



FY 2024 House and Senate Mark Agriculture Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

	FY2023	FY2024 PBR	FY24 PBR – FY23 Enacted % Change	FY2024 APLU Request*	FY2024 House Action	FY2024 Senate Action
AGRICULTURE						
NIFA, <i>Hatch Act</i> (State Agricultural	265	265	0%	300	265	265
NIFA, <i>Smith-Lever Section 3(b) and (c)</i>	325	325	0%	420	325	325
NIFA, <i>Smith-Lever Section 3(d)</i>	91.25	114.10	25%	95	87.7	91.25
NIFA, <i>Evans-Allen Program</i> (1890s Research	89	98	10.1%	108	89	89
NIFA, <i>1890 Institutions Extension Services</i>	72	76	5.6%	88	72	72
NIFA, <i>McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry</i>	38	38	0%	46	38	38
NIFA, <i>Research Grants for 1994 Institutions</i>	5	5	0%	17.5	5	5
NIFA, <i>Extension Services at 1994 Institutions</i>	11	21	90.9%	17.5	11	11
NIFA, <i>Payments Funding for 1994 Institutions</i>	7	15	114.3%	17.5	7	7
NIFA, <i>Agriculture and Food Research</i>	455	550	21%	500	460	455
NIFA, <i>International Agriculture Programs,</i>	-	-	-	10	-	-
NIFA, <i>International Agriculture Programs,</i>	-	-	-	5	-	-
NIFA, <i>Women and Minorities in STEM</i>	2	2.3	15.3%	10	2	2
NIFA, <i>Research Facilities Act</i>	2	10	400%	500	-	-

House Action

[Bill Text](#) | [Committee Report](#)

On June 14, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY24 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill with a party-line vote of 34-27. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would receive \$1.7 billion, a decrease of \$9.5 million or 0.6 percent below the FY23 enacted level. Most of NIFA’s programs would be flat-funded; however, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would receive \$460 million, a \$5 million increase over FY23. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program would be reduced by \$5 million. Notably, the Committee does not provide FY24 funding for the Research Facilities Act.

The bill stipulates that the matching requirement for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative may be waived by the Secretary of Agriculture and funding for Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture would be restored after it was proposed for elimination in the FY24 budget request.

Provisions of Note

Within the report accompanying the bill, there are several items of interest, including:

- Committee directs USDA to strengthen partnerships and cooperation between 1862, 1890, and 1994 institutions, if regionally appropriate, to help close gaps in extension and leverage collaborative efforts.
- Provisions pertaining to support for the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative, vector research, supply chain research, and food safety research.
- The report also encourages greater research collaborations between USDA and other federal agencies, stating that “the Committee supports the collaboration between USDA and the National Science Foundation to pursue advances in precision agriculture and food system security. The ability to meet the critical needs of the future agricultural workforce and provide tools for agriculture and food security are within the mission of the agency in providing opportunity through innovation. The Committee encourages NIFA to continue supporting the work of the Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes funded through USDA.

Beyond NIFA, the Committee would provide \$1 million for the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA) under the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). The Committee also encourages REE to develop a regenerative soil strategic plan and to build upon food prescription programs. Important to research and extension activities, the bill would also provide \$269 million for the ReConnect Broadband Pilot authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, almost \$100 million below the FY23 enacted level. The House did not include any funding for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant program, which received \$2 million in FY23.

The bill prohibits funds being made available to support, directly or indirectly, the Wuhan Institute of Virology or any laboratory owned or controlled by China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia or Venezuela.

The bill includes a number of controversial prohibitions on use of funding setting up conflict with Democrats:

Section 757: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

Section 764: None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 37009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), or the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Equity Action Plan in Support of Executive Order 13985, or any Equity Action Plan created by the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration, or Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), or to create or establish an Office of the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

Section 772: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration to fly or display a flag over a facility of the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, territory, or the District of Columbia; the flag of an Indian Tribal Government; the official flag of a U.S. Department or agency; or the POW/MIA flag.

Section 773: (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. (b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in sub section (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to— (1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a); (2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person; withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person; (4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or (5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person. (c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a)

Senate Action

[Bill Text](#) | [Committee Report](#)

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, with a bipartisan, unanimous vote of 28-0. Almost all the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs are held at FY23 levels. The only NIFA program to receive a funding increase in the Senate bill is the Farmer and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, which would receive \$12 million, a \$2 million increase. The Senate would not provide funding for the Research Facilities Act or the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA).

The bill stipulates that the matching requirement for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) may be waived by the Secretary of Agriculture and that funding for Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture would be restored after it was proposed for elimination in the FY24 President’s budget request.

The associated Committee report includes language on over 40 specific NIFA items, including support for the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative, Extension Design Initiative, seafood fraud, aquaculture research, food safety, SCRI, SARE, and workforce development.

Provisions of Note

Items of interest include:

- “Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes — The Committee supports collaboration between USDA and the National Science Foundation to pursue advances in precision agriculture and food supply security. NIFA is encouraged to continue supporting the work of the Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes as part of its mission to provide opportunity through innovation.”
- “Cooperative Extension System — The Committee recognizes the essential function that extension plays in ensuring that farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes are empowered to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology and a changing climate, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. The Committee is concerned that the Federal investment in this critical Federal, State, and local partnership has lagged in recent years, just as extraordinary stresses have been placed on farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, and communities.”

USDA’s intramural research arm, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) would receive \$1.8 billion for its Salaries and Expenses account, a \$50 million increase over the FY23 level and stipulates extramural funding be supported at no less than the FY23 level. Concerning ARS research facilities, the report provides, “The Committee understands the important collaboration between ARS and universities and the impact that aging facilities have on new research opportunities. The Committee directs ARS to submit a report that includes information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and cooperators, as well as the extent to which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.”

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

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