

REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE pdf

1: APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

Request for emergency appropriations for the Department of Agriculture: communication from the President of the United States transmitting a request for emergency appropriations of \$6,, for the Department of Agriculture from the sale of grain in the disaster reserve established in the Agricultural Act of , pursuant U.S.C.

Appropriations Committee Releases the Fiscal Year Agriculture Appropriations Bill Legislation supports federal programs for rural communities, farmers, and ranchers, maintains food and drug safety, provides food security for those in need Washington, April 12, The House Appropriations Committee today released the fiscal year Agriculture Appropriations bill, which will be considered in subcommittee tomorrow. The proposed legislation funds important agricultural and food programs and services, including food and medical product safety, animal and plant health programs, rural development and farm services, marketplace oversight, and nutrition programs. The legislation prioritizes programs to provide the most benefit to the American people and the U. In addition, the bill contains several policy provisions to rein in unnecessary and burdensome regulations that harm U. Our farmers, ranchers, and food and drug producers are the backbone of a healthy nation. The legislation focuses investments in programs that bolster U. This funding will support research to help mitigate and stop devastating crop diseases, improve food safety and water quality, increase production, and combat antimicrobial resistance. This funding also includes important research investments in U. This funding will support programs to help control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that can be crippling to U. The increase will help address harmful outbreaks of citrus greening and highly pathogenic avian influenza, as well as funds to support the Zoonotic Disease Management Program for antimicrobial resistance activities. This funding will continue support for various farm, conservation, and emergency loan programs, and will help American farmers and ranchers with the implementation of the farm bill. These programs help create an environment for economic growth by supporting basic rural infrastructure, providing loans to increase opportunities for rural businesses and industries, and helping balance the playing field in local rural housing markets. This funding will help small businesses in rural areas, many of which face unique challenges due to local economic conditions. Rural Infrastructure â€” The legislation includes responsible investments in infrastructure to help rural areas of the country access basic utilities. These loans provide low-income rural families â€” many of whom would have few loan options for purchasing a home because of their geographical location â€” with home loan assistance. The funding provided will maintain more than 8, frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at approximately 6, facilities across the country. The bill also includes a policy provision delaying the implementation of a new menu labeling regulation by a year to give restaurants, local supermarkets, grocery stores, and similar retail establishments adequate time to comply with the law. The agreement includes language allowing the CFTC to sublease its excess space to achieve savings identified by the Government Accountability Office and Inspector General. These programs seek to reduce chronic hunger and increase food security by providing American-grown food, transported by U. The bill also includes language ensuring the U. Food and Nutrition Programs â€” The legislation contains discretionary funding, as well as mandatory funding required by law, for food and nutrition programs within the Department of Agriculture. Because of robust prior-year funding and declining enrollments in the program, WIC has record levels of carryover balances left over from previous years. This funding will provide free or reduced-price school lunches and snacks for 32 million children who qualify for the program. In addition, the bill continues funding for a pilot program that provides additional funds through SNAP or WIC electronic benefit transfer EBT cards to ensure children in underserved communities receive food during the summer months. The bill continues existing provisions that allow schools demonstrating a financial hardship to seek an exemption from the whole grain nutrition standards, and prevents the implementation of further sodium reduction standards until the latest scientific research establishes the reduction is beneficial for children. In addition, the bill includes a provision preventing fraudulent SNAP

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participation in multiple states by requiring households to report when they move out of the state in which they are certified to receive SNAP benefits. Provisions are also included to increase congressional oversight of administrative activities and expenses, such as nutrition research and evaluations. This will maintain level funding for the program.

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2: Appropriations for FY U.S. Department of Agriculture and Related Agencies - www.enganchecubano.com

The Resource A request for FY emergency appropriations for the Department of Agriculture: communication from the President of the United States transmitting a request to make available \$ billion in previously appropriated FY emergency funds for the Department of Agriculture.

