



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

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill provides a non-defense discretionary total of \$25.313 billion for programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee, \$532 million (2.1%) below the FY23 enacted level and \$3.622 billion (12.5%) below the FY24 President's Budget Request. The Subcommittee's allocation is \$17.163 billion, and the House bill includes another \$8.150 billion that is offset by clawing back the Democrats' wasteful spending over the last two years and ending pandemic-era programs. The bill prioritizes agencies and programs that protect our nation's food and drug supply; support America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; and ensure low-income Americans have access to nutrition programs.

### **TOP LINE MESSAGING**

- Supports our rural communities and strengthens our national security and food supply by:
  - Continuing critical investments in agriculture research, rural broadband, and animal and plant health programs;
  - Providing sufficient funds to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and medical devices;
  - Ensuring that low-income Americans have access to nutrition programs;
  - Reining in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals;
  - Preventing the purchase of agricultural land by companies owned by foreign adversaries; and
  - Providing a \$39 million increase for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to fully fund frontline meat and poultry inspectors.
- Reins in wasteful Washington spending and bureaucracy by:
  - Redirecting billions in the partisan bills that contained Democrats' priorities (American Rescue Plan and Inflation Reduction Act) to help America's producers and rural communities;
  - Including a \$32 billion decrease in mandatory SNAP spending from FY23 levels due to the end of increased pandemic-era benefits and a decrease in participation rates;
  - Restricting the USDA Secretary's discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, non-emergency programs; and
  - Directing USDA to focus hiring efforts in state and county offices to assist producers and rural communities, rather than continuing to bloat the DC bureaucracy.
- Protects the lives of unborn children by:
  - Including a provision that ends mail-order chemical abortion drugs.



## **BILL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Cuts to Wasteful Spending**

- Returns WIC benefits provided during COVID to a normal level, with the end of the public health emergency. Benefits will be maintained above pre-pandemic levels to account for food price inflation caused by the Biden economy.
- Rejects new full-time equivalents (FTE) at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The President's Budget requested \$296 million for pay and funding for 4,700 new FTEs.
- Saves \$1 billion by restricting the discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Prohibits the implementation, administration, or enforcement of the Biden Administration's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and prohibits funds for the USDA's new DEI Office.
- Prohibits the use of funds to promote or advance critical race theory.
- Prohibits funds for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
- Eliminates funding for climate hubs and climate change research.
- Eliminates funding for conservation equity agreements.

### **Claw-backs of Prior Appropriations**

- Rescinds \$3.250 billion for a rural clean energy program created in the Inflation Reduction Act for wasteful 'green' climate initiatives.
- Rescinds \$500 million for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Rescinds \$500 million for COVID funds provided in the American Rescue Plan that are no longer necessary and remain unobligated.
- Rescinds \$2 billion for loan forgiveness for borrowers of FSA loans provided in the Inflation Reduction Act.

### **Conservative Priorities**

- Directs the Secretary to take action to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by companies owned by China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran.
- Includes a funding increase and direction for USDA to improve the tracking system for foreign land ownership under the Agriculture Foreign Investment Disclosure Act.
- Retains a prohibition on funding for government IT systems that do not block pornography, a provision the Biden Administration proposed to eliminate.
- Retains the gene editing provision, which prohibits the "editing" of heritable genes or altering of genes that can be passed on to offspring.
- Includes a provision ending mail-order chemical abortion.
- Includes a SNAP provision raising the age for able-bodied adults without dependents to 55, so that those who can work will join the workforce.

## DETAILED FUNDING SUMMARY

### Department of Agriculture

Provides \$17.163 billion, which is \$8.682 billion below FY23 and \$11.732 billion below the request. The bill also provides \$8.150 billion in funding repurposed from unobligated balances from pandemic-era programs.

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

HOUSE

# APPROPRIATIONS

REPUBLICANS

- \$184.7 million for the Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), a decrease of \$53 million.
  - Decreases Packers & Stockyards Division by \$5 million to eliminate new FTEs included in the FY23 Budget Request to enact marketing rules.
- \$1.215 billion for the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
  - Provides level funding for FSA salaries and expenses and increases funds to improve the tracking system of foreign land ownership.
- \$10.686 billion for the FSA Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund (ACIF).
  - Provides \$10.685 billion in total Program Loan Authorizations, an increase of \$33.3 million above FY23. This includes an increase of \$33 million for Emergency Loans to meet higher anticipated loan demand due to higher interest rates.
- \$63.637 million for the Risk Management Agency (RMA), a decrease of \$3.2 million, including defunding climate and racial equity initiatives.
- \$2.2 billion for the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), including level funding for FAS Salaries and Expenses, a reduction of \$10 million for Food for Peace, and a reduction of \$3.3 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants.

### **Food and Drug Administration**

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

### **Commodity Futures Trading Commission**

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

### **Community Project Funding**

Includes \$483 million in Community Project Funding for 395 projects requested by 165 Members.