



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**FY 2025**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

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## ***PREFACE***

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2025 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023, annualized Continuing Resolution levels for 2024 and the President’s Budget request for 2025.

The performance tables throughout this document, unless otherwise noted, show target levels for 2024 and 2025 and a baseline amount for target comparison. Performance goals reflect performance levels at ongoing funding levels and do not include the effect of supplemental appropriations. Performance target levels are estimates and subject to change.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2024, through the extension of the 2018 Farm Bill in the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, Public Law 118-22. Amounts shown in 2025 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023 and 2024. The sequestration rate for 2023 and 2024 is 5.7 percent. The 2025 sequestration rate was not released at the time of this publication, however, mandatory funds for 2025 reflect a sequester reduction of 5.7 percent.

## **DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION**

The Budget Summary is organized into four sections:

- Overview – provides an overview of USDA’s funding.
- Budget Highlights – describes key budget proposals and changes in budget authority and outlays.
- Mission Area and Agency Details – summarizes agency funding, programs, and performance goals.
- Appendix – Department-wide summary tables.

## **BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PLAN TERMS:**

**Budget Authority (BA):** Authority to commit funds of the Federal Treasury. Congress provides this authority through annual appropriations acts and substantive legislation, which authorizes direct spending. The President's budget requests the Congress to appropriate or otherwise provide an amount of budget authority sufficient to carry out recommended Government programs.

**Obligations:** Commitments of Government funds that are legally binding. For USDA to make a valid obligation, it must have a sufficient amount of BA to cover the obligation.

**Outlays:** Cash disbursements from the Federal Treasury to satisfy a valid obligation.

**Program Level (PL):** The gross value of all financial assistance USDA provides to the public. This assistance may be in the form of grants, guaranteed or direct loans, cost-sharing, professional services, such as research or technical assistance activities, or in-kind benefits, such as commodities.

**Performance Goal:** The target level of performance at a specified time or period expressed as a tangible, measurable outcome against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate. A performance goal comprises a performance measure with targets and timeframes.

**Performance Measures:** Indicators, statistics, or metrics used to gauge program performance. Program performance measures include outcome, output, and efficiency measures.

### **DATA DISPLAY – ZERO TREATMENT**

Amounts in text and tables throughout this document are calculated with the greatest level of precision (decimal places) available and rounded for display purposes. Therefore, amounts in tables and charts may not add to displayed totals due to rounding. Due to rounding, amounts in this document may appear to be marginally different than those shown in the President’s Budget, which is developed in millions of dollars.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

### **DATA DISPLAY – SCALE**

The Budget is most often depicted or described using budget authority as the scale of measurement. However, there are some cases when other measures or scales are used, so the reader should be aware of the context. Note that the budget authority tables contained in this document reflect operating levels. In addition, performance goals reflect performance levels at ongoing funding levels and do not include the effect of supplemental appropriations. Performance data for 2024 and 2025 are estimates and subject to change.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

The FY 2025 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2023 Annual Performance Report, which provides performance information concerning USDA achievements in 2023 and plans for 2025, can be found at: <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions may be directed to the Office of Budget and Program Analysis via e-mail at [obpa-deputy-directors@usda.gov](mailto:obpa-deputy-directors@usda.gov).

**OVERVIEW**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To serve all Americans by providing effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues with a commitment to delivering equitable and climate smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive.

**VISION STATEMENT**

An equitable and climate smart food and agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition and quality of life of all Americans, yields healthy land, forests and clean water, helps rural America thrive, and feeds the world.

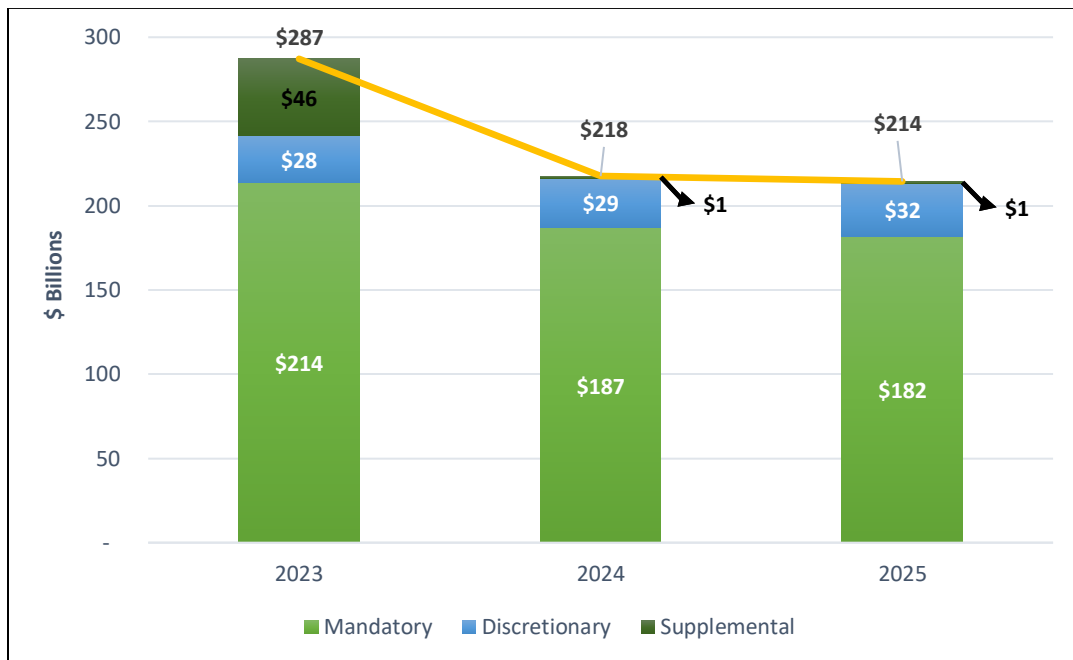
**2025 FUNDING OVERVIEW**

Under the current law, the 2025 request for discretionary budget authority to fund programs and operating expenses is \$31.6 billion, slightly more than 6.84 percent increase, or \$2.16 billion, above the 2024 annualized Continuing Resolution (CR) levels. The request also includes \$640.5 million in scorekeeping comprised of negative subsidies, cancellations, and change in mandatory programs.

The 2025 request for mandatory programs is \$181.7 billion, a \$5.25 billion decrease from 2024 annualized Continuing Resolution (CR) levels. USDA is requesting a total of \$213.3 billion in 2025 for discretionary and mandatory programs. Compared to 2024 annualized CR, this amount represents a decrease of around \$3.1 billion.

The budget assumes a pay cost increase of 2.0 percent.

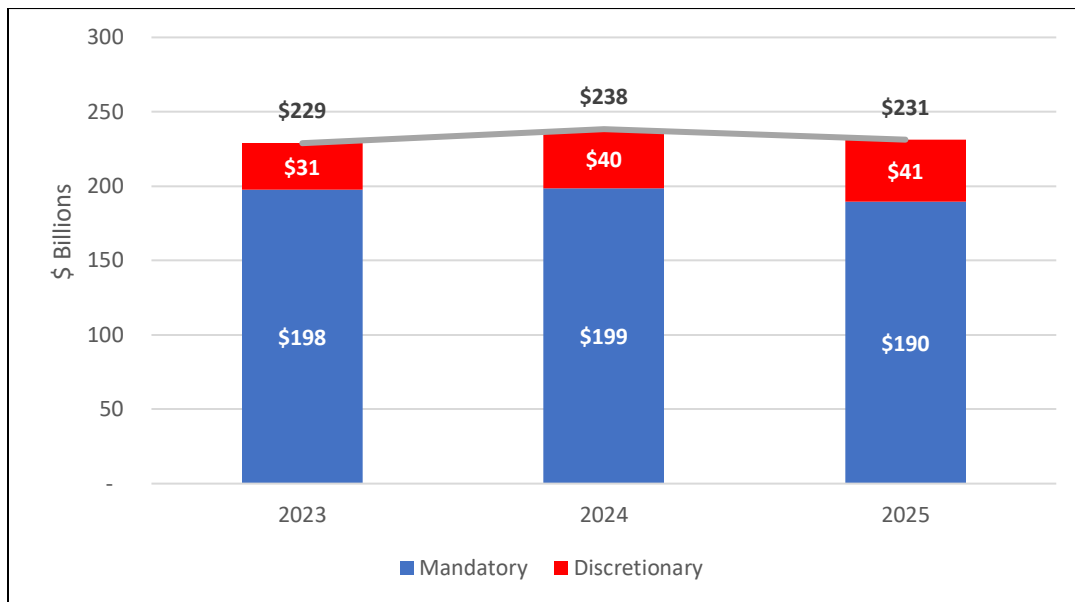
**Figure OV-1. USDA New Budget Authority**



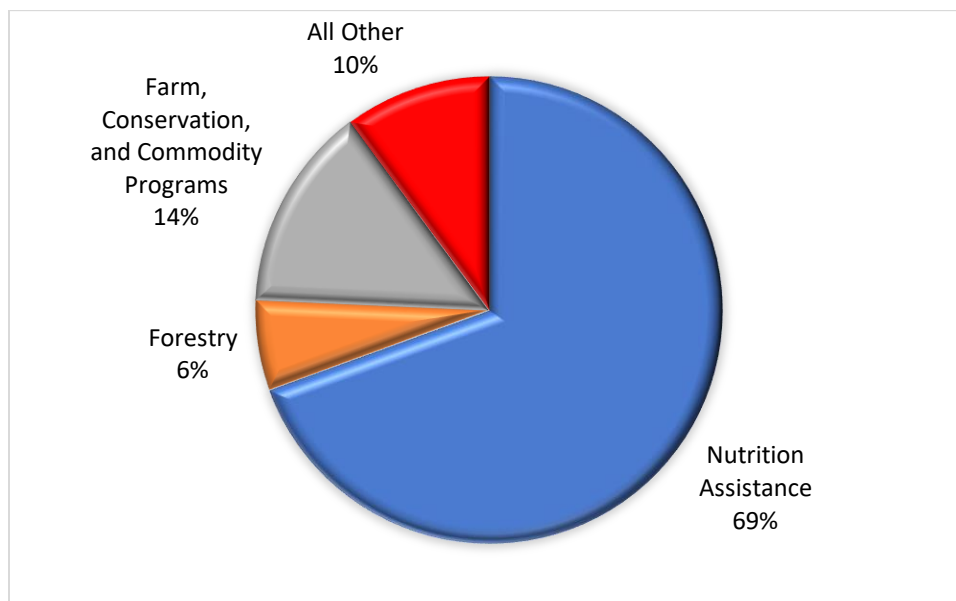
Under current law, USDA’s total outlays for 2025 are estimated at \$231 billion. Outlays for mandatory programs are \$189.6 billion, 82.1 percent of total outlays. Mandatory programs provide services required by law but are not funded through annual appropriations acts. Mandatory outlays

include crop insurance, most nutrition assistance programs, farm commodity and trade programs, and a number of conservation programs. The remaining \$41.4 billion, or 17.9 percent, of outlays are for discretionary programs such as: the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), food safety, rural development loans and grants, research and education, soil and water conservation technical assistance, animal and plant health, management of national forests, wildland firefighting, other Forest Service activities, and domestic and international marketing assistance.

**Figure OV-2. USDA 2025 Outlays**



**Figure OV-3. 2025 Mandatory and Discretionary Outlays (All Other includes Rural Development, Research, Food Safety, Marketing and Regulatory, and Departmental Management.)**



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## ***2025 BUDGET SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS***

### **OVERVIEW**

Since our founding in 1862, the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) -- the “People’s Department” -- has both inspired and helped all of America thrive through effective and innovative science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, and rural development. From global to local, the new challenges faced by American farmers, ranchers, foresters – and by every American food consumer, point to a pivotal moment in the history of agriculture. If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have the chance to go right. Now is the time to do all we can to help our nation’s farmers, ranchers and foresters lead the way as we work together to embrace the challenges and transform America’s food and agricultural systems to bring prosperity, wellbeing, and new opportunities to rural America and all Americans.

USDA is at a pivotal moment where we have the ability to choose a more expansive set of options to create, not diminish, opportunity. USDA is using funding provided under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (Appendix 9), as well as the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), to take a comprehensive approach to create opportunity for rural communities and invest in farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. 2024 provided strong indicators of progress towards reaching the goals of USDA’s expansive policy framework. As we look forward, we will continue to focus on policies that add value for farms and ranches of every shape and every size as well as ensuring the policies are designed for the real needs of rural America. The Biden-Harris Administration’s historic investments in infrastructure and new market opportunities have provided USDA with a powerful set of tools for restructuring our food and agriculture economy so small- and mid-sized producers are able to access opportunities to maintain and grow, catalyzing strong rural economies where people have the opportunity and tools they need to build a good life in the communities they love.

IRA invests in new and existing USDA programs that help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners adopt climate-smart practices, support the transition to clean energy in rural America, and provide assistance to underserved farmers, ranchers, and foresters. Through IRA, an additional \$19.5 billion will be available to support climate smart agriculture practices through several, often oversubscribed, conservation programs and to measure, monitor, report, and verify greenhouse gas emissions. These critical investments impact every corner of our nation and support all Americans with the services they need related to our nation’s food, fuel, and fiber. USDA delivers on these investments and continues to confront challenges and invest in the future of agriculture.

The 2025 USDA President’s Budget request totals \$213.3 billion (\$181.7 billion – mandatory; \$31.6 billion – discretionary) to continue advancing the vision to create an equitable and climate-smart food and agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition, and quality of life of all Americans, yields healthy land, forests and clean water, helps rural America thrive, and feeds the world. Under the Biden-Harris Administration and Secretary Vilsack’s leadership,



USDA has tirelessly worked to strengthen America's food system and transform the agricultural system through five cross-cutting strategic priorities: Addressing Climate Change via Climate Smart Agriculture, Forestry, and Clean Energy; Advancing Environmental Justice, and Support For Underserved And Disadvantaged Communities; Creating More and Better Market Opportunities; Tackling Food and Nutrition Insecurity; and Making USDA a Great Place to Work for Everyone. We know that when we work together with bold action, collaborative leadership, active dialogue, and a deep commitment to serving all Americans, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Through these investments, USDA will continue to be a leader in global agriculture and lead the way to a circular agriculture economy focusing on keeping jobs and income in rural America. We've done so much to work toward these goals, now let's finish the job.

### **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Tackling the impacts of climate change at home and abroad is one of the greatest challenges and opportunities of this century. Climate change presents real and increasing threats to U.S. agricultural production, forest resources, and rural economies. Producers and land managers across the country experience climate impacts on their operations through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfires. USDA is helping to minimize the risks by embracing climate smart solutions coupled with promoting voluntary incentives that are inclusive for all agricultural producers, landowners, and communities. USDA is using resources provided by President Biden's historical legislative agenda and is committed to the continued support of our producers, farmers, and ranchers. The 2025 Budget supports a continued investment of approximately \$11.6 billion (Appendix 10) to combat the climate crisis through all aspects of the food and agricultural systems by focusing on climate science, clean energy innovation, mitigation via climate-smart land management practices, and adaptation and resilience.

