients to contribute their own resources or obtain third-party financing to support the total cost of projects, thereby leveraging government support with private sector financing.

Direct and guaranteed loan subsidy costs depend on several factors, including default rates, the prevailing interest rates, whether the interest rate is subsidized by the government, and whether there are guarantee fees. In the tables below the budget authority for each loan program reflects the subsidy cost to the government to support these loan levels. Several of the loan programs operate at a very low or negative subsidy rate. These less-costly loan programs provide most of the financial assistance in RD's loan portfolio.

Table RD-1. Key Performance Indicators

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Number of Households with Potential Access to Rural Development-Funded New and/or Improved E-Connectivity Services	134,804	250,000	250,000

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Number of Underserved, Socially Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Rural and Tribal Communities Engaged in Field-Based Programs	425	230	230
RD	IC	Investment in Underserved, Socially Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Rural and Tribal Communities in Field-Based Programs (Million Dollars)	\$165.8	\$60	\$60

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Percentage of Rural Development Assistance Directed to Distressed Communities	21%	30%	30%
RD	IC	Percentage of Rural Development Commercial and Infrastructure Investments that Leverage Non-Federal Funding	68%	81%	N/A
RD	IC	Percentage of Rural Development Commercial and Infrastructure Investments that Leverage Non-Federal Funding	N/A	N/A	40%

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Percentage of 25 Priority Geographies Hard-Hit by Declines in Coal Production and Consumption that are Served by Rural Development Programs	7%	8%	N/A

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Percentage of 70 Priority Geographies Hard-Hit by Declines in Coal Production and Consumption that are Served by Rural Development Programs	N/A	N/A	19%

Mission Area	Agency	Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
RD	IC	Percentage of OneRD Customers Whose Application Processing Time Does Not Exceed 30 Days	38%	55%	65%
RD	IC	Percentage of OneRD Program Customer (Lender) Satisfaction Survey Ratings of 4 or Above	47%	65%	70%

### **RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE**

*Table RD-2. RUS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Electric Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	\$6,500	-	\$4,333	-	\$4,333	-
FFB Loans .....	-	-	2,167	-	2,167	-
Rural Clean Energy Technical Assistance.	-	-	-	-	15	\$15
Rural Energy Saving Program .....	208	\$12	111	\$12	193	35
Guaranteed Loans .....	750	-	900	-	-	-
Telecommunications Programs:						
Treasury Loans .....	690	2	690	4	690	7
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants .	60	60	60	60	65	65
Community Project Funding DLT Grants .	3	3	5	5	-	-
Broadband Programs:						
Direct Loans <sup>a/</sup> .....	15	2	22	3	15	-7
ReConnect Direct Loans.....	114	25	89	12	93	21
ReConnect Direct Loans/Grants Combine.	154	97	178	98	187	102
ReConnect Grants.....	278	278	238	238	277	277
Community Project Funding ReConnect...	37	37	16	16	-	-
ReConnect Grants - CoC Account <sup>b/</sup> .....	50	-	-	-	-	-
Grants .....	35	35	35	35	35	35
High Energy Costs Grants.....	10	10	10	10	10	10
Water and Waste Disposal Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	1,400	-	1,400	-	1,500	125
Direct 1%.....	-	-	20	3	110	30

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
Guaranteed Loans .....	50	-	50	-	50	-
Grants .....	643	643	584	584	717	717
Subtotal, Water and Waste .....	2,093	643	2,054	587	2,377	872
Subtotal, RUS Programs .....	10,998	1,204	10,908	1,079	10,457	1,432
Salaries and Expenses.....	33	33	33	33	33	33
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	11,031	1,237	10,941	1,112	10,490	1,465
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)						
BIL Broadband Treasury Loans .....	2,396	1,791	-	-	-	-
BIL Reconnect Grants/Loans .....	461	69	-	-	-	-
BIL Technical Assistance/Admin .....	140	140	-	-	-	-
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)						
IRA Electric Forgiveness Grants.....	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
IRA Electric Renewables .....	-	9,700	-	-	-	-
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2023 Funding						
Water and Waste Grants.....	-	-	60	60	-	-
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2022 Disaster Funding						
Water and Waste Grants.....	-	-	265	265	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding.....	3,997	12,700	325	325	-	-
Total, RUS.....	15,028	13,937	11,266	1,437	10,490	1,465

*Totals may not sum due to rounding*

<sup>a/</sup> The Budget includes rescission of unobligated balances. Estimated loan levels are not reflective of the rescission.

<sup>b/</sup> Funding for these programs is provided from electric cooperative investments and fees.

### Electric and Telecommunications Programs

Rural communities are critical to achieving the goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2035. RUS provides loan and grant financing for electric and broadband infrastructure serving rural and remote communities through the Electric and Telecommunications programs.

#### Electric Loan Program

The Budget builds on the \$10.7 billion provided in the Inflation Reduction Act to reduce energy bills for families, expand clean energy, transform rural power production, and create thousands of good-paying jobs for people across rural America. The Budget supports \$6.5 billion in electric loans to construct, acquire, and improve electric infrastructure including renewable energy, electric transmission, distribution, smart grid technology, energy efficiency, grid resiliency, and security enhancements. The lending will be split, with \$4.3 billion in direct Treasury loans and \$2.2 billion in Federal Financing Bank loan guarantees, which are the same as the 2023 enacted levels. These loans will continue to support additional reliable and affordable clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects to put people back to work in good-paying jobs to help meet the climate adaptation and resilience goals of the administration.

The Budget also provides \$34.5 million in budget authority for the Rural Energy Savings Program to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures in rural areas to advance clean energy and decrease energy use or costs for rural families and small businesses.

Furthermore, the budget includes \$15 million in new administrative and technical assistance funding to support the Rural Clean Energy Initiative. This initiative will increase coordination between USDA, Department of Energy, and Department of Interior to achieve the President's clean energy goals and ensure funding reaches rural areas.

### **Telecommunication Loan Program**

The Budget supports \$690 million in telecommunications Treasury loans for the construction, extension and improvement of telecommunication facilities that expand broadband and e-connectivity to communities with populations of up to 5,000.

### **Broadband, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Programs**

The Budget includes \$400 million in budget authority for the Broadband ReConnect Program that provides loans, grants, and a loan/grant combination. This amount builds on the \$2 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, P.L. 117-58) for the rural e-connectivity program. ReConnect provides financial assistance to deploy broadband to underserved areas. In addition, the Budget continues to include \$35 million for broadband grants to support new or improved broadband access in communities with populations of up to 20,000. These programs provide capital access for strengthening e-connectivity that broadens economic opportunities and job creation in rural America. Improved connectivity means rural communities can offer robust business services, expand access to modern healthcare, and improve education.

The Budget also includes \$65 million for Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grants. This program is designed specifically to assist rural communities that would otherwise be without access to learning and medical services over the Internet.

### **Water and Waste Disposal Program**

The Water and Waste Disposal Program provides financing for rural communities to establish, expand or modernize water treatment and waste disposal facilities. These facilities provide safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal for residential users, and help communities thrive by attracting new business. Projects are designed to improve the energy efficiency of water and waste facilities and expand water conservation efforts. The budget continues to set-aside \$100 million in grant funding to support the replace of lead piping in rural areas to ensure there is clean, healthy water in rural communities. This program contributes to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of its funding to distressed and energy communities.

The Budget supports \$1.5 billion in regular direct loans and \$50 million in guaranteed loans for water and waste disposal facilities to provide safe and sanitary water services. In addition, the Budget requests \$110 million in direct loans to support distressed communities by offering 1percent loans to these communities. Overall, the budget requests \$882.3 million in budget authority, which supports a total program level of \$2.4 billion for the water and waste disposal program an increase of \$323.7 million from the 2023 enacted level. The Budget provides \$717.4 million in grant funding for water and waste disposal projects, an increase of \$133.7 million over the 2023 enacted level, including an increase of \$17 million for grants targeted to Colonias, Native Americans, and Alaska Native Villages and Hawaiian Villages. In addition, High Energy Cost Grants are funded at \$10 million, the same as in 2023 and at the historical level for this program.

Priority for financing is given to communities with low median household income levels. The Water and Waste Direct program focuses on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities. Assistance may be provided to financially needy communities with populations of up to 10,000 through direct loans and grants, and up to 50,000 with guaranteed loans.

**RURAL HOUSING SERVICE***Table RD-3. RHS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Single Family Housing (Sec. 502):						
Direct Loans .....	\$1,250	\$23	\$1,250	\$46	\$1,500	\$206
Native American Relending Pilot Loans .....	-	-	8	2	12	5
Guaranteed Loans.....	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-
Multi Family Housing:						
Direct Loans (Sec. 515) .....	50	5	70	13	200	70
MFH Preservation/Revitalization Zero Interest .....	46	16	11	5	44	25
MFH Preservation/Revitalization Soft Seconds .....	44	16	10	5	37	25
MFH Preservation/Revitalization Grants .....	3	3	26	26	25	25
MFH Preservation/Revitalization Pilot Grants <sup>a/</sup> .....	2	2	2	2	-5	-5
Guaranteed Loans (Sec. 538) .....	250	-	400	-	400	-
Very Low-Income Repair (Sec. 504):						
Direct Loans .....	28	0	28	2	50	9
Grants .....	32	32	32	32	40	40
Farm Labor Housing Grants (Sec. 516) .....	10	10	10	10	18	18
Farm Labor Housing Loans (Sec. 514).....	28	3	20	4	50	17
All Other Direct Loans.....	20	0	20	0	20	1
Grants and Payments:						
Rental Assistance (Sec. 521).....	1,450	1,450	1,488	1,488	1,650	1,650
Multi-Family Housing Voucher <sup>b/</sup> .....	45	45	48	48	38	38
Mutual and Self-Help (Sec. 523).....	32	32	32	32	40	40
Rural Housing Preservation.....	19	19	19	19	30	30
Community Facilities Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	2,800	-	2,800	-	2,800	-
Guaranteed Loans.....	650	-	650	-	650	-
Grants .....	58	58	18	18	87	87
Congressional Earmarks.....	183	183	325	325		
Subtotal, RHS Programs .....	37,000	1,897	37,268	2,079	37,686	2,282
Salaries and Expenses .....	412	412	412	412	412	412
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	37,412	2,309	37,680	2,491	38,098	2,694
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2023 Funding:						
Community Facilities Grants.....	-	-	25	25	-	-
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2022 Disaster Funding:						
Rural Housing Assistance Grants.....	-	-	60	60	-	-
Community Facilities Grants.....	-	-	50	50	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding .....	-	-	135	135	-	-
Total, Current Law .....	37,412	2,309	37,815	2,627	38,098	2,694
<b>Mandatory Funding:</b>						
Proposed Legislation: End Recapture .....	-	-	-	-	996	996

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
Total, RHS.....	37,412	2,309	37,815	2,627	39,094	3,690

*Totals may not add down due to rounding*

<sup>a/</sup> The Budget includes rescission of unobligated balances.

<sup>b/</sup> The Budget proposes moving program from treasury symbol 12-2002 to 12-0137.

### Single Family Loan Program

The Single-Family Housing (SFH) programs support homeownership opportunities for low-income families in rural areas. Guaranteed loans are limited to families with income less than 115 percent of area median income. The interest rate on guaranteed loans is negotiated between the borrower and the private lender. The single-family direct program contributes to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding for distressed and energy communities. A key component of the increases in rural housing funding is an additional requirement that all the housing funding for construction or rehabilitation be targeted to projects that improve energy or water efficiently, implement green features, including clean energy generation or building electrification, electric car charging station installations, or address climate resilience of properties. The Budget provides \$206 million to support a \$1.5 billion SFH Direct Loan program. The Budget also supports a \$30 billion loan level for the Guaranteed SFH program. Together, these two programs are expected to provide approximately 159,000 homeownership opportunities.

To assist rural low-income homeowners, the Budget includes a new proposal to eliminate the existing low-income borrower penalty that requires individuals to repay subsidy costs for USDA's Single-Family Direct loans, known as "recapture". This proposal will be very beneficial to these borrowers by increasing home equity when they sell the property. The proposed 2024 subsidy rate and program level reflects the cost associated with eliminating recapture. The Budget also proposes to eliminate recapture penalty for existing executed Single Family direct loans. The associated cost of \$996 million has been included as a mandatory proposal within the Budget. The Budget is also supporting expansion of a pilot relending program for Native Americans that was successful in improving the home ownership opportunities on tribal lands that are often underserved by conventional lenders. The Budget continues to support \$10 million in program level for SFH Credit Sales of acquired property, increases very low-income housing repair grants by \$8 million to \$40 million, and increases Housing Preservation grants from \$16 million to \$30 million.

The Budget includes a general provision to increase the repayment terms of Section 523 and 524 Site Development Loans from two to five years and allow for an optional two-year extension after the fifth year. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing. The Budget also includes a general provision to propose legislation to facilitate the sales of Real Estate Owned (REO) properties, which will reduce the cost of maintaining Real Estate Owned properties while in RD's control.

### Multi-Family Housing Programs

The Multi-Family Housing (MFH) program (direct and guaranteed loan portfolio) provides financing for rental housing projects and rental assistance payments for the low-income tenants of those projects. The increased funding levels for the MFH programs reflects the Administration's commitment to preserving and providing additional low-income multi-family housing in rural areas in a way that promotes climate resilient construction.

The Budget requests \$1.65 billion in budget authority for Rental Assistance (RA) to renew 268,037 existing contracts and to make permanent the Pandemic Emergency RA contracts. The increase

covers program cost increases due to inflation. This program supports this critical infrastructure by increasing housing affordability and providing homes that improve the quality of life for rural families. The Budget also includes \$38 million for Vouchers, ensuring continued benefits to the current residents receiving these vouchers. To combine like programs, the Budget continues to consolidate the Voucher program with the RA program account. Further, the Budget continues to include not less than \$6 million in funding to support new construction in Section 515 with RA units. This program contributes to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of its funding to distressed and energy communities.

The budget continues to propose new appropriation language requesting to decouple RA from a multi-family mortgage. The decoupling request will allow RHS to continue to provide RA to certain properties that no longer have MFH direct loans (Section 515). The additional RA ensures safe and affordable housing for tenants and helps with rehabilitating and preserving housing properties in rural areas. For paid off properties that do not decouple, instead of new RD vouchers for the affected tenants, the Budget continues to include \$20 million within the HUD Tenant Protection Vouchers, which provides a better voucher for the tenant, reduces duplication across Federal programs, and allows USDA to fully focus on its priority mission of preservation and promotion of climate smart housing construction and renovation. Savings from this proposal will be realized in 2026 and 2027.

The Budget continues to request permanent authorization of the Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization program and requests an increase of \$39 million for repair, rehabilitation and new construction of rental housing to further the objective of affordable housing. The Budget maintains the 2023 level of support for the Section 538 Guaranteed Loans for MFH at \$400 million.

RHS' ability to foreclose of properties in its portfolio is significantly constrained by state and local laws that create delays in foreclosure proceedings and have burdensome impacts to residents and their communities. The Budget includes a general provision to request independent foreclosure authority for RHS Multi-family Housing that mirrors the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) authority to reduce costs and better support tenants residing in the properties to be foreclosed.

The Budget also continues to include a requirement that all housing construction or rehabilitation funding be targeted to projects that improve energy or water efficiency, or address climate resilience of properties. This requirement will improve the adaptability and resilience to climate change events.

### **Community Facilities Program**

Community Facilities (CF) loans provide funding for a wide range of essential community facilities in rural communities with populations of 20,000 or less, with priority given to healthcare, public safety, and education facilities. Both CF loans and grants contribute to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding to distressed and energy communities.

The Budget requests \$2.8 billion for CF Direct Loans and \$650 million for Guaranteed Loans, the same levels as in 2023. Included in this request are \$86.7 million in CF Grants, which will be targeted towards underserved communities; of which \$22.8 million for Rural Community Development Initiative grants to provide financial and technical assistance to low-income communities, nonprofit organizations, and tribes; \$10 million for Tribal College grants to improve education and career-building opportunities, specifically for STEM (science, technology,

engineering, and math) programs; and \$2 million to continue the effort to support the rural hospital assistance pilot.

### **RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE**

*Table RD-4. RBS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 PL	BA	2023 PL	BA	2024 PL	BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Business and Industry Guar. Loans .....	\$1,250	\$25	\$1,800	\$39	\$2,000	\$48
Rural Business Development Grants .....	46	46	46	46	49	49
Rural Innovation for Stronger Economy Grants .....	2	2	2	2	7	7
Intermediary Relending Program .....	19	2	19	3	19	6
Healthy Food Financing Initiative .....	5	5	3	3	5	5
Rural Economic Development <sup>a/</sup> :						
Direct Loans .....	50	-	75	-	75	-
Grants .....	10	-	15	-	10	-
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Loans. and Grants.	157	7	30	6	12	8
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:						
Rural Cooperative Development Grants .....	6	6	6	6	6	6
Appropriate Tech. Transfer to Rural Areas .....	3	3	4	4	3	3
Grants to Assist Minority Producers .....	3	3	3	3	4	4
Agriculture Innovation Center <sup>b/</sup> .....	3	3	3	3	-5	-5
Value-Added Producer Grants .....	13	13	13	13	13	13
Rural Energy for America Grants .....	13	13	-	-	30	30
Rural Energy for America Loans .....	50	-	20	-	50	-
Subtotal, RBS Programs .....	1,629	126	2,038	128	2,279	175
Salaries and Expenses .....	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,633	131	2,043	132	2,284	179
<b>Mandatory:</b>						
Farm Bill:						
Biorefinery for Advanced Biofuels .....	7	7	7	7	-	-
Higher Blends Infrastructure Program .....	100	100	-	-	-	-
Rural Energy for America Loans .....	750	6	10,889	10	1,000	-
Rural Energy for America Grants .....	41	41	37	37	47	47
Local Agriculture Market Program .....	18	18	19	19	19	19
Rural Economic Development Grants .....	5	5	5	5	-	-
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	921	177	10,956	77	1,066	66
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):						
IRA Rural Energy for America Program .....	965	965	212	212	199	199
Higher Blends Infrastructure Program .....	500	500	-	-	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding .....	1,465	1,465	212	212	199	199
Total, RBS .....	4,019	1,773	13,211	421	3,549	444

*Totals may not sum due to rounding*

<sup>a/</sup> Funding for these programs is provided from electric cooperative investments and fees.

<sup>b/</sup> 2024 includes rescission of unobligated balances.

**Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program**

The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program provides lenders protection against loan losses so the lenders are willing to extend credit to establish, expand, or modernize rural businesses. The B&I program promotes the creation and expansion of rural businesses by assisting them to secure start-up capital, finance business expansion, and create jobs, which helps to diversify the rural economy, including in such sectors as local and regional food and the bioenergy/bio-economy. The Budget supports \$2 billion in B&I loan guarantees, an increase of \$200 million of loan level from the 2023 enacted level.

**Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grants (RISE)**

The Budget requests \$7 million for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grants program established by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. These grants offer assistance to rural jobs accelerator partnerships to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas.