Late last month, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue formally notified Congress that the United States Forest Service will not have sufficient wildland fire suppression funds for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Without an emergency supplemental appropriation, the Forest Service will be forced to make damaging transfers from its wildfire treatment and protection activities, limiting its ability to conduct preparedness activities that reduce the severity of wildfires. In addition, Congresswoman McCollum urged full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, both for its immediate response to Hurricane Harvey and for its everyday work. Among the many federal activities responding to Hurricane Harvey, the Environmental Protection Agency will be one of the primary federal agencies protecting human health, monitoring air and water, and managing recovery and cleanup. Congress must meet its responsibilities to adequately fund the EPA. A PDF copy is available [here](#). I write to respectfully request that you swiftly advance an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that includes both the initial response to Hurricane Harvey and funding for wildland fire suppression across the United States. While Texas has suffered from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, the American West has battled severe wildfires. In this crisis situation, an emergency supplemental appropriation is both appropriate and warranted. Such an appropriation is the only way to provide the necessary expenses for both wildfire suppression and rehabilitation activities. Without such an emergency supplemental appropriation, the USFS will be forced to make damaging transfers from its wildfire treatment and protection activities. For the citizens of California and other Western states, the severity of these wildland fires has been profound. The devastation caused by both disasters will be enormous and the demands on the federal recovery and rebuilding efforts will be great. As we address the impacts of the wildfires and the Hurricane Harvey, we cannot ignore the critical role that strong environmental protection laws and agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency EPA, play in keeping Americans safe in the aftermath of natural disasters and from everyday environmental burdens. Hurricane Harvey will leave a legacy of significant environmental damage. Flood waters may contain high levels of raw sewage and harmful substances, such as hazardous waste, toxic chemicals, and petroleum. Once the floodwaters recede, soil sediment may be polluted. The EPA will be one of the primary federal agencies protecting human health, monitoring air and water, and managing recovery and cleanup. It is because of this significant responsibility that we must acknowledge the deep cuts the EPA has already endured over the past seven years. Today, the Agency has 2, fewer staff than it did seven years ago. There are consequences to such cuts and the impact will be felt by the millions of Americans affected by Hurricane Harvey. Congress must take immediate action to provide disaster relief and to secure clean air and clean water for Texans. At the same time, we must meet our responsibilities to adequately fund the EPA, so that it has the capacity to carry out its mission and protect the American people. Thank you for your consideration of this request. From my conversations with constituents in Minnesota this week, I understand as you do that the American people are demanding strong and expeditious action to address the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters. I look forward to working with you, in a bipartisan fashion, to meet the urgent needs of Americans hit by Hurricane Harvey and victimized by the wildfires across the West.

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3: FY19 Appropriations Request Form | Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler

This appropriations bill supports U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agriculture, rural development, conservation programs, and food and drug safety. It also provides essential nutrition assistance for children, families, and seniors, and creates incentives for military veterans to enter careers in agriculture.

The Administration appreciates the manner in which the Congress has worked to consider the FY appropriations bills. A number of the agencies and programs funded within this bill may have modified requirements as a consequence of the terrorist attacks of September 11. The Administration is continuing to review these new requirements and will continue to work with the Congress to ensure the highest priority needs are funded through the FY Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States. We would like to take this opportunity to share some specific concerns with the Committee-passed version of the bill, as noted below.

Last year, Congress provided this level of funding as a one-time program to help affected farmers reduce debt. The Administration believes that it is unnecessary to increase funding for these programs and urges the Senate to restore needed funding to the Food Stamp and pest eradication programs. A reserve of this size is an important and prudent way to plan for unanticipated program needs and ensures that food stamps are available under all circumstances for those who need them.

Unrequested Projects in Agricultural Research and Education Programs The Administration has serious concerns with the level of funding provided by the Senate for specific agricultural research and education activities. The Administration believes that peer-reviewed competitive grant programs offer the best opportunity to perform high-quality research targeted at national needs. We urge the Senate to reduce funding for unrequested research projects.