#### **Lead Efforts to Address and Adapt to Climate Change through Agriculture and Forestry**

America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners play a critical role in addressing the climate crisis. USDA is investing in climate-smart practices that will help the agricultural sector reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase storage of carbon in soils and trees, and make their operations more productive and resilient. Farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners are delivering climate solutions, and USDA is providing leadership and assistance through technical and financial resources. Through programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, USDA provided conservation assessments to over 104,000 clients on more than 75 million acres of agricultural land in 2023. The 2025 Budget supports continued investments in these critical programs and staffing to deliver assistance to landowners across the country and in areas that are most in need of climate solutions. The Budget requests \$985 million for Private Lands Conservation Operations, of which almost \$870 million is for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program that allows NRCS to work with landowners and managers to develop conservation plans that outline the specific conservation practices needed to improve farm operations and enhance farm environmental sustainability. In 2022, NRCS offered \$50 million in funding for outreach assistance to historically underserved

communities. Two-hundred fifty applications were received requesting \$202 million, of which 117 agreements were funded for about \$49 million. NRCS was able to fund 47 percent of applicants, or 24 percent of requested dollars. In 2023, NRCS offered \$70 million in funding. Three hundred applications were received requesting \$210 million, of which 139 were selected for funding for about \$69 million. NRCS was able to fund 46 percent of applicants, or 33 percent of requested dollars. Through additional investments provided by IRA, NRCS is advancing the ability to measure and monitor greenhouse gases and the impact of conservation programs, including investments in observing systems, demonstrations, modeling, data integration, and related research and technology development.

### **Strengthen Resilience of Rural Forested Lands to Climate Impacts**

Climate change is increasing the complexity and duration of wildfires. Each year the Forest Service responds to 5,000 to 7,000 fires on National Forest System lands. Traditional fire seasons of the past now extend well beyond historic summer fire season timeframes, and we now face full fire years. In 2025, the agency anticipates, and will be prepared for, another significant fire year.

Wildfire risk management and forest restoration efforts improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of uncharacteristically severe wildfire. The Budget includes approximately \$5.1 billion to restore our national forests and mitigate wildfire risk, an operational increase of approximately \$400 million from 2023 enacted. This includes \$207 million for hazardous fuels reduction, equal to the 2023 enacted level. As the agency continues to focus on strategic outcomes for hazardous fuels activities in 2025, the Forest Service is focused on treatments in the right places and at the right times to mitigate wildfire risk to communities, infrastructure, and natural resources with a goal to mitigate wildfire risk on 4.0 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas in continued alignment with the Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy. In 2023, historic investments through BIL and IRA helped achieve these goals which resulted in 4.4 million acres treated, however, acres treated is not always a proxy for communities protected. Pivoting to 2025, Forest Service will continue to target strategic investments in hazardous fuels with a focus on areas near homes and infrastructure that are often the most expensive to treat understanding that a number of other factors affect outcomes including increased costs due to inflation, timber markets, and unpredictable situations such as wildfire and other natural disasters, and final budget appropriations from Congress. Any of these could impact our ability to achieve these goals. Further, the agency expects increased treatment costs as the focus work is in areas that are more impactful in reducing wildfire risk, but that take longer to complete and are more complex.

### **Combat Climate Change and Lower Clean Energy Cost**

USDA invests in rural communities to reduce energy bills for families, expand clean energy, transform rural power production, and create thousands of good-paying jobs for people across rural America. Programs like Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) support clean energy and energy efficiency improvements allowing cooperatives to be eligible for clean energy tax credits. REAP provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers

and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. Through IRA, USDA invested an additional \$419 million in nearly 3,000 projects in 43 states that will help rural farmers, agricultural producers, and entrepreneurs purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The Budget requests \$1 billion in lending authority for REAP to support the transition to clean energy, and \$6.5 billion in authority for rural electric loans to support additional clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects that would create good-paying jobs. The Budget also requests \$53 million in zero-interest loans for the Rural Energy Savings Program, which would help rural Americans implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures in their homes, which lowers energy costs and contributes to the President's clean energy goals. The Budget also seeks \$1 million in funding to continue work started by the Growing Climate Solutions Act. As directed in the Act, USDA will establish a voluntary program to help reduce entry barriers into voluntary environmental credit markets for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners.

### **Climate Science, Adaptation, and Resilience**

The Budget supports the USDA Climate Hubs, a cross departmental effort to provide technical assistance in tackling the climate crisis, expanding USDA's ability to develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies. The Budget requests an additional \$14 million for the Climate Hubs to support the adoption of climate-smart practices. Investments will assist farmers, ranchers, and foresters make region specific climate-informed decisions and provide technical assistance to implement those decisions. Additionally, the request will help ensure market access for U.S. climate-smart agricultural products and translate climate-smart agriculture practices internationally. The Climate Hubs have already carried out extensive vulnerability assessments and are an integral part of [USDA's Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#).

### **ADVANCING EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

At USDA, we center the values of equity and inclusion rooted in justice and equal opportunity in everything we do. We know that stakeholder frustrations run deep and are rooted in their own daily battles to make ends meet, to maintain their land, to put food on their tables, and to see their children have a shot at economic opportunity. In order for our agricultural and rural communities to continue to thrive in the future, we must bring diverse skills, experiences, and knowledge into the field so that our partners and stakeholders look like the rest of the country. This is why we are making equity a priority and removing systemic barriers to better deliver resources and benefits to all Americans. The Budget requests nearly \$7.1 billion across USDA to support programs (Appendix 11) that will lower barriers for underserved communities, address long standing inequities and advance opportunities for all those who have been historically underserved. The Budget also requests \$3.7 billion (Appendix 15) that benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives, including individuals, American Indian tribal governments, Alaska Native village governments,

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urban Indian organizations, and tribal communities. USDA is taking steps to better serve tribal governments, citizens, and organizations and honor our nation's trust and treaty responsibility; these investments remove barriers to services and programs, incorporate Indigenous perspectives, and enhance tribal self-determination.

### **Justice40**

USDA is committed to enhancing how economic, social, and ecological benefits associated with Justice40 covered programs accrue in disadvantaged communities and those with legacy Environmental Justice concerns. The Administration is committed to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been marginalized and experienced limited access to government services, programs, and benefits. In support of the Administration's Justice40 Initiative, in 2025, USDA agencies and offices with funded Justice40 covered programs will strive to invest at least 40 percent of their Federal financial assistance, direct payments, procurements benefits, salary and expenses for technical assistance, and additional benefits provided by appropriated budget authority within disadvantaged areas, as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Given that the Justice40 Initiative leverages existing appropriations, agencies are accomplishing this goal by implementing program modifications (where permitted by statute and regulation) that enhance equity in the distribution of program benefits. As of November 2023, USDA has 70 covered programs across 10 agencies and program areas. Of these, 14 programs receive funding through BIL and 15 receive funding through the IRA. These programs focus on climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, affordable and sustainable housing, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and water and water infrastructure.

### **Create Opportunity for the Future of Agricultural Leaders**

USDA is fostering collaboration between state, federal, and tribal partners, land-grant universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges, historically black colleges and universities, and other strategic partners, to connect USDA programs and opportunities with the communities they are intended to serve. USDA is committed to not only hiring, developing, and advancing a workforce that truly reflects America's rich and diverse characteristics, but also to creating an inclusive workplace environment so that everyone can rise to their highest potential and flourish in supporting our mission. We are committed to making USDA the best place to work so that we can attract and train the best and the brightest in the field of agriculture. The need for growing the next generation of professionals is timely and important and this funding is aimed at attracting, inspiring, and retaining diverse and talented students at eligible minority-serving institutions for careers in food, agriculture, and related disciplines, with an emphasis on federal government sector employment. The Budget requests \$365 million directly invested in Minority Serving Institution (MSI) programs to fight against the historic inequity in access to higher education. Partnerships with MSI programs support capacity building initiatives, education, and pathways to employment for students and faculty and help develop a strong pipeline of talented individuals for USDA and USDA partner jobs. NIFA strengthens MSIs through 19 different programs that are dedicated to research, education and extension capacity in food and agriculture; investments also support the

ability for MSIs to continue providing access to education in agriculture and related sciences across the nation.

### **Expand Equity for Rural America**

The Budget request continues to improve equity in rural America, including \$10 million to expand the Rural Partners Network (RPN) initiative, improved leveraging of USDA’s extensive network of county-based offices, and continuing to help people and communities in high poverty counties. Through RPN and collaboration with other USDA and Federal agencies, RD has been able to improve its connection with rural stakeholders. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, RD announced over \$2 billion in funding awards to 99 projects within the RPN Community Networks, which includes significant investments through RD’s Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funded Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP). One collaboration example is the Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority (HFCRA) which received \$3.3 million in federal funding to replace aging port infrastructure and upgrade critical docking capabilities. This federal funding is made possible through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Maritime Administration’s Port Infrastructure Development Program. This federal funding will overhaul existing port infrastructure at the Hickman-Fulton County Riverport, Kentucky’s only public port along the Mississippi River, increasing its throughput capacity, enhancing operational safety, and enabling future commercial and industrial development in the region. RD will continue to coordinate with other USDA and Federal agencies in an all-of-Government approach to connect rural stakeholders with Federal programs and resources.

The 2025 Budget requests \$1.25 billion Section 502 Single 502 Family Housing Direct Loan program, which is expected to allow approximately 5,355 low- to very –low- income rural residents an opportunity to realize the dream of home-ownership. This funding request also assumes the termination of recapture, which requires these “on the cusp” borrowers to pay back the mortgage subsidy when they transfer title or cease to occupy the property. The Budget also reflects the Administration’s priority to preserve low-income multifamily housing in rural areas by increasing the investment in the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization program to \$90 million and continuing the proposal to decouple the rental assistance grants from USDA financed properties to allow the option of maintaining these as low income rental housing in rural areas. To further invest in Justice40 directives, the Budget provides specific set-aside funding aimed at energy communities for the development of essential community facilities or cost-effective energy efficiency measures through the Community Facilities Grant Program, \$10 million, and the Rural Energy Savings Program, \$10 million in direct loans.

Additionally, the President is committed to ensuring that every American has access to affordable broadband internet—and thanks to his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA has provided \$2.26 billion to people living and working across 35 States and Territories, which is expected to expand broadband access to 137,366 households. This Budget requests \$112.4 million to reach more communities, homes, and businesses with reliable internet access.

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### **Investment in Distressed Borrowers to Keep Farmers Farming**

USDA is committed to examining barriers faced by all underserved borrowers. Previously, agricultural producers saw Farm Service Agency (FSA) as the lender of last resort. Now FSA is striving to be the lender of first opportunity, providing the resources to succeed and helping producers receive the assistance they need to continue farming, to build and maintain their competitive-edge, and to access more, new, and better markets to achieve a robust and competitive agriculture sector. In 2023, FSA provided more than 22,000 direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers, totaling over \$4.7 billion with beginning farmers representing 60 percent of this total. As of December 2023, USDA has helped nearly 35,000 farmers and ranchers who were in financial distress stay on their farms and farming under Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Section 22006 provided funds for relief of distressed borrowers with certain direct and guaranteed loans, and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk due to factors outside their control, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the law was signed in August 2022 approximately \$1.9 billion in assistance has been distributed to farmers and ranchers.

The Budget focuses on targeting assistance based on need, reaching everyone who is eligible, and removing the bureaucratic burden on producers. FSA proposes a suite of changes to FSA's diverse portfolio of farm loans to make more producers eligible for more of FSA's credit programs. The proposed changes would reduce barriers that have prevented producers from obtaining the financing that can mean the difference between successful operations and bankruptcy. Building on legislative proposals requested in the 2024 Budget, this budget will help to connect more producers with the financing they need for successful farm operations. The 2025 Budget also proposes five additional legislative changes to Farm Loan Programs. Specifically, the proposals will 1) authorize Direct Farm Ownership loans to be used to refinance debt; 2) make a technical correction to certain special program interest rate requirements; 3) require preferred lenders to obtain FSA approval prior to taking a foreclosure action; 4) expand the lifetime limitation on debt forgiveness from \$300,000 to \$600,000; and 5) authorize future loans to those with previous debt forgiveness. Through these proposals, more producers would be able to get the financial assistance they need to keep farming and keep the farm in the family.

### **CREATING MORE AND BETTER MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AT HOME AND ABROAD**

USDA works to create more options for producers and consumers and improve the resiliency of our food supply chain. As we invest in new solutions, we must create new and better markets for all producers and consumers and promote a safe, healthy work environment for agricultural workers. USDA is working to transform the food system, from how food is produced to how it is purchased, in a fairer, more competitive, and more resilient system. These investments will benefit consumers, producers, and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. The success of American agriculture hinges on innovation and the development of new markets, both at home and abroad, to ensure everyone has access to affordable nutritious food.

### **Expand Local and Regional Food Systems**

In order to build a more resilient national food system it is important that the food systems of the future be more distributed and local. USDA invested \$400 million from ARP, Regional Food Business Centers are assisting small and mid-sized producers and food and farm businesses by closing the gaps or barriers to success with the goal of creating a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system. USDA's six regional business centers serve areas experiencing persistent poverty or other communities of high need/limited resources. USDA is building on this work with the Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program (\$420 million) to fund innovation projects designed to invest in processing and distribution capacity to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems. The Budget invests over \$383 million in supporting new supply chains and markets that uplift small and mid-sized farmers through programs such as the Local Agriculture Market Program, Farmers Market and Local Food Production, and Transportation and Market Development, through Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants and the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program at NIFA, as well as through Farmers Market Nutrition Programs at the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Investments will also help strengthen supply chain resiliency by improving access to and encouraging consumption of locally grown foods, shortening the food supply chain by supporting direct farmer-to-consumer transactions. The Budget requests funding for the Farmer Seed Liaison program, which will promote fair competition in the seed industry.

Additionally, USDA is expanding local food systems through urban agriculture which supports communities' capacity to gather, process, move and store food in different geographic areas of the country. Urban agriculture will provide more options for producers to create value-added products and sell locally, which will support new economic opportunities and job creation in underserved communities.

### **Connect Local Farmers to Students and Schools Across the Country**

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program at the Food and Nutrition Service, which has awarded more than 1,100 projects totaling more than \$85 million and reaching more than 28 million students in nearly 63,000 schools. Farm to School Grants play an important role in expanding USDA's farm to school efforts across the country and strengthening the school meal programs. Farm to School Grants help fund projects that will increase the amount of local foods served through child nutrition programs and help educate children about where their food comes from. These efforts make school meal programs more resilient in the face of recent supply chain disruptions by building connections within local communities while also creating healthier school food environments and improving student health behaviors.

The Budget requests \$12 million in the Farm to School Grant funding in addition to \$5 million in permanent funding to assist in making local food and agricultural education available to child nutrition program participants. Producers, large or small, have additional market opportunities in their own backyard and a chance for their bounty to nourish children in their community. It also improves access to fresh, local, nutritious foods for school children. The Budget also reflects

almost \$10 million in mandatory funding for the Farm to School Team, which administers the growing portfolio of grantees and supports Child Nutrition operators engaged in local food procurement, which enables food producers to service their local schools and communities and create alliances with program operators.

### **Support Green Energy and Create New Opportunity through Biobased Fuels and Products**

The Budget supports investments in promoting a bio-based economy to assist in transitioning away from fossil fuels while creating manufacturing jobs across rural America. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Grand Challenge, in partnership with Department of Energy and Department of Transportation, is meeting the demand to reduce cost, enhance sustainability, and expand SAF production which currently has a high demand. Through months of engagement on trade policy supported by the Foreign Agricultural Services, Japan pledged to take all available measures to double demand for ethanol by 2030 for vehicles and SAF. In 2021, United States exported \$218 million of ethanol-derived fuel to Japan. USDA is committed to continuing investments and building expertise in sustainable crop and other biomass production system and supply chains; investing in biomanufacturing capability, workforce development, and community and individual education; and providing outreach and technology transfer to producers' processors. USDA ensures farmers, foresters, small businesses, and rural economies benefit from these opportunities with attention to cost, quality and quantity of agricultural-based feedstock for producing SAF. The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program promotes the creation and expansion of rural businesses, such as local and regional food and the bioenergy/bioeconomy, by providing additional access to start-up capital, financing of business expansion, and creating jobs, which helps to diversify the rural economy. The Budget supports \$2.3 billion in B&I loan guarantees, requesting investments in research to support biomass feedstock genetic development, sustainable crop and forest management, and post-harvest supply chain logistics such as through transportation, storage, preprocessing and regional supply chain integration, optimization, and greenhouse gas reductions.

