

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

2016 appropriation.....	\$819,685,000
2017 budget estimate.....	836,915,000
Provided in the bill.....	832,860,000
Comparison:	
2016 appropriation.....	+13,175,000
2017 budget estimate.....	-4,055,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Research and Education Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$832,860,000.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).--The Committee recognizes the importance of the research conducted through AFRI and provides an increase of \$25,000,000 for this competitive grant program. The Committee believes that each of the six AFRI Challenge Areas are of equal importance to the agricultural community and rejects the President's proposal that any increase to the AFRI program be available only to the Sustainable Bioenergy Challenge Area.

Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards.--The Committee continues to direct that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA's agriculture research enhancement awards program, including USDA-EPSCoR, in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 450i.

Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.--The Committee appreciates NIFA's efforts to provide additional information in its budget requests over the past three years. For the fiscal year 2018 budget request, the Committee is particularly interested in the request for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and requests that the agency provide greater detail on the levels proposed to be allocated to and the expected publication date, scope, and allocation level for each request for awards to be published under each priority area specified in section 2(b)(2) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(2)).

Childhood Obesity.--Within the funds made available for AFRI, the Committee encourages NIFA to support innovative efforts to address the unique challenges faced in addressing childhood obesity through a combination of family education and clinical studies focused on early life influences on obesity risk; the development of eating behavior during infancy and early childhood; the role of sleep in the development of childhood obesity; and obesity prevention strategies for low-income children in childcare and educational settings.

Citrus Disease Research Program.--The 2014 farm bill established the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program, which is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing, and provided \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding for the program through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The Committee believes research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages NIFA, to the maximum extent

practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board's citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB MAC group.

Food Manufacturing Efficiencies.--The Committee is aware of many new and promising food manufacturing processes and technologies. The nation's food supply can be made safer, more secure, and more affordable through means such as automation of equipment and modifying processes along the entire supply chain to work more efficiently and use less water, energy and other resources. The Committee urges the Department to promote enhanced technology, processes, and data analysis throughout the food manufacturing industry.

Livestock and Poultry Waste Research.--The Committee recognizes the benefits of improved methods of managing animal waste in livestock and poultry production and encourages NIFA to support research and development of innovative technologies, particularly those that are operationally and economically feasible and have a high probability of widespread implementation.

Organic Agriculture.--The Committee encourages USDA to ensure that the needs of the U.S. organic sector are more fully addressed through AFRI. As USDA's flagship competitive agricultural research grant program, AFRI funding should be reflective of the needs of all aspects of U.S. agriculture, including organic. The Committee directs USDA to develop a plan for meeting this goal, including how the agency will ensure organic research conducted through AFRI is not duplicative of research conducted with mandatory funds through the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative and other research programs, and report back to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions.--The Committee encourages NIFA to continue to support biotechnology by promoting research at the land-grant colleges and universities, including the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions, and directs NIFA to encourage partnerships among universities and industry.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems.--The rapidly evolving field of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) provides highly promising opportunities for timely collection of geospatial data that can be used to increase profitability for agricultural producers and improve environmental stewardship in a broad range of areas. The Committee believes that research, development, education, and extension programs are needed to help further develop the technology and educate farmers and natural resource managers on best practices and safe operation of UAS. The Committee encourages NIFA to support the research, development, education and training of techniques, sensor and imaging technology, data analytics tools, best practices, and the safe and efficient deployment of UAS for improved agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Urban Agriculture.--The Committee acknowledges the need for expanded research in support of urban agriculture in American cities. Support from the Department is lacking for urban producers who often have different needs than rural producers. Therefore, the Committee directs USDA to evaluate its policies and programs and deliver a report to the Committee explaining how to further advance urban agriculture.

Zoonotic Disease Research.--The eradication of zoonotic livestock diseases has been a priority of federal and state animal health officials, as was reflected in the 2014 farm

bill. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages NIFA to support the development of improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases that have significant wildlife reservoirs.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE--RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES					
[Dollars in Thousands]					
Program/Activity	Authorization	2016 enacted	2017 estimate	Committee provision	
Hatch Act.....	7 U.S.C. 361a-i.....	\$243,701	\$243,701	\$243,701	
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act....	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7.....	33,961	33,961	33,961	
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program).	7 U.S.C. 3222.....	54,185	58,000	54,185	
Payments to the 1994 Institutions.....	7 U.S.C. 301 note.....	3,439	3,654	3,439	
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions.....	7 U.S.C. 3152 (b).....	19,336	20,410	19,336	
1890s Capacity Coordination Initiative.....	.....	- - -	10,000	- - -	
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3241.....	9,219	9,219	9,219	
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156.....	3,194	3,194	3,194	
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions.....	7 U.S.C. 301 note.....	1,801	3,914	1,801	
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture.	7 U.S.C. 3319i.....	5,000	- - -	- - -	
Grants for Insular Areas.....	7 U.S.C. 3222b-2, 3362 and 3363.	2,000	1,800	1,800	
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.....	7 U.S.C. 450i (b).....	350,000	375,000	375,000	
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment.....	7 U.S.C. 3151a.....	5,000	5,000	6,500	
Veterinary Services Grant Program.....	7 U.S.C. 3151b.....	2,500	- - -	2,500	
Food and Agriculture Resiliency Program for Military Veterans.	.....	- - -	2,500	- - -	
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program.	7 U.S.C. 3195.....	4,000	- - -	4,000	
Supplemental and Alternative Crops.....	7 U.S.C. 3319d.....	825	- - -	- - -	
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institution Challenge Grants.	7 U.S.C. 3152 (b).....	9,000	- - -	9,000	
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education Aquaculture Centers.....	7 U.S.C. 3152 (j).....	900	- - -	900	
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.	7 U.S.C. 3322.....	4,000	- - -	4,000	
Farm Business Management.....	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832.	24,667	29,967	24,667	
Sun Grant Program.....	7 U.S.C. 5925f.....	1,450	- - -	- - -	
Alfalfa and Forage Research Program.....	7 U.S.C. 8114.....	2,500	- - -	- - -	
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4).....	7 U.S.C. 5925.....	2,000	- - -	- - -	
Special Research Grants.....	7 U.S.C. 450i (c).....	11,913	11,913	11,913	
Global Change/UV Monitoring.....	.....	1,405	1,405	1,405	
Potato Research.....	7 U.S.C. 450i (c).....	2,000	- - -	2,000	
Aquaculture Research.....	7 U.S.C. 450i (c).....	1,350	- - -	- - -	
<b>Total, Special Research Grants.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>4,755</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>3,405</b>	
<b>Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:</b>					
Grants Management Systems.....	.....	7,830	9,790	7,830	
GSA Rent and DHS Security Expenses.....	.....	5,960	5,960	5,960	
Federal Administration--Other Necessary Expenses.	.....	6,549	7,527	6,549	
<b>Total, Necessary Expenses.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>20,339</b>	<b>23,277</b>	<b>20,339</b>	
<b>Total, Research and Education Activities.</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$819,685</b>	<b>\$836,915</b>	<b>\$832,860</b>	