**Rural Business Development Grants**

The Budget requests \$40 million in budget authority for the rural business development grant program, an increase of \$3 million from the 2023 enacted level. The program provides grants and technical assistance to small and emerging private businesses in rural areas for economic and community development. In addition, the Budget also requests \$9 million to support the Delta Regional Authority, Appalachia and Northern Regional Commissions.

**Intermediary Relending Program**

The Intermediary Relending Program provides one percent interest direct loans to entities that relend to rural businesses and use their interest earnings to pay for their administrative expenses and develop capital reserves. The Budget maintains a program level of \$19 million in direct loans.

**Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants**

This program provides zero percent interest loans to local utilities that, in turn, provide funding to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Grant funds are provided to local utility organizations that use the funding to establish revolving loan funds. Loans are made from the revolving loan fund to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. The Budget requests \$10 million in grants and \$75 million in loans. Funding for these programs is provided by fees collected from the outstanding debt of the Electric Underwriting program.

**Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program**

The Budget requests \$8.3 million in budget authority to support a total program level of \$12.3 million, including \$7.5 million in grants. Grants are made to provide training, operational support, business planning, and market development assistance. Loans are made to microenterprise development organizations for relending to rural businesses. This program is essential for developing small business in rural areas.

**Rural Cooperative Development Grants**

The Budget requests increases funding for Rural Cooperative Development Grants by \$1.5 million from the 2023 enacted level, to \$29.8 million. The request includes \$4 million to assist minority producers with distribution systems for locally produced products and the development of new cooperatives. This request also includes \$13 million for the Value-Added Producer Grants Program and \$3 million for the Agriculture Innovation Centers.

**Rural Energy for America Program (Section 9007).**

The Budget requests \$50 million in loans and \$30 million in grants under this program in addition to the mandatory funding of \$50 million in grants and \$1 billion in loans for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. This program contributes to the implementation of Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding for distressed and energy communities.

**Healthy Foods Financing Initiative.**

The Budget requests \$5 million for loans and grants under the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative, a \$2 million increase of from the 2023 enacted level. This program supports access to healthy foods in underserved areas, helping create and preserve quality jobs and revitalize low-income communities.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

In USDA's efforts to enhance customer services with streamlined processes, RD is making strides to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies. At the same time, it is critical that RD have the staff and IT infrastructure to deliver on the promise that RD's programs represent to rural America. The Budget requests \$977.2 million for salaries and expenses, a \$176.1 million increase from the 2023 enacted level, which will support an increase of 400 FTEs. Over the past 20 years, RD staff has declined significantly while program level funding has increased. RD uses productivity data to create a five-year staffing model to estimate the full staffing level required to deliver its authorized permanent programs. In 2022, RD's workforce obligated \$31.3 billion in loans and grants, serviced a portfolio of \$231.6 billion and 1.2 million loans. It is essential that RD continues to increase its staffing levels, especially because of the new, more comprehensive programs being implemented, such as climate-smart building requirements in the housing programs, that require more time to review and evaluate applications and to obligate the funding. Providing additional program funding without building the capacity to deliver on those programs means the full potential for those programs may not be realized.

The Budget continues to provide dedicated funding for IT costs, including funding for Information Technology (IT) development, modernization, and enhancements (DME), and requests \$125 million, to remain available until expended, for IT costs. Enhanced IT capabilities allow RD to support a mobile workforce and improve customer interactions.

RD implemented an Investment Review Board process in 2021 that ensured agency leadership can evaluate and rank IT Development, Modernization and Enhancement (DME) requests and identify those that best support Administration priorities and/or mitigate agency risks. Those rankings, along with other factors, such as critical operational upgrades or IT needs for new programs, are used to make final funding decisions for IT DME projects. Failure to upgrade and modernize the IT infrastructure increases the manual workload on staff, delays funding decisions for program participants, and increases the risk for improper payments or errors. Key IT investments include modernizing the mission systems, including single family housing delegated authority; modernizing the financial system, including the loan accounting platform and the default management service; and improving document management, including enhanced automated mail processing. These IT investments will improve the customer experience, empowering the public to access RD programs remotely, while others would lessen the administrative burden on staff, enabling them to focus on program customer service.

Included in the Budget request is \$32 million to expand the Rural Partners Network initiative, to leverage USDA's extensive network of county-based offices, to help people in high poverty

counties, including energy communities. RD will coordinate with other USDA and Federal agencies in an all-of-Government approach to connect rural stakeholders with Federal programs and resources.

*Table RD-5. Rural Development (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
Salaries and Expenses:			
Appropriation .....	\$300	\$351	\$527
Transfers:			
Rural Electric and Telecommunications Loan Program .....	33	33	33
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program .....	412	412	412
Rural Development Loan Fund Program .....	4	4	4
Total, Transfers .....	450	450	450
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	750	801	977
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	750	801	977
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Biobased Market Program .....	3	3	3
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	3	3	3
Total, Rural Development .....	753	804	980

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## ***FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES***

### **MISSION**

The Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area includes programs and funding to provide access to safe, nutritious, and wholesome meals, while promoting a healthy diet.

Within the FNCS mission area, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers USDA's domestic nutrition assistance programs. Working in partnership with State agencies and other cooperating organizations, FNS helps ensure children and low-income individuals have sufficient food to support nutritious diets. Within FNS, the Center for Nutrition and Policy Promotion (CNPP) improves the health of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links the best evidence-based, scientific research to the nutrition needs of Americans. Across America, one in four individuals is served by one of USDA's 16 nutrition assistance programs over the course of year. FNS is committed to continually improving the performance, efficiency, and integrity of these programs.

FNS Federal staff leverage their efforts by working with State and local partners to deliver nutrition assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the newly enacted Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); and several similar programs targeted to specific nutritional needs.

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE**

The Budget provides funding for the major nutrition assistance programs, accounting for projected program participation and food cost inflation. It seeks to equitably prevent and reduce food insecurity and improve the nutritional status of recipients by ensuring that those who qualify are able to participate, those who participate get benefits that are meaningful, and those who receive those benefits can use them conveniently and in ways that promote improvements in their health and well-being.

The Budget also supports implementation of a comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) program across FNS program areas. This initiative is responsive to the OMB directive to Federal agencies to integrate and coordinate risk management and strong and effective internal controls into existing risk management processes.

*Table FNS-1. FNS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary Programs:</b>			
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) <sup>a</sup> .....	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,300
Commodity Assistance Program:			
Commodity Supplemental Food Program .....	322	339	390
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Soup Kitchens, Food Banks .....	81	92	100
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program .....	26	26	26
Pacific Island Assistance and Disaster Assistance.....	1	1	1
Nutrition Services Incentive Program <sup>b</sup> .....	1	2	-
Total, Commodity Assistance Program.....	442	460	517
Nutrition Programs Administration .....	162	189	221
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	6,604	6,649	7,038
<b>Mandatory Programs:</b>			
WIC: Universal Product Database.....	1	1	1
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) <sup>c</sup> .....	140,444	153,868	122,133
Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) <sup>c</sup> .....	26,771	28,436	32,031
Permanent Appropriations.....	206	210	228
Farm Bill:			
Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.....	21	21	21
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects.....	4	4	4
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	167,447	182,540	154,418
Total, Current Law	174,050	189,189	161,456
Proposed Legislation .....	-	-	234
Total, FNS .....	174,050	189,189	161,690
Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief:			
<b>American Rescue Plan Act</b>			
P-EBT Benefits.....	25,000	20,000	-
PEBT Grants to States .....	700	500	-
Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority .....	3,600	3,000	-

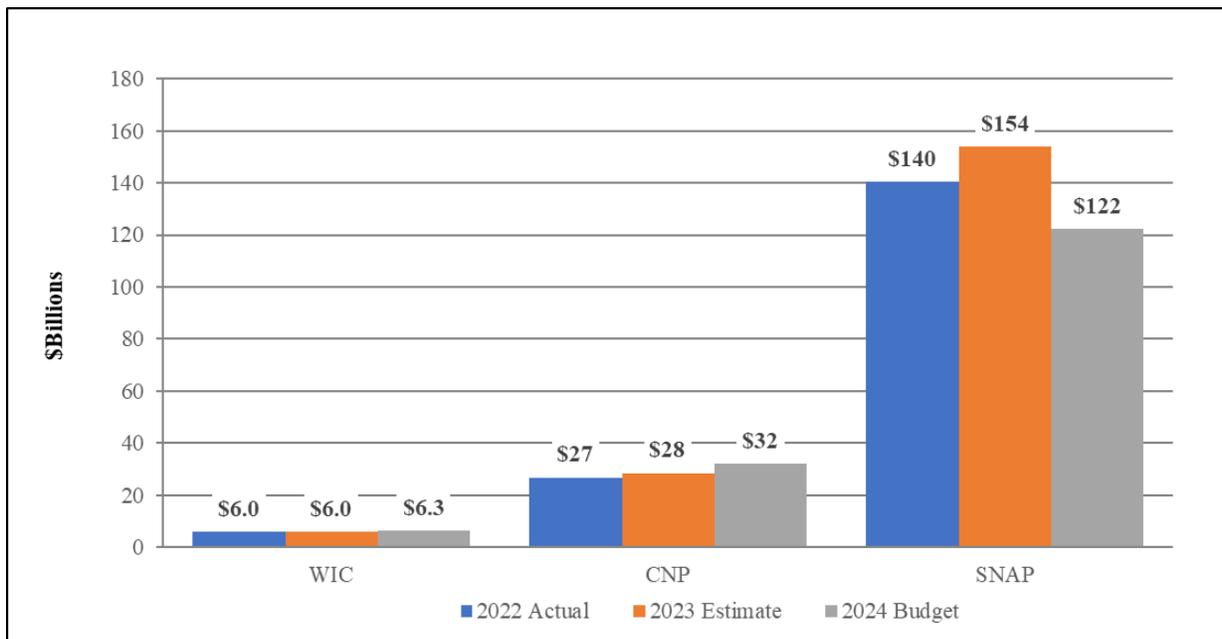
Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Keep Kids Fed Act.....</b>	-	-	-
Child Nutrition Reimbursements.....	1,039	2,117	-
Total, Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief .....	30,339	25,617	-
<b>Total, FNS</b>	<b>204,389</b>	<b>214,806</b>	<b>161,456</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Does not reflect cancelled unobligated balances.

<sup>b/</sup> Funds are transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. Funds for 2024 will be determined at a later date.

<sup>c/</sup> Totals include SNAP and CN discretionary funds.

**Figure FNS-1. FNS Budget Authority**



**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

In response to the Nation’s ongoing recovery from the pandemic, SNAP participation is expected to begin declining in 2024. This pattern is consistent with participation trends during past economic crises. In 2024, SNAP participation is estimated to decrease by 1.3 million participants, from a projected pandemic high of 43.5 million participants in 2023 to 42.2 million in 2024. The overall cost of the program is expected to decrease significantly in 2024 due to the end of emergency allotment payments that were provided through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) beginning in 2020 and ending February 2023. Likewise, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefit issuance will end in 2023 with the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency in May 2023.

Requested increases for SNAP include competitive funding for compelling State and local projects designed to drive system improvements in the SNAP client enrollment and participation experience, testing use of robotic process automation “bots” to strengthen program delivery, staffing to support EBT modernization and EBT benefit threat fraud prevention, increased promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate in SNAP nutrition education, expansion and evaluation of FDPIR self-determination projects, as well as critical research on TEFAP access, coverage, and service models in order to better serve program stakeholders and enhance nutrition security.

Research has shown that participation in SNAP reduces food insecurity and enables families to have healthier diets. SNAP stretches the food budget of eligible low-income people by providing a monthly allotment of benefits on a debit card to purchase healthy food at authorized stores. The SNAP participation rate is estimated annually as the percentage of eligible people in the United States who participate in the program. Participation rates vary widely from State to State with the highest rates at close to 100 percent and the lowest at around 50 percent. Often, the lowest participation rates are among the working poor, i.e., those families with earned income that still qualify for SNAP. Strategies to equitably improve participation rates include efforts to reduce the time, cost, and administrative burdens of States participating in the nutrition assistance programs, so State agencies can spend more time on outreach and application support for SNAP participants.

*Table FNS-2. KPI – Access to Food and Participation in SNAP*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food	TBD*	89.4%	89.5%
Annual average monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rate	TBD*	82.2%	82.3%

\* 2022 food security rate data expected fall 2023. 2022 SNAP participation data expected in 2024.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides food packages to Indian Tribal Organizations to improve nutrition and provide culturally appropriate sustenance. The Budget requests \$165 million in 2024 to fund FDPIR food and administrative costs. FDPIR participants are generally able to choose whether they participate in SNAP or FDPIR, but may not participate in both. As SNAP benefits decline due to the end of emergency allotments, the Budget anticipates that more eligible Tribal members will choose to participate in FDPIR. The requested level supports a return of FDPIR participation to pre-pandemic levels.

### **Child Nutrition Programs**

Through subsidies for meals that meet program standards, the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and Special Milk Program assist State and local governments and private non-profit organizations in ensuring that meals provided to children in schools and child and adult care programs meet their nutritional needs, foster healthy eating habits, and safeguard their health with a goal of reducing the number of overweight and obese children. The 2023 omnibus appropriations bill included a series of landmark expansions for Child Nutrition Programs, including the establishment of a permanent Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT) and the addition of a rural non-congregate option in the Summer Food Service Program. This new legislation is a change that will have a permanent impact on how we meet the nutritional needs of children during the summer, greatly improving equitable access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food.

The Budget funds the Child Nutrition Programs through new appropriations and prior year balances, at a level that will support anticipated increases in participation and food cost inflation, as well as implementation of the new legislation. The Budget projects serving 5.0 billion lunches and snacks and 2.6 billion breakfasts in schools, 1.9 billion meals in child and adult care food programs, and 182 million congregate and non-congregate meals through the Summer Food

Service Program. It requests the benefit and State administrative funding needed to serve children across all States with summer EBT benefits in summer 2024.

Requested increases for Child Nutrition Programs include funds to strengthen integrity controls in CACFP, modernize food ordering and inventory management systems, and staffing to enhance FNS's ability to provide critical technical assistance and oversight of child nutrition programs, including the implementation of the Summer EBT program and increased support for Farm to School.

The Budget also includes an important legislative proposal that would advance a pathway to free school meals for an additional 9 million school children through increased take up of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) among schools and States. This proposal is expected to cost \$234 million in 2024 and \$15 billion over 10 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, children had access to free meals resulting from temporary flexibilities provided in FFCRA, and now many States are seeking ways to continue offering free school meals for all students. Offering free meals to all children reduces administrative burden, increases equitable access, reduces the stigma associated with school meal participation, and allows school food service professionals to focus on their core mission of providing nutritious meals to children.

*Table FNS-3. KPI - National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Participation*

Key Performance Indicator	2022	2023	2024
	Actual	Target	Target
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in NSLP	60%	59%	59%
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in School Breakfast Program	31%	31%	31%

### **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)**

WIC helps improve the health and nutritional intake of low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to their fifth birthday. WIC serves about half of all babies in the United States. It provides participants with benefits, redeemable at certified WIC retailers, for foods dense in nutrients known to be lacking in the diets of eligible groups. The program also provides nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling, and referrals to critical health and social services, helping to address health disparities among the most vulnerable populations.

The Budget includes \$6.3 billion for WIC in 2024, continuing the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all projected participants seeking WIC benefits. After many years of declining participation, WIC participation is now rising across all eligible categories – women, children and infants. FNS is continuing to work to increase WIC participation through increased enrollment and retention through outreach, improving the shopping experience, modernizing technology and service delivery, expanding access to farmers' markets, and investing in the workforce. WIC is projected to provide proven benefits to an average of 6.5 million low-income women, infants and children each month in 2024, up from nearly 6.3 million in 2022. The budget continues the provision of enhanced Cash Value Benefits (CVBs) to ensure that all participating women and children have access to the scientifically recommended level of fruits and vegetables, thereby improving health outcomes as well as program retention. In addition, the program projects an increase in the food package cost, driven by food inflation.

*Table FNS-4. KPI – Participation in WIC (in millions)*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Annual average monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	6.3	6.4	6.5

**Commodity Assistance Program (CAP)**

The Budget requests \$517 million for CAP. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. The Budget includes a \$51.4 million increase for CSFP to ensure the program can continue to serve the full caseload. It also includes an \$8 million increase for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) administration, bringing the request to the authorized level of \$100 million.

**Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA)**

The Budget requests \$221 million for NPA to support Federal management and oversight of USDA’s investment in nutrition programs in 2024. This funding level will help ensure oversight and program integrity, improve the programs, and encourage equitable access to a healthy and nutritious diet. FNS will continue efforts to promote healthy eating in part by the use and promotion of MyPlate and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs). CNPP works in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop the DGAs to promote health and prevent chronic disease. The request includes an increase of \$4 million for CNPP to further this work, an increase of \$2 million to support tribes’ successful management of federal food programs, an increase of \$1 million to ensure FNS programs are administered equitably, and an increase of \$9 million to focus on improving nutrition security.

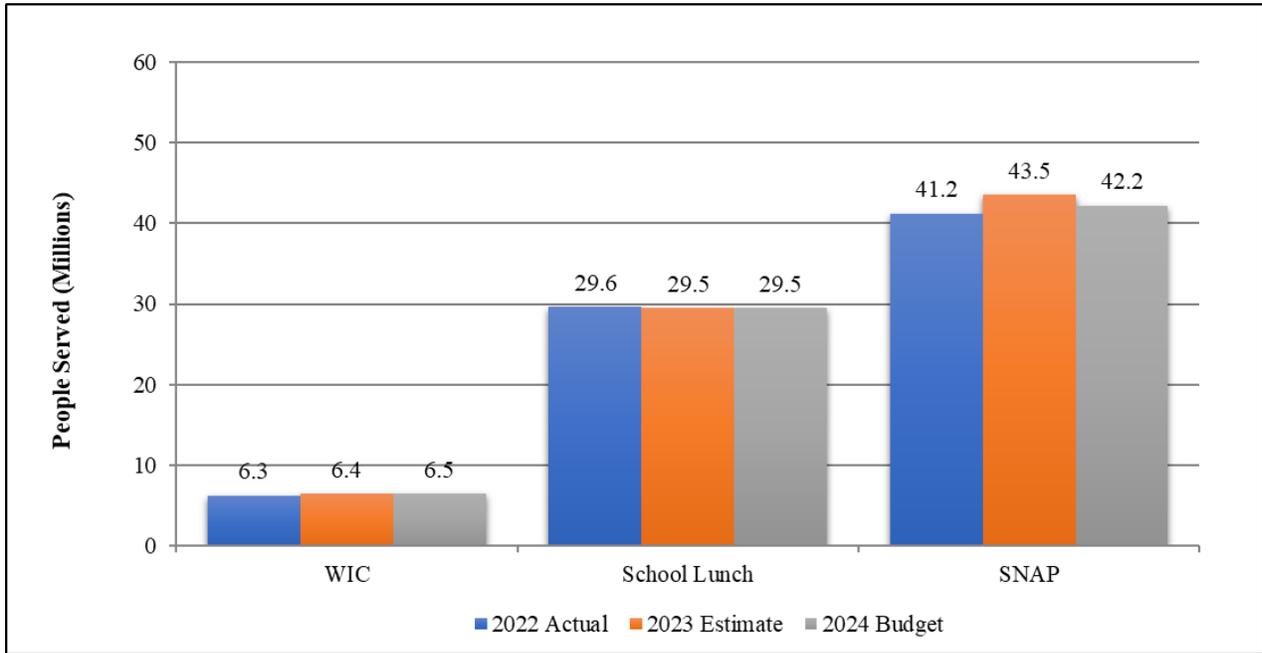
*Table FNS-5. FNS Key Indicators*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Budget
<b>Average Participation, Millions:</b>			
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (per month)	41.2	43.5	42.2
Free School Lunch	28.0	20.8	20.8
All School Lunches (per day)	29.6	29.5	29.5
Free School Breakfast	14.0	14.0	14.0
All School Breakfasts (per day)	15.0	15.0	15.0
WIC (per month)	6.3	6.4	6.5
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):			
Elderly (per month)	0.66	0.76	0.76
FDPIR (per month)	0.05	0.09	0.09
<b>Average/Person/Month Food Benefit:</b>			
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	\$232	\$229	\$213
WIC <sup>1/</sup>	47.60	50.59	53.03
CSFP: Elderly (FNS Funded)	33.51	37.25	38.10
FDPIR (FNS Funded)	104.49	98.49	101.54
<b>Per Meal Subsidies Including Commodities:</b>			
<b>School Lunch:</b>			
Free	3.75	4.43	4.65
Reduced	3.35	4.03	4.23

Paid	0.44	0.87	0.91
<b>School Breakfast:</b>			
Free	2.35	2.67	2.80
Reduced	1.97	2.26	2.37
Paid	0.33	0.50	0.53

<sup>1/</sup> Includes the cost of the additional Cash Value Voucher funding.