### **Transform and Create a More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain**

For too long, farmers and ranchers have seen the value and the opportunities they work so hard to create move away from the rural communities where they live and operate. USDA has invested \$583 million in expanding meat and poultry processing capacity, \$275 million to strengthen the food supply chain and create opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural communities through the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program and \$48.1 million to support Indigenous Animals processing grants. In response to the pandemic and vulnerabilities in the supply chain, USDA, with funds from ARP, created the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program which financed food systems projects, specifically for the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain. The program supported new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution to increase capacity and create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain. Also with ARP funding, USDA established the Local Meat Capacity Grant (Local MCap) Program, which is intended to build resilience in the meat and poultry supply chain by increasing processing capacity and promoting more competition. The Budget requests an



increase for the Cattle Contracting Library which supports market transparency in the cattle and beef sectors.

### **Expand International Markets for U.S. Agricultural Exports**

The Budget includes \$251 million for the Foreign Agricultural Service to reduce trade barriers that disadvantage U.S. agricultural exports and to open new markets for U.S. farm products. The value of agricultural exports resulting from participation in foreign food and agricultural trade shows and missions is expected to reach \$1.66 billion. Throughout 2023, USDA agencies working in conjunction with the United States Trade Representative successfully expanded access for fresh grapefruit exports to Vietnam, eliminated retaliatory tariffs on agricultural products in India, solidified full access market for ethanol in Japan, and preserved trade by negotiating the release of hundreds of shipments detained from the United States to other countries.

### **TACKLING FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY WHILE MAINTAINING A SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD SUPPLY**

All Americans benefit from investments that provide consistent access to safe, healthy, and affordable food. No one should have to worry where the next meal comes from. The COVID-19 pandemic heightened the importance of USDA's nutrition programs to the public as many received additional benefits, relied on emergency food providers, or received free school meals. It is not enough to return to where we were before the pandemic. As a nation, we must build a better America where no one is left without consistent access to healthy, nutritious food. To more effectively promote healthier diets and racial equity, we need to transform the federal nutrition safety net to not only focus on food security, but also nutrition security. We must ensure all people have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being. In 2025, USDA is investing more than \$153 billion (Appendix 14) in the nation's nutrition security by providing meaningful support to program participants, addressing disparities in diet related diseases from long standing inequities, connecting healthy foods directly to people in need, and collaborating with health professionals, food and retailer industries, and other key stakeholders to advance nutrition research that considers culturally diverse perspectives of food and health.

### **Protect the Nation's Food Supply**

The budget includes \$1.24 billion to fund the costs necessary to support nearly 8,700 FSIS personnel who ensure the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products at over 6,900 regulated slaughter, processing, and import establishments. Approximately 90 percent of these personnel act as frontline inspectors, investigators and laboratory technicians to protect the safety of the nation's food supply. By law, FSIS inspectors must be present at a slaughter facility in order for it to operate. For this reason, USDA is working to ensure we are taking steps to recruit and retain the necessary front-line personnel. An increase of \$3 million is requested for Recruitment and Retention Incentives for Public Health Veterinarians (PHV). These field positions are mission-critical and focused on protecting public health by ensuring that the nation's commercial supply

of meat, poultry, and egg products are safe. Vacancies in these positions have potentially large impacts on the food safety system and industry operations; therefore, it is critical for FSIS to have an adequate number of veterinarians. FSIS seeks to be an employer of choice in attracting and retaining talented veterinarians, and these incentives should decrease vacancies, reduce in-plant PHV turnover, and improve employee morale. State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs are an integral part of the nation's food safety system and FSIS aids in the sustainment and expansion of these programs. MPI programs further supply-chain resiliency within states, by helping to ensure that American families have plentiful access to safe meat and poultry products in their local markets. FSIS requests an additional \$3.4 million to fund States under a cooperative agreement, which is especially helpful to small and very small meat and poultry processors in building their local and state markets. FSIS requests an additional \$5.3 million to cover additional lease costs at the Midwestern Laboratory. The laboratory needs to be relocated due to environmental concerns with the current location.

### **Promote Nutrition Assistance and Security**

The Budget seeks to cement recent progress building off investments from the ARP to equitably prevent and reduce food insecurity and improve the nutritional status of households across the nation. In 2025, estimated participation levels average 41.9 million per month for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and nearly 7.0 million per month for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The Budget includes funding of \$123.3 billion for SNAP and \$7.7 billion for WIC, including a new proposed WIC Emergency Contingency Fund which would automatically provide additional resources resulting from unforeseen increases in participation or food costs. The Budget also includes \$425 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to improve the diets of low-income elderly persons with nutritious foods; \$95 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) administration to support soup kitchens and food banks; and within the total SNAP request, \$242 million for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations to improve participant nutrition and provide culturally appropriate foods.

The Budget provides \$31.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, providing healthy, nutritious meals to help kids meet their nutritional needs, foster healthy eating habits, and safeguard their health with a goal of reducing the number of overweight and obese children. In 2025, the Budget projects serving over 5 billion lunches and snacks and 2.7 billion breakfasts in schools, 1.9 billion meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, 281 million meals through the Summer Food Service Program, and projects approximately 21.5 million children will participate in the permanent Summer EBT program established in 2024 to effectively reduce food insecurity during the summer months. These funding levels support the goals of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and associated National Strategy, which President Biden launched to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases by 2030.

The Budget also includes several key proposals designed to reduce barriers to program participation and improve nutrition security. These include two legislative proposals to bolster State and Indian Tribal Organization implementation of Summer EBT through implementation

grants and temporarily waiving and phasing in the 50 percent administrative funding match requirement, a no cost proposal to improve utilization of USDA foods in schools, and continuation of the 2024 proposal to advance a pathway to free school meals for an additional 9 million school children through increased take up of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) among schools and States. The Budget also includes a \$25 million legislative proposal to improve TEFAP infrastructure in rural, remote, and Tribal areas and a no-cost technical change to ensure WIC supplemental funds are effectively utilized. The Food and Nutrition Service will continue evaluating and implementing effective strategies to tackle food and nutrition security and improve health outcomes for all Americans.

### **Provide International Food Assistance**

USDA supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, improved market information, statistics and analysis, as well as direct food assistance. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) contributes to these efforts by carrying out a variety of food aid programs that support economic growth and development in recipient countries. The Budget requests \$1.8 billion for P.L. 480 Title II and \$243 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, especially for girls.

### **Discover Innovative Solutions to Feed a Growing Population**

USDA's work on nutrition security is driven by research and grounded in science. USDA is investing across the department to integrate nutrition science into policy, systems, and environments to set all Americans up for success. In addition to the extensive research performed by FNS, including \$78 million requested for critical research connecting Americans, across all life stages, with healthy, safe, and affordable food, the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area conducts significant nutrition research. For example, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) operates six human nutrition research centers that promote healthy diet choices based on scientific evidence and link agricultural practices to beneficial health outcomes. In addition, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) advances food and nutrition security through research, education, extension, and innovation while the Economic Research Service (ERS) also studies topics central to food and nutrition security.

## **MAKING USDA A GREAT PLACE TO WORK FOR EVERYONE**

We strive to ensure an exceptional work environment across USDA. This requires an inclusive, engaged, and diverse workforce—one with leaders and staff working together to build a welcoming, respectful, accountable, and supportive culture that empowers everyone to reach their highest potential. We're investing to attract, hire, develop, and empower talented public servants who reflect the diversity of our nation, so we are better able to deliver on our mission and serve all communities.

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## **Deliver Excellent, Equitable, and Secure Federal Services and Customer Experience**

USDA is committed to being “of the people, by the people, and for the people” to solve challenges of our modern environment. Every day, USDA interacts with millions of Americans. We provide vital services during critical moments in people’s lives and strive to improve service by streamlining services and listening to customer needs. Through human-centered design, USDA developed action plans to identify opportunities to reduce individuals' and families' burdens by simplifying enrollment and recertification for nutrition assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC; and design and implement a simplified direct farm loan application process. The Budget requests \$38 million to support the USDA Customer Experience office, which delivers support for agencies across the Department and enhances our ability to provide Americans with the services and programs they need, when they need them. Additionally, the Budget maintains funding for the Farm Service Agency to modernize its information technology systems and assumes the continuation of the \$3 million pilot program for technical assistance that provides targeted support to farmers and ranchers applying for farm loans. The Budget also includes \$1 million for the development of digital tools and customer feedback activities within the Rural Development Mission Area.

## **Strengthening and Empowering the Federal Workforce**

USDA would not be able to deliver our programs and services to Americans without our dedicated staff. To deliver on our mission, USDA is finding new ways to support talent teams to strengthen recruitment and hiring by expanding early career hiring, internship opportunities, and removing barriers to equal opportunity. With nearly 100,000 employees across the nation, USDA must serve as a model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The Budget request \$4.5 million to establish the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office to ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace. The Budget requests a \$1.1 million increase for the Talent Management Division in the Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) which will allow the office to administer a program that further develops the skillsets of our employee population coupled with fostering innovative training modalities for the hybrid work environment. The program is working to address workforce development needs and lead in creating a “best-in class” learning organization to ensure that USDA has training and developmental opportunities to enhance employees’ skills and competencies while expanding career paths options for employees and upward mobility and leadership role opportunities.

As USDA reimagines and transforms the way it delivers its mission and services to the American public, it must also invest in IT modernization to address vulnerabilities in government legacy systems to ensure those services are provided in an effective, efficient, and secure manner. In the 2025 Budget, USDA is seeking to modify the NEF authority to expand the language beyond building modernization to also include IT infrastructure, creating a sustainable fund that will help agencies with modernization efforts to protect against cyber threats and inefficient legacy technology.

## **Firefighter Workforce Reform**

The Budget requests \$386 million to continue the President's commitment to ensure equitable, competitive compensation for Federal wildland firefighters by providing pay levels comparable to those attained since 2022 with the payment supplemental provided by BIL as well as additional reforms such as mental health and wellbeing services and improved housing conditions. To do so, the Forest Service recognizes that a permanent solution to wildland firefighter compensation requires authorization to establish a new pay table that would raise the base salary of the fire workforce. As such, the 2025 Forest Service Budget provides the funding needed to implement the Administration's 2024 proposed authorization of a special base rate salary table and pay premiums to compensate firefighters for all hours they are mobilized on an incident. Additionally, this suite of reforms includes increased workforce capacity, mental health and well-being assistance, and improved housing. These pay reforms will increase federal wildland firefighters' base pay to provide a more livable wage and address long-term competitiveness and equity issues to ensure stable recruitment and strong retention. These investments in Federal wildland fire management workforce take another significant step forward in ongoing efforts to build a more robust, year-round workforce that is better aligned to meet the challenges of today's wildfire activity which are expected to continue to increase due to climate change.

## **THE NEXT FARM BILL**

The Budget provides USDA with the staffing resources necessary to seamlessly implement reauthorization of the Farm Bill. The Administration looks forward to working this year with the Congress, partners, stakeholders, and the public to identify shared priorities and build on the historic legislative achievements of the first three years of the Administration. The Farm Bill presents a unique opportunity to transform the food and agricultural system from one that benefits a few to one that benefits many—all while strengthening USDA's nutrition programs, which are among the most effective and far-reaching tools available to improve the health and well-being of Americans. The Nation can achieve meaningful, equitable growth in agriculture and rural economies by creating new revenue streams for American farmers, ranchers, and producers of all sizes through climate smart agriculture and forestry, biobased products, renewable energy, local and regional food systems, increased competition in agricultural markets, and other value-added opportunities, while reducing the paperwork burden for Federal programs and achieving best in Government practices. The Farm Bill is also a critical opportunity to ensure that the wealth created in rural America stays there to empower rural communities with the tools necessary to advance their locally-led vision.

The upcoming Farm Bill is also an opportunity to make progress toward ensuring that all Americans have access to healthy, affordable food, as emphasized in the *Biden-Harris Administration National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*. This is an important moment to protect food assistance benefits that reflect the true cost of a basic, healthy diet, strengthen cross enrollment capabilities across Federal assistance programs, and eliminate barriers to food assistance for vulnerable groups. These barriers make it difficult for underserved groups to succeed, including low-income college students, individuals reentering society and seeking a second chance, youth who have aged out of foster care, kinship families, low-income individuals

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in the U.S. Territories, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients facing time limits. Rather than reducing obstacles to employment, research demonstrates that time limits on SNAP eligibility amplify existing inequities in food and economic security. Beyond removing barriers to food access, there is also the opportunity to make healthier choices easier by expanding food purchasing options, fruit and vegetable incentives, and local food procurement through Federal nutrition programs, including by building upon efforts already plotted by USDA. The Farm Bill reauthorization process is an opportunity to strengthen program integrity to address new risks and vulnerabilities while ensuring that USDA can continue to support the needs of all eligible households. The Congress also has the opportunity to protect and replace SNAP benefits stolen by gaining access to participants' account information. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to: support new and beginning farmers; shore up the Federal Government's commitment to agricultural research; address climate change by protecting and enhancing investments in conservation, climate-smart agriculture and forestry, and clean energy; strengthen local and regional food supply chains; continue efforts on reducing food loss and waste; support competition by increasing transparency and continuing to support small and independent processors; open new market opportunities and provide a competitive advantage for American producers—including small and historically underserved producers and early adopters. In addition, the Administration supports improvements to crop insurance, proactively managing risk from natural hazards, including the permanent authorization of the cover crop incentive program. These Administration priorities can help create a stronger safety net and better markets for consumers and producers of U.S. agricultural products through the Farm Bill, which is one piece of the puzzle for how USDA helps people across America and the globe.

## ***FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION***

### **MISSION**

The Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area focuses on domestic agricultural issues. Locating the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Risk Management Agency (RMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the FPAC Business Center under one mission area provides a simplified one-stop shop for USDA's primary customers, the farmers, ranchers, and forest managers across America. FSA, RMA, and NRCS implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance, conservation programs and technical assistance, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs.

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed roughly \$1.42 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022, a 5.5-percent share. The output of America's farms contributed \$223.5 billion of this sum—about one percent of U.S. GDP. The overall contribution of agriculture to GDP is larger though because sectors related to agriculture rely on agricultural inputs to contribute added value to the economy. In 2022, 22.1 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors—10.4 percent of total U.S. employment. Direct on-farm employment accounted for about 2.6 million of these jobs, or 1.2 percent of U.S. employment. Employment in agriculture- and food-related industries supported another 19.6 million jobs. The agricultural sector has a significant impact on not only the rural economy, but the National economy as well.

When American farmers and ranchers are financially healthy, they not only support themselves and their families, but also their employees, local equipment dealers, farm service suppliers and the rural communities where they live and do business. USDA's farm safety-net and disaster programs play a critical role to help ensure that American agriculture continues to be financially healthy.

In 2023, the FPAC Mission Area worked to keep U.S. farmers and ranchers financially healthy. For example, in 2023, as authorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill), FSA provided over \$355 million in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) payments to producers for crop year 2021.<sup>1</sup> ARC and PLC are an important part of the farm safety net to assist producers during downturns in crop revenue or commodity prices. The Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program provided \$1.1 billion in protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) fell below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. To help the dairy industry respond to challenges, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 established Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage payments for calendar years 2021-2023, and subsequently, the program was extended through calendar year 2024. These payments are limited to farms enrolled in DMC with a production history of less than 5,000,000 pounds and reflect increases in their production since 2014. As of early January 2024, Supplemental DMC has provided about \$88 million to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that have increased production over the years but were not able to enroll that additional production.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2018 Farm Bill was extended by the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024.