Plant Pest and Diseases The FY Budget proposed that ongoing projects to combat plant pest and disease infestations be funded through the normal discretionary appropriations process. The Committee chose not to accept this approach and instead recommended that the majority of the funding be provided through transfer from the Commodity Credit Corporation CCC. Authority to transfer funding from CCC is intended for use in emergency situations. Using this emergency authority for eradication efforts, which can be predicted, planned for, and will continue for several years, is inconsistent with the clear intent of the provision authorizing these transfers. Therefore, using emergency funding for anything other than truly unforeseen crises can be viewed as backdoor financing that avoids the discipline of the discretionary budget caps.

Dam Rehabilitation The Administration opposes the Committee action that provides funds and creates a new program for the rehabilitation of aging locally-owned dams constructed with USDA assistance. Requiring USDA to finance rehabilitation work on these dams would set a costly and objectionable government-wide precedent. These dams are a local responsibility, and the Federal Government should not rehabilitate these or other locally-owned dams built with assistance from Federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Prescription Drug Reimportation; Cuba Sanctions; and, the Federal Communications Commission FCC We understand that an amendment regarding the importation of prescription drugs may be offered during Senate floor debate. There are a variety of legal and safety issues surrounding such proposals. The Administration would oppose any amendments to this appropriations bill that could result in unsafe, unapproved, or counterfeit drugs being imported into the United States. The Administration is concerned about the cost of prescription drugs and is working to address that issue. Provisions such as the one included by the House during floor debate are not the appropriate solution to the drug affordability problem, and could have a negative effect on drug safety. The Administration is aware of several amendments that could be offered on the Senate floor that would weaken existing sanctions against the Cuban government. The Administration believes it is important to uphold and enforce the law to the fullest extent with a view toward preventing unlicensed and excessive travel, enforcing limits on remittances, and ensuring that humanitarian and cultural exchanges actually reach pro-democracy activists in Cuba. Therefore, the Administration would strongly oppose any amendment that weakens sanctions against the Castro regime.

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Such a provision would interfere with the efficient allocation of Federal spectrum licenses, provide a windfall to certain users, and reduce Federal revenues. The Administration also objects to a number of provisions in the Senate Committee-passed bill that would require Committee approval before Executive Branch execution. The Administration will interpret these provisions to require only notification of Congress, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. We*. We also note that the word "minority," under the heading, "Rural Cooperative Development Grants," should be deleted. The equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment requires that such provisions be narrowly tailored to further a compelling Government interest.

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4: Supplemental Appropriations and the Hurricane Season - www.enganchecubano.com

The House Appropriations Committee today released the fiscal year Agriculture Appropriations bill, which will be considered in subcommittee tomorrow. The proposed legislation funds important agricultural and food programs and services, including food and medical product safety, animal and plant.