*Figure FNS-2. People Served Through Nutrition Assistance Programs (Actual and Projected)*



## ***FOOD SAFETY***

### **MISSION**

The Food Safety mission area is responsible for ensuring that the Nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. This includes products produced domestically in Federally inspected establishments and imported products.

The mission area covers the activities of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), a public health regulatory agency that provides Federal inspection of meat (including Siluriformes fish), poultry and egg products; supports cost-share funding of State meat and poultry inspection programs; implements the Public Health Information System to assign and track science-based, data-driven inspections; and determines international equivalence of foreign food safety systems and verifies that these systems maintain equivalence. FSIS coordinates the development of its policies with other USDA and Federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency, to support an integrated approach to food safety. Additionally, the Under Secretary for Food Safety chairs the U.S. Codex Policy Committee, which is an interagency partnership providing leadership for U.S. Government participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius to develop the international food standards used by governments and industry to protect consumer health and to ensure fair trade practices.

FSIS' first strategic goal is to prevent foodborne illness and protect public health. While the prevalence of *Salmonella* contamination in regulated poultry products has decreased by more than 50percent in recent years, there has not been a reduction in human illnesses attributable to poultry. More than 1 million consumer *Salmonella* illnesses occur annually, with more than 23 percent attributed to poultry consumption. After announcing last year that it would reevaluate its approach to controlling *Salmonella*, FSIS has invested in data gathering and outreach to begin to develop a proposed regulatory framework to reduce *Salmonella* infections linked to poultry products. In 2022, in addition to proposing a new framework, FSIS announced its intention to declare *Salmonella* an adulterant in not ready-to-eat breaded and stuffed chicken products; began developing a risk profile and quantitative risk assessments; sought guidance from one of the agency's advisory committees; and held a public meeting on the proposed strategy to solicit public feedback on the framework. These efforts aim to move the agency closer to achieving a reduction in foodborne illnesses and lay the groundwork for more developments in 2023 as FSIS continues its efforts to seek stakeholder feedback to inform planned rulemaking.

State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs are an integral part of the nation's food safety system; they help prevent supply-chain bottlenecks within a state ensuring American families have plentiful access to safe meat and poultry products. States may operate their own MPI programs under a cooperative agreement with FSIS, which is especially helpful to small and very small meat and poultry processors in building their local and state markets. Product produced under state inspection programs is limited to intrastate commerce unless a state opts into the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Program. In 2022, Arkansas and Oregon joined the state MPI program, and FSIS finalized a CIS agreement with Montana. At the close of the year, 29 state MPI programs were operating, with 10 states participating in the CIS program.

Recognizing how critical small and very small plants are to the Nation's food supply, FSIS continues to strengthen and build fairer markets for these producers. The Agency has been

implementing a provision of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to reduce overtime and holiday inspection fees for small establishments by 30 percent and very small establishments by 75 percent. Since its enactment, FSIS has issued credits and refunds to more than 2,800 small and very small establishments, providing more than \$33 million in savings.

USDA began its comprehensive review of the “Product of USA” voluntary labeling claim in July 2021. In February 2022, FSIS commissioned a survey to analyze U.S. consumers’ understanding of the labeling claim. The results have informed proposed rulemaking on this topic to ensure that the “Product of USA” label is truthful and not misleading.

FSIS collaborates with a multitude of partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of food safety outcomes. Each year, FSIS builds on successes from existing partnerships and initiates new relationships with food safety regulators and organizations to help meet its public health goals. In 2022, FSIS and the CDC signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance data sharing and coordinating critically important public health activities. FSIS also updated its MOUs with FDA to improve coordination on regulatory efforts with dual jurisdiction establishments as well as with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration regarding worker safety.

FSIS depends on attracting and retaining a qualified and engaged workforce that represents the diversity across the United States. Approximately 90 percent of the agency’s workforce is dedicated frontline personnel, including those in priority recruitment positions: food inspectors, consumer safety inspectors, and public health veterinarians. In 2022, FSIS continued to scale up its efforts to attract top-tier candidates and compete with private industry as an employer of choice, including recruitment and retention incentives. The Agency expanded recruitment by prioritizing equity, coordinating local hiring events, and implementing process improvements. The result was shorter times to hire, growing programs to support veterans and professionals with disabilities, and use of new talent-management platforms to advertise open positions and broaden applicant pools. These recruitment strategies are vital to FSIS in accomplishing its mission with agency inspectors working at over 6,800 regulated establishments including slaughtering, processing, and import. Additionally, FSIS continues to recruit top-notch headquarters personnel responsible for overseeing administration of inspection and ensuring that scientific and technological developments are incorporated into inspection procedures, as well as developing policies and guidance documents for the regulated industry.

*Table FSIS-1 Key Performance Indicator Targets by Fiscal Year*

<b>Item</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Percent reduction in the proportion of poultry samples with <i>Salmonella</i> serotypes commonly associated with human illness*	3	4	6

\*Targets are a total reduction from a baseline established in 2021. Target will reach 10 percent by 2026.

## **BUDGET**

The Budget proposes discretionary funding of \$1.290 billion, an increase of \$132 million (11 percent) from the 2023 Enacted base appropriation. FSIS spends 80 percent of its funding on salaries and benefits, predominantly for inspection personnel in establishments, and other frontline employees such as investigators and laboratory technicians. Overall, 95 percent of the FSIS appropriation goes toward salaries and benefits, mission critical travel for inspectors and investigators, State MPI programs, and other fixed costs. The budget includes \$46.7 million for

pay costs, and \$4 million for non-salary inflationary increases necessary to support the Agency's critical food safety mission.

USDA continues to make significant investments to expand capacity and increase competition in meat and poultry slaughter and processing in an effort to make agricultural markets more accessible, fair, competitive, and resilient for American farmers and ranchers. To alleviate the disproportionate financial impact that overtime and holiday inspection fees have on small and very small establishments, the Budget includes \$30 million to provide permanent appropriated funding for reduced rates and ensure the full rate charges won't hamper small and very small establishment's ability to be competitive and expand. This proposal will not only help small establishments stay in business, but it also helps provide smaller farmers with more options for their product.

The Budget also includes an investment of \$37.9 million for information technology (IT) infrastructure. These funds will be used to increase connectivity to mission critical systems for FSIS inspectors, veterinarians, and public health professionals on the frontline; reduce security issues; ensure FSIS systems maintain high reliability; support industry and stakeholders; facilitate domestic and international trade; and fund escalating IT costs. Mission critical IT assets, such as the Public Health Information System, facilitate the collection and sharing of vital data between FSIS, industry and other stakeholders that allows FSIS to continually improve performance of its food safety mission and achieve operational excellence.

To address the continuing difficulty that FSIS has in recruiting and retaining Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs), the budget includes \$3 million for incentives to recruit and retain PHVs. With this funding, FSIS is expected to decrease vacancies, reduce in-plant PHV turnover, and improve employee morale.

Over the past decade, the U.S. livestock and poultry industries have seen significant advancements in the way biotechnology may be used to improve food animals and production practices. The budget requests \$1.4 million for FSIS, which will partner with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to help ensure we support industry, eliminate barriers to innovation, support smaller producers, ensure food safety, and increase the US food supply.

FSIS cooperates with state agencies in developing and administering the MPI and CIS programs. These programs benefit small and very small establishments, and FSIS aids in the sustainment and expansion of these programs. With rising costs, and the anticipated entry of additional states and establishments into the programs in 2024, the budget requests \$6.1 million to cover the FSIS contribution to the program (up to 50 percent of the cost of the State MPI programs and 60 percent for the CIS programs). The state MPI and CIS programs' growth are part of USDA's priority to expand meat processing capacity and strengthen the resilience of the supply chain.

Finally, the budget requests an increase of \$3 million to enable FSIS to invest in its employees through workforce development and continuing education that will improve employee retention and succession planning. Benefits of investing in workforce development and continuing education will help make FSIS an employer of choice for recruiting purposes, as well as to help reduce turnover, increase job productivity, and improve career mobility for employees.

*Table FdS-1. FSIS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Federal Food Safety and Inspection .....	\$990	\$1,037	\$1,160
State Food Safety and Inspection .....	67	67	74
International Food Safety and Inspection .....	17	19	21
Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure System.....	35	35	36
Goodfellows Mid-Western Laboratory Relocation (GP).....	13	-	-
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	1,121	1,158	1,290
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Trust Funds (Voluntary Inspection Services) .....	18	17	17
User Fees (Overtime/Holiday Inspection Services).....	233	231	231
Goodfellows Mid-Western Laboratory Relocation (Division N) .....	-	30	-
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	251	278	248
<b>Total, FSIS .....</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>1,538</b>

### User Fees and Trust Funds

FSIS estimates it will collect \$247.5 million in 2024 through existing user fee and trust fund activities for providing overtime, holiday, and voluntary inspection services.

### Proposed Legislation

In 2024, FSIS will re-propose changes to provide inspection personnel flexible work arrangements. In 2022 and 2023 a General Provision provided FSIS with the requested flexibility. FSIS is currently implementing the policy change and requires that the General Provision to become permanent.

FSIS proposes continuing the General Provision authorization while we seek permanent changes to provide flexible scheduling for inspectors to allow for work-life balance. The program will allow inspectors to request flexible work arrangements, including work schedules for both regular and overtime hours contingent on the availability of options to cover required inspection duties. FSIS will also review how fees are applied to establishments outside of their normal hours of operations to ensure that there is equity between very small, small, and large establishments.

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

### MISSION

The mission of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Mission Area includes the U.S. Forest Service, an agency established under the Transfer Act of February 1, 1905 which transferred the Federal forest reserves and the responsibility for their management from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

### FOREST SERVICE

Table NRE-1. FS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary Appropriations:</b>			
Forest Service Operations.....	\$1,069	\$1,153	\$1,316
Forest and Rangeland Research.....	297	307	349
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	315	338	328
National Forest System.....	1,867	1,974	2,226
Wildland Fire Management.....	2,005	2,117	2,971
Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	144	158	235
Land Acquisition.....	1	1	1
Other Appropriations.....	4	3	5
Total, Discretionary Appropriations.....	5,701	6,051	7,431
<b>Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:</b>			
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	2,120	2,210	2,300
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Permanent Appropriations.....	558	577	577
Trust Funds.....	334	341	348
Other Mandatory.....	480	491	518
Total, Mandatory Appropriations.....	1,372	1,409	1,443
<b>Supplemental Appropriations:</b>			
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) .....	1,360	-	-
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	1,666	945	945
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) .....	4,900	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) .....	-	885	-
Total, Supplemental Appropriations.....	7,926	1,830	945
<b>Total, Forest Service.....</b>	<b>17,120</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>12,119</b>

Table Footnote 1: Differences from OMB Budget Appendix may be attributed to sequestration corrections, reimbursables, and offsetting collections.

Table Footnote 2: Wildland Fire Management discretionary appropriations includes base recurring discretionary funding designated as emergency in fiscal year 2023 enacted.

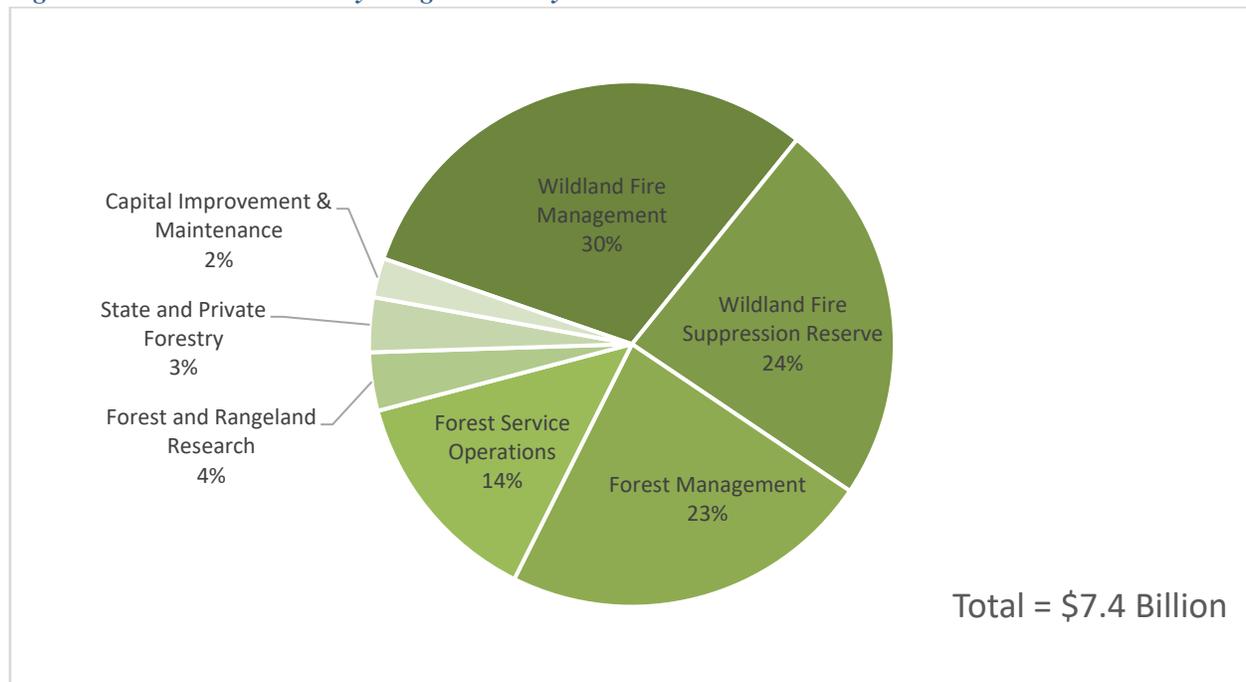
Table Footnote 3: Other Mandatory includes Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act), Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act), Land facilities enhancement, and National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF, Great American Outdoors Act). LRF is a transfer from the Department of Interior to the Forest Service.

Table Footnote 4: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) is advance appropriations for 2023 and 2024.

The 2024 Forest Service Budget delivers on the President’s commitment to ensure equitable, competitive compensation for Federal wildland fire fighters by providing permanent pay levels comparable to or higher than those attained in the 2022 and 2023 with the pay supplement in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Administration proposes authorization of a special base rate salary table and pay premiums to compensate firefighters for all hours during mobilization.

The Forest Service Budget request prioritizes critical investments across the agency to combat climate change, protect communities from the threat of wildfire, provide economic relief through job creation, advance racial equity, address historic environmental injustice, and further improve our work environment. These investments will build on the additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) to increase agency capacity and further leverage work with partners to improve the resilience of landscapes and watersheds across boundaries, reduce wildfire risk by treating the right acres at the right scale, restore infrastructure, support outdoor recreation, and invest in the reforestation of impacted landscapes. The 2024 Budget also proposes a \$72 million investment across multiple programs to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 to accelerate the procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles and invest in charging infrastructure. The proposed 2024 investments are detailed in Figure NRE-1 and described in further detail in the program areas below.

*Figure NRE-1. FS Discretionary Budget Authority*



**Forest Service Operations**

For 2024, \$1.32 billion is requested for Forest Service Operations (FSO) to support staff salaries and expenses, facilities maintenance and leases, information technology, and administrative support for the agency. The FSO budget provides funds for increased staffing levels necessary to address the Administration’s priorities for racial justice, equity, and inclusion. In addition, the FSO request includes force multiplier investments in information technology that allow the agency to achieve efficiency and effectiveness gains through data and system development to address climate resilience and conservation on public and private lands, remediate abandoned oil and gas wells and mines, and mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The FSO request also includes

\$50 million to address the urgent need for wildland firefighter housing through necessary maintenance and repairs of Forest Service housing units. Many Forest Service duty stations are in areas where having agency-owned housing in good condition could mitigate significant challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees. The budget request also includes \$1.2 million to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement.

### **Forest and Rangeland Research**

The Forest Service maintains the world's largest forest research organization, with a mission to develop the knowledge and technology needed to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands, making the agency uniquely poised to help mitigate the adverse impacts from climate change. For 2024, \$349 million is proposed for Forest and Rangeland Research to continue investments in scientific research priorities, including improving the understanding of climate change, increasing adaptation and resilience to climate change, and pursuing nature-based climate solutions. This funding includes an increase of \$20.5 million, to allow the Forest Service to make additional investments in research related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, including expanding the scope and scale of research and program delivery related to reforestation, carbon sequestration, carbon accounting, and fire and fuels research. The Forest Service will continue its ongoing funding commitment to the USDA Climate Hubs, accelerating science production and technology transfer to aid land management agencies, private landowners, and agricultural producers, including foresters, with information on scientifically sound climate adaptation practices.

### **State, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

For 2024, \$328 million is requested for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs, which will keep working forests intact, facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships on a landscape scale, and provide an avenue for nature-based climate solutions to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience to climate change.

This budget request continues the Forest Service's Shared Stewardship approach of working together to make decisions, take actions on the land, share information and risks, and achieve measurable outcomes. In addition to an increase for salary and expense funding, the 2024 Budget requests an increase of almost \$9 million for work on Forest Health Management, Landscape Scale Restoration, and Forest Stewardship to support performance measures for the America the Beautiful initiative and other climate resilience outcomes.

### **Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

The Forest Service manages a capital asset portfolio to provide public access to national forests for recreation; facilities for fire response and forest research; and infrastructure for recreation businesses and forest product industries. For 2024, the Budget proposes \$235 million for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure on National Forest System lands, including a \$60 million investment for Zero Emission Vehicle charging infrastructure in locations accessible to both agency employees and national forest visitors. Capital Improvement and Maintenance funding is also complemented by the Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152) National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which provides mandatory funding for deferred maintenance projects on public lands. The Budget contains 2024 National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund project lists, which will reduce the deferred maintenance backlog, while at the same time improve access and the quality of the visitor experience.