FSA continues to provide tools for America's farmers to be good stewards of the land. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has protected and conserved environmentally sensitive land since 1986. CRP is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with an established track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon, and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well as providing healthy habitat for wildlife. FSA is assessing the impact of recent improvements to the CRP, including: higher rental rates to increase producer interest and enrollment; a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to increase enrollment for carbon sequestration; and a Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative to measure program outcomes and understand their potential to mitigate the impacts of climate change over time. Grassland, forest, and wetland assessment teams have been laying the groundwork to monitor climate mitigation impacts of over 1,000 enrollments and are working with NRCS to provide training opportunities to conservation planners during field visits. Since 2021, USDA has seen a significant increase in enrollment in the CRP, which is a critical part of the Department's efforts to support climate-smart agriculture and forestry on working lands. In October 2023, USDA announced it issued more than \$1.77 billion to 667,000 agricultural producers and landowners for 23 million acres of private land enrolled in CRP.

FSA farm loan programs provide an important safety net for producers, by providing a source of credit to producers who commercial lenders may be unwilling to serve. The majority of FSA's direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans are targeted to beginning producers, who generally have had a more difficult time obtaining credit to maintain and expand their operations. In 2023, FSA provided more than 22,000 direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers, totaling over \$4.7 billion with beginning farmers representing 60 percent of this total. As of December 2023, under Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), USDA has helped distressed farm loan borrowers with approximately \$1.9 billion in assistance. This assistance to borrowers has helped borrowers stay on their farms and keep farming. Section 22006 provided funds for relief of distressed borrowers with certain direct and guaranteed loans, and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk due to factors outside their control, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2023, FSA improved the farm loan process including a simplified direct loan application and launching an online direct application, which improves the customer experience and program delivery.

Crop insurance is designed to allow farmers and ranchers to effectively manage their risk through difficult periods, helping to maintain America's food supply and the sustainability of small, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other underserved farmers. In calendar year 2023, RMA helped provide the largest farm safety net in history, a record \$207 billion in protection for American agriculture. At the same time, the agency continued to introduce new programs to support specialty crops, livestock, controlled environment, and shellfish producers. Additionally, RMA invested over \$6.5 million in cooperative agreements and partnerships to help educate underserved, small-scale and organic producers better manage risks.

NRCS works in partnership with private landowners, communities, local governments, and other stakeholders to promote the sustainable use and to safeguard the productivity of the Nation's private working lands. The agency provides conservation planning, technical assistance, and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and foresters to help them conserve, enhance, and protect natural resources. In addition, NRCS works with these partners to leverage resources and innovative ideas to make the landscape and critical infrastructure more resilient. In 2023, NRCS



developed conservation plans covering over 75 million acres. In accordance with those plans and utilizing Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program support, conservation practices and systems designed to improve soil quality were applied to 5 million acres of cropland. Through the IRA, USDA has enrolled more farmers and more acres in voluntary conservation programs than at any point in history, addressing a backlog that has persisted for many years. In calendar year 2023, USDA enrolled nearly 5,300 additional producers in NRCS conservation programs across all 50 states. The IRA provided \$19.5 billion to implement conservation programs, including the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and to measure, monitor, report and verify greenhouse gas emissions. Throughout 2023, NRCS worked on improvements to RCPP and ACEP to streamline processes and reduce the burden on partners.

The FPAC Business Center, created in 2018, provides mission support services to FSA, RMA, and NRCS including acquisition, budget, economic analysis, finance, security, human resources, information technology, performance, and related activities to enable those agencies to help keep U.S agricultural producers financially healthy.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

FSA supports the delivery of farm loans, commodity, conservation, disaster assistance, and related programs. FSA utilizes the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), which funds most of the USDA commodity, export, and conservation programs.

*Table FPAC-1. FSA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FSA Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation).....	\$1,215	\$1,215	\$1,241
Transfer from Program Accounts.....	306	306	312
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	1,521	1,521	1,552
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:			
Loan Subsidy.....	47	47	46
Recission of Unobligated Subsidy BA.....	-73	-8	-
Loan Program Expenses.....	21	21	21
Total, ACIF Program Account.....	-5	60	66
State Mediation Grants.....	7	7	7
Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.....	8	8	8
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.....	4	4	4
Total, Ongoing Discretionary Programs .....	1,534	1,599	1,637
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,534	1,599	1,637
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Dairy Indemnity Program .....	(1)	(1)	(1)
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	-	-	-
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (2023 Omnibus).....	27	-	-
Assistance to Rice Producers (2023 Omnibus).....	250	-	-
Total, Supplemental Programs .....	277	-	-
Total, Current Law .....	1,811	1,599	1,637
Total, FSA .....	1,811	1,599	1,637

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Salaries and Expenses**

The Budget includes about \$1.6 billion to support Federal and non-Federal staffing. FSA delivers its programs through more than 2,100 USDA Service Centers, 50 State offices, and an area office in Puerto Rico. For 2025, the Budget requests \$1 million to support FSA's continued outreach and education efforts for the Heirs Relending Program, supporting FSA's efforts to help families facing farmland fractionization maintain their land for future generations to continue in agriculture.

**State Mediation Grants**

Funding for State Mediation Grants is proposed at \$7 million. These grants are made to States to support certified programs to provide alternative dispute resolution. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded the issues covered under these program funds, such as lease issues, family farm transition, and farmer-neighbor disputes. The Budget extends this resource to all U.S. territories and Tribes to ensure broader inclusion and support for agricultural producers.

## Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Funding for the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program (GSWPP) is proposed at \$7.5 million. GSWPP is a joint effort between FSA and the nonprofit National Rural Water Association designed to help prevent source water pollution in States through voluntary practices installed by producers and other landowners at the local level. State rural water associations deliver technical assistance in developing source water protection plans within watersheds to help prevent contamination of drinking water supplies.

## Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

The budget includes \$4 million for geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program. The Program reimburses eligible producers for a portion of the cost to transport agricultural commodities or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity.

*Table FPAC-2. FSA Full-Time Equivalents*

Item	2023	2024	2025
	Actual	Estimated	Budget
Federal.....	3,000	3,117	3,117
Non-Federal: .....	7,198	7,168	7,168
Total Permanent Full-Time .....	10,198	10,285	10,285
Temporary (Non-Federal) .....	197	200	200
<b>Total, FSA Full-Time Equivalents.....</b>	<b>10,395</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>10,485</b>
Of which Non-Federal.....	7,395	7,368	7,368

*Table FPAC-3. ACIF Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 PL	2023 BA	2024 PL	2024 BA	2025 PL	2025 BA
	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Estimated	Budget	Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Farm Ownership Loans:						
Direct.....	\$3,100	-	\$3,100	-	\$1,967	\$36
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-
Total, Ownership Loans.....	6,600	-	6,600	-	5,467	36
Farm Operating Loans:						
Direct.....	1,633	\$24	1,392	\$24	1,100	3
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	2,118	11	16,040	11	2,118	-
Total, Operating Loans.....	3,752	35	17,432	22	3,218	3
Emergency Loans .....	4	0	3	0	37	4
Indian Land Acquisition Loans .....	20	-	20	-	20	-
Boll Weevil Eradication Loans .....	60	-	-	-	5	0
Conservation Loans:						
Direct.....	-	-	-	-	300	-
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	150	-	150	-	-	-
Total, Conservation Loans .....	150	-	150	-	300	-
Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loans .	5	1	3	1	-	-
Heir's Relending Program .....	61	11	35	11	8	3
Total, ACIF .....	10,652	47	24,242	47	9,055	46

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The Farm Loan Programs serve as an important safety net for America's farmers by providing a source of credit when credit from commercial sources cannot or does not meet their actual needs.

The 2018 Farm Bill increased the loan limits for many of the farm loan programs, thereby increasing loan demand, particularly Direct Farm Ownership loans. To meet the anticipated demand for farm credit, the Budget supports just over \$9 billion in farm loans. Building on efforts begun in the 2024 Budget to connect more producers with the financing they need for successful farm operations, the 2025 Budget proposes five additional legislative changes to Farm Loan Programs. These proposals are designed to improve the borrower experience and make these farm loans work better for FSA borrowers. The combined suite of 2024 and 2025 legislative proposals include: 1) Direct Farm Ownership and Direct Farm Operating loan programs: Eliminate the cap on the number of times a borrower can get a Direct Operating or Direct Farm Ownership loan; 2) Emergency loan program: Remove Emergency Loan program requirements for written credit denial and adjust the production loss percent threshold from 30 percent to an amount to be determined by the Secretary; 3) Direct Farm Ownership loan program: (a) Reduce the Direct Farm Ownership loan requirements to require an applicant have one year of farming experience (not three) or that the applicant have an established relationship with a mentor approved by the Secretary, or is a veteran who has been honorably discharged; (b) Increase down payment loan limit to match the Direct Farm Ownership loan limit; (c) Increase the microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000; (d) Authorize refinancing of debt as a direct Farm Ownership loan program purpose; 4) All farm loan programs: (a) Revise beginning farmer definition to require individuals of an entity to be beginning farmers without regard to relationship; (b) Revise beginning farmer lending targets required to the extent practicable; (c) Remove prohibition of new loans for applicants that have received debt forgiveness when at least seven years have passed since receiving debt forgiveness; 5) Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating loan programs: Increase the lifetime limitation on debt forgiveness per borrower from \$300,000 to \$600,000; 6) Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loan program and Direct Farm Operating loan program: Modify the statutory language describing the interest rate requirements for limited resource loans, microloans to beginning farmers and veteran farmers, and Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loans, including the establishment of an interest rate ceiling; 7) Guaranteed Farm Ownership loan program and Guaranteed Farm Operating loan program: Remove the authority of preferred certified lenders to initiate liquidation without Farm Service Agency concurrence. Similar to last year's Budget, these legislative changes are budget neutral, but there will be an effect on the subsidy rate from the proposals that make the lending more lenient for the borrower.

The Budget is projected to support over 32,000 loans to farmers and ranchers by financing operating expenses and providing opportunities to acquire a farm or keep an existing one. The availability of farm operating loans provides farmers with short-term credit to finance the costs of continuing or improving their farming operations, such as purchasing seed, fertilizer, livestock, feed, equipment, and other supplies. For farm operating loans, the Budget supports over \$1.1 billion in direct loans and over \$2.1 billion in guaranteed loans. The requested loan levels for operating loans will serve approximately 20,000 loans to farmers, of which about 14,000 will be direct and 6,000 will be guaranteed loans. For farm ownership loans, the Budget includes funding to support nearly \$2 billion in direct loans and \$3.5 billion for guaranteed loans. These loan levels will provide an estimated 12,000 loans to farmers with the opportunity to either acquire their own farm or keep an existing one; an estimated 6,000 will be direct and about 6,000 will be guaranteed loans.

The Budget will provide nearly \$8 million in loans for the Heirs' Property Relending Program, authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, to resolve ownership and succession of farmland. As mentioned above, an additional \$1 million is provided to expand outreach and education on the program. The Budget reflects a change to that promotes climate friendly farming practices by funding \$300 million in direct conservation loans instead of guarantees. This will make these loans more affordable to farmers, and is expected to increase actual conservation loan activity. Also, the Budget supports \$37 million for emergency loans, \$20 million in Indian Land Acquisition loans, and \$5 million in boll weevil eradication loans. No funding is requested for Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loans as the demand for that program has waned in favor of other programs that provide similar assistance.

### **Emergency Relief Program**

The Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022, funded with \$3.7 billion from the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, provides payments to eligible crop producers for losses due to qualifying natural disaster events occurring in calendar year 2022, including about \$500 million specifically targeted to livestock producers for losses incurred due to drought or wildfire. Following the template created with the ERP for losses in 2020 and 2021, ERP 2022 is administered in two tracks. ERP 2022 was implemented to help as many producers as possible offset the significant financial impacts resulting from these ongoing and widespread natural disasters. Track 1 streamlines assistance using prefilled applications leveraging information already on file with RMA and FSA. Track 2 provides assistance for eligible producers who suffered eligible crop and tree losses through a revenue-based approach. By the end of calendar year 2023, there were nearly 100,000 approved applications totaling over \$894 million.

### **Inflation Reduction Act**

Section 22006 of the IRA provides \$3.1 billion to assist distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by FSA. A multi-tier process has been used to expedite assistance to borrowers at the greatest financial risk, with the goal of keeping them on their farms while also promoting their long-term stability. These efforts complement the ongoing work by FSA to update the Farm Loans Program with a focus on proactive loan servicing and support to keep farmers farming. As of early January 2024, FSA provided \$1.9 billion in assistance to nearly 35,000 borrowers, and continues to distribute this assistance to help borrowers get back to a financially viable path and succeed as thriving agricultural businesses.

The following table summarizes FSA's contributions to the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs; the CRP KPI is reported further below). Further information is presented in the FY 2025 Annual Performance Report / FY 2023 Annual Performance Report found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.

**Table FPAC-4. FSA Key Performance Indicators Measures**

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Total national acres in grassed waterways (million acres) .....	.102	.125	.097
Total national acres in contour grass strips, contour grass strips in terraces, and prairie strips (million acres).....	.036	.080	.038
Acres of restored wetlands (million acres) .....	2.30	2.96	2.33
Average number of days to process direct loans .....	31	33	33
Percentage of direct and guaranteed loan borrowers who are beginning farmers .....	63	59.9	59.9
First installment delinquency rate on direct loans .....	5.9	9	8
Direct loan delinquency rate .....	1.5	7	7

**COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC) PROGRAMS**

**Table FPAC-5. CCC Net Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund .....	\$7,738	\$7,671	\$5,245

**COMMODITY PROGRAMS**

The commodity programs provide risk management and financial tools to farmers and ranchers. These programs, including Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), provide protection against adverse market fluctuations. As a result, outlays for many of these programs vary significantly from year to year as market conditions change. Total CCC net outlays are about \$5.6 billion, a decrease of about \$2.2 billion from the 2024 estimate.

**Table FPAC-6. CCC Net Outlays (millions of dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>Commodity Programs:</b>			
Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage .....	\$355	\$147	\$80
Marketing Assistance Loans .....	-248	569	-68
<i>Loans Made</i> .....	5,218	7,112	6,921
<i>Loans Repaid</i> .....	5,466	6,543	6,989
Loan Deficiency Payments .....	7	7	7
Loan Implementation .....	100	136	124
Dairy Margin Coverage.....	1,124	1,520	736
Other Commodity Programs .....	69	45	31
<i>Subtotal, Commodity Payments</i> .....	<u>1,406</u>	<u>2,424</u>	<u>911</u>
<b>Disaster Programs:</b>			
Supplemental Disaster Programs .....	2,211	2,060	1,998

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program .....	311	391	242
<i>Total, Disaster Programs</i> .....	<i>2,522</i>	<i>2,451</i>	<i>2,240</i>
<b>Conservation Programs:</b>			
Conservation Reserve Program.....	1,888	1,987	1,951
Other, Conservation Programs .....	7	9	7
<i>Total, Conservation Programs</i> .....	<i>1,895</i>	<i>1,996</i>	<i>1,958</i>
<b>Export &amp; Foreign Assistance Programs:</b>			
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust .....	220	19	-
Food for Progress .....	154	285	285
Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program .....	281	258	283
<i>Total, Export Programs</i> .....	<i>655</i>	<i>561</i>	<i>568</i>
Total CCC Fund .....	6,478	7,432	5,676
<b>CCC Charter Act Programs</b> .....	120	92	78
<b>Additional Authorities</b> .....	44	81	44
<b>Mandatory Authorities</b> .....	228	93	50
<b>All Other</b> <sup>1/</sup> .....	572	905	444
<b>Sequestration</b> <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-689	-617
<b>Other CCC Activities:</b>			
CCC Export Loans (current, discretionary) .....	6	6	8
Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund.....	16	16	-
Agricultural Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund .....	22	35	-
<i>Total, Other CCC Activities</i> .....	<i>44</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>8</i>
Total, Current Law .....	7,485	7,971	5,683
<b>Receipts and Offsetting Collections</b> <sup>3/</sup> .....	-158	-128	-117
<b>Net Outlays, CCC</b> .....	<b>7,328</b>	<b>7,843</b>	<b>5,566</b>

<sup>1/</sup> All Other includes Interest, Operating Expenses, and Discretionary Appropriations.

