

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees recently met and marked up the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Agriculture Appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The bills recommend discretionary funding of \$1,289,066,000 in the House and \$1,298,292,000 in the Senate. In the House, this represents a decrease of \$5,478,000 below the FY 2015 Consolidated Appropriations, and \$218,597,000 below the FY 2016 President's Budget Request. In the Senate, it represents an increase of \$3,748,000 and a decrease of \$209,371,000, respectively. Included in the total is an estimate for the Native American Endowment Fund Interest.

The attached table provides program funding information and a comparison of the FY 2015 Consolidated Appropriations, FY 2016 President's Budget, FY 2016 House Committee Action, and FY 2016 Senate Committee Action.

House Action Highlights

The House Bill H.R. 3049 is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3049/text>. See page 7 for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) and page 11 for NIFA. In addition, House Report 114-205 is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/114th-congress/house-report/205/1>. See page 15 for REE and page 21 for NIFA.

As reflected in the funding table, the House accepts the President's proposal to increase funding to \$5,000,000 for the Food Safety Outreach Program. The bill increase funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to \$335,000,000. Included within AFRI is \$11,000,000 for research to combat antimicrobial resistance. The bill also allows 5 percent of AFRI for administrative costs. The House bill does not include the proposed consolidation of STEM programs as part of a government-wide initiative. Instead the bill maintains funding lines for the programs within NIFA, including funding for Agriculture in the Classroom under Extension Activities. In addition, the bill does not include funding for the proposed new Public-Private Partnerships for Innovation Institutes, Food and Agriculture Resiliency Program for Military Veterans, and Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund. The bill does not include funding for a new Competitive Capacity Awards Program under the Capacity Programs of Hatch Act, Smith-Lever 3(b)&(c), Evans-Allen Act, and 1890 Extension. However, the bill provides funding for Formula Grants under those four Capacity Programs. The bill does not support the proposal to combine NIFA Research and Education Activities, Extension Activities, and Integrated Activities into one account. The bill also does not include the consolidation of Federal Administration costs into one funding line, and it reduces funding for those items including a decrease in funding to \$6,750,000 for grants management systems. The bill provides funding for many of the programs at the 2015 level.

Senate Action Highlights

The Senate Bill S.1800 is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1800/text>. See page 7 for REE and page 10 for NIFA. In addition,

the Senate Report 114-82 is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/114th-congress/senate-report/82/1> . See page 15 for REE and page 22 for NIFA.

As reflected in the funding table, the Senate accepts the President's budget proposal for a new Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund. The bill includes a new Veterinary Services Grants Program. The bill also shifts funding for the Crop Pest/Pest Management program from Integrated Activities to Extension Activities under Smith-Lever 3(d) Programs. The Senate bill does not include the proposed consolidation of STEM programs as part of a government-wide initiative, but instead maintains funding lines for the programs within NIFA, including Agriculture in the Classroom under Extension Activities. The bill does not include funding for the proposed new Public-Private Partnerships for Innovation Institutes, and Food and Agriculture Resiliency Program for Military Veterans. The bill also does not include funding for a new Competitive Capacity Awards Program under the Capacity Programs of Hatch Act, Smith-Lever 3(b)&(c), Evans-Allen Act, and 1890 Extension. However, the bill provides funding for Formula Grants under those four Capacity Programs. The bill does not support the proposal to combine NIFA Research and Education Activities, Extension Activities, and Integrated Activities into one account. The bill also does not include the consolidation of Federal Administration costs into one funding line. The bill also allows 5 percent of AFRI for administrative costs. The bill provides funding for many of the programs at the 2015 level.

Both the House (see page 66) and Senate (see page 67) bills continue the General Provision 713 which allows indirect costs on competitively awarded grants that do not exceed 30 percent of total Federal funds provided under an award. This does not apply to Small Business Innovation Research awards.

Also attached is a comparison table highlighting the FY 2016 President's Budget, House Committee Action and Senate Committee Action.

Additional information on the FY 2016 appropriation will be provided as it becomes available.