**National Forest System**

The Forest Service manages over 193 million acres of public land in 44 States and Puerto Rico, collectively known as the National Forest System. The Budget proposes to fund the National Forest System at \$2.2 billion, prioritizing forest restoration, recreation service delivery, climate smart land management, and reducing wildfire risk. Wildfire risk management actions help the agency improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of wildfires. Over the past 15 years, the Forest Service has lost more than 40 percent of its non-fire positions, significantly limiting its ability to perform this critical land management mission work within the National Forest System. The Budget includes an investment of \$160 million to strengthen its workforce in support of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and agency priorities in base programs funded in this budget request.

National Forest System lands have continued to see an unprecedented increase in the number of visitors, and the Forest Service is pursuing innovative ways to serve the recreational needs of new and returning visitors while managing the associated social and environmental impacts. The Budget includes a \$39 million increase to expand capacity for critical recreation operations, planning, services, and improvements, which will allow the Forest Service to better address and serve the recreational needs of the increasing numbers of visitors on National Forest System lands, particularly in more dispersed recreation settings. The request includes \$3.2 million to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement.

The Budget requests support for the Burned Area Rehabilitation program established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with a \$56 million investment to help support post-wildfire restoration work necessary for improving watershed and landscape conditions for areas impacted by catastrophic wildfire that do not qualify for Burned Area Emergency Response. This additional funding to rehabilitate burned areas would reduce the negative impacts of having to choose between rehabilitation of burned areas and other pro-active natural resource management priorities.

**Wildland Fire Management**

Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of wildfires. The summer of 2021 was one of the worst fire seasons in modern times with a record 68 days at Preparedness Level 5, indicating the highest demand for wildland fire suppression resources. While many geographic areas were below their 10-year averages for both number of fires and acres burned in 2022, nationally there were 10,000 additional wildfires reported and an additional 451,000 acres burned in 2022 compared to 2021. Traditional fire seasons of the past now extend well beyond historic summer fire season timeframes in different parts of the country, and in 2023, the agency anticipates, and is prepared for, another significant fire year.

Through Wildland Fire Management, the Forest Service protects life, property, infrastructure, and natural resources on National Forest System lands, other Federal lands, and on an additional 20 million acres of non-Federal lands under interagency and intergovernmental protection agreements. The Budget proposes almost \$3 billion for Wildland Fire Management activities, focusing critical investments in hazardous fuels treatments, firefighter compensation and benefits, and supporting the objectives of the agency's 10-year strategy to confront the Nation's wildfire crisis.

The 2024 request prioritizes investment in our wildland fire management workforce, with items such as permanent firefighter pay reform, funding for vital health and well-being assistance, facilities maintenance funds prioritized primarily for firefighter housing needs, ongoing access to the FireGuard capability, and planning and preparations for the eventual transition of staffing for the FireGuard program within the Forest Service. The Budget takes another significant step forward in ongoing efforts to build a more professional, year-round workforce and taking steps to improve their quality of life and recognize the difficult and dangerous work they perform.

The 2024 Budget includes an increase of \$180 million to cover the costs of the pay reforms for federal wildland firefighters. In addition, the budget includes an operational increase of \$328 million to support 2024 cost of living and increasing federal firefighting capacity, to help ensure that the Forest Service can effectively meet the demands of wildland fire activity year-round, while also improving the work-life balance of firefighters. This funding will increase firefighting capacity by an estimated 970 federal firefighters and additional support personnel.

The Administration recognizes the serious toll that wildland firefighting takes on firefighters' lives and families. These reforms are intended to help prevent employee burnout and cumulative fatigue from the higher demands on responders because of longer and more intense fire seasons. The Administration believes that this suite of workforce reforms — including improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, vital health and well-being assistance, and improved housing — will transform interagency Wildland Fire Management by improving firefighter recruitment and retention and laying the foundation for further improvements in the future.

The 2024 Budget proposes to move the Hazardous Fuels program from the National Forest System account to the Wildland Fire Management account in 2024. Along with this realignment, the Budget dedicates \$323 million toward management for hazardous fuels reduction, an increase of \$116 million from the 2023 enacted level. This will allow the agency to mitigate wildfire risk on 4.2 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas and build on the hazardous fuels funding the Forest Service received from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act to prioritize and target landscape treatments across multiple jurisdictions under the agency's 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Critically, this investment will focus resources on high-priority, large-scale fuels mitigation, forest resilience projects, and other restoration work, helping the agency improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of uncharacteristically severe wildfire. It includes \$1.6 million in hazardous fuels and \$6 million in preparedness to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement.

The Budget proposes \$1.011 billion for Suppression to fund firefighters and equipment in direct support of wildfire incidents; aviation asset operations; incident support functions; and wildfire management administration. This funding amount was established for 2020 through 2027 by *Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018*. The Budget also includes \$208 million for Preparedness, to maintain a robust aviation program to maximize the agency's capacity to ensure safe, timely, and effective aerial response and to invest \$10 million towards vital firefighter health and well-being assistance. The Forest Service continues to improve Preparedness budgeting by evaluating cost centers, eliminating redundancies, and ensuring more consistency in contracting for assets on wildfire incidents.

## Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund

The risk and frequency of severe wildfire continues to increase, but the Forest Service is mitigating the risk, protecting public safety, property, and natural resources. *Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-141) provided new budget authority to fight wildfires known as the “fire fix.” Beginning in 2020, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have budget authority available when base Suppression funding has been exhausted. This budget authority is \$2.65 billion in 2024 (of which \$2.3 billion is allocated to the Forest Service) and increases by \$100 million each year through 2027. The budget stability enabled by the additional budget authority allows the agency to take a more strategic approach to the fiscal planning and execution of both wildland fire management programs and national forest system management programs.

### Summary of Performance

*Table NRE-2. KPI -Terrestrial Condition Assessment*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Percent of National Forest System landscape ecosystems improved, maintained, or recovering due to management actions, Terrestrial Condition Assessment	29	38	38

*Table NRE-3. KPI – Forest Legacy Program*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Number of private forest acres protected through the Forest Legacy Program <sup>a/</sup>	54,378	64,000	64,000

*Table NRE-4. KPI – Wildfire Risk Reduction*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Number of high priority areas where treatments have occurred to reduce wildfire risk to communities (number of firesheds, annually) <sup>b/</sup>	3	1	1

<sup>a/</sup> These KPIs reflect 2022, 2023, 2024 and the Forest Service expects that current investments will not result in KPI increases until 2025 as it takes a couple years for project completion.

<sup>b/</sup> Fireshed is a term similar to watershed. It refers to a geographic region with a similar risk of wildfire to adjacent communities. Reducing hazardous fuels within parts of the fireshed may reduce the overall risk to the adjacent community.

*Table NRE-5. KPI – Hazardous Fuels Reduction*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Annual acreage treated to reduce or maintain fuel conditions on National Forest System and non-Federal lands (million acres, annually)	3.2	4.0	4.2

*Table NRE-6. KPI – Final Acreage Treatment*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Annual acreage of National Forest System lands where final treatment effectively mitigates wildfire risk (million acres, annually)	1.1	1.6	1.7

*Table NRE-7. KPI – Timber Volume*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Timber volume sold (billion board feet)	2.9	3.4	3.4

*Table NRE-8. KPI – Research Publications*

Key Performance Indicator	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Number of Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications <sup>c/</sup>	-	-	1100

*Table NRE-9. KPI – Watershed Restoration*

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Number of watersheds moved to improved condition class or sustained in Condition Class 1	12	16	21

*Table NRE-10. KPI – National Forest Customer Satisfaction*

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Target</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>
Percent of customers satisfied with recreation facilities, services, and settings in National Forest <sup>d/</sup>	TBD	98	98

<sup>c/</sup> The agency has previously tracked the number of peer-reviewed scholarly publications produced by Forest Service research scientists internally, but it will be elevated to a key performance indicator for the agency beginning in 2024.

<sup>d/</sup> Data collection for 2022 is still on-going and visitor satisfaction levels will be available in spring 2023.

***MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS*****MISSION**

The Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission is to facilitate and expand the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products, to help protect the agricultural sector from animal and plant health threats, and to ensure humane care and treatment of regulated animals. These programs provide the basic infrastructure to improve agricultural market competitiveness for the overall benefit of consumers and producers of American agriculture. U.S. agricultural producers and exporters gained access to potential markets worth nearly \$6.4 billion in 2022, supported by MRP and other mission areas in USDA.

MRP is providing service at export facilities 24 hours a day. MRP also assists producers by providing market trend analysis and business and marketing tools. MRP also helps increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by working to protect the Nation's agriculture from pests and diseases, thereby increasing the efficiency of production.

**ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE***Table MRP-1. APHIS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response:			
Animal Health:			
Animal Health Technical Services	\$38	\$39	\$40
Aquatic Animal Health	2	5	6
Avian Health	64	65	66
Cattle Health	109	112	104
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	32	35	32
National Veterinary Stockpile	6	7	6
Swine Health	25	26	32
Veterinary Biologics	21	21	22
Veterinary Diagnostics	61	64	63
Zoonotic Disease Management	20	22	24
Total, Animal Health	379	396	397
Plant Health:			
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	34	36	38
Cotton Pests	15	15	16
Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	11	15	15
Pest Detection	28	29	30
Plant Protection Methods Development	21	23	23
Specialty Crop Pests	210	216	222
Tree and Wood Pests	61	63	64
Total, Plant Health	380	396	408

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
Wildlife Services:			
Wildlife Damage Management	116	122	123
Wildlife Services Methods Development	23	26	26
Total, Wildlife Services	140	148	149
Regulatory Services:			
Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	17	19	19
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	19	20	24
Total, Regulatory Services	36	38	43
Emergency Management:			
Civilian Climate Corps	-	-	6
Contingency Fund	0	1	1
Emergency Preparedness & Response	42	44	45
Total, Emergency Management	42	44	52
Total, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness	977	1,023	1,048
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export	18	19	18
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	24	26	29
Total, Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance	42	45	47
Animal Welfare	35	42	39
Agency-Wide Activities (including GSA Rent/DHS Security)	52	52	55
Congressionally Directed Spending Projects	3	10	-
Total, Salaries and Expenses	1,110	1,171	1,188
Buildings and Facilities	3	3	3
General Provisions:			
Agriculture Quarantine Inspection	250	-	-
Cogongrass	3	-	-
Total, Non-Emergency Programs	1,366	1,174	1,191
Emergency Funding (CCC) Transfers	794	-	-
Total, Discretionary Programs	2,160	1,174	1,191
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Fees	596	760	822
Trust Funds and User Fees	12	9	9
Farm Bill	71	99	99
Total, Mandatory Programs	679	868	930
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Agriculture Quarantine Inspection, Division N	-	125	-
Total, APHIS	2,839	2,167	2,122

APHIS works cooperatively with Federal partners, State and local agencies, Tribes, industries, private groups, and foreign counterparts to protect the Nation's agricultural and natural resources. The Budget includes discretionary funding of \$1.188 billion for Salaries and Expenses and \$3.175 million for the Buildings and Facilities account.

As part of the Salaries and Expenses amount, the Budget requests \$1.048 billion to support safeguarding and emergency programs. Animal health and plant health programs protect domestic livestock, poultry, field crop, and specialty crops production annually valued at more than \$290 billion.

To combat any sudden, urgent, and unforeseen pest and disease outbreaks, the Secretary retains authority to transfer funds from any USDA account, although historically have been from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

### ***Animal Health***

The Budget supports a total of \$397 million for Animal Health. The Budget proposes increased funding to establish the Agency's official Swine Health Improvement Plan program, further implementation of national commercial aquaculture health program standards, and expand antimicrobial resistance data collection efforts. At the proposed funding level, APHIS will decrease Federal contributions for new chronic wasting disease management projects and requests that State partners implement the most promising projects that were recently developed with Federal funding. The Budget also proposes decreases for cattle fever tick activities along the Texas and Mexico border. APHIS will use the remaining funding to focus on the highest priority cattle health disease activities and effective cattle fever tick eradication strategies.

### ***Plant Health***

The Budget includes \$408 million for Plant Health. The Budget proposes an increase to continue sterile fruit fly production and release at current levels, allowing the Agency and its partners to address recent fruit fly detections and prevent additional outbreaks from threatening U.S. agricultural production and export opportunities. Additionally, APHIS is proposing to eliminate Federal funding for the light brown apple moth and the apple snail to focus on pests that are known to cause crop damage.

### ***Wildlife Services***

The Budget includes a total of \$149 million for Wildlife Services. The Budget proposes a decrease to certain wildlife damage management activities, but continues to provide necessary levels of funding in support of development of non-lethal livestock predator control methods. The Budget also proposes to eliminate funding provided in 2023 for one-time costs associated with aircraft refurbishment and improvements. APHIS will continue to resolve human/wildlife conflicts and protect agriculture, human health and safety, personal property, and natural resources from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases in the United States, including the management of rabies and other zoonotic diseases caused by various wildlife species.

### ***Regulatory Services***

The Budget includes \$43 million for Regulatory Services. The budget maintains funding for the Agency's investigative and enforcement services. The Budget proposes an increase to establish technical and scientific services to support the oversight of certain animals intended for agricultural purposes that are modified or developed using genetic engineering.

***Emergency Management***

The Budget includes \$52 million for Emergency Management. With this funding, APHIS will lead coordination between Federal agencies and the Civilian Climate Corps on issues related to invasive species. Under this initiative, APHIS will expand efforts to develop and implement surveillance methods to detect incursions of invasive pests more quickly as well as develop mitigation methods to address those already present in the United States and causing economic and environmental damages.

***Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance***

The Budget provides \$47 million for Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance activities. APHIS maintains a robust overseas presence which allows the Agency to facilitate safe U.S. agricultural trade. The Budget requests additional funding to cover increased costs of operating overseas, including support costs charged by the U.S. State Department and compensation for locally employed staff salaries and benefits. The Budget would reduce funding related to enforcement of the Lacey Act and the oversight of dogs imported into the United States.

***Animal Welfare***

The Budget for Animal Welfare activities is \$39 million. APHIS will continue to support activities related to the protection of animal species covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

***Buildings and Facilities***

The Budget includes \$3 million in funding for general facility improvement projects. The program will continue to centrally coordinate and prioritize facility improvement projects using available funds.

***User Fees***

In addition to discretionary funding, APHIS collects mandatory user fees to cover costs related to agricultural quarantine and inspection activities that occur at ports of entry. A portion of these collections are provided to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to conduct front line inspections at points of entry. With user fee funding, APHIS supports international trade by assessing the plant and animal health risks associated with such trade. APHIS also develops regulations to protect agricultural health; inspects and quarantines imported plant materials intended for planting; trains agricultural inspectors and detector dog teams; and provides the scientific support necessary to carry out these activities as well as those carried out by CBP. Given recent disruption to mandatory user fee collections, APHIS is exploring options to facilitate full cost recovery based on program data.

**AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE***Table MRP-2. AMS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Marketing Services:			
Market News	\$35	\$35	\$37
Shell Egg Surveillance	3	3	3
Standardization	5	5	6
Market Protection and Promotion	41	45	47
National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard	2	2	2
Transportation and Market Development	10	10	11
Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program	7	7	8
Acer Access and Development	7	8	8
Packers and Stockyards	25	30	35
Hemp Production	17	15	15
Grain Regulatory	19	19	20
US Warehouse Activities	11	11	11
Appropriated GSA Rent and DHS Security	4	4	6
International Food Procurement Program	9	9	9
Micro-Grants for Food Security	5	8	5
Cattle Contract Library	0	1	1
Local and Regional Commodity Procurement	0	0	2
Supply Chain Analysis	0	0	2
Cross Cutting Analysis	0	0	3
Local Food Hubs	1	0	0
Organic Production and Market Data Initiative	1	0	0
Dairy Business Innovation	25	25	25
<b>Total, Marketing Services</b>	227	238	255
<b>Payments to States and Possessions</b>	1	1	1
<b>General Provisions:</b>			
Cattle Contract Library	1	-	-
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs</b>	229	239	256
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Funds for Strengthening Markets, Income, and Supply (Section 32):			
Commodity Program Expenses	1,114	1,664	1,472
Section 32 Administrative Funds:			
Marketing Orders and Agreements	17	22	22
Commodity Purchase Services	36	37	37
Total, Section 32 Administrative Funds	54	59	59
Total, Section 32 Funds	1,168	1,723	1,531

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
User Fees:			
Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act	11	11	11
Commodity Grading Services	207	216	216
Inspection and Weighing Services	46	55	55
Total, User Fee Funded Programs	264	282	282
Farm Bill:			
Wool Research, Development and Promotion	2	2	2
Specialty Crop Block Grants	85	85	85
Local Agriculture Market Program	31	31	31
Milk Donation Program	5	5	5
Modernization Tech--National Organic Program	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
Total, Farm Bill Programs	123	123	123
Total, Mandatory Programs	1,555	2,128	1,936
Total, AMS	1,784	2,367	2,192

a Funding made available in previous years is available for multiple years.

*Table MRP-3. AMS KPI – Grader’s Time Livestock and Poultry*

Key Performance Measure	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Recover 87 percent of graders’ time through customer billing (poultry)	93.6	87	87
Recover 87 percent of graders’ time through customer billing (meat livestock)	95	87	87

AMS’ mission is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets, while ensuring fair trading practices. AMS programs aid producers in meeting the changing demands of consumers and domestic and international marketing practices. The Budget proposes discretionary funding of \$256 million.

AMS administers a variety of programs that enhance the marketing and distribution of agricultural products. Activities include, but are not limited to: the collection, analysis, and dissemination of market information; surveillance of shell egg handling operations; development of commodity grade standards; protection of producers from unfair marketing practices; statistical sampling and analysis of commodities for pesticide residues; development and enforcement of organic standards; facilitating hemp production; enforcing labeling standards; and research and technical assistance aimed at improving efficiency of food marketing and distribution.

## Marketing Services

### *Market News*

The Budget proposes \$36.676 million for Market News to support data collection and reporting of commodity information. The information provided by Market News assists producers and other marketers of farm products, as well as those in related industries in making critical daily decisions.

***Shell Egg Surveillance***

The Budget funds Shell Egg Surveillance at \$2.743 million. The Shell Egg Surveillance Program inspects registered shell egg facilities and monitors the disposition of restricted eggs to limit the number of restricted eggs in consumer channels. The program prevents eggs not meeting minimum U.S. standards from entering the consumer marketplace.

***Standardization***

The Budget funds Standardization at \$5.532 million. This program develops, reviews, and maintains agricultural commodity standards that describe a product's attributes for trade purposes.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Federal Seed Act Program***

The Budget provides \$2.525 million for the Federal Seed Act Program. This program promotes fair competition in the seed trade by ensuring seed is accurately labeled, among other requirements.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Country of Origin Labeling***

The Budget provides \$5.032 million for the Country of Origin Labeling program. The program requires retailers to notify their customers of the country of origin of covered commodities, and that the method of production for fish and shellfish be noted at the final point of sale.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Pesticide Data Program***

The Budget provides \$15.769 million for the Pesticide Data Program, which is the main supplier of data regarding actual levels of pesticide residues on commodities. The program works collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to target residue data collection related to high-risk commodities and vulnerable populations.