<sup>2/</sup> The 2023 figures reflect outlays after sequestration and estimates in 2024 and 2025 reflect projected outlays prior to sequestration. The sequestration percentage is 5.7.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes from Federal and non-Federal sources and DMC premiums and collections. MAL repayments are shown above.

ARC and PLC provide assistance only when downturns in commodity revenue or prices occur. Under ARC, producers are given the choice to elect ARC-County (ARC-CO) or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC). ARC-CO offers revenue protection on a county basis. ARC-IC offers revenue protection on an individual farm basis. Producers are able to elect PLC or ARC-CO on a commodity-by-commodity basis, but ARC-IC has to be elected on a farm basis. Payments under PLC occur if the U.S. average market price for the crop is less than the effective reference price, therefore offering price protection. Payments under ARC-CO occur when actual county crop revenue is below the ARC revenue guarantee for a crop year. Under ARC-IC, payments are issued when the actual individual crop revenues, summed across all covered commodities on the farm, are less than ARC individual guarantees summed across those covered commodities on the farm. ARC and PLC payments are issued after October 1 or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the end of the applicable marketing year for the covered commodity. The ARC and PLC payments issued in fiscal year 2023 were generally for crop year 2021, and similarly the payments to be made in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 are generally for crop years 2022 and 2023, respectively. The 2018 Farm Bill allowed producers the opportunity to elect either ARC-CO or PLC by crop for both the 2019 and 2020 crop years. Then, starting with crop year 2021, the choice between ARC-

CO and PLC was made for each crop year through 2024<sup>2</sup>. Also, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized a nationwide one-time PLC yield update that was in effect for 2020-2023 crops. In addition, the PLC reference price now has an escalator option, not to exceed 115 percent of the statutory reference price.

The 2018 Farm Bill replaced the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) with the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program. Changes included lowering premiums, adding new levels of coverage, and allowing producers to make a separate election for covered production over 5 million pounds. The 2018 Farm Bill also provided for the repayment of premium previously paid under MPP-Dairy by allowing a 50 percent cash payment or a 75 percent credit toward new premiums, based on the amount of premium the dairy operation paid for coverage during 2014 to 2017. Further, the Dairy Product Donation Program was repealed and replaced with a new fluid milk donation program. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 established Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage (SDMC). SDMC payments are limited to farms enrolled in DMC with a production history of less than 5,000,000 pounds and reflect increases in their production since 2014. As of early January 2024, Supplemental DMC had provided about \$88 million to better help small- and mid-sized dairy operations that have increased production over the years but were not able to enroll that additional production.

*Table FPAC-7. CCC Gross Outlays by Commodity\* (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Estimated
<b>Commodity:</b>			
Feed Grains .....	\$854	\$1,716	\$1,627
Wheat .....	95	253	138
Rice .....	151	257	269
Extra Long Staple Cotton.....	135	95	107
Upland Cotton .....	2	12	15
Seed Cotton (inc. Upland Seed Cotton).....	1,772	1,581	2,102
Lentils.....	1	4	3
Honey .....	2	4	4
Dairy and Products.....	1,124	1,520	736
Soybeans .....	442	727	746
Other Oilseeds.....	9	69	19
Sugar .....	1,025	1,015	1,063
Peanuts .....	935	920	899
Other Commodities .....	326	791	170
Total, Commodity Payments.....	6,872	8,966	7,899

\*The table represents gross outlays for all commodity programs, i.e., ARC/PLC, MALS etc. Loan repayments are not reflected in amounts shown. Totals may not add due to rounding.

### Conservation Programs

Most of the conservation programs administered by FSA and NRCS (see NRCS section for further information) are funded through the CCC. These programs help farmers adopt and maintain

<sup>2</sup> While the 2018 Farm Bill allowed for the election choice through 2023, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 allows for farmers to choose between ARC and PLC for the 2024 crop year.



conservation systems and practices that protect water and air quality, reduce soil erosion, protect and enhance wildlife habitat and wetlands, conserve water, and sequester carbon.

### **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The purpose of CRP is to assist farm owners and operators in conserving and improving soil, water, air, and wildlife resources by converting highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage normally devoted to the production of agricultural commodities to a long-term resource-conserving cover. CRP participants enroll in contracts for periods from 10 to 15 years in exchange for annual rental payments and cost-share and technical assistance for installing approved conservation practices. Amounts for CRP include financial and technical assistance. CRP enrolls highly erodible cropland, and also marginal cropland and pastureland in areas adjacent to lakes and streams that are converted to buffers, and cropland that can serve as restored or constructed wetlands, cropland contributing to water quality problems, and cropland converted to valuable wildlife habitat.

CRP enrolls land through general signups and continuous signups, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP agreements are Federal/State/Tribal partnerships designed to address specific environmental objectives. Under general signup provisions, producers compete nationally during specified enrollment periods for acceptance based on an environmental benefits index. Under continuous signup provisions, producers enroll specified high-environmental value lands such as wetlands, riparian buffers, and various types of habitats at any time during the year without competition.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extends CRP through 2031. The acreage cap remains at 27 million acres and includes a goal to enroll at least 8.6 million acres under continuous practices. There is continued emphasis on the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers initiative ((CLEAR 30), which has 30-year contracts) and the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP). FSA's goal is to enroll at least 40 percent of continuous CRP acres to the practices considered as CLEAR 30. As of December 2023, over 3.2 million acres in 34 States were enrolled in CLEAR contracts, and more than 3,000 acres in SHIPP, which focuses on the prairie pothole States of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Total CRP enrollment at the end of 2023 was about 24.8 million acres, of which about 7.7 million acres were enrolled under general signups, approximately 8.3 million acres under continuous signups and about 8.6 million acres under grasslands signups. Nearly 483,000 acres enrolled in CRP will be expiring at the end of 2024 and another 1 million acres will be expiring at the end of 2025. The Transition Incentives Program (TIP) encourages the transition of expiring CRP land to a beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmer or rancher so land can be returned to sustainable grazing or crop production. By early 2024, nearly 400,000 acres were enrolled in TIP across 29 States. CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of ecosystem conversion.

Several assessments of CRP-related outcomes are ongoing. These include a trio of projects that will monitor the impact on soil carbon, as well as greenhouse gas emissions and conversion of

marginal cropland to perennial cover. These projects involve visiting roughly 1,000 grass, tree, and wetland enrollments at least twice over five years to collect and analyze samples.

Riparian and grass buffers improve water quality and provide vital habitat for wildlife. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, riparian and grass buffers protect groundwater and help improve the condition of aquifers, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

*Table FPAC-8. KPI – CRP Acreage Enrolled*

Key Performance Indicators	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Acreage enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) riparian and grass buffers (Cumulative, Million Acres).....	1.28	1.61	1.23

**Agricultural Disaster Assistance**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) were authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill under the USDA Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Program, amended by the 2018 Farm Bill.

*Table FPAC-9. Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Gross Outlays (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Commodity:</b>			
LFP.....	\$1,777	\$1,706	\$1,612
LIP.....	58	41	44
TAP.....	16	49	11
ELAP.....	360	264	331
Total, Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance.....	2,211	2,060	1,998

LIP provides benefits to producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government. The 2018 Farm Bill amended LIP to include coverage for: 1) death or sale loss resulting from diseases caused by, or transmitted by, a vector that cannot be controlled by vaccination or acceptable management practices; and 2) death of unweaned livestock due to adverse weather. In addition, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 eliminated the payment limit for LIP. LFP provides compensation to livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. It also provides compensation to producers who have suffered grazing losses due to fire on rangeland managed by a Federal agency.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease (including cattle tick fever), adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by LFP and LIP. In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill eliminated the payment limit for ELAP.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. The Bipartisan Budget

Act, 2018 raised the number of acres for which payments could be received from 500 to 1,000 acres.

### **Pandemic Assistance for Producers**

USDA announced in March 2021 the Pandemic Assistance for Producers Program to bring financial assistance to a broader set of farmers and ranchers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. In 2023, FSA implemented the final program within the assistance through the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP). PARP provided direct financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who suffered at least a 15 percent loss in gross revenue in calendar year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP helped address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. PARP was designed to help deliver financial assistance to a broader set of producers, including underserved communities, small and medium sized producers, and farmers and producers of livestock and less traditional crops. To address those gaps in assistance, PARP targeted overall revenue losses and supports producers of certain commodities that were not previously eligible for pandemic assistance. In December 2023, FSA issued more than \$233 million in PARP payments to producers.

**RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY***Table FPAC-10. RMA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
RMA Salaries and Expenses Appropriations .....	\$67	\$67	\$66
Transfer from FCIC (Mandatory).....	7	7	7
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	74	74	73
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Indemnities Net of Producer Paid Premium <sup>1</sup> .....	11,557	10,790	10,164
Delivery Expense <sup>2</sup> .....	2,406	2,343	2,325
Underwriting Gain <sup>3</sup> .....	1,354	2,311	2,181
FCIA Initiatives .....	19	21	21
Mandatory Appropriations .....	15,336	15,465	14,691
Delivery Expense (Discretionary).....	25	25	-
Total, RMA (before adjustments) .....	15,435	15,564	14,764
Proposed Legislation <sup>4</sup> .....	-	75	60
Total, RMA .....	15,435	15,639	14,824

<sup>1</sup> The amount of premium subsidy paid by the Federal government is not reflected in the table above. The Budget for the Federal Crop Insurance Program assumes a crop year loss ratio (gross indemnities/total premium) of 1.0 for 2024. However, the fiscal year loss ratio could be higher or lower than 1.0 due to differences in the timing of certain cash flows (see discussion below on estimated indemnities).

<sup>2</sup> Reimbursements to private companies.

<sup>3</sup> Payments to private insurance companies. The 2025 underwriting gains reflect a projected 1.0 loss ratio for the 2025 crop year.

<sup>4</sup> Budget includes a mandatory proposal to make permanent the Cover Crop Incentive Program.

**Discretionary Funding – Salaries and Expenses**

Discretionary funds for the Federal crop insurance program cover most of Federal salaries and related expenses to manage the program. The Budget includes \$66 million in discretionary appropriations for these costs. Of note, \$1 million will be used to help ensure Federal crop insurance functions efficiently, meets customer needs, and is available to as many producers as possible, while protecting the integrity of the program. Further, the RMA plans to transfer \$7 million each fiscal year from mandatory funding to RMA's Salaries and Expenses for program compliance and integrity reviews.

**Mandatory Funding**

The Federal crop insurance program provides a safety net that protects producers from a wide range of risks caused by natural disasters, as well as the risk of price fluctuations. The crop insurance program covers around 130 crops. However, the ten principal row crops (barley, corn, cotton, peanuts, potatoes, rice, sorghum, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat) account for around 74 percent of total insured value. The participation rate is high for the principal row crops with around 89 percent of acres covered by insurance.

Federal crop insurance is delivered to producers through private insurance companies that share in the risk of loss and opportunity for gain. The companies are reimbursed for their delivery expenses and receive underwriting gains. The costs associated with the Federal crop insurance programs include premium subsidies, indemnity payments (in excess of producer paid premiums), underwriting gains paid to private companies, reimbursements to private companies for delivery expenses, and other authorized expenditures.

RMA is provided approximately \$15 million in additional mandatory funding that is authorized in the Farm Bill for specific administrative and IT related costs in the FCIC fund. The funding is further enhanced by the availability of \$48 million in mandatory funding from the fees collected from the sale of insurance policies, which can be for administrative and IT related costs, and spent directly out of the FCIC fund.

A key performance measure for the Federal crop insurance program is the normalized value of risk protection provided by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC)-sponsored insurance – shown in table FPAC-11 on a crop year basis. The value of FCIC risk protection is the actual dollar insurance liability for a given crop year. However, this value is strongly influenced by commodity price swings or trends. The normalized value of risk protection uses a five-year baseline to smooth variations caused by these trends. The baseline model uses the most recent crop insurance data, and other USDA market conditions data, to develop normalized value projections for major crops. For the 2023 crop year, the Federal crop insurance program provided about \$207 billion in crop and livestock risk protection or about \$100 billion in (normalized) risk protection. The 2023 and 2024 crop year targets reflect projections of normalized value of risk protection as described above.

Actual indemnities for 2023 reflect crop year 2022 losses that were paid out in 2023, plus the portion of crop year 2023 losses paid out in 2023. The loss ratio for the 2022 crop year was 0.63. Estimated losses for crop years 2024 and 2025 reflect the statutory target loss ratio of 1.0.

The following table summarize RMA’s contributions to the Departmental KPIs.

*Table FPAC-11. RMA Key Performance Indicators*

Key Performance Indicators	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Improper payment rate for all categories of payment (%) .....	2.64	2.38	2.38
Annual normalized value of risk protection provided to agricultural producers through the Federal Crop Insurance program (\$ billion) .....	100	78.8	81.1

In 2023, the Federal crop insurance programs cost about \$15.4 billion. Of this, about \$11.6 billion was for net indemnities to producers (gross indemnities minus producer paid premiums/fees). Another \$2.4 billion was paid to private insurance companies for delivery expenses, \$1.4 billion for underwriting gains, and \$19 million for Federal Crop Insurance Act initiatives.

### **Proposed Legislation**

The Budget proposes to make the Cover Crop Incentive Program permanent. The program offers a \$5-per-acre incentive for farmers to use cover crops, which will benefit the environment and improve climate resilience. The estimated ten-year cost of this proposal is \$825 million.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

*Table FPAC-12: NRCS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Conservation Operations .....	\$941	\$941	\$985
Watershed Rehabilitation Program .....	2	2	2
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.....	75	75	70
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.....	9	9	15
Healthy Forests Reserve Program.....	7	7	-
Water Bank Program.....	-	-	2
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,034	1,034	1,074
Other discretionary funding:			
Water Bank Program (General Provision) .....	4	4	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking (General Provision).....	5	5	-
Total, Other Funding .....	9	9	-
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Farm Bill Programs:			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program.....	1,879	1,879	1,873
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.....	416	416	415
Regional Conservation Partnership Program .....	283	283	283
Conservation Stewardship Program.....	922	922	918
Agricultural Management Assistance .....	5	5	5
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist.....	221	221	221
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.....	-	10	-
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot.....	-	8	-
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.....	47	47	47
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	3,773	3,791	3,762
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (2023 Omnibus) .....	925	-	-
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (IRA) .....	250	1,650	2,829
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (IRA).....	100	189	472
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (IRA) .....	250	754	1,415
Conservation Stewardship Program (IRA) .....	250	472	943
Total, Supplemental .....	1,775	3,065	5,659
Total, NRCS.....	6,591	7,899	10,495

**Private Lands Conservation Operations (PLCO)**

The proposed discretionary funding for PLCO for 2025 is \$985 million, of which \$869 million is for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program, and \$116 million is for Soil Survey, Snow Survey, and Plant Materials Centers. Increases are requested to expand outreach to producers and to bolster conservation cooperative agreements.

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides landowners and managers with the knowledge and tools they need to develop conservation plans to implement specific conservation practices needed to improve farm operations and conserve, restore and maintain the natural resources on their lands. NRCS partners with state conservation agencies, local conservation districts, and third-party private sector entities (known as Technical Service Providers) to provide technical assistance for conservation planning and activities.

An increase of \$8 million for climate hubs will be used to expand regional and State-based outreach projects to better understand how natural resource conditions on working lands are affected by

climate change. These funds will also provide resources for more effective and efficient delivery of research to end users to improve the performance of programs that conserve the land and sustain agricultural production.