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

2016 appropriation.....	(\$11,880,000)
2017 budget estimate.....	(11,880,000)
Provided in the bill.....	(11,880,000)
Comparison:	
2016 appropriation.....	- - -
2017 budget estimate.....	- - -

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, the

Committee provides \$11,880,000.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

2016 appropriation.....	\$475,891,000
2017 budget estimate.....	501,859,000
Provided in the bill.....	477,391,000
Comparison:	
2016 appropriation.....	+1,500,000
2017 budget estimate.....	-24,468,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Extension Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$477,391,000.

Rural Health and Safety Education Programs.--The opioid abuse epidemic is one of the greatest threats facing rural America today, and the Committee supports all efforts to address this problem through improved health and safety education and outreach. The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education Programs to combat opioid abuse in rural communities.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE -- EXTENSION ACTIVITIES  
[Dollars in Thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 estimate	Committee provision
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension.	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of P.L. 93-471.	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions.....	7 U.S.C. 3221.....	45,620	48,350	45,620
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions.....	7 U.S.C. 343(b) (3).....	4,446	6,724	4,446
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions...	7 U.S.C. 3222b.....	19,730	21,703	19,730
Renewable Resources Extension Act.....	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.....	4,060	4,060	4,060
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs...	7 U.S.C. 2662(i).....	1,500	- - -	3,000
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program.	7 U.S.C. 7642.....	1,250	- - -	1,250
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields.....	7 U.S.C. 5925.....	400	- - -	400
Grants to Youth Organizations.....		- - -	1,000	- - -
Food Safety Outreach Program.....	7 U.S.C. 7625.....	5,000	5,000	5,000
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):.....	7 U.S.C. 343(d).....			
Food and Nutrition Education.....		67,934	68,034	67,934
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs.		4,610	4,610	4,610
New Technologies for Agricultural Extension.		1,550	- - -	1,550
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk....		8,395	8,395	8,395
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program.		3,039	5,839	3,039
Home Visits for Remote Areas.....		- - -	20,000	- - -
Total, Section 3(d).....		85,528	106,878	85,528
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities:				
Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom.....	7 U.S.C. 3152(j).....	552	- - -	552
Federal Administration--Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities.		7,805	8,144	7,805
Total, Necessary Expenses.....		8,357	8,144	8,357
Total, Extension Activities.....		\$475,891	\$501,859	\$477,391

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

2016 appropriation.....	\$30,900,000
2017 budget estimate.....	28,900,000

Provided in the bill.....	30,900,000
Comparison:	
2016 appropriation.....	- - -
2017 budget estimate.....	+2,000,000

COMMITTEE PROVISIONS

For Integrated Activities, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$30,900,000.

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI).--The Committee supports the important work being done through the diagnostic laboratory network and encourages NIFA to prioritize funding to strengthen animal health diagnostic laboratories operated and administered by Colleges of Veterinary Medicine at land grant institutions. NIFA should take into consideration the degree to which the capacity for surveillance, monitoring, response, and capacity is enhanced; the concentration of human and animal populations that are directly at risk; trade, tourism, and cultural considerations; geography, ecology, and climate; the strength of biomedical, agricultural, environmental, and public health expertise at the hosting land grant university; evidence of active collaboration with, and support of, the state department of agriculture; and evidence of stakeholder support and engagement.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE -- INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES  
[Dollars in Thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 estimate	Committee provision
Methyl Bromide Transition Program.....	7 U.S.C. 7626.....	\$2,000	\$ - -	\$2,000
Organic Transition Program.....	7 U.S.C. 7626.....	4,000	4,000	4,000
Regional Rural Development Centers.....	7 U.S.C. 450i(c).....	1,000	1,000	1,000
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative.....	7 U.S.C. 3351.....	6,700	10,000	6,700
Crop Protection/Pest Management Program.....	7 U.S.C. 7626.....	17,200	20,200	17,200
<b>Total, Integrated Activities.....</b>		<b>\$30,900</b>	<b>\$35,200</b>	<b>\$30,900</b>