***Market Protection and Promotion - National Organic Standards***

The Budget provides \$24.044 million for the National Organic Program, which works to meet consumer demand for organically-produced goods by supporting the development, maintenance, and enforcement of national standards governing the production and handling of organic agricultural products.

***National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard***

The Budget requests \$2.095 million to maintain the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard efforts. The Standard requires food manufacturers, importers, and certain retailers to ensure bioengineered foods are appropriately disclosed.

***Transportation and Market Development***

The Budget requests \$10.802 million for Transportation and Market Development, which conducts research and outreach related to grain shipping and supply chains. The program connects agricultural producers with high value market opportunities through its national market directories.

***Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program***

The Budget requests funding for this program at \$7.547 million. The program executes competitive grants through the Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program to develop, coordinate, and expand local food markets in the U.S, to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. This funding is used in concert with funding provided by Section 10102 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

***Acer Access and Development***

The Budget requests \$7.504 million for Acer Access and Development to support market development and promotion projects that improve consumer, producer, and landowner awareness, as well as understanding of the American maple syrup and maple-sap industry and related products and production.

***Packers and Stockyards***

The Budget includes \$35.439 million for the Packers and Stockyards program, which regulates and monitors the activities of livestock, meat, and poultry market participants to support fair practices. Increased funding is requested to strengthen oversight of livestock and poultry markets and minimize IT security vulnerabilities.

***Hemp Production***

The Budget includes \$15.487 million for the Hemp Production program, which regulates the commercial production of industrial hemp as authorized by Section 10113 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

***Grain Regulatory Program***

The Budget includes \$19.976 million for the Federal Grain Inspection Service. The program establishes the official U.S. standards and quality assessment methods for grain and related products and regulates handling practices to ensure compliance with the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This funding is used in combination with user-fee funded field activities.

***U.S. Warehouse Activities***

The Budget requests \$11.130 million for U.S. Warehouse Activities. This program supports the efficient use of commercial facilities in the storage of Commodity Credit Corporation-owned commodities. The program administers a nationwide warehousing system, establishes posted county prices for major farm program commodities, and manages CCC commodity inventories. The United States Warehouse Act (USWA) authorizes the licensing of operators who store agricultural products and a separate licensing for qualified persons to sample, inspect, weigh, and grade agricultural products. The USWA authorizes the application of user fees to cover the costs of administering the Act, including unannounced warehouse examinations to encourage compliance. Warehouses engaged in export food aid operations are required to be licensed.

***International Food Procurement***

The Budget requests \$8.927 million for International Food Aid Commodity Procurement. Through this program, AMS purchases and delivers U.S.-produced food aid commodities for international food aid programs for overseas use to meet USDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development program requirements, assisting vulnerable populations around the world.

***Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives***

The Budget requests \$25 million for these initiatives, which support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing and distribution of dairy products. These initiatives provide direct technical assistance and grants to dairy businesses, including niche dairy products such as specialty cheese, or dairy products derived from the milk of a dairy animal, including cow, sheep, and goat milk.

***Micro-Grants for Food Security***

The Budget includes \$5 million for this program to assist agricultural agencies or departments in eligible states and territories to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food insecure communities through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations by competitively distributing subawards to eligible entities. The Budget seeks to right-size this program as many entities that are eligible have not been applying for the program.

***Cattle Contract Library***

The Budget includes \$1 million to facilitate the Cattle Contract Library to increase market transparency for cattle producers. The final rule went into effect on January 6, 2023, which ensures complete reporting of contractual information and volumes purchased against the contracts, including: supplemental information on cattle requirements; associated schedules of premiums and discounts; delivery and transportation terms and payments; appendices and agreements of financing, risk-sharing, profit sharing; or other financial arrangements associated with such contracts, whenever new contracts are offered, or existing contracts are updated.

***Local and Regional Commodity Procurement***

The Budget includes \$2 million for AMS to purchase and deliver nutritious food products to serve customers, amid the struggles faced by emergency food organizations to meet demand. AMS will continue to work to strengthen and diversify the suppliers that provide healthy, nutritious, and local foods to schools and nutrition assistance programs by assisting small and underserved farmers and businesses to become vendors for school meals. AMS will also continue to explore modernized ordering and distribution methods to support schools and emergency food organizations, improve their experience, and help address their supply chain challenges. USDA will accomplish these goals by conducting systematic outreach to small and underserved producers and processors to identify and onboard new vendors, identifying and removing barriers to small business participation in the vendor registration and contracting process, and taking a more modern, commercial approach to the ordering, procurement, and distribution process. To implement long-term ordering, procurement, distribution, outreach, and technical assistance transformations, AMS requires \$2 million in 2024. This funding includes hiring 11 positions critical to increase outreach as well as efforts to explore, plan, develop, and implement modernized business process and customer experience changes.

***Supply Chain Analysis***

The Budget includes \$2 million to support USDA's ongoing response to food and agriculture supply chain disruptions and the need for ongoing government wide coordination, including, but

not limited to, data analysis, research, and program policy development. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing pandemic recovery have revealed serious cracks across food and agricultural supply chains. Currently, the government lacks government-wide indicators and sufficient data and research to plan for, react to, and resolve agri-food supply chain issues in real-time, which is vital given the perishable, seasonal, and essential nature of food. As demonstrated by USDA's Executive Order 14017 supply chain report and our efforts as co-chair of the Administration's Short-Term Supply Chain Disruption Task Force, strengthening the resilience of our country's agri-food supply chains will require: 1) enhanced data and market intelligence to address disruptions early, reducing impacts on individuals and communities, and 2) increased federal coordination on agri-food supply chain disruptions as part of the nation's critical infrastructure. Given the range of commodities served by AMS and our experience in food systems research and economics (e.g., transportation, local and regional foods, market analysis), AMS can support USDA's supply chain response by conducting research on supply chain constraints, including those related to market concentration and just-in time procurement approaches, conducting research and increasing data analysis and sharing related to critical supply chain components, where information is not commonly captured or currently shared across government (e.g., additional transportation data, partnering with other federal agencies who have agri-food data to amplify our collective ability to assess supply chains), and supporting ongoing required responses for policy and program input on agri-food supply chains to government wide initiatives such as responding to Congress's Continuity of Economy Act. This funding will support the hiring of 2 supply chain experts and up to 10 cooperative agreements on the data and research needed to feed into USDA's ongoing response to agri-food supply chain needs.

### ***Cross Cutting Analysis***

The Budget includes \$2.5 million to build out the additional technical assistance required to effectively support USDA's investments in local and regional food systems. Through its grant programs, research, and analysis, AMS improves market access for producers and develops new, diversified markets from food hubs and farmers markets to farm-to-institution and value-added processing. However, to ensure that producers and other stakeholders have ready access to the right programming to grow their business, especially as funding for local and regional programs grows and data and research expands, AMS needs to provide more targeted technical assistance to help them navigate the vast resources available across the federal government, provide them with data and information using our local and regional expertise to better inform their decision making on the ground, and connect them with strategic partners that can enhance the success of their food and farm businesses. This funding will support the hiring of 5 technical assistance experts and up to 10 cooperative agreements. The agreements would leverage local organizations who can help USDA directly deploy technical assistance resources in communities, particularly those that are underserved.

### **Payments to States and Possessions**

The Budget requests \$1.235 million for the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). The proposed funding level is consistent with the 2022 enacted level.

### **Section 32 Funds**

Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, authorizes the appropriation for each fiscal year of an amount equal to 30 percent of the gross receipts from duties collected under customs laws of the United States during the preceding calendar year. These funds are used to encourage domestic consumption of perishable commodities that are not eligible for price support from USDA and encourage the export of agricultural products. This includes purchases of commodities and

removal of surplus commodities from the marketplace for distribution to Federal nutrition assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program and diversion programs that bring production in line with demand. Section 32 funds are also used to finance the administrative costs associated with the purchase of commodities and developing the specifications used for food procurement throughout the Federal government.

Federal expenses for administration and oversight of Marketing Orders and Agreements are also funded from Section 32.

Marketing Orders and Agreements help stabilize market prices and the supply of milk and certain specialty crops. The Orders are administered locally by marketing order committees and market administrators. Local activities are funded through assessments on regulated handlers.

### **User Fees**

AMS operates select programs through license fees and user fees. The Commodity Grading Services program provides voluntary commodity grading and classing services for dairy products, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products, poultry, eggs, tobacco, and cotton. AMS also offers certification services to verify contract specifications on quantity and quality, acceptance and condition inspection services for all agricultural commodities upon request, and export certification services for a number of commodities. AMS' audit verification services review production and quality control systems and verify industry marketing claims. The Warehouse Examinations license fee provides for unannounced examinations to encourage compliance with licensing terms under the USWA.

In addition, AMS enforces the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act which prohibits unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing of perishable agricultural commodities by regulating shippers, distributors, and retailers. Full and prompt payment for fresh fruits and vegetables is a key objective of the program.

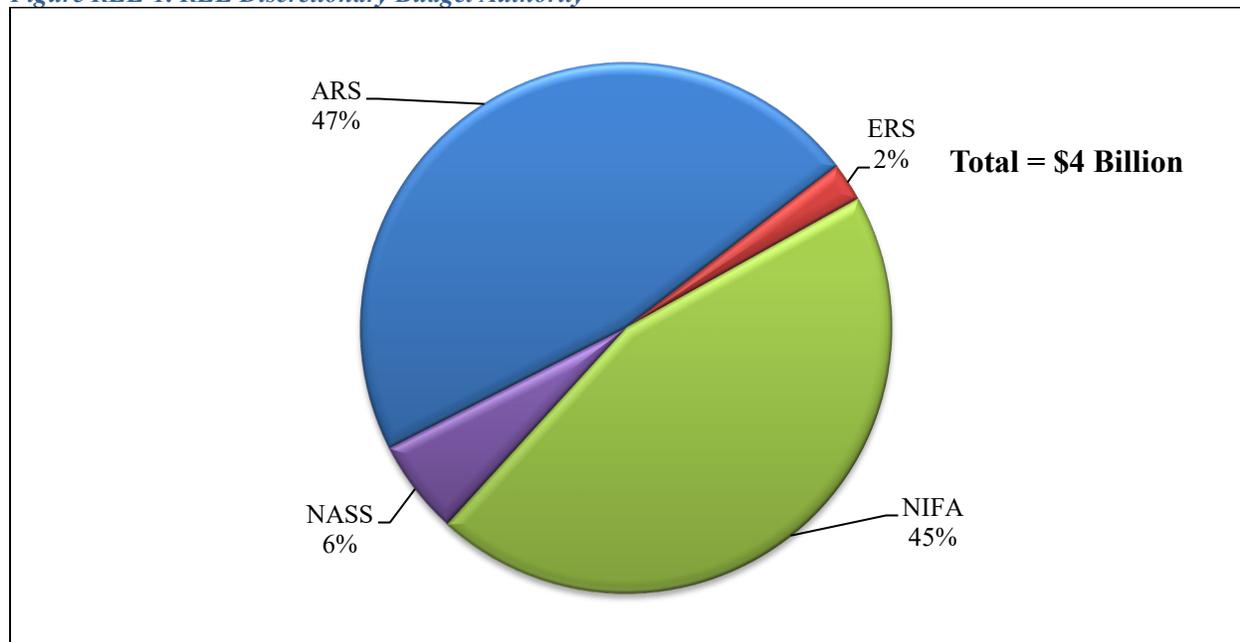
The Grain Inspection and Weighing user fees provide for the mandatory inspection and weighing of grain at export ports and the inspection and weighing of grain at domestic locations. AMS is required to conduct or delegate inspection and weighing, and to supervise such activities.

## ***RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS***

### **MISSION**

USDA supports a variety of agricultural research topics to address complex challenges that require multi-faceted approaches through in-house research and in partnership with land-grant institutions, non-profits, and the private sector. USDA brings together expertise from a wide range of scientific disciplines to address sustainable agricultural growth and food security. Key themes include: Sustainable Agricultural Intensification, Agricultural Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, Food and Nutrition Translation, Value-added Innovations, and Agriculture Science-Policy Leadership. These programs, among others, will ensure that the U.S. can do its part to meet present and future food, feed, fiber, and fuel needs both at home and abroad as the world population is expected to grow to nearly 10 billion people by 2050.

Research, Education, and Economics (REE) responsibilities are carried out by four agencies and a staff office: (1) the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts intramural research in natural and biological sciences; (2) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) partners with land-grant and non-land grant colleges and universities in carrying out extramural research, higher education, and extension activities; (3) the Economic Research Service (ERS) performs intramural economic and social science research and market analysis, and produces indicators of agricultural and rural economic performance, and of food security; (4) the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Census of Agriculture and provides the official, current statistics on agricultural production and indicators for the economic and environmental health of the farm sector; and (5) the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) provides strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities. In 2022, ARS conducted retrospective reviews of its Human Nutrition Program; Grass, Forage and Rangeland Agroecosystems Program; and Sustainable Ag Systems Program. Overall, the programs were found to have had high impact (i.e., significant benefit or influence). In 2022, NIFA invested \$73.5 million of AFRI appropriations for development and adoption of climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices, including launch of a new program to respond rapidly to extreme weather events that impact agriculture. During 2022, NASS along with other USDA agencies developed climate adaptation resilience plans. As part of NASS's plans, a data needs assessment was conducted related to survey data already being used for climate related impacts. The data needs assessment identified where data gaps exist that would better inform climate adaptation strategies and actions across USDA. In 2022, ERS provided insight into the prevalence and implementation of rotational grazing, a practice promoted to provide improved environmental outcomes. ERS responded to decision makers' need for information on rotational grazing, a management practice in which livestock are cycled through multiple fenced grazing areas to manage forage production, forage quality, and environmental quality. Rotational grazing is frequently discussed as a livestock management practice with the potential to provide a range of private gains and public benefits. Private gains include improved animal health, forage productivity, and more drought resilient grazing livestock systems. Public benefits include improved soil health and increased soil carbon sequestration.

*Figure REE-1. REE Discretionary Budget Authority*

REE performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management efforts are coordinated and led by the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) on behalf of the Mission Area. REE and OCS activities contribute to the success of USDA's mission to provide effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues with a commitment to deliverable equitable and climate-smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive.

Additionally, the REE/OCS Mission Area:

- coordinates efforts to develop and manage USDA's science strategy,
- leads efforts to articulate, measure and communicate the impact of USDA Science (through the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs))
- coordinates and leads USDA Science initiatives in support of The Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (P.L. 115-435),
- and other Department-wide efforts to coordinate the integrity and impact of USDA science.

The Mission Area is responsible for achieving and measuring results with respect to the following 2022 – 2026 Strategic Goal and Objectives:

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure America's Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous Waterways

- Objective 2.3: Foster Agricultural Innovation

Strategic Goal 6: Attract, Inspire, and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that's Proud to Represent USDA

- Objective 6.2: Establish a Customer-Centric, Inclusive, High-Performing Workforce that is Representative of America and the Communities We Serve

*Table REE-1. KPI – Agriculture Innovation / Science Impact / Science Workforce Development*

Key Performance Indicators	2022 Actual	2023 Target	2024 Target
Technology Transfer Percentage (Number of USDA Patents Licensed / Number of USDA Patents Issued) (Percentage)	50	35	35
Citations of REE Reports (Number of Citations)	109	126	129
Agriculture Workforce Development (Number of AFRI-supported undergraduate/graduate/post-doctoral students)	5,026	5,659	5,951

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

ARS is the USDA’s chief scientific, in-house research agency. ARS conducts research to solve technical problems of broad scope and high national priority and provides access to scientific information. ARS’s research covers a wide range of critical problems affecting American agriculture and the Nation as a whole, ranging from animal and crop protection and production to human nutrition, food safety, and natural resources conservation. ARS employs over 6,000 employees and carries out approximately 690 research projects at 90 research locations throughout the Nation and in several foreign countries. ARS includes the National Arboretum and the National Agricultural Library, the Nation's major information resource on food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.

The Budget includes discretionary funding of \$1.9 billion to support ARS research, including increases of \$83 million for clean energy, \$88.5 million for climate science, \$20 million in support of the Cancer Moonshot, \$10 million for Climate Hubs and Climate Hub Fellows, and \$6 million for additional high priority investments.

The ARS Budget also includes an increase of \$13 million for operational support at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a state-of-the-art biocontainment facility for the study of foreign, emerging, and zoonotic animal diseases that pose a threat to U.S. animal agriculture and public health, which will replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The Budget also provides \$41 million for infrastructure improvements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Maryland and capital improvement at NBAF.

*Table REE-2. ARS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Product Quality/Value Added	\$126	\$131	\$194
Livestock Production	134	148	151
Crop Production	325	354	373
Food Safety	121	128	137
Livestock Protection	144	153	162

Crop Protection	235	247	231
Human Nutrition	104	109	125
Environmental Stewardship	272	306	376
Total, Research Programs	1,461	1,576	1,749
National Agricultural Library	29	30	36
Repair and Maintenance	26	27	27
ARPA-C			
Buildings and Facilities	128	132	41
NBAF Operations and Maintenance	119	112	126
Total, Discretionary Programs	1,763	1,877	1,979
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Human Nutrition	19		
Trust Funds	15	15	15
Total, Mandatory Programs	34	15	15
Total, ARS	1,797	1,892	1,994

### Product Quality/Value Added

The Budget includes \$194 million for this program. ARS has active research programs directed toward: (1) improving the efficiency and reducing the cost for the conversion of agricultural products into biobased products and biofuels; (2) developing new and improved products for domestic and foreign markets; and (3) providing higher quality, healthy foods that satisfy consumer needs in the U.S. and abroad.

### Livestock Production

The Budget includes \$151 million for this program. ARS' livestock production program is directed toward: (1) safeguarding and utilizing animal genetic resources, associated genetic and genomic databases, and bioinformatic tools; (2) developing a basic understanding of the physiology of livestock and poultry; and (3) developing information, tools, and technologies that can be used to improve animal production systems. The research is heavily focused on the development and application of genomics technologies to increase the efficiency and product quality of beef, dairy, swine, poultry, aquaculture, and sheep systems.

### Crop Production

The Budget includes \$373 million for this program. ARS' crop production program focuses on developing and improving ways to reduce crop losses while protecting and ensuring a safe and affordable food supply. The research program concentrates on effective production strategies that are environmentally friendly, safe to consumers, and compatible with sustainable and profitable crop production systems. Research activities are directed at safeguarding and utilizing plant genetic resources and their associated genetic, genomic, and bioinformatic databases that facilitate selection of varieties and/or germplasm with significantly improved traits.

### Food Safety

The Budget includes \$137 million for this program. Ensuring that the U.S. has the highest levels of affordable, safe food requires that the food system be protected at each stage from production through processing and consumption from pathogens, toxins, and chemical contaminants that cause diseases in humans. ARS' current food safety research is designed to yield science-based

knowledge on the safe production, storage, processing, and handling of plant and animal products; and on the detection and control of toxin producing and/or pathogenic bacteria and fungi, parasites, chemical contaminants, and plant toxins.