An additional \$30 million in CTA funding will be used to continue Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements, two-year agreements which support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. These agreements will increase new customers at NRCS. In 2022, NRCS offered \$50 million in funding for outreach assistance to historically underserved communities. Two-hundred fifty applications were received requesting \$202 million, of which 117 agreements were funded for \$49 million. NRCS was able to fund 47 percent of applicants, or 24 percent of requested dollars. In 2023, NRCS offered \$70 million in funding. Three hundred applications were received requesting \$210 million, of which 139 were selected for funding for \$69.2 million. NRCS was able to fund 46 percent of applicants, or 33 percent of requested dollars.

An additional \$15 million in CTA funding will be used for conservation planning to support the additional funding for the equity conservation cooperative agreements.

Also, within PLCO, the Soil Survey Program will continue to enhance evaluation of the effects of conservation practices on soil health, soil erosion, carbon sequestration, and other natural resource issues. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program will continue to enhance data collection and analysis to provide estimates of water availability, drought conditions, and flooding potential to water users (e.g., farmers, ranchers, recreationists) and to water managers (irrigation districts, soil and water conservation districts, municipal and industrial water providers, hydroelectric power utilities, fish and wildlife management, reservoir managers, Tribal Nations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and the countries of Canada and Mexico). NRCS Plant Materials Centers will continue development of information and training for field staff to meet emerging environmental challenges to natural resource conservation associated with climate change.

Table FPAC-13: NRCS Technical Assistance and FTEs (millions of dollars)

Item <sup>1</sup>	2023 Actual	2023 % of Total	2024 Estimate <sup>2</sup>	2024 % of Total	2025 Budget	2025 % of Total
<b>Discretionary Programs</b>						
Conservation Operations: <sup>3</sup>						
Conservation Technical Assistance.....	\$827	18%	\$827	17%	\$869	16%
Soil Surveys .....	87	2	87	2	88	2
Snow Surveys.....	17	0	17	0	17	0
Plant Materials .....	11	0	11	0	11	0
<b>Other Discretionary Program</b>						
Wetland Mitigation Banking Program <sup>4</sup> .....	1	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs .....</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Mandatory Programs</b>						
Farm Bill Programs (Technical Assistance): <sup>5</sup>						
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	635	14	702	14	740	14
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.....	235	5	221	5	194	4
Regional Conservation Partnership Program.....	393	9	424	9	220	4
Conservation Stewardship Program.....	474	10	359	7	435	8
Agricultural Management Assistance <sup>6</sup> .....	1	0	1	0	1	0
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist.....	269	6	256	5	233	4
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot..	1	0	-	-	-	-
Agriculture Water Enhancement Program ..	5	0	-	-	-	-
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program ...	32	1	81	2	60	1
Grassland Reserve Program .....	12	0	12	0	7	0
Wetland Reserve Program.....	5	0	6	0	-	-
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program .....	5	0	1	0	1	0
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program .....	4	0	-	-	-	-
Healthy Forests Reserve Program.....	1	0	1	0	-	-
<b>Total, Mandatory Programs .....</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Supplemental Program (Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funds)<sup>7</sup></b>						
Conservation Technical Assistance.....	1,000	22	799	16	450	8
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment	300	7	295	6	170	3
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	77	2	331	7	608	11
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.....	27	1	48	1	116	2
Regional Conservation Partnership Program.....	25	1	338	7	891	17
Conservation Stewardship Program.....	79	2	97	2	198	4
<b>Total, IRA Program Funds .....</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total, Technical Assistance.....</b>	<b>4,522</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Discretionary FTEs:</b>						
Conservation Operations.....	3,300	33%	3,879	28%	3,894	28%
<b>Mandatory FTEs:</b>						
Farm Bill Programs .....	5,834	58%	7,353	53%	7,353	53%
<b>Supplemental FTEs:</b>						
Inflation Reduction Act.....	840	8%	2,654	19%	2,654	19%
<b>Total FTEs .....</b>	<b>9,974</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,886</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,901</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figures may not sum due to rounding.



<sup>1</sup> This table reflects the total staff resources necessary to implement private lands conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This table includes the total for discretionary technical assistance and associated science and technology programs provided through the Private Lands Conservation Operations account in addition to the total technical assistance necessary to implement Farm Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act programs.

<sup>2</sup> The discretionary funding estimate for 2024 is based on a full-year continuing resolution. Mandatory and Supplemental funding for 2024 are based on Authorized levels and Actual carryover.

<sup>3</sup> The Conservation Operations Account includes the Congressionally Directed Projects funding for 2023 Enacted and 2024 estimates based on a full-year continuing resolution (\$22.973 million in Conservation Technical Assistance).

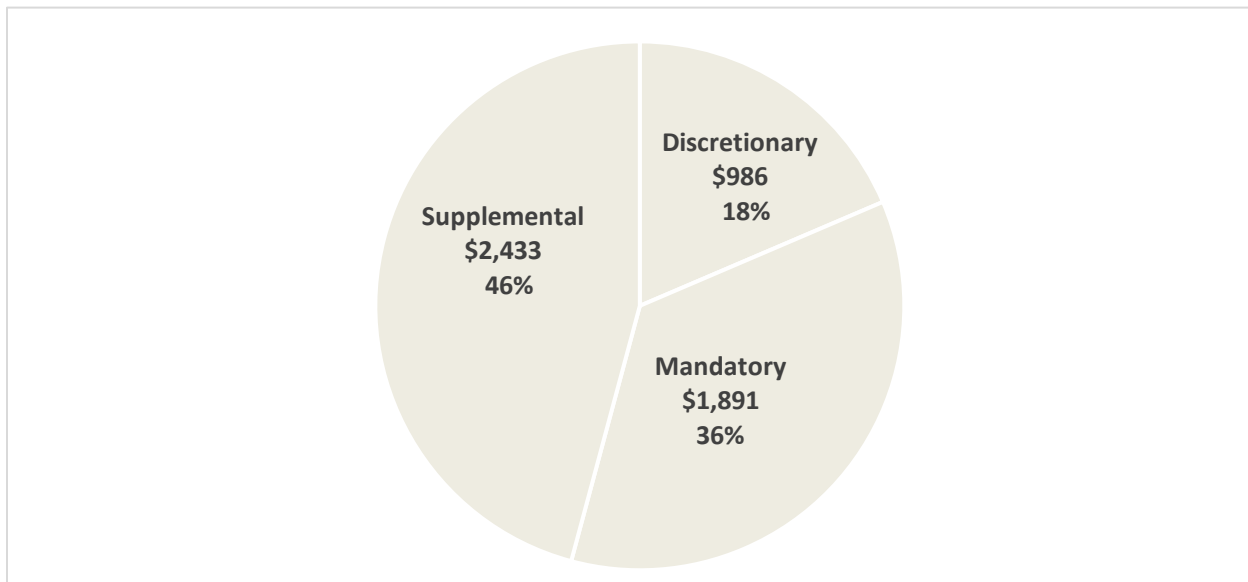
<sup>4</sup> Wetlands Mitigation Banking reflects \$1 million carryover estimate into 2025.

<sup>5</sup> The 2025 Budget assumes estimated carryover of \$364 million in mandatory programs.

<sup>6</sup> NRCS is authorized to receive 50 percent of total AMA funding. The balance of the funds are allocated to the Risk Management Agency and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>7</sup> The 2025 Budget assumes estimated carryover of \$977 million in supplemental funding. The 2024 Estimates and 2025 Budget are based on the IRA Spend Plan as of January 2024.

**Figure FPAC 1: 2025 Budget Estimate for Technical Assistance (millions of dollars)**



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Landowners receive technical and financial assistance through EQIP to address serious natural resource challenges (such as soil erosion, air quality, water quality and quantity, and the sustainability of fish and wildlife habitat) that impact soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing lands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized EQIP and provided enhanced authorities, including new conservation planning activities, increased payments for certain incentive practices, and a greater emphasis on soil testing and health. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extends EQIP through 2031 and provides an additional \$8.45 billion in funding for EQIP, which is being used between 2023 and 2031.

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

ACEP has two components: (1) agricultural land easements, under which NRCS assists eligible entities to protect agricultural land by limiting non-agricultural land uses; and (2) wetland reserve easements, under which NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of wetlands reserve easements. NRCS continues to maintain existing easements and contracts formed under the previous programs and later superseded by ACEP. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized funding for ACEP and further authorized new enhancements to streamline the agricultural land easement process, which will build upon prior years' efforts to help farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extends ACEP through 2031 and provides an additional \$1.4 billion in funding for ACEP, which is being used between 2023 and 2031.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Through RCPP, producers receive technical and financial assistance while NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities. These projects may focus on water quality and quantity, soil erosion, wildlife habitat, drought mitigation, flood control, and other regional priorities. Partners include producer associations, State or local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and institutions of higher education. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized funding for RCPP and created new opportunities for farmers. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extends RCPP through 2031 and provides an additional \$4.95 billion in funding for RCPP, which is being used between 2023 and 2031.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

CSP encourages participants to undertake new conservation activities to build upon existing conservation activities. CSP was authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill. However, the 2018 Farm Bill eliminated the former program and created a new CSP that is closely aligned with EQIP and modified to be dollar based, not acre based, by eliminating the \$18-per-acre payment rate. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 extends CSP through 2031 and provides an additional \$3.25 billion in funding for CSP, which is being used between 2023 and 2031.

The following table summarize NRCS' contributions to the Departmental KPIs.

**Table FPAC-14. NRCS Key Performance Indicators**

<b>Key Performance Indicators <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Land Evaluated for Conservation Needs (Million Acres).....	N/A	N/A	52.1
Conservation Plans Developed.....	N/A	N/A	115,000
Conservation Practice Applied to Reduce Soil Erosion or Improve Soil Health (Million Acres) .....	N/A	N/A	15.9
Land Under Protection by Conservation Easements (Million Acres) .....	N/A	N/A	5.7
Tons of Sediment Prevented from Leaving Cropland and Entering Water Bodies (Million Tons).....	8.5	6	6
Conservation Practices Applied to Conserve Water (Million Acres) .....	N/A	N/A	15.9
Climate Change Mitigation (Million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent [MMT CO <sub>2</sub> e]) .....	N/A	N/A	30
Conservation Practices Applied to Mitigate Climate Change (Million Acres).....	N/A	N/A	23

<sup>a</sup> NRCS revamped its KPIs for 2025 and replaced previous KPIs with the above KPIs to better reflect NRCS work.

**FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER**

The FPAC BC was formed to consolidate mission administrative support functions within the FPAC mission area. FPAC BC is responsible for financial management, budgeting, human resources, information technology, acquisitions/procurement, customer experience, internal controls, risk management, strategic and annual planning, and other mission-wide activities in support of the customers and employees of FSA, RMA, and NRCS. The FPAC BC was established in 2018 via a transfer of funding and personnel from FSA, RMA, and NRCS. The FPAC BC also provides administrative support for the CCC. The 2025 Budget provides \$246 million in discretionary funding. Including an increase in mandatory CCC funding transfer, the 2025 Budget provides a total of \$317 million for the FPAC BC.

*Table FPAC-15. FPAC Business Center Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FPAC Business Center.....	\$249	\$249	\$246
<b>Mandatory:<sup>1</sup></b>			
NRCS - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.....	8	8	10
NRCS - Conservation Stewardship Program .....	21	21	25
NRCS - Environmental Quality Incentives Program .....	31	31	36
Total, CCC Transfer.....	60	60	71
Total, FPAC BC.....	309	309	317

<sup>1</sup> Discretionary transfer of mandatory CCC funds in 2024 and 2025.

## ***TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS***

### **MISSION**

For over 70 years the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has been the lead U.S. government agency tasked with promoting exports of U.S. agricultural products. FAS advances the growth of U.S. agricultural exports through market intelligence, trade policy, trade capacity building, and trade promotion. FAS engages foreign markets across the market development spectrum – from developing economies to mature markets – facilitating an environment for trade growth opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

FAS serves as the voice for U.S. agriculture in international affairs, bringing together the diverse views of American farmers, ranchers, processors, and trade associations, as well as U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations. FAS agricultural attachés and locally employed staff in international offices serve as the eyes, ears, voice, and hands of U.S. agriculture around the world. These international offices are often the first point of contact for companies looking to export to a foreign market. FAS leadership in foreign agricultural affairs is accomplished through its global network of civil servants, foreign service officers, and locally employed staff.

FAS is delegated the role as the Department’s lead agency in coordinating all agricultural matters with foreign countries within 7 CFR 2.601. FAS’ responsibilities include coordinating with Department agencies on foreign agricultural policies and programs and carrying out their operations and activities in foreign areas; acting as a liaison on these matters and functions relating to foreign agriculture with the Department of State (DoS), the United States Trade Representative (USTR), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and foreign governments; conducting functions of the Department relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and legislation affecting international agricultural trade; and administering and directing the Department’s programs in international development, technical assistance and training carried out under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

FAS achieves mission success through relationship-building to create and maintain an open and positive global trade environment. With long-standing partnerships and collaborations with the U.S. agricultural industry, other U.S. government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, FAS consistently evaluates and addresses customer needs. Equally essential are the FAS relationships with international partners, including foreign governments, international organizations, and international agriculture associations. FAS employees continuously evaluate, advise on, and support the strengthening of the global market environment for U.S. food and agricultural products.

FAS prides itself on flexibility and adaptability to meet the ever-evolving trade environment challenges while delivering its mission. FAS advocates for trade-promoting, science-based policies through trade frameworks and initiatives, partnerships, bilateral engagement, and international fora to address the evolving challenges of feeding a growing global population. FAS trade promotion and trade capacity building programs expand export opportunities by creating awareness and demand for U.S. agricultural products and offering tools to support market participation.

**FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE**

FAS administers a variety of programs that are designed to facilitate access to international markets and thereby support a competitive U.S. agricultural system. FAS also carries out activities that promote productive agricultural systems in developing countries and contribute to increased trade and enhanced global food security. Working bilaterally and with international organizations, FAS encourages the development of transparent and science-based regulatory systems that allow for the safe development and use of agricultural goods derived from new technologies. FAS works with other USDA agencies, USTR, and others in the Federal government to monitor and negotiate new trade facilitating agreements and enforce existing trade agreements. The United States has numerous agreements with countries around the world that expand export opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural producers.

**Table TFAA-1. FAS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FAS Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation) .....	\$237	\$237	\$245
International Agricultural Educational Fellowship Program .....	1	-	-
Transfer from CCC Export Credit Program Account .....	6	6	6
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses .....	244	243	251
Foreign Food Assistance:			
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program .....	243	248	243
P.L. 480 Title II Donations .....	1,750	1,800	1,800
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	2,237	2,292	2,294
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Quality Samples Program .....	3	3	3
Foreign Food Assistance:			
P.L. 480 Title II - American Rescue Plan .....	-	-	-
Food for Progress - CCC Funded .....	224	269	269
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust .....	-	-	-
Farm Bill Market Development Programs:			
Market Access Program .....	189	189	189
Emerging Markets Program .....	8	8	8
Foreign Market Development (Cooperator) Program .....	33	33	33
Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program .....	8	8	8
Priority Trade Fund .....	3	3	3
Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Funds .....	15	15	-
Agricultural Wool Trust Fund .....	-	28	-
Total, Farm Bill Market Development Programs .....	256	284	241
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	483	556	513
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
P.L. 480 Title II .....	50	-	-
McGovern-Dole .....	5	-	-
Total, Supplemental .....	55	-	-
Total, Current Law .....	2,775	2,848	2,807
Total, FAS .....	2,775	2,848	2,807

**Table Footnotes**

<sup>a</sup> \$24 million can be used for local and regional procurement in 2023.

<sup>b</sup> Assets of the Trust can be released any time the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development determines that P.L. 480 Title II funding for emergency needs is inadequate to meet those needs in any fiscal year.