Subsequently, the Senate passed H. The full House approved its version of the FY agriculture appropriations bill H. More than other amendments were offered which would have reduced funding below the level in H. A separate Coburn amendment also was agreed to by a vote which prevents FDA from using any FY funds for the approval of RU, or any other drug to induce abortion. The full committee then marked up and reported the bill S. Floor debate on S. The Senate-passed bill also included an amendment that would have exempted agricultural and medical products from current unilateral sanctions and required congressional approval for future sanction on these products. A proposed amendment to require certain changes in federal milk pricing policy supported by Eastern and Southern dairy farmers was withdrawn because of a filibuster threat by Upper Midwest senators opposed to the amendment. After contentious debate over whether to include dairy provisions, an exemption of exports on agricultural products from trade sanctions, and additional emergency assistance for farmers, a conference agreement to H. It did not contain an exemption of agricultural products from trade sanctions or any mandated changes in dairy pricing policy. The House passed the conference report on H. The Senate passed the measure by a vote of on October Senate consideration was delayed by a threatened filibuster by Eastern senators who were concerned that the agreement did not include adequate funding for natural disaster assistance or an extension of authority for the Northeast dairy compact. A motion to invoke cloture was adopted on October 12 by a vote of The President signed H. Subsequent to enactment of P. Within this FY consolidated appropriations act P. The Senate approved the measure on November 19, following a cloture vote that ended a filibuster by Upper Midwest senators who strongly opposed the dairy provisions. The President signed the measure into law on November 29, The following is a review of the major provisions of P. Also included in the discussion are the agricultural provisions in the consolidated appropriations act for FY P. Emergency Farm Financial Assistance Much of the debate in the House and Senate appropriations committees focused on whether the FY agriculture appropriations bill adequately responds to the financial needs of the farm sector given the current state of the farm economy low commodity prices and farm income for major commodities. Emergency Provisions in P. Included in the emergency provisions of P. For more details on the emergency provisions in P. Although this additional emergency assistance is being provided in response to agricultural damage caused by Hurricane Floyd in the Southeast, most of the assistance is not limited to hurricane victims, but is available to any eligible farmer or rural area. This waiver applies to any county that has been declared a disaster area by the President or the Secretary of Agriculture. The subsequent consolidated appropriations act for FY P. Among these provisions, supported by Eastern and Southern dairy farm groups and opposed by dairy processors and Upper Midwest dairy farmers, is the extension of authority for the Northeast dairy compact for 2 years through September 30, and a requirement that USDA adopt an alternative milk pricing policy that would maintain minimum fluid farm milk prices close to current levels option 1A. The farm law P. USDA recently issued a final rule for amending milk marketing order pricing policy which, if implemented, would reduce minimum farm prices for fluid milk in many regions of the country, particularly in the East and the South. However, a temporary restraining order issued by a judge in Vermont indefinitely postponed implementation of the final rule, and in effect extended the life of the Northeast compact as well. Wisconsin and Minnesota Senators strongly opposed the dairy provisions in the consolidated budget agreement. A cloture motion to cut off a filibuster by these members was adopted on November 19, , and was followed by Senate approval of the measure, which the President signed into law on November The CCC is a revolving financing mechanism within USDA, through which it supports more than a dozen specified commodities, including grains, cotton, milk, sugar, peanuts, and tobacco.

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The formulas that determine payments under these programs are determined by statutes, with benefits provided to any qualifying producer. Therefore, the CCC does not require an annual appropriation, per se, to fund its financing activities. This reimbursement is categorized as a mandatory expense and is not included toward the discretionary spending allocation given to the appropriations subcommittees. As a general rule, the annual appropriation request for CCC is not a reflection of how much CCC spending will be in the appropriation year, but rather how much CCC losses were in the most recently completed fiscal year. It offers basically free catastrophic insurance to producers who grow an insurable crop. Producers who opt for this coverage have the opportunity to purchase additional insurance coverage at a subsidized rate. Most policies are sold and completely serviced through approved private insurance companies that have their program losses reinsured by USDA. There are basically four sources of federal expenditures for the crop insurance program -- USDA absorbs a large percentage of the program losses, compensates the reinsured companies for a portion of their delivery expenses, subsidizes the premium paid by participating producers, and pays the salaries and expenses of its administering agency within USDA. The salaries and expenses of the RMA are a discretionary expense, and are dependent on annual appropriations. Separate from the regular annual appropriations made to the crop insurance program, the emergency provisions in H. Despite major legislative reforms to the program in , farmer dissatisfaction with the program, especially among those who have incurred multiple years of disasters, has grown in recent years. Several bills for enhancing the crop insurance program have been introduced. The House passed a comprehensive measure H. Senate action is pending. Reform Issues in the th Congress. USDA provides direct farm loans and also guarantees qualified loans from commercial lenders, which are used to finance the purchase of farm real estate, help producers meet their operating expenses, and financially recover from natural disasters. Some of the loans are made at a subsidized interest rate. Under budget rules adopted in , federal agencies are required to estimate the cost of making a direct or guaranteed loan and record that cost as a budget outlay for the loan. The cost of making a loan is directly related to any interest rate subsidy provided by the government, as well as a projection of anticipated loan losses caused by farmer non-repayment of the loans. The conference agreement on the FY agriculture appropriations bill P. For all farm loan programs, P. The supplementals were provided to remedy the backlog of applications for loans, which occurred because of a shortage of funds and strong demand for subsidized credit caused by the weak farm economy. A portion of the NRCS funds are provided through annual appropriations. The FY agriculture appropriations act P. Reports accompanying both bills included numerous funding recommendations. As recommended by both the House and Senate bills, P. The Senate bill called for a detailed analysis of aging flood control structures, with recommendations for Congress. Regarding several smaller programs, P. The Administration requested in FY In April, NRCS temporarily halted technical assistance in support of new enrollments into the CRP, while it reviewed its funding and staffing situation. The emergency supplemental appropriations act for FY P. This topic was not, therefore, addressed in the FY appropriations act. CRP, which is funded through the CCC, offers multi-year rental agreements to producers who retire highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive lands from production. Neither the House nor Senate versions of the FY Interior bill provide any funding for this initiative. Agriculture programs that would receive increased funding include the Forest Legacy Program to acquire easements on private lands , the Urban and Community Forestry Program to provides grants to states and localities for urban and community forests and related green spaces , a new smart growth partnership loan program a revolving loan program to subsidize land acquisition and management , Forest Service land acquisitions, and a portion of the funding for the FPP, mentioned above. Direct appropriations are required for some or some portion of these programs, while others are carried out with funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation, appropriations for which are handled separately. For the international programs requiring direct appropriations, the FY agriculture appropriations act P. Although the Act provides the same amount as the the Senate-passed bill, it is not identical to the Senate bill. The larger FY program levels derive from the augmentation of P. The usual source of foreign food aid is P. Food aid is provided through three program authorities. Title I provides for sales of U.