### **Livestock Protection**

The Budget includes a total of \$162 million for this program. ARS' animal health program is directed at protecting and ensuring the safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply through improved disease detection, prevention, control, and treatment. Basic and applied research approaches are used to solve animal health problems, with emphasis on methods and procedures to control animal diseases.

### **Crop Protection**

The Budget includes \$231 million to support these activities. ARS research on crop protection is directed to understand pest and disease transmission mechanisms and identify and apply new technologies that increase understanding of virulence factors and host defense mechanisms.

### **Human Nutrition**

The Budget includes \$125 million for this program. As excessive consumption replaces diseases related to malnutrition as a primary public health concern in the U.S., the ARS human nutrition research program has increasingly focused on research studying the maintenance of health throughout the lifespan along with prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations. ARS will support the Cancer Moonshot initiative with funding for the Precision Nutrition program. Using this funding, ARS will research dietary compounds (particularly those in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) that are protective against the initiation or promotion of chronic diseases, the factors that influence their accumulation in foods, and factors that promote/inhibit the inclusion of these foods in the diet.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

The Budget includes \$376 million for this program. ARS research programs in environmental stewardship emphasize developing technologies and systems that support profitable production and enhance the Nation's vast renewable natural resource base. ARS is currently developing the scientific knowledge and technologies needed to meet challenges and opportunities in: water availability and watershed management, changes in climate, gaseous and particulate matter emissions, soil health and productivity, agricultural and industrial byproducts, agricultural system competitiveness and sustainability, and conservation and restoration of range lands, pasture ecosystems, and agroecosystems.

### **National Agricultural Library (NAL)**

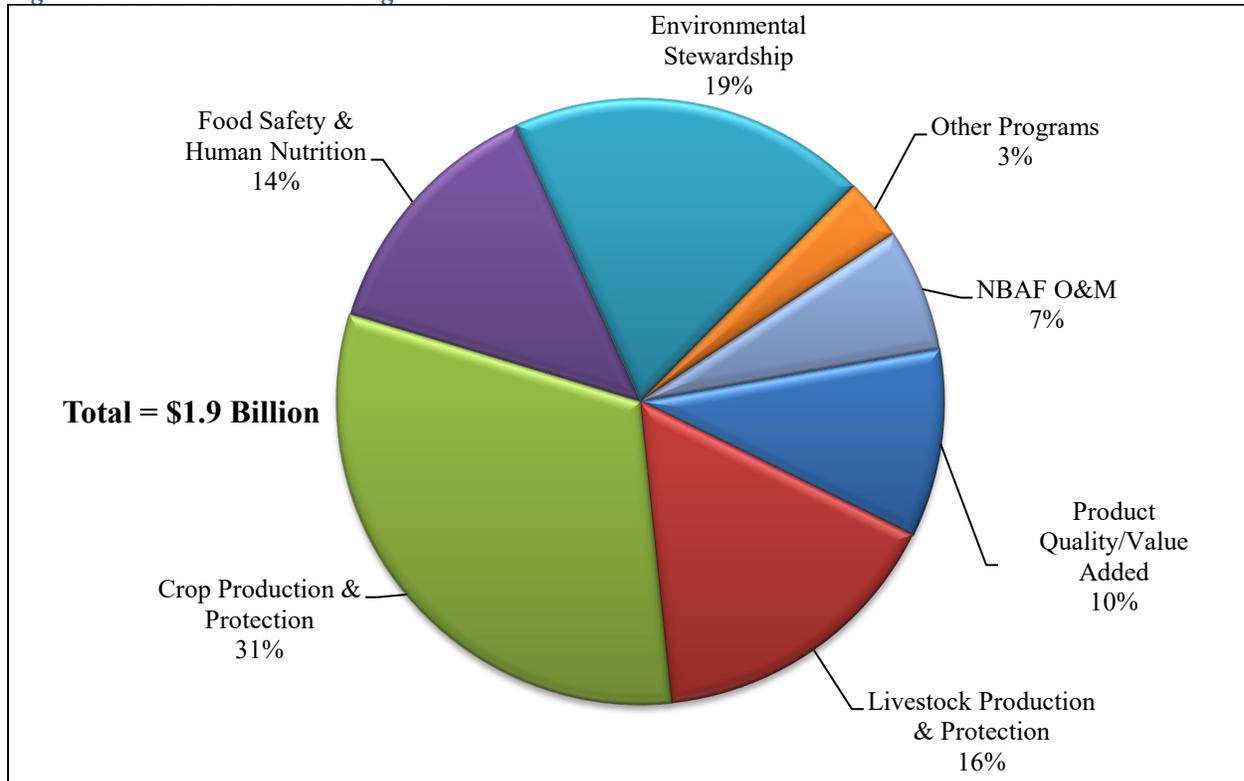
The Budget includes \$36 million for NAL. NAL is the primary agricultural information resource of the U.S. NAL is the premier library for collecting, managing, and disseminating agricultural knowledge. It provides services directly to the staff of USDA and to the public, primarily via the NAL web site, [www.nal.usda.gov](http://www.nal.usda.gov). NAL provides library and information services that delivers agricultural information to the public through Agricultural Online Access (AGRICOLA); conserves rare and at-risk items; and works in partnership with other USDA and Federal agencies to broadly disseminate information.

### **Repair and Maintenance**

The Budget includes \$27 million to address repair and maintenance needs. ARS allocates funding for the repair and maintenance of existing ARS facilities and infrastructure. Performing regular

repair and maintenance on ARS infrastructure can extend the life span of research laboratories and facilities, provide opportunities for longer term savings, and ensure Federal scientists' capacity to conduct safe, quality research. Funding will support specific projects such as the replacement of air handling units, boilers, and chillers that have reached the end of their service lives.

*Figure REE-2. ARS Research Programs*



### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NIFA provides linkages between the Federal and State components of a national agricultural research, extension, and education system. NIFA funds projects conducted in partnership with State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Cooperative Extension System, the Land-grant University System, colleges of agriculture, community colleges, and other institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and small businesses. NIFA programs propel cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to farms, classrooms, and communities, with the help of Cooperative Extension. Federal funds are distributed to enhance capacity at universities and institutions by statutory formula funding and competitive grants. NIFA administers the Nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which supports research with strong potential to contribute to major breakthroughs in the food, agricultural, natural resource, and human sciences. NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education and extension to solve societal challenges related to food and agriculture.

The Budget includes \$1.9 billion in discretionary funding for NIFA, including \$550 million for AFRI. The Department continues to support capacity funds and competitive grants to generate science-based solutions to the Nation's critical food and agriculture problems and to proactively identify and address emerging needs and opportunities using a grassroots model in every community in the Nation.

### **Formula (Capacity) Programs**

The Budget includes \$863 million for these programs. NIFA manages programs that provide grants to the States using statutory formulas. These formula grants provide long-term, sustainable support needed to grow the capacity for agricultural research, education, and extension activities at land-grant institutions and State Agricultural Experiment Stations. These programs include Hatch Act, Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c), 1890 Land-grant Institutions, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry, and other grants. In 2023, NIFA will increase its investments to \$265 million for Hatch Act programs, to support agricultural research at 1862 Land-grant Universities (LGUs) and State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES). Hatch Act funded scientists undertake critical research on the national, regional, and local challenges to agricultural systems through sustained efforts. An increase of \$7.3 million will be invested in the McIntire-Stennis Research Program in 2023. These funds, totaling \$43.3 million, will be used to support research in some of the following topic areas: understanding the impacts of new stressors and developing management solutions; adaptation to climate change environmental factors and utilization of forest ecosystems to mitigate climate change; utilization of wood and new applications for forest products; and increasing the use of agroforestry by landowners and communities, with a priority on underserved and minority audiences. Increases of \$18.5 million are provided to Extension capacity programs for increasing services and ensuring equity in access and opportunities to minority, historically underserved, or Tribal communities with special emphasis on climate change, workforce, nutrition and health promotion education, and support for youth Climate Corps through 4-H programming.

#### **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**

The Budget includes \$550 million for AFRI. AFRI is the Nation's premier competitive, peer-reviewed research program for fundamental and applied sciences in agriculture. It is broad in scope with programs ranging from fundamental science to farm management and community issues. NIFA will also include a broad emphasis on climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, and the application of clean energy. Focused investments in these topics will be made in the three major complementary components of AFRI: 1) Sustainable Agricultural Systems, 2) Foundational and Applied Science, and 3) Education and Workforce Development. Transformative innovations in U.S. agriculture are needed to address climate change, promote innovations in nutrition research, and enhance economic growth and agricultural education, especially in historically underserved communities. Through this investment, NIFA will contribute to a whole-of-government approach to climate change by supporting research, extension and education projects that advance the achievement of economy-wide, net-zero emissions, by 2050. These investments address the Presidents priorities to combat climate change, lay the foundation for economic growth and creation of good-paying jobs, and ensure that benefits accrue to marginalized and underserved communities. A total of \$20 million is included in the AFRI budget proposal to support the Cancer Moonshot efforts. The AFRI budget proposal also includes \$94 million for innovations in development and application of clean energy technologies for food and agricultural systems and \$45 million for climate science and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

#### **Minority-Serving Institution Programs**

The Budget includes \$370 million for Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) programs. Partnerships with MSI programs support capacity building initiatives, education, and pathways to employment for students and faculty and help develop a strong pipeline of talented individuals for USDA and USDA partner jobs. NIFA administers programs dedicated to strengthening research and extension capacity at minority-serving institutions and the ability of these institutions to continue their effective programming. These include research, extension, teaching, and facilities programs at the 1890 Land-grant institutions; research, education and extension grants for Tribal colleges (including the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program) and Hispanic-serving institutions;

and education grants for Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; New Beginning for Tribal Students, Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions, Institution Challenge, Multicultural Scholars, and Graduate Fellowships, Agriculture Business Innovation Centers at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Grants for Insular Areas, and Women and Minorities in STEM. Evans-Allen capacity funds support agricultural research activities at 1890 LGUs. The increased funding totaling \$98 million in 2024 is distributed to Historically Black LGUs and is leveraged with matching funding from non-federal sources. Currently, the program supports over 200 active research projects that will enhance innovation support training of the next generation of black workers and researchers and address various issues in limited-resourced communities such as food security and nutrition, climate change and workforce development. This program supports many of the Administration's budget priorities, including ensuring the benefits accrue to marginalized and overburdened communities.

The Budget proposes an increase of \$20 million for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program to address the disparity of program funding between the 1862 and the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions. EFNEP is the Nation's first nutrition education program for low-income populations and remains at the forefront of education efforts to tackle food and nutrition insecurity. EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being. The budget proposes legislation to adjust the calculation of these formula funds to reach parity of funding between the 1862 and 1890 Institutions. An in-depth study will also be conducted to investigate the needs of Tribal and Alaskan Native communities.

The Budget includes \$10 million for the Research Facilities Act to help address the backlog of facility needs at land-grant universities. Funds will be used to support competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities. A focus of the program will be to prioritize facilities that are located at or primarily benefit minority serving institutions.

*Table REE 3. NIFA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Formula Grants:			
Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c)	\$320	\$325	\$325
Hatch Act	260	265	265
1890 Research and Extension	145	161	174
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	36	38	38
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	70	70	90
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)	4	4	4
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	22	22	25
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program	5	7	15
Animal Health and Disease Research	4	4	-
Total, Formula Grants	866	896	936
1890 Capacity Building Grants (Research)	29	30	30
EFNEP Study of Tribal and Alaska Native Communities	-	-	1
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	445	455	550
Integrated Activities - Section 406 Organic Transition	7	7	7
Crop Protection and Pest Management Activities	20	21	21
Sustainable Agriculture Research/Education and Extension	45	50	60

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management	14	15	16
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	10	10	10
Native American Endowment Fund Interest	5	4	5
Other Higher Education Programs	51	55	57
Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program	3	4	8
Food Safety Outreach Program	10	10	10
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	9	11	21
Federal Administration	21	22	26
Electronic Grants Administration System	8	8	8
Food and Ag. Defense Initiative (Reg. Diagnostic Network)	8	8	8
Veterinary Medical Services Act	9	10	10
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	8	8	8
Research Facilities Act	-	2	10
Bioproduct Pilot Program	5	5	-
Other Research, Extension and Integrated Programs	97	86	74
Total, Discretionary Programs	1,670	1,717	1,876
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Native American Endowment Fund	12	12	12
Farm Bill:			
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program/Gus Schumacher Nutrition	50	53	53
Agricultural Risk Management Education Program	9	9	9
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program	19	24	24
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	75	75	75
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program	24	24	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Education Initiative	28	47	47
Total, Farm Bill Programs	205	232	208
Suppl-COVID	250	-	-
Total, Mandatory Programs	467	244	220
Total, NIFA	2,137	1,961	2,096

### **ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE**

ERS' mission is to inform and enhance public and private decision making by anticipating emerging issues and conducting sound, peer-reviewed economic research on policy-relevant issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. ERS is also the primary source of statistical indicators that, among other things, gauge the health of the farm sector (including farm income estimates and projections), assess the current and expected performance of the agricultural sector (including trade), and provide measures of food security in the U.S. and abroad. The Agency's intramural research is conducted by a highly trained staff of economists and social scientists through an integrated program of research, market outlook, analysis, and data development addressing a broad range of topics, including but not limited to global agricultural market conditions, trade restrictions, agribusiness concentration, farm business and household income, farm program participation and risk management, farm and retail food prices, foodborne illnesses, food labeling, local and organic products and markets, nutrition, food assistance programs, drought resilience, conservation, technology adoption, and rural employment. Key clientele includes White House and USDA policy officials, program administrators/managers, the U.S. Congress, other Federal agencies, State and local government officials, and organizations

including farm and industry groups interested in public policy issues. ERS develops its research program in coordination with other USDA research agencies, USDA-program agencies, and other external collaborators.

The budget includes \$98 million in program funding, which includes over \$8 million for climate initiatives and \$285,000 to support MSI's. Among the climate initiatives are funds for a study of irrigation (\$2.2 million). Research results and economic indicators on such important agricultural, food, natural resource, and rural issues are fully disseminated to public and private decision makers through reports and articles; special staff analyses, briefings, and presentations; databases; and individual contact. ERS will expand its research portfolio to address Administration priorities, including climate change, open and competitive markets, and racial and social equity.

*Table REE-4. ERS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Economic Research Service	\$88	\$93	\$98
Total, ERS	88	93	98

#### **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

NASS's mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. Each year, NASS conducts over 450 surveys on 200 different commodities. These data illustrate the changing nature and needs of agriculture and provide accurate and up-to-date information necessary for decision-making by producers, agribusinesses, farm organizations, commodity groups, public officials, and others. NASS data also keep agricultural markets stable, efficient, and fair by ensuring accessible and objective data are available to both commodity market buyers and sellers. NASS also conducts the quinquennial Census of Agriculture (Ag Census), a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Ag Census surveys farmers and ranchers on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics.

The Budget includes \$241 million in program funding, including \$8 million to help measure climate science research. The Budget includes a \$12 million increase within the Census of Agriculture account to support a total of \$25 million for modernization efforts to improve customer service, improve access to data, and modernize IT infrastructure.

*Table REE-5. NASS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Agricultural Estimates	\$143	\$145	\$160
Census of Agriculture	47	66	81
Total, NASS	190	211	241

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST**

The mission of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) is to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities. The OCS was established in accordance with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture and related landscapes and communities.

OCS advises USDA's Chief Scientist and the Secretary of Agriculture in the following areas of science:

- Agricultural Systems and Technology
- Animal Health and Production, and Animal Products
- Plant Health and Production, and Plant Products
- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities

The OCS supports larger goals of scientific prioritization and coordination across the entire Department through which federal agencies provide Senior Advisors to serve in a detail capacity within OCS. The OCS identifies, prioritizes and evaluates Department-wide agricultural research, education, and extension needs. In addition, the Office of the Chief Scientist regularly convenes a [USDA Science Council](#) to further facilitate cross-Departmental scientific coordination and collaboration.

***DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES*****MISSION**

Departmental staff offices provide essential support to Departmental agencies and programs, ensuring that all agencies can carry out their duties and lead the Department's efforts to improve customer service to the public. Their functions include legal counsel, promoting civil rights, economic analysis, communications coordination, financial management, budget and policy support, and program appeal hearings for the Department's program activities. The Budget proposes funding to ensure that these offices can support staffing levels needed to provide leadership, oversight, and coordination.

***Table DA-1. Departmental Activities Budget Authority (millions of dollars)***

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	\$58	\$32	\$42
Institute for Rural Partnerships .....	30	15	-
Farm Opportunities Training and Outreach .....	-	-	4
Alcohol Consumption Study .....	-	1	-
Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) .....	-	5	20
Honeybee Pollinator.....	0	0	0
Office of Tribal Relations .....	2	5	7
Office of Homeland Security .....	1	1	2
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.....	7	9	10
Farm Opportunities Training and Outreach .....	2	2	-
Departmental Administration.....	23	27	36
Office of Communications.....	7	9	17
Total, Office of the Secretary.....	130	106	138
<b>Executive Operations:</b>			
Office of the Chief Economist .....	27	28	36
Office of Hearings and Appeals.....	16	17	17
Office of Budget and Program Analysis .....	11	15	21
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	85	92	95
Office of the Chief Financial Officer .....	7	7	9
Office of Civil Rights.....	35	38	39
Office of the General Counsel.....	57	61	66
Office of Ethics .....	4	6	7
Office of Information Affairs.....	-	-	10
<b>Departmental Management</b>			
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	108	41	100

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
Zero Emission Motor Vehicles and Charging Stations .....	-	-	25
Office of Safety, Security and Protection.....	23	22	22
Hazardous Materials Management.....	8	8	8
Total, Executive Operations.....	381	334	454
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	512	441	593
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Farm Bill:			
Outreach Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran Farmers, and Ranchers.....	19	24	24
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	19	24	24
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>			
Office of the Secretary			
Dairy Margin Coverage .....	73	53	-
Disaster Assistance .....	10,000	3,742	-
Inflation Reduction Act.....	2,659	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding.....	12,732	3,795	-
Total, Departmental Staff Offices .....	13,263	4,259	616

Note: Table DA-1 Departmental Activities Budget Authority does not include any rescissions, sequestrations nor transfers that are executed after receipt of appropriations.

## **DEPARTMENTAL STAFF OFFICES**

### **Office of the Secretary (OSEC)**

The Office of the Secretary is led by the Secretary of Agriculture and includes the Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, the Executive Secretariat, and members of their immediate staffs. The Office of the Secretary includes the principal leadership for the Department – administering and overseeing the work of the organization. This involves formulating and providing policy direction for all areas of the Department’s responsibilities including research, rural development, nutrition, conservation and farm programs, forestry, and international agriculture. It also involves maintaining relationships with organizations and others in the development of programs and maintaining a liaison with the Executive Office of the President and members of Congress on all matters pertaining to Departmental policy. The Office of the Secretary also oversees special projects that are conducted at the behest of Congress and the Administration. These projects include short-term studies, investigations, and research on matters affecting agriculture or the agricultural community. Project results are reported to the appropriate Congressional Committees. The Budget for OSEC provides \$65.7 million which includes \$3 million for the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Office, and an additional \$3.9 million for the Office of the Chief Scientist. The Budget provides \$20 million for the Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Initiative for testing soil, water, or agricultural products for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances at the request of an agricultural producer and conducting research on mitigating the impacts from

such contamination of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products. Additionally, the Budget also includes a \$4 million increase for the conversion of the General Provision for Farming Opportunities and Training Outreach to appropriated funding. The Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach program was established in the Agricultural Act of 2018 to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers and beginning farmers and ranchers in the ownership and operation of farms and ranches through education and training; and promote equitable participation in the agricultural programs of USDA.