**CCC Export Credit Guarantee Programs (GSM-102)***Table TFAA-2. FAS CCC Export Credit Programs Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 PL	2023 BA	2024 PL	2023 BA	2025 PL	2023 BA
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
GSM-102 Guarantees .....	\$3,085	-	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	-
Facilities Financing Guarantees .....	-	-	500	-	500	-
Total, CCC Export Credit .....	3,085	-	5,500	-	5,500	-

The CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) export credit guarantee programs, administered by FAS in conjunction with USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), provide payment guarantees for the commercial financing of U.S. agricultural exports. These programs facilitate exports to buyers in countries where credit is necessary to maintain or increase U.S. sales.

The Budget includes an overall program level of \$5.5 billion for CCC export credit guarantees in 2025. This estimate reflects the statutory requirement to make that level of programming available for credit guarantees each fiscal year. However, the actual level of sales expected to be registered under the export credit guarantee programs could vary from this estimate, depending upon program demand, market conditions, and other relevant factors during the course of the year. Of the total program level for export credit guarantees in 2025, \$5 billion will be made available under the GSM-102 program, which provides guarantees on commercial export credit extended with short-term repayment terms (18 months).

The Budget also includes an estimated program level of \$500 million for guarantees under the Facility Guarantee Program. Under this program, CCC provides guarantees to facilitate the financing of goods and U.S. services to improve or establish agriculture-related facilities in emerging markets where demand is constricted due to inadequate storage, processing, or handling capabilities if determined that such guarantees will primarily promote the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

**Trade Shows**

In 2023, USDA endorsed a total of 24 trade shows that took place. These 24 USDA-endorsed trade shows featured 797 U.S. companies and organizations across 17 countries, drawing buyers from all over the world. Projected 12-month sales reported by U.S. exhibitors at the shows were estimated at \$1.66 billion.

**Virtual Trade Events (VTEs)**

VTEs had become a mainstay during the COVID pandemic but have been less utilized post-pandemic. FAS continues to leverage VTEs since they provide a user-friendly and functional platform, enable FAS to reach new participants, open new markets, and promote relationship-building between U.S. exporters and potential buyers for U.S. agricultural and food products.

In 2023, FAS hosted two unique VTEs in the Canadian market focused on healthy and natural foods and pet food. These VTEs resulted in 86 business to business meetings and generated \$150,000 in 12-month projected sales for U.S. exporters who were unable to travel to these international markets. The success of these VTEs demonstrates how technology can help ensure continuity in delivering to stakeholders when we are unable to meet in person.



**Quality Samples Program (QSP)**

Under QSP, CCC provides funding to assist private entities to furnish samples of U.S. agricultural products to foreign importers in order to overcome trade and marketing obstacles. The program, which is carried out under the authority of the CCC Charter Act, provides foreign importers with a better understanding and appreciation of the characteristics of U.S. agricultural products.

**Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Programs**

FAS administers several programs, in partnership with private sector cooperator organizations or State agencies, which support the development, maintenance, and expansion of commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural commodities and products.

**Market Access Program (MAP)**

Under MAP, CCC funds are used to reimburse participating organizations for a portion of the cost of carrying out overseas marketing and promotional activities, such as consumer promotions. MAP participants include nonprofit agricultural trade organizations, State-regional trade groups, cooperatives, and state agencies. MAP has a brand promotion component that provides export promotion funding to small companies and thereby helps expand the number of small and medium-sized entities that export. The 2018 Farm Bill provided not less than \$200 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Emerging Markets Program (EMP)**

EMP authorizes CCC funding to be made available to carry out technical assistance activities that promote the export of U.S. agricultural products and address the food and rural business system needs of emerging markets. Many types of technical assistance activities are eligible for funding, including feasibility studies, market research, industry sector assessments, specialized training, and business workshops. The 2018 Farm Bill provided not more than \$8 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Foreign Market Development (Cooperator) Program**

This program provides cost-share assistance to nonprofit commodity and agricultural trade associations to support overseas market development activities that are designed to remove long-term impediments to increased U.S. trade. These activities include technical assistance, trade servicing, and market research. Unlike MAP, Cooperator Program activities are carried out on a generic commodity basis and do not include brand-name or consumer promotions. The 2018 Farm Bill provided not less than \$34.5 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program**

TASC is designed to address unique barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Under the program, grants are provided to assist U.S. organizations in activities designed to overcome sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers to trade. The 2018 Farm Bill provided \$9 million per year for this program, which is assumed in the baseline.

**Priority Trade Fund**

When the amounts requested under applications for the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Programs exceed available funding for one or more of those programs, the 2018 Farm Bill provided an additional \$3.5 million per year through the Priority Trade Fund to access, develop, maintain, and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities via these programs. This funding is assumed in the baseline.

## **Global Food Security**

USDA supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, improved market information, statistics and analysis, as well as food assistance and fellowship and exchange programs<sup>1</sup>. FAS contributes to these efforts by carrying out a variety of programs that support economic growth and trade-focused development in recipient countries.

## **McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program**

The program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities and associated financial and technical assistance to carry out preschool and school feeding programs in foreign countries. Maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs also are authorized under the program. The key objective of the McGovern-Dole Program is to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education. The Budget provides \$243 million for McGovern-Dole.

## **International Food Assistance**

Assistance provided under the authority of P.L. 480 is a primary means by which the United States provides foreign food assistance. Title I provides for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities governments and private entities of developing countries through concessional financing agreements, however, new Title I agreements are no longer utilized. P.L. 480 Title II provides emergency and development food assistance in foreign countries.

### ***P.L. 480 Title II***

P.L. 480 Title II grants fund emergency and development food aid programs authorized under Title II of the Food for Peace Act (P.L. 83-480). Funding for Title II is appropriated to the USDA and is administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Budget provides \$1.80 billion for P.L. 480 Title II.

### ***Food for Progress***

The Food for Progress Act of 1985 authorizes U.S. agricultural commodities to be provided to developing countries and emerging democracies that have made commitments to introduce and expand free enterprise in their agricultural economies. Food for Progress agreements can be entered into with foreign governments, private organizations, nonprofit agricultural organizations, cooperatives, or intergovernmental organizations. Agreements currently provide for the commodities to be supplied on grant terms. The Food for Progress authorizing statute provides for the use of CCC funding for commodity procurement, transportation, and associated non-commodity costs for the program. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes funding for this program based on metric tonnage, which is estimated to equate to \$179 million in 2025. This funding is assumed in the baseline.

### ***Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust***

The Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (the Trust) is a commodity and/or monetary reserve designed to ensure that the United States can meet its international food assistance commitments under P.L. 480 Title II. The Trust's assets can be released any time the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) determines that P.L. 480 Title II funding for emergency needs is inadequate to meet those needs in any fiscal year. When a release from the Trust is authorized, the Trust's assets (whether commodities or funds) cover all commodity costs

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<sup>1</sup> FAS Fellowship Programs provide training and collaborative research opportunities on a variety of agricultural topics to better promote food security and economic growth as well as strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.

associated with the release. All non-commodity costs, including ocean freight charges; internal transportation, storage, and handling overseas; and certain administrative costs are paid for by CCC.

In 2022 and 2023, \$282 million and \$32 million respectively in Trust funds were obligated to procure US food commodities to bolster emergency food operations in six countries facing severe food insecurity. As of December 31, 2023, the Trust held \$30 million in cash and no commodities.

### Trust Funds

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized two trust funds for payments to reduce injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from U.S. tariffs on inputs to their manufacturing processes. These include the Agricultural Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, which provides CCC funding for up to \$30 million for reducing injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on wool fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of wool fabric, and the Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund, which provides CCC funding of up to \$16 million for reducing injury to domestic manufacturers resulting from tariffs on cotton fabric that are higher than tariffs on certain apparel articles made of cotton fabric. Funding for both is assumed in the baseline. Payments are made to manufacturers that submit an affidavit certifying that U.S. tariffs caused them injury.

### Salaries and Expenses

*Table TFAA-3. FAS Salaries and Expenses (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Appropriated Programs .....	\$238	\$238	\$245
Reimbursable Program Activities:			
FAS Computer Facility and Other IRM Costs Funded by CCC .....	19	19	22
USAID and Other Development Assistance .....	16	16	16
Other Reimbursable Agreements .....	30	30	27
Total, Reimbursable Program Activities .....	65	65	65
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses .....	303	303	310

FAS headquarters staff and attachés covering approximately 180 countries partner with other U.S. government agencies, trade associations, as well as regional and international organizations in a coordinated effort to negotiate trade agreements; establish transparent, science-based standards; and resolve trade barriers.

Restrictive sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations (to address human, animal, and plant health) are major barriers to the expansion of global agricultural trade. The proliferation of labeling, registration, certification, and quality standards requirements for routinely consumed food products can also result in unnecessary technical barriers to trade (TBT). Working in concert with other U.S. trade and regulatory agencies and in frequent communication with private sector stakeholders, FAS works to improve market access for U.S. agricultural products and reduce the harm to the industry resulting from regulations by monitoring and enforcing international rules, strengthening the global regulatory framework, and encouraging the adoption of international standards.

FAS promotes science-based standards and supports trade in U.S. agricultural products produced with new technologies by monitoring worldwide developments in technologies, including their adoption and regulation by trading partners, and promoting the use of new technologies in support of food security and sustainable agriculture. A proactive stance is critical, because the development of divergent regulatory systems for new technologies could bring a virtual halt to trade in some commodities with a potential trade impact reaching billions of dollars.

*Table TFAA-4. KPI – Export Support (billions of dollars)*

Key Performance Measure	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Value of agricultural exports resulting from participation in foreign agricultural trade shows and trade missions.....	1.73	2.15	2.3
Value of trade preserved through resolution of foreign market access issues such as U.S. export detainment, restrictive SPS and TBT issues, and trade regulations.....	4.93	5.7	5.7

In 2025, FAS will conduct its activities and programs through offices in Washington, D.C. and at approximately 100 overseas locations. The overseas offices represent and advocate for U.S. agricultural interests; provide reporting on agricultural policies, production, and trade for approximately 180 countries; assist U.S. exporters, trade groups, and State export marketing officials in their trade promotion efforts; and help to implement technical assistance and trade capacity building programs that contribute to increased food security. The 2025 Budget request provides an appropriated funding level of \$245 million for FAS activities funded by Salaries & Expenses, an increase of \$7.2 million compared to 2024. This includes \$4.4 million for pay and \$2.8 million to implement the FAS International Climate Hubs initiative to help ensure market access for U.S. climate-smart agricultural products and translate climate-smart agricultural practices to the overseas context.

Additionally, the Budget assumes an estimated \$65 million in funding to be made available to FAS through reimbursable agreements. This includes funding for technical assistance, training, and research activities that FAS carries out overseas on behalf of USAID, foreign governments, and international organizations, and development assistance activities that are funded by USAID and the Department of State. Although funded by other agencies, these activities are an important component of the Department's efforts to support economic development and enhance food security in developing countries. Six million dollars will be transferred from CCC for administrative expenses to carry out the CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program.

## ***RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

### **MISSION**

USDA's Rural Development (RD) serves a leading role in facilitating rural prosperity and economic development by financing investments in rural utilities, housing, and business investments. Building and modernizing rural America's infrastructure is critical to create jobs and increase our country's productivity of vital goods and services. Additionally, communities that do not invest in critical infrastructure upgrades risk losing their ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable water; electric, broadband, health, other community services; and business growth. Continued investment will be required to close infrastructure gaps and connect rural residents and businesses to nationwide and global commerce. RD is comprised of three agencies: (1) Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS) provides assistance for the development of business and industry, including small businesses, and renewable energy and energy improvement projects; (2) Rural Housing Service (RHS) provides assistance for home ownership, multi-family housing, and essential community facilities such sectors as healthcare, education, and public safety; and (3) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides financing to build or improve rural water and waste disposal, rural electric and telecommunications infrastructure (including broadband access).

RD is committed to driving prosperity across rural America, securing environmental justice, and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized, overburdened by pollution, and have experienced underinvestment in essential services. Through the programs administered by RD, USDA will promote job creation, economic development, increase availability of high-speed e-connectivity, strengthen community infrastructure, provide affordable and safe housing, advance education opportunities, modernize healthcare, strengthen utility infrastructure, and support workforce training and veterans' employment to enhance quality of life in the rural communities. RD programs will also continue to expand stakeholder participation and facilitate the involvement of local, tribal, and State governments to support inclusive rural prosperity efforts.

The type of assistance offered includes direct and guaranteed loans, grants, and other payments. RD staff and partners also provide technical assistance to help communities access RD's programs. Several programs require and/or encourage recipients to contribute their own resources or obtain third-party financing to support the total cost of projects, thereby leveraging government support with private sector financing.

*Table RD-1. Key Performance Indicators*

<b>Mission Area</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
RD	IC	Number of Households with Potential Access to Rural Development-Funded New and/or Improved E-Connectivity Services.....	98,811	125,000	125,000
RD	IC	Number of Underserved, Socially Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Rural and Tribal Communities Engaged in Field-Based Programs .....	191	92	92
RD	IC	Investment in Underserved, Socially Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Rural and Tribal Communities in Field-Based Programs (Million Dollars).....	\$221.5	\$60	\$40
RD	IC	Percentage of Rural Development Assistance Directed to Distressed Communities.....	24%	30%	30%
RD	IC	Percentage of Rural Development Commercial and Infrastructure Investments that Leverage Non-Federal Funding in Distressed (DC) and Socially Vulnerable (SV) Communities .....	N/A	70%	75%
RD	IC	Percentage of Total Investments Made into Energy Communities, as defined by the Inflation Reduction Act, through Rural Development Programs.....	N/A	19%	20%
RD	IC	Percentage of OneRD Customers Whose Application Processing Time Does Not Exceed 30 Days .....	35%	65%	55%
RD	IC	Percentage of OneRD Program Customer (Lender) Satisfaction Survey Ratings of 4 or Above .....	46%	70%	65%

**RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE****Table RD-2. RUS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 PL Actual	2023 BA Actual	2024 PL Estimated	2024 BA Estimated	2025 PL Budget	2025 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Electric Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	\$4,333	-	\$4,333	-	\$4,333	-
FFB Loans .....	2,167	-	2,167	-	2,167	-
Rural Energy Saving Program .....	111	\$12	64	\$12	53	\$11
Guaranteed Loans .....	900	-	900	-	-	-
Telecommunications Programs:						
Treasury Loans .....	690	4	358	4	336	4
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants ...	60	60	60	60	59	59
Community Project Funding DLT Grants .....	5	5	5	5	-	-
Broadband Programs:						
Direct Loans <sup>a/</sup> .....	22	3	22	3	-	-10
ReConnect Direct Loans .....	89	12	89	12	40	10
ReConnect Direct Loans/Grants Combine .....	178	98	178	98	80	44
ReConnect Grants .....	238	238	238	238	59	59
Community Project Funding ReConnect .....	16	16	16	16	-	-
Broadband Grants .....	35	35	35	35	35	35
High Energy Costs Grants .....	10	10	10	10	10	10
Water and Waste Disposal Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	1,400	-	1,400	117	1,350	140
Direct 1% .....	20	3	10	3	20	6
Guaranteed Loans .....	50	-	50	-	50	-
Grants .....	584	584	527	527	639	639
Subtotal, Water and Waste <sup>b/</sup> .....	2,054	586	1,987	646	2,059	785
Subtotal, RUS Programs .....	10,907	1,078	10,462	1,138	9,237	1,007
Salaries and Expenses .....	33	33	33	33	33	33
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	10,941	1,111	10,495	1,171	9,271	1,040
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2023 Funding:						
Water and Waste Grants .....	60	60	-	-	-	-
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2022 Disaster Funding:						
Water and Waste Grants .....	265	265	-	-	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding .....	325	325	-	-	-	-
Total, RUS .....	11,266	1,436	10,495	1,171	9,271	1,040

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>a/</sup> The Budget includes rescission of unobligated balances. Estimated loan levels are not reflective of the rescission.