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Title II provides for commodity donations for feeding programs or in response to extraordinary relief requirements. Title III provides for bilateral grants of food aid to be used for development activities in least-developed countries. Agency for International Development. As originally passed by the House, H. Despite this cut the Senate Appropriations Committee expects that the budget authority recommended, together with carryovers, will enable USDA to maintain P. These funds are designated for humanitarian food relief for Kosovar refugees. The two most important export credit guarantee programs, which guarantee payment for commercial financing of U. The House committee report calls upon FAS to "allocate all resources necessary to advance the interests of American farmers, ranchers and consumers in the next round of trade negotiations under the framework of the World Trade Organization negotiations International programs for which separate budget authority is not required in appropriations legislation but which also are administered by FAS include: Funding for these programs is from the CCC. In the past, limits on program levels for CCC-funded programs have been included in general provisions of appropriations legislation. Conferees deleted a Senate provision that would have prohibited any MAP spending on the export of wine or any other alcoholic beverages. The "savings" would be used to offset increased mandatory spending for other, unspecified agricultural programs. Moreover, USDA has indicated its reluctance to use EEP in the current economic environment for fear that using it might further depress export prices, especially if used for wheat and feed grains. The Market Access Program. MAP uses CCC funds to help finance overseas marketing activities of various groups, including private companies that qualify as small businesses under the Small Business Act. MAP has been a frequent but unsuccessful target of budget cutters in search of funds to offset increased spending for other programs. A Chabot amendment that would have prohibited any MAP funding in FY was defeated on the House floor during debate on the earlier House-passed bill by a vote of A Thurmond floor amendment to the Senate-passed bill prohibited the use of MAP funds for the exporting of all alcoholic beverages, including wine, but was deleted by conferees. FMDP supports market development for generic commodities by nonprofit commodity and agricultural trade associations. The Senate had included an Ashcroft-sponsored floor amendment in its bill to exempt commercial sales of agricultural and medical products from current unilateral sanctions, and require congressional approval for future sanctions announced by the President on these products. Because this provision effectively would have allowed sales to occur to the Cuban government, thus partially breaking the long-standing U.

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