#### **Office of Homeland Security (OHS)**

The Budget provides \$2.4 million for OHS to lead and coordinate programs in the Department for the preparation for and response to major natural and terrorist emergencies and threats. The Budget includes an increase of \$1 million for OHS to expand capacities in the oversight of National biodefense and security support for the food and agriculture sector, including expanded efforts to engage in the Council on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The global geopolitical situation and threats to agriculture are ever evolving, OHS coordinates with mission areas/agencies for policy formulation, response plans, reporting, and action assignments to meet acute and major threats to the food and agriculture system and key USDA assets. The key assets include the safety, security, and training for the use of radiological sources at laboratories, research stations, and airports. OHS provides leadership and coordination throughout the interagency and USDA on major initiatives such as National Security Memorandum 15: National Biodefense, National Security Memorandum 16: Strengthening the Security and Resilience of United States Food and Agriculture, as well as serving as the coordinator for the Food and Agriculture Sector – one of the sixteen Critical Infrastructure Sectors. Additionally OHS leads the Counterintelligence, Insider Threat, OPSEC, Intelligence and CFIUS efforts throughout the Department.

#### **Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE)**

The Secretary established the OPPE to rapidly expand outreach to America's agricultural community and facilitate greater access to USDA programs. Additionally, OPPE serves as the lead agent for USDA partnership and outreach activities, with tasking and reporting authority to direct, coordinate, and control all target programs. The Budget provides \$10.3 million for OPPE outreach activities in support of underserved groups including veterans, women, and youth and includes \$1 million to develop technical assistance capabilities and training curriculum for partner organizations.

#### **Departmental Administration (DA)**

DA was established to ensure that the USDA administrative programs and policies meet the needs of USDA program organizations and are consistent with laws and mandates. DA provides leadership to ensure the timely and effective delivery of high quality and cost-effective mission support services across the Department and coordinates human resources, procurement, property management, emergency preparedness and response activities, and programs for small and disadvantaged business utilization. The Budget provides \$35.6 million for DA which includes targeted, strategic investments needed to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Department. These increases include: \$1.3 million to support the Acquisition Workforce Succession Plan to build the bench strength necessary to oversee the Department's procurement activities; \$2 million for the Office of Customer Experience to coordinate USDA's actions to address customer challenges and to improve the overall customer experience; \$1.3 million for the

Office of Property and Environmental Management to improve oversight of the Department's approximately 40,000 vehicle fleet; and \$3.6 million for the Office of Human Resource Management to increase the training and development for all USDA employees and to increase the oversight and accountability for Departmental human resources and personnel operations.

#### **Office of Communications (OC)**

OC provides leadership and coordination for the development of communication strategies for the Department and plays a critical role in disseminating information about USDA's programs to the general public. The Budget provides \$16.5 million for OC to improve communications strategies that increase the visibility and the transparency of USDA programs. The Budget will support an increase of \$2.5 million for the USDA Web Modernization and the expansion of digital communications tools and \$5 million to address barriers to communication through expanded resources to support Limited English Proficiency (LEP) customers.

#### **Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)**

OCE serves as the focal point for the Department's economic intelligence, analysis and review and is responsible for advising the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic prospects in agricultural markets and the economic implications of policies, programs and legislation affecting U.S. agriculture and rural communities; ensuring the public has consistent, reliable and objective commodity market forecasts and projections; coordinating climate change research and policy analysis; coordinating USDA risk assessment activities; coordinating energy issues and policy analysis; coordinating sustainable development activities; coordinating agricultural labor issues; and promoting effective and efficient rules governing USDA programs. The Budget provides \$35.5 million for OCE's analytical capabilities, including \$6.8 million for climate-focused analyses and leadership of Department-wide climate related assessments and reporting.

#### **Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)**

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) includes: the National Appeals Division (NAD), the Office of the Administrative Law Judges (OALJ), and the Office of the Judicial Officer (OJO). The mission of OHA is to plan, coordinate, and provide administrative support for NAD, OALJ, and OJO. OHA promotes fairness, transparency, and consistency in NAD, OALJ, and OJO proceedings through the planning, coordination, and administration of office-wide activities and initiatives. The Budget includes \$17.4 million to support the mission of OHA to promote fairness, transparency, and consistency of USDA hearings and appeal services; coordinate administrative and legal activities for the National Appeals Division, the Office of the Administrative Law Judges, and the Office of the Judicial Officer; provide leadership, direction, coordination, and assistance in the areas of Administrative and Legal support for Office-wide mission and operational activities; and coordinate the preparation of all administrative service support, strategic plans, and reports for Office-wide activities and initiatives.

#### **Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA)**

OBPA ensures that USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity by incorporating performance, evidence and risk into decision making OBPA advocates for the necessary resources required and executes the budget to ensure the USDA can effectively and efficiently accomplish its mission for the benefit of the American people. OBPA leads USDA's strategic planning; enterprise risk management; performance management and reporting; budget

analysis, justification, and control; and legislative and regulatory actions. The Budget requests \$21.1 million for OBPA which includes: \$5.8 million to support the Department's Evidence Act Deliverables and lead the design, direction, and oversight of evidence building activities, developing and implementing evaluation policy and procedures, and enhancing performance management throughout the Department. The additional funding will enable OBPA to conduct program evaluations and other evidence-building assessments of critical Departmental programs that will support more informed decision-making by Departmental leadership and a more thorough understanding of the results of Departmental programs by USDA's stakeholders.

#### **Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)**

OCIO provides policy guidance, leadership and coordination for the Department's information management, technology investment and cyber security activities in support of USDA program delivery. The Budget requests \$95.1 million for OCIO to fund ongoing activities and increase efforts for cybersecurity enhancements, including \$77.4 million to enhance the Department's cyber security profile through the acquisition and implementation of relevant tools and services. The Budget also includes an increase of \$1.8 million to increase OCIO's capabilities to oversee and manage the Department's nearly \$3 billion IT portfolio. These additional resources will enable OCIO to expand its Capital Planning and Investment Control staff while also working to continue USDA's adherence to the goals of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act.

#### **Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)**

OCFO provides overall direction and leadership in the development of financial management policies and systems and produces the Department's consolidated financial statements. OCFO also oversees the provision of administrative accounting, payroll, and related systems for USDA and other agencies through the operation of the National Finance Center. The Budget requests \$9.1 million for OCFO which includes an increase of \$1.3 million for critical mission support. OCFO is responsible for the financial leadership of a Department that has nearly 100,000 employees, 14,000 offices and field locations, and over \$200 billion in assets. The Budget resources will enable OCFO to better meet the needs of its customers and remain in compliance with USDA's Department policies and Federal laws and regulations.

#### **Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (Ag B&F)**

The Agriculture Building and Facilities account finances the repair, improvement, maintenance, physical security, sustainability and energy conservation activities at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC) in Beltsville, MD, including the administrative costs for the building management and support staff. Since 1984, USDA has been delegated the responsibility for managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, improving and securing the Headquarters Complex, which encompasses 14.1 acres of grounds and 2 buildings containing approximately 2.5 million gross square feet of space, as well as the USDA-owned GWCC that comprises 350,000 gross square feet, located on 73 acres in Beltsville, MD. The 2023 appropriation reduced the overall Ag B&F funding amount to an unsustainable level. The Budget requests \$124.6 million, which includes an increase of \$11.7 million over the 2023 funding level as that amount is insufficient for sustaining all operations and maintenance activities; \$46.8 million for building modernization; and \$25 million for the purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging and fueling infrastructure.

**Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)**

OSSP improves facility emergency management and response. OSSP provides Department-wide leadership, policy, and management in the safeguarding of property and personnel. OSSP is committed to identifying and addressing security risks that may affect USDA personnel, infrastructure, and facilities. The Budget provides \$22 million for OSSP to continue to deliver on its security-focused mission to support the protection of USDA employees, customers and assets.

**Hazardous Materials Management (HMM)**

HMM provides for the efficient management and cleanup of hazardous materials on facilities and lands under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Department, and the prevention of releases of hazardous substances from USDA facilities. The Budget includes \$7.6 million for the HMM program which will support limited, targeted investments in mitigation and remediation activities across the Department's real property portfolio.

**Office of Civil Rights (OCR)**

OCR provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination and training, and complaint adjudication and processing for the Department and its agencies. OCR's mission is to facilitate the fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees and ensure the delivery and enforcement of civil rights programs and activities. The Budget provides \$38.6 million for OCR for improved business processes for the handling and resolution of program and employment complaints of discrimination and the increase of oversight of Departmental program delivery to improve the fairness and equitability of services provided to USDA customers across the Nation.

**Office of the General Counsel (OGC)**

OGC provides legal oversight, counsel, and support to the Department's agencies and offices. OGC's budget request will support additional legal services resulting from increased programmatic activities and legal challenges in addition to legal assistance need to support the implementation of the upcoming Farm Bill, including providing technical assistance to Congress during the development of the legislation. The additional funding will also give OGC the ability to comply with the Department of Justice's (DOJ) recent issued instructions regarding the heightened responsibilities of agency counsels regarding e-discovery. OGC's budget request includes conducting administrative enforcement and defensive litigation and supporting the DOJ in defending the Department against increased litigation. The Budget provides \$65.6 million to ensure that resources are available for OGC to carry out its full range of legal services and responsibilities and support USDA program delivery which includes a \$3.1 million increase to continue the rebuilding of legal service capabilities in OGC.

**Office of Ethics**

The Budget provides \$6.9 million for the Office of Ethics, which reports to the General Counsel, to administer ethics regulations and statutes governing employee conduct; carry out public confidential financial disclosure reporting programs; develop and implement supplemental ethics policies, provide advice and assistance to USDA employees; and train employees on all ethics statutes, regulations, and policies. This includes an increase of \$1.2 million to address the demand for ethics services and historic reduction in ethics staffing at USDA.

Office of Information Affairs

This Budget provides \$9.9 million to establish the Office of Information Affairs (OIA), a standalone office under the General Counsel that manages USDA's Departmental Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Records Management (RM) programs. The OIA is responsible for the development of USDA's FOIA and RM policies, training, and agency-wide compliance with the FOIA and Federal Records Act. This funding will also ensure maintenance of USDA's existing Electronic Records Management System (ERMS), AgRecords, which provides the requisite control to effectively manage all of USDA's electronic records in accordance with Office of Management and Budget and National Archives mandate. This funding also supports the processing of records requests for USDA's staff offices and the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) and the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA) mission areas.

***OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL*****MISSION*****Table OIG-1. OIG Budget Authority (millions of dollars)***

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of Inspector General	\$106	\$112	\$126

The Office of Inspector General provides the Secretary and Congress with information or intelligence about fraud, other serious problems, mismanagement, and deficiencies in Department programs and operations, recommends corrective action, and reports on the progress made in correcting the problems. The Office reviews existing and proposed legislation and regulations and makes recommendations to the Secretary and Congress regarding the impact these laws have on the Department's programs and the prevention and detection of fraud and mismanagement in such programs. The Office provides policy direction and conducts, supervises, and coordinates all audits and investigations. The Office supervises and coordinates other activities in the Department and between the Department and other Federal, State and local government agencies whose purposes are to: (a) promote economy and efficiency; (b) prevent and detect fraud and mismanagement; and (c) identify and prosecute people involved in fraud or mismanagement. The Budget provides \$125.9 million for OIG to conduct critical oversight for a full range of USDA's programs and operations, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, crop insurance indemnity payments, grants, and loans to ensure entitlements and benefits are distributed based on eligibility and used for their intended purpose. Over the last several years, USDA has also received significant funding in addition to its normal appropriation to address events such as disaster relief, coronavirus assistance, and infrastructure. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provided nearly \$38 billion for USDA agricultural conservation, forestry, credit, and rural development programs. When USDA receives such significant funding, there is an even greater need to provide oversight and transparency of those funds. However, additional monies for OIG to conduct this oversight are often not commensurate with the level of funding received by USDA, or OIG does not receive any additional funding. \$3.9 million of the request will be used to fill 20 vacancies in key areas of audits, investigations, and mission support to ensure oversight into special USDA programs for which OIG has not received specific additional funding. \$6 million is to provide training and technical assistance to promote and retain an expert law enforcement workforce and fund critical programs.

Note: Appendix tables do not include proposed legislation but do include reestimates, offsetting collections, and other accounts which are not displayed in other tables within the Budget Summary.

*Table APP-1. New Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency * .....	\$5,082	\$1,574	\$1,699
Commodity Credit Corporation.....	6,246	10,748	3,359
Risk Management Agency .....	12,407	15,491	14,777
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	10,284	6,590	8,088
FPAC Business Center .....	298	309	326
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service * .....	425	442	459
P.L. 480 .....	1,840	1,800	1,800
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	1,817	484	443
Rural Housing Service.....	2,243	2,720	2,410
Rural Utilities Service .....	14,780	2,873	1,439
Salaries and Expenses.....	303	354	530
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	205,288	214,475	161,429
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,140	1,205	1,307
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	17,116	11,475	12,097
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	1,963	545	541
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2,384	1,528	1,544
Section 32 Funds .....	1,186	1,292	1,601
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	1,797	1,892	1,994
Economic Research Service .....	88	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	190	211	241
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	2,125	1,951	2,083
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	9,900	3,571	162
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	35	42	125
Executive Operations.....	283	144	329
Office of Inspector General .....	115	117	131
Working Capital Fund .....	22	0	0
Subtotal, USDA .....	<b>299,357</b>	<b>281,926</b>	<b>219,012</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-5,821	-3,228	-1,761
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>293,536</b>	<b>278,698</b>	<b>217,251</b>

Note: \* FSA, RD, and FAS Salaries and Expenses transfers for these agencies are shown in the agencies in which funds are initially appropriated.

*Table APP-2. Available Resources Discretionary / Mandatory (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency *			
DISC.....	\$1,472	\$1,560	\$1,676
MAND.....	3,610	14	23
Commodity Credit Corporation			
DISC.....	6	6	6
MAND.....	6,240	10,742	3,353
Risk Management Agency			
DISC.....	70	67	78
MAND.....	12,337	15,424	14,774
Natural Resources Conservation Service			
DISC.....	2,207	1,968	1,191
MAND.....	8,077	4,622	6,897
FPAC Business Center			
DISC.....	238	249	326
MAND.....	60	60	-
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service *			
DISC.....	467	486	499
MAND.....	-42	-44	-40
P.L. 480			
DISC.....	1,840	1,800	1,800
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service			
DISC.....	128	131	179
MAND.....	1,689	353	264
Rural Housing Service			
DISC.....	2,308	2,627	2,694
MAND.....	-65	93	-284
Rural Utilities Service			
DISC.....	3,234	1,437	1,465
MAND.....	11,546	1,436	-26
Salaries and Expenses			
DISC.....	300	351	527
MAND.....	3	3	3
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service			
DISC.....	6,093	6,354	7,111
MAND.....	199,195	208,121	154,318
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service			
DISC.....	1,122	1,188	1,290
MAND.....	18	17	17
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service			
DISC.....	10,847	10,086	10,671
MAND.....	6,269	1,389	1,426
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service			

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
DISC.....	229	243	256
MAND.....	1,734	302	285
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service			
DISC.....	1,855	1,174	1,192
MAND.....	529	354	352
Section 32			
MAND.....	1,186	1,292	1,601
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service			
DISC.....	1,762	1,877	1,979
MAND.....	35	15	15
Economic Research Service			
DISC.....	88	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service			
DISC.....	190	211	241
National Institute of Food and Agriculture			
DISC.....	1,669	1,718	1,875
MAND.....	456	233	208
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary			
DISC.....	9,503	3,850	137
MAND.....	397	-279	25
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities			
DISC.....	35	42	125
Executive Operations			
DISC.....	283	144	329
Office of Inspector General			
DISC.....	115	117	131
Working Capital Fund			
DISC.....	22	-	-
<b>Offsetting Receipts</b>			
Department of Agriculture			
DISC.....	-700	-699	-699
MAND.....	-5,116	-2,523	-1,056
NET.....	-5	-6	-6
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>293,536</b>	<b>278,698</b>	<b>217,251</b>

Table APP-3. Program Level (millions of dollars)

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$14,970	\$12,218	\$12,288
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	6,238	10,709	3,347
Risk Management Agency .....	12,406	15,490	14,776
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	10,176	6,699	8,170
FPAC Business Center .....	298	309	326
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	983	959	971
P.L. 480 .....	1,840	1,800	1,800
Export Credit Guarantee .....	3,403	5,500	5,500
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	4,019	13,211	3,549
Rural Housing Service .....	37,412	37,815	38,098
Rural Utilities Service .....	15,028	11,266	10,490
Salaries and Expenses .....	753	804	980
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	204,515	214,915	161,456
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,372	1,435	1,538
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	17,120	11,500	12,119
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	758	644	661
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2,045	2,167	2,122
Section 32 Funds .....	1,168	1,723	1,531
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,797	1,892	1,994
Economic Research Service .....	88	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service .....	190	211	241
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	2,137	1,961	2,096
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	130	106	138
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	108	41	125
Executive Operations .....	273	294	329
Office of Inspector General .....	106	112	126
Farm Bill Programs .....	19	24	24
Supplemental Funding Programs .....	12,732	3,795	-
Subtotal, USDA .....	<b>352,084</b>	<b>357,692</b>	<b>284,892</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-5,827	-3,228	-1,761
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>346,257</b>	<b>354,464</b>	<b>283,131</b>

Table APP-4. Discretionary Outlays (millions of dollars)

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$1,549	\$1,691	\$1,781
Commodity Credit Corporation.....	8	9	10
Risk Management Agency.....	71	63	75
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	1,046	1,657	1,984
FPAC Business Center .....	246	254	298
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	403	671	673
P.L. 480 .....	1,724	1,392	1,292
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	105	148	152
Rural Housing Service.....	1,913	2,730	2,877
Rural Utilities Service .....	789	2,097	2,387
Salaries and Expenses.....	315	247	446
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	6,357	6,516	6,982
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,106	1,154	1,299
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	7,808	9,504	9,049
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	190	213	220
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	1,513	1,663	1,416
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,591	2,160	2,502
Economic Research Service .....	88	106	100
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	196	260	236
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	1,360	1,747	1,944
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	9,238	3,248	1,065
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities.....	48	58	202
Executive Operations.....	270	430	351
Office of Inspector General .....	100	138	127
Working Capital Fund .....	-218	392	50
<b>Subtotal, USDA.....</b>	<b>37,816</b>	<b>38,548</b>	<b>37,518</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-700	-699	-699
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>37,116</b>	<b>37,849</b>	<b>36,819</b>

Table APP-5. Outlays (millions of dollars)

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency * .....	\$1,799	\$3,548	\$2,174
Commodity Credit Corporation.....	6,646	7,348	6,005
Risk Management Agency.....	10,868	17,132	14,648
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	4,287	6,257	9,379
FPAC Business Center .....	306	302	307
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	352	643	633
P.L. 480 .....	2,284	1,423	1,292
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	264	997	922
Rural Housing Service.....	1,901	3,064	2,737
Rural Utilities Service .....	2,207	3,539	2,695
Salaries and Expenses.....	321	282	458
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	192,226	188,602	161,306
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,146	1,197	1,342
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service.....	8,583	11,155	11,583
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	810	2,552	756
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.....	1,881	2,056	1,865
Section 32 .....	1,237	1,519	1,329
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,609	2,175	2,517
Economic Research Service .....	88	106	100
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	196	260	236
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	1,590	1,828	2,135
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	10,237	6,823	4,950
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities.....	48	58	202
Executive Operations.....	270	430	351
Office of Inspector General.....	100	138	127
Working Capital Fund .....	-218	392	50
<b>Subtotal, USDA.....</b>	<b>251,038</b>	<b>263,826</b>	<b>230,099</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-5,827	-3,228	-1,761
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>245,211</b>	<b>260,598</b>	<b>228,338</b>

Note: \* FSA and RD mandatory funding includes reestimates.

Table APP-6. FTEs

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	2,935	3,157	3,258
Risk Management Agency.....	394	410	452
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	10,310	12,184	14,286
FPAC Business Center .....	1,575	1,683	1,697
<b>Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs:</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	761	841	843
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Development.....	4,616	4,700	5,100
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	1,460	1,905	1,975
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	8,471	8,780	8,788
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	31,147	33,270	39,401
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	7,643	8,449	8,334
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	3,649	4,132	4,137
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	6,169	6,169	6,878
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	372	393	393
Economic Research Service .....	308	329	329
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	835	890	850
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries.....	136	179	173
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination..	46	35	39
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	44	51	53
Departmental Administration .....	266	342	381
Office of Communications .....	44	57	63
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.....	63	63	63
Office of Security, Safety and Protection .....	51	58	58
Hazardous Materials Management .....	4	5	5
Office of the Chief Economist.....	60	65	71
Office of Hearings and Appeals .....	74	81	82
Office of Budget and Program Analysis.....	48	58	58
Office of Chief Information Officer .....	1,495	1,658	1,666
Office of Chief Financial Officer .....	1,140	1,242	1,266
Office of the General Counsel .....	234	294	304
Office of Ethics .....	22	28	34
Office of Information Affairs .....	0	0	9
Office of Civil Rights .....	119	168	168
Office of Inspector General .....	411	430	450
<b>Subtotal, USDA Federal Staffing .....</b>	<b>84,902</b>	<b>92,106</b>	<b>101,664</b>
FSA, Non-Federal Staffing.....	7,162	7,031	7,355
<b>TOTAL, USDA STAFFING .....</b>	<b>92,064</b>	<b>99,137</b>	<b>109,019</b>

*Table APP-7. User Fee Proposals (millions of dollars)*

<b>Mission Area / Agency / Proposal</b>	<b>2024 BA</b>	<b>2024 Outlays</b>
<b>Food Safety:</b>		
<b>Food Safety and Inspection Service:</b>		
FSIS proposes a change to provide flexibility for work schedules for in plant inspection personnel. Currently the plants are billed for services provided outside of their eight approved hours of inspection only when the inspector is also in an overtime status. This prevents FSIS from employing part-time employees or providing flexible schedules to employees while still collecting fees for services provided as requested by the plant .....	-	-

*Table APP-8. Budget Related Proposals (millions of dollars)*

<b>Mission Area / Agency / Proposal</b>	<b>2024 BA</b>	<b>2024 Outlays</b>
<b>Farm Production and Conservation:</b>		
Risk Management Agency:		
This proposal would make the pandemic funded cover crop incentive program permanent. Cover cropping systems benefit the environment and improve climate resilience for agriculture by reducing soil erosion and compaction, increasing soil organic matter, and limiting nutrient runoff. Using pandemic funding, the Administration offered a \$5 per acre premium subsidy for acres planted with cover crop in 2021 and 2022, with 12 million and 10 million acres, respectively enrolled in this program pilot. ....	\$75	\$75
The Budget includes a suite of seven budget neutral legislative changes to the Farm Loan Programs that expand program access and utilization, connecting more producers with the financing they need for successful farm operations. The proposals will 1) give the Secretary maximum flexibility for applicant eligibility for emergency loans; 2) increase the microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000; 3) eliminate the number of years that a borrower can apply for Direct Operating Loan or Direct Farm Ownership loan, 4) revise beginning farmer definition to require individuals of an entity to be beginning farmers without regard to relationship, 5) reduce required farming experience for Direct Farm Ownership Loans from 3 years to 1 year, with a waiver of experience for those who have an established mentorship, 6) correct the historical linkage for Farm Ownership down payment direct loan limit to match the direct Farm Ownership loan limit, and 7) revise beginning farmer lending targets required "to the extent practicable." .....	-	-
<b>Rural Development:</b>		
Rural Housing Service:		
The ending of the existing low-income borrower penalty that requires individuals to repay subsidy costs, known as "recapture" in Section 502 SFH Direct loans is included in the RHIF language to impact loans retroactively and prospectively.....	996	996
<b>Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services:</b>		
Food and Nutrition Service:		
Expand children's access to free school meals by changing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) threshold and multiplier to make CEP a financially viable option for schools and allowing for a Statewide CEP using a statewide identified student percentage (ISP). Estimated costs over 10 years is \$15 billion .....	234	187

*Table APP-9. Covid Weekly Report as of February 20, 2023 (millions of dollars)*

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
2020	CARES	Office of the Secretary	COVID-19 CARES Act CFAP payments (4920, 4927 - CFA/CFA) .....	\$7,900	-	-
			Office of the Secretary .....	-	\$45	\$45
		Farm Service Agency	COVID-19 CARES Act CFAP payments (4920 and 4927 - CFA/CFA) .....	-	5,595	21
			CARES Act CFAP 2.0 Tobacco Payments (4921 - CFB/CFB) .....	-	113	1
			CFAP Administrative Costs (CFAP IT Administrative 2020/2021) .....	-	3	0
			Farm Service Agency: staff for farm programs, including loans and payments.....	3	3	-
			Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (8291 - PAS/OTP) .....	-	20	17
			Pandemic Assistance Block Grants (8288 - PAB/PAB) .....	-	15	0
			Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (8292 - PAS/SMH) .....	-	75	9
		Agricultural Marketing Service	Agriculture Marketing Service: Commodity Grading and Inspections.....	45	45	0
			Farmers to Families Food Box Program.....	-	485	-0
			Pandemic Volatility Assistance Program (Dairy) ...	-	349	91
			State food bank networks: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) .....	-	400	3
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: agriculture inspections at airports and ports of entry .....	55	55	-
		Food and Nutrition Service	Build Back Better: The Emergency Food Assistance Program Administrative funding .....	-	100	-
			Child Nutrition Programs: Additional Funding for School Meals (COVID-19 Waivers) .....	8,800	8,800	2
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Commodities, Equipment Upgrades, and Facility Improvements.....	100	100	5
			SNAP Block Grants: Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa) .....	200	200	2
			SNAP CARES Contingency Reserve: Increased Food Costs and Participation.....	15,510	15,510	-
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks .....	450	450	5
		Food Safety and Inspection Service	FSIS: Inspections at processing and slaughter plants.....	33	33	1
		Foreign Agricultural Service	Foreign Agricultural Service: relocate foreign service officers back to the U.S. ....	4	4	2
		Office of Inspector General	Office of Inspector General: audits and investigations .....	1	1	0
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	Biofuels (CARES Grants for Financial Relief to Food and Agricultural Workers) .....	-	700	17
			CARES Act: Biofuels Administrative Costs .....	-	0	0
			Rural Business-Cooperative Service: guarantee up to \$848 million in business and industry loans.....	21	21	1
		Rural Utilities Service	Rural Utilities Service: Telemedicine and distance learning grants.....	25	25	1
			RUS: ReConnect broadband grants .....	100	100	8

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance	
2021	FFCRA	Food and Nutrition Service	SNAP Block Grants: Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa) .....	100	100	0	
			SNAP: PEBT.....	-	12,800	1,855	
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks .....	400	400	4	
	ARPA	Office of the Secretary	WIC Benefits.....	500	500	0	
			OSEC: Food Supply Chain and Pandemic Response .....	2,600	843	843	
			OSEC: Pandemic Program Administrative Fund....	43	43	27	
		Farm Service Agency	OSEC: Assistance and support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Land Owners and Operators, and Groups.....	81	81	0	
			FSA: Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers .....	-	5,050	5,049	
			FSA: Urban and Innovative Agriculture Community-Based Organization Fund.....	-	40	40	
			Agricultural Marketing Service	AMS: Dairy Business Innovation Program .....	-	80	4
				AMS: Infant Formula Procurement - FEMA's Disaster Preparedness.....	-	1	0
				AMS: LFPP and RFSP Grant funds for Farm to Institution .....	-	130	98
				AMS: Local, Regional and SDA Procurement for Cooperative Agreements (Food Bank) .....	-	400	23
				AMS: Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance .....	-	25	16
			Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	APHIS: Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance.....	300	300	246
				Food and Nutrition Service	CAP: Commodity Supplemental Assistance Program.....	37	37
		FNS: The Emergency Food Assistance Program....			-	100	61
		FNS: American Samoa.....			-	10	-
		FNS: Farm to School State Formula Grants .....			-	60	2
		FNS: National School Lunch Equipment Grant .....			-	50	1
		FNS: Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program....			-	50	45
		FNS: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Healthy Incentives Project (eHIP) .....			-	25	25
		SNAP Block Grants: Additional Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa) .....			1,000	1,000	34
		SNAP: Additional Assistance for Online Purchasing and Technology Improvements.....			25	25	19
		SNAP: Administrative Expenses.....			-	7	7
		SNAP: Administrative Funding - Grants to Each State Agency .....		1,135	1,135	114	
		WIC: Cash Value Vouchers .....	490	490	217		
		WIC: Innovation Funds.....	390	390	306		
		Food Safety and Inspection Service	Foreign Agricultural Service	FSIS: Overtime Fees for inspection activities.....	100	100	62
				FAS: Food for Peace Title II Grants.....	800	800	274
	National Institute of Food and Agriculture		NIFA: Agricultural Workforce Training - Meat and Poultry Processing Workforce Training.....	-	21	20	

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
			NIFA: GusNIP Produce Prescription FY22 Grants	-	27	6
			NIFA: GusNIP Produce Prescription Project Enhancements .....	-	6	-
			NIFA: GusNIP Produce Prescription Project FY 2021 Meritorious Grants .....	-	8	-
			NIFA: Meat and Poultry Processing Workforce Development Centers for Excellence .....	-	15	4
			NIFA: SARE FY 2022 Grants.....	-	3	-
			NIFA: ARME FY 2022 Grants .....	-	3	-
			NIFA: Center of Excellence for Meat and Poultry Processing and Food Safety Research and Innovation .....	-	5	0
			NIFA: Center of Excellence for Meat and Poultry Processing and Food Safety Research and Innovation Phase III .....	-	15	15
			NIFA: Community Foods Projects Competitive Grant Program FY2022 Meritorious Grants .....	-	10	-
			NIFA: Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction .....	-	25	25
		Natural Resources Conservation Services	NRCS: Composting and Food Waste Reduction - Plus up FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 .....	-	30	30
			NRCS: Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production - FY 2022 .....	-	10	7
			NRCS: Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production .....	-	20	1
			NRCS: Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) .....	-	70	70
			NRCS: People's Garden Initiative .....	-	5	4
		Office of Chief Financial Officer	OCFO: Operation Fly Formula.....	-	42	-
		Office of Inspector General	OIG: Oversight of COVID-19 Related Programs....	3	3	-
		Office of the Chief Economist	OCE: Food Loss and Waste - National Strategy.....	-	2	2
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	RBCS: Food Processing Supply Chain Loan Guarantees.....	-	102	77
			RBCS: Meat & Poultry Processing Expansion Program.....	-	1	0
			RBCS: - Meat and Processing Expansion Program grant funds and administrative expenses .....	-	59	59
			RBCS: Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (HFFI)	-	155	-
			RBCS: Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program: Administrative Expenses .....	-	150	63
			RBCS: Pandemic Program Administration - Administrative.....	-	0	-
			RBS: Administrative expenses- Multiple RBCS Programs .....	-	2	1
		Rural Housing Service	RHS: Community Facility Grant Emergency Pilot Program.....	500	500	75
			RHS: Section 502 Direct and Section 504 Direct Program.....	39	39	28
			RHS: Section 521 Rental Assistance Program .....	100	100	-
		Office of the Secretary	OSEC: Dairy Margin Coverage Supplemental Program.....	-	412	365
		Agricultural Marketing Service	AMS: LAMP.....	62	62	1
			AMS: Dairy Donation Program.....	400	400	393
	CAA					

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
			AMS: Meat and Poultry Facilities to Allow for Interstate Shipment Grants .....	60	60	2
			AMS: Specialty Crop Block Grant.....	100	100	0
		Agricultural Research Service	ARS: Salaries and Expenses.....	20	20	1
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	APHIS: To offset losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic on quarantine and inspection fees .....	635	635	-
		Economic Research Service	ERS: Meat and Poultry Study and Report .....	2	2	2
		Food and Nutrition Service	Commodity Assistance Program: Commodity Supplemental Food Program .....	13	13	1
			FNS: Child Nutrition Programs: CACFP: Local PEBT Administrative Expenses .....	-	1,800	395
			SNAP Online Purchasing and Technology Improvements.....	5	5	2
			SNAP Waiver Authority (includes CR Funding) ....	3,600	3,600	18
			SNAP: Increased Benefits .....	-	11,452	-
			SNAP: Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and American Samoa .....	614	614	12
			SNAP: PEBT.....	-	44,000	12,800
			SNAP: State Administrative Expenses .....	100	100	14
			SNAP: PEBT Grants to States.....	-	1,100	707
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks .....	400	400	6
		National Institute of Food and Agriculture	NIFA: Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.....	38	38	-
			NIFA: Support for Farm Stress Programs .....	28	28	-
			NIFA: The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.....	75	75	-
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	RBS: Rural Cooperative Development Grants LAMP .....	38	38	3
	CAA Sec. 751	Office of the Secretary	Office of the Secretary: assistance for specialty crops producers, local market systems, livestock/dairy.....	10,438	-	-
			OSEC .....	-	180	134
		Farm Service Agency	Acre Based Top Up (4924 - CF3/TUP) .....	-	4,920	-0
			Contract Growers (4922 - CFC/CFC) .....	-	283	3
			Disaster Set Aside - Loan Repayment .....	-	70	70
			Livestock Top Up (4923 - CF3/LTU) .....	-	1,197	3
			Pandemic Assistance for Timber Haulers and Harvesters (8286 - PAS/THH) .....	-	195	-
			Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (8290 - PAS/PAR) .....	-	223	223
			Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (8287 - PAS/PLI) .....	-	49	2
		Agricultural Marketing Service	Farm and Food Worker Relief (FFWR) Grant Program.....	-	20	1
			Farmers to Families Food Box Program.....	-	1,449	29
			Farmworker and Meatpacking Worker Grant Program.....	-	700	40
			Pandemic Cover Crop Program "Flat Rate Crops" ..	-	116	6
			Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program.....	-	200	28
			Regional Food Business Center.....	-	400	399

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
			Tribal Seafood.....	-	1	0
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Animal Disease Prevention and Response.....	-	20	7
			Upland Cotton Program.....	-	80	-0
		Food and Nutrition Service	CNP Healthy Meals Incentive.....	-	100	53
		Natural Resources Conservation Services	Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) – Regional Organic Coordinators.....	-	5	5
		Risk Management Service	CAA Administrative Expenses.....	-	5	4
		Risk Management Agency	Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance (TOGA).....	-	25	23
		Rural Development Office of Partnership and	Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program Phase 1.....	-	200	115
	CAA Sec. 754	Public Engagement	OPPE: Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.....	38	38	24
2022	ARPA	Food and Nutrition Service	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Benefits).....	-	25,000	3,082
			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Grants to States).....	-	700	245
	CAA	Agricultural Research Service	ARS: Salaries and Expenses.....	20	20	1
2023	ARPA	Food and Nutrition Service	FNS: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Benefits).....	-	20,000	16,151
			FNS: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Grants to States).....	-	500	298
	CAA	Food and Nutrition Service	FNS: SNAP Waiver Authority.....	-	3,000	2,100
USDA, Total				58,574	184,395	47,856

\* Such sums are not reflected the Amount Enacted Column.

*Table APP-10. Climate Change Related Funding Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$2,274	\$2,458	\$2,247
Risk Management Agency.....	-	2	2
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	6,277	3,028	3,258
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	48	70	4
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	169	60	90
Rural Housing Service.....	132	145	299
Rural Utilities Service .....	665	613	937
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	3,361	3,625	4,634
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2	3	9
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	113	200	396
Economic Research Service .....	5	7	13
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	3	3	8
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	73	75	142
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	2	0	2
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities.....	-	-	25
Executive Operations (Office of the Chief Economist).....	3	3	10
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>13,126</b>	<b>10,291</b>	<b>12,077</b>

*Table APP-11. Minority Serving Programs Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$0	\$1	\$2
Risk Management Agency.....	1	1	1
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	48	47	49
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	22	22	25
Rural Housing Service.....	10	13	16
Rural Utilities Service .....	139	140	169
Salaries and Expenses.....	0	0	0
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	5,842	6,209	6,457
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	9	10	15
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	6	17	17
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	26	a/	a/
Economic Research Service .....	2	-	-
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	282	307	372
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary (Office of Tribal Relations).....	2	-	-
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>6,767</b>	<b>7,123</b>

<sup>a/</sup> ARS does not have dedicated funding for this purpose. ARS contributes funding from within discretionary funds, which varies yearly based on universities which support ARS' mission. Funding is only reported for the prior year.

*Table APP-12. Supply Chain Funding Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	\$5	\$3	\$5
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	1,494	77	78
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	67	78	79
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	0	1	3
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	72	76	81
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>245</b>

*Table APP-13. Urban Agriculture Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

<b>Mission Area / Agency</b>	<b>2022 Enacted</b>	<b>2023 Enacted</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$2	\$2	\$4
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	9	9	14
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	16	17	17
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	28	25	27
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	0	0	0
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	171	44	42
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	11	12	12
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>157</b>

*Table APP-14. Nutrition Security Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	\$164,017	\$143,122	\$148,697
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	-	-	16
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	189	197	227
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>164,206</b>	<b>143,319</b>	<b>148,940</b>

*Table APP-15. Native American Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2022 Enacted	2023 Enacted	2024 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	\$212	\$218	\$230
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	5	1	1
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	0	0	1
Rural Housing Service.....	1	5	11
Rural Utilities Service .....	151	173	206
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	3,203	3,255	3,351
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	95	52	73
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	37	42	64
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary (Office of Tribal Relations).....	2	5	7
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>3,707</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>3,942</b>



**United States Department of Agriculture**