<sup>b/</sup> The Water and Waste Disposal BA for 2024 includes \$60 million from the Division N realignment enacted in 2023.

**Electric and Telecommunications Programs**

Rural communities are critical to achieving the goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2035. RUS provides loan and grant financing for electric and broadband infrastructure serving rural and remote communities through the Electric and Telecommunications programs.

**Electric Loan Program**

The Budget builds on the \$10.7 billion provided in the Inflation Reduction Act to reduce energy bills for families, expand clean energy, transform rural power production, and create thousands of good-paying jobs for people across rural America. The Budget supports \$6.5 billion in electric loans to construct, acquire, and improve electric infrastructure including renewable energy, electric transmission, distribution, smart grid technology, energy efficiency, grid resiliency, and security

enhancements. The lending will be split, with \$4.3 billion in direct Treasury loans and \$2.2 billion in Federal Financing Bank loan guarantees, which are the same as the 2024 levels. These loans will continue to support additional reliable and affordable clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects to put people back to work in good-paying jobs to help meet the climate adaptation and resilience goals of the administration.

The Budget also provides \$10.7 million in budget authority for the Rural Energy Savings Program to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures in rural areas to advance clean energy and decrease energy use or costs for rural families and small businesses. Of the amount requested, \$10 million of the loan level is to target energy transitioning communities.

### **Telecommunication Loan Program**

The Budget supports \$335.7 million in telecommunications Treasury loans for the construction, extension and improvement of telecommunication facilities that expand broadband and e-connectivity to communities with populations of up to 5,000.

### **Broadband, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Programs**

The Budget includes \$112.4 million in budget authority for the Broadband ReConnect Program that provides loans, grants, and a loan/grant combination. This amount builds on the \$2 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, P.L. 117-58) for the rural e-connectivity program. ReConnect provides financial assistance to deploy broadband to underserved areas. In addition, the Budget continues to include \$35 million for broadband grants to support new or improved broadband access in communities with populations of up to 20,000. These programs provide capital access for strengthening e-connectivity that broadens economic opportunities and job creation in rural America. Improved connectivity means rural communities can offer robust business services, expand access to modern healthcare, and improve education.

The Budget also includes \$60 million for Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grants. This program is designed specifically to assist rural communities that would otherwise be without access to learning and medical services over the Internet.

### **Water and Waste Disposal Program**

The Water and Waste Disposal Program provides financing for rural communities to establish, expand or modernize water treatment and waste disposal facilities. These facilities provide safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal for residential users, and help communities thrive by attracting new business. Projects are designed to improve the energy efficiency of water and waste facilities and expand water conservation efforts. The budget continues to set-aside \$100 million in grant funding to support the replace of lead piping in rural areas to ensure there is clean, healthy water in rural communities. This program contributes to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of its funding to distressed and energy communities.

The Budget supports \$1.4 billion in regular direct loans and \$50 million in guaranteed loans for water and waste disposal facilities to provide safe and sanitary water services. In addition, the Budget requests \$20 million in direct loans to support distressed communities by offering 1 percent loans to these communities. Overall, the budget requests \$794.9 million in budget authority, which supports a total program level of \$2.1 billion for the water and waste disposal program an increase of \$138.4 million from the 2024 level. The Budget provides \$639 million in grant funding for water and waste disposal projects, an increase of \$112.2 million over the 2024 level, which



includes \$66 million for grants targeted to Colonias, Native Americans, and Alaska Native Villages. In addition, High Energy Cost Grants are funded at \$10 million maintaining the historical level for this program.

Priority for financing is given to communities with low median household income levels. The Water and Waste Direct program focuses on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities. Assistance may be provided to financially needy communities with populations of up to 10,000 through direct loans and grants, and up to 50,000 with guaranteed loans.

**RURAL HOUSING SERVICE****Table RD-3. RHS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 PL Actual	2023 BA Actual	2024 PL Estimated	2024 BA Estimated	2025 PL Budget	2025 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Single Family Housing (Sec. 502):						
Direct Loans.....	\$1,250	\$46	\$483	\$46	\$1,250	\$174
Native American Relending Pilot Loans .....	8	2	5	2	8	4
Guaranteed Loans .....	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000	-
Multi-Family Housing:						
Direct Loans (Sec. 515) .....	70	13	38	13	70	28
MPR Grants, Loan BA and Mod. Costs .....	36	36	36	36	90	90
Multi-Family Maturing Mortgage Pilot.....	2	2	2	2	-	-
Guaranteed Loans (Sec. 538) .....	400	-	400	-	400	-
Very Low-Income Repair (Sec. 504):						
Direct Loans.....	28	2	13	2	28	6
Grants .....	32	32	32	32	30	30
Farm Labor Housing Grants (Sec. 516) .....	10	10	10	10	10	10
Farm Labor Housing Loans (Sec. 514) .....	20	4	12	4	25	10
All Other Direct Loans.....	20	0	14	0	20	1
Grants and Payments:						
Rental Assistance (Sec. 521).....	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,690	1,690
Multi-Family Housing Voucher <sup>a/b/</sup> .....	48	48	48	48	26	26
Mutual and Self-Help (Sec. 523) .....	32	32	32	32	32	32
Rural Housing Preservation .....	16	16	16	16	16	16
Protecting Animals with Shelter Pilot.....	3	3	3	3	-	-
Community Facilities Programs:						
Direct Loans.....	2,800	-	2,800	-	1,250	14
Guaranteed Loans.....	650	-	650	-	650	-
Grants <sup>c/</sup> .....	16	16	41	41	48	48
Congressional Earmarks .....	325	325	325	325	-	-
Rural Hospital Assistance Pilot .....	2	2	2	2	-	-
Subtotal, RHS Programs.....	37,256	2,080	36,452	2,105	35,643	2,179
Salaries and Expenses .....	412	412	412	412	412	412
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	37,668	2,492	36,864	2,517	36,055	2,591
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2023 Funding:						
Community Facilities Grants <sup>c/</sup> .....	25	25	-	-	-	-
Division N of P.L. 117-138: 2023 Disaster Funding:						
Rural Housing Assistance Grants.....	60	60	-	-	-	-
Community Facilities Grants .....	50	50	-	-	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding.....	135	135	-	-	-	-
Total, Current Law .....	37,803	2,627	36,864	2,517	36,055	2,591
<b>Mandatory Funding:</b>						
Proposed Legislation: End Recapture.....	-	-	-	-	1,120	1,120
Total, RHS.....	37,803	2,627	36,864	2,517	37,175	3,711

Totals may not add down due to rounding.

<sup>a/</sup> The Budget proposes moving Voucher program from treasury symbol 2002 to 0137.<sup>b/</sup> The Budget proposes a rescission of \$12 million in unobligated balances. This total includes the rescission.<sup>c/</sup> CF grants number includes Division N realignment.**Single Family Loan Program**

The Single-Family Housing (SFH) programs support homeownership opportunities for low-income families in rural areas. Guaranteed loans are limited to families with income less than 115 percent of area median income. The interest rate on guaranteed loans is negotiated between the

borrower and the private lender. The single-family direct program contributes to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding for distressed and energy communities. The Budget provides \$174 million to support a \$1.25 billion SFH Direct Loan program. The Budget also supports a \$30 billion loan level for the Guaranteed SFH program. Together, these two programs are expected to provide approximately 169 thousand homeownership opportunities.

To assist rural low-income homeowners, the Budget includes a proposal to eliminate the existing low-income borrower penalty that requires individuals to repay subsidy costs for USDA's Single-Family Direct loans, known as "recapture". This proposal will be beneficial to these borrowers by increasing home equity when they sell the property. The proposed 2025 subsidy rate and program level reflects the cost associated with eliminating recapture. The Budget also proposes to eliminate recapture penalty for existing executed Single Family direct loans. The associated cost of \$1.12 billion has been included as a mandatory proposal within the Budget. The Budget continues to support a pilot relending program for Native Americans that has been successful in improving the home ownership opportunities on tribal lands that are often underserved by conventional lenders. The Budget continues to support \$10 million in program level for SFH Credit Sales of acquired property, decreases very low-income housing repair grants by \$2 million to \$30 million, and maintains Housing Preservation grants at \$16 million.

The Budget includes a general provision to increase the repayment terms of Section 523 and 524 Site Development Loans from two to five years and allow for an optional two-year extension after the fifth year. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing. The Budget also includes a general provision to propose legislation to facilitate the sales of Real Estate Owned (REO) properties, which will reduce the cost of maintaining Real Estate Owned properties while in RD's control.

### **Multi-Family Housing Programs**

The Multi-Family Housing (MFH) program (direct and guaranteed loan portfolio) provides financing for rental housing projects and rental assistance payments for the low-income tenants of those projects. The increased funding levels for the MFH programs reflects the Administration's commitment to preserving and providing additional low-income multi-family housing in rural areas in a way that promotes climate resilient construction.

The Budget requests \$1.69 billion in budget authority for Rental Assistance (RA) to renew 270,158 existing contracts. The increase covers program cost increases due to inflation. This program supports this critical infrastructure by increasing housing affordability and providing homes that improve the quality of life for rural families. The Budget also includes \$38 million for Vouchers, ensuring continued benefits to the current residents receiving these vouchers. To combine like programs, the Budget continues to consolidate the Voucher program with the RA program account.

The budget continues to propose appropriation language requesting to decouple RA from a multi-family mortgage. The decoupling request will allow RHS to continue to provide RA to certain properties that no longer have MFH direct loans (Section 515). The additional RA ensures safe and affordable housing for tenants and helps with rehabilitating and preserving housing properties in rural areas. For paid off properties that do not decouple, instead of new RD vouchers for the affected tenants, the Budget continues to include \$20 million within the HUD Tenant Protection Vouchers, which provides a better voucher for the tenant, reduces duplication across Federal programs, and allows USDA to fully focus on its priority mission of preservation and promotion

of climate smart housing construction and renovation. Savings from this proposal will be realized in 2027 and 2028.

The Budget continues to request permanent authorization of the Multi-family Preservation and Revitalization program and requests \$90 million for the program, an increase of \$54 million, which will increase the preservation of these low income properties, furthering the objective of affordable rural housing. The Budget also maintains the 2024 level of support for the Section 538 Guaranteed Loans for MFH at \$400 million.

RHS' ability to foreclose of properties in its portfolio is significantly constrained by state and local laws that create delays in foreclosure proceedings and have burdensome impacts to residents and their communities. The Budget includes a general provision to request independent foreclosure authority for RHS Multi-family Housing that mirrors the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) authority to reduce costs and better support tenants residing in the properties to be foreclosed.

A key component of the increases in rural housing funding is an additional requirement that all the housing funding for construction or rehabilitation be targeted to projects that improve energy or water efficiently, implement green features, including clean energy generation or building electrification, electric car charging station installations, or address climate resilience of properties. This requirement will improve the adaptability and resilience to climate change events.

### **Community Facilities Program**

Community Facilities (CF) loans provide funding for a wide range of essential community facilities in rural communities with populations of 20,000 or less, with priority given to healthcare, public safety, and education facilities. Both CF loans and grants contribute to Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding to distressed and energy communities.

The Budget request maintains \$650 in loan level for Guaranteed Loans and requests a loan level of \$1.25 billion for CF Direct Loans, a decrease of \$1.55 billion in loan level as the subsidy rate became positive. Included in this request are \$48 million in CF Grants, which will be targeted towards underserved communities; of which \$10 million is for Energy Transition Communities, \$6 million is for Rural Community Development Initiative grants to provide financial and technical assistance to low-income communities, nonprofit organizations, and tribes; and \$10 million is for Tribal College grants to improve education and career-building opportunities, specifically for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs.

**RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE****Table RD-4. RBS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 PL Actual	2023 BA Actual	2024 PL Estimated	2024 BA Estimated	2025 PL Budget	2025 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans .....	\$1,800	\$39	\$1,682	\$39	\$2,250	\$5
Rural Business Development Grants.....	46	46	46	46	46	46
Rural Innovation for Stronger Economy Grants ..	2	2	2	2	4	4
Intermediary Relending Program .....	19	3	11	3	19	6
Healthy Food Financing Initiative.....	3	3	3	3	3	3
Rural Economic Development <sup>a/</sup> :						
Direct Loans .....	75	-	41	-	75	-
Grants .....	15	-	15	-	15	-
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Loans and Grants.....	30	6	13	6	13	7
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:						
Rural Cooperative Development Grants .....	6	6	6	6	6	6
Appropriate Tech. Transfer to Rural Areas .....	4	4	4	4	4	4
Grants to Assist Minority Producers.....	3	3	3	3	3	3
Agriculture Innovation Center <sup>b/</sup> .....	3	3	3	3	-5	-5
Value-Added Producer Grants .....	13	13	13	13	13	13
Rural Energy for America Loans .....	20	-	20	-	1,000	-
Subtotal, RBS Programs.....	2,038	127	1,862	127	3,445	91
Salaries and Expenses.....	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	2,042	132	1,866	132	3,450	95
<b>Mandatory:</b>						
Farm Bill:						
Biorefinery for Advanced Biofuels.....	7	7	7	7	-	-
Rural Energy for America Loans.....	1,000	1	1,000	-	1,000	-
Rural Energy for America Grants.....	49	49	50	50	50	50
Local Agriculture Market Program.....	18	18	18	18	18	18
Rural Economic Development Grants .....	5	5	5	5	-	-
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	1,079	80	1,080	80	1,068	68
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>						
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):						
IRA Rural Energy for America Program.....	212	212	212	212	212	212
Total, Supplemental Funding.....	212	212	212	212	212	212
Total Current Law .....	3,333	424	3,159	424	4,730	375
Total, RBS .....	3,333	424	3,159	424	4,730	375

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

<sup>a/</sup> Funding for these programs is provided from electric cooperative investments and fees.

<sup>b/</sup> Budget includes rescission of unobligated balances.

**Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program**

The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program provides lenders protection against loan losses, so the lenders are willing to extend credit to establish, expand, or modernize rural businesses. The B&I program promotes the creation and expansion of rural businesses by assisting them to secure start-up capital, finance business expansion, and create jobs, which helps to diversify the rural economy, including in such sectors as local and regional food and the bioenergy/bio-economy. The Budget supports \$2.25 billion in B&I loan guarantees, an increase of \$567.9 million of loan level from the 2024 level.

**Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grants (RISE)**

The Budget requests \$4 million for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grants program established by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. These grants offer assistance to rural jobs accelerator partnerships to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas.

**Rural Business Development Grants**

The Budget requests \$37 million in budget authority for the rural business development grant program, the same level as the 2024 level. The program provides grants and technical assistance to small and emerging private businesses in rural areas for economic and community development. In addition, the Budget also requests \$9 million to support the Delta Regional Authority, Appalachia and Northern Regional Commissions.

**Intermediary Relending Program**

The Intermediary Relending Program provides one percent interest direct loans to entities that relend to rural businesses and use their interest earnings to pay for their administrative expenses and develop capital reserves. The Budget maintains a program level of \$18.9 million in direct loans.

**Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants**

This program provides zero percent interest loans to local utilities that, in turn, provide funding to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Grant funds are provided to local utility organizations that use the funding to establish revolving loan funds. Loans are made from the revolving loan fund to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. The Budget requests \$15 million in grants and \$75 million in loans. Funding for these programs is provided by fees collected from the outstanding debt of the Electric Underwriting program.

**Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program**

The Budget requests \$6.5 million in budget authority to support a total program level of \$13.2 million, including \$4.7 million in grants. Grants are made to provide training, operational support, business planning, and market development assistance. Loans are made to microenterprise development organizations for relending to rural businesses. This program is essential for developing small business in rural areas.

**Rural Cooperative Development Grants**

The Budget requests maintains funding for Rural Cooperative Development Grants at the 2024 level of \$28.3 million. The request includes \$3 million to assist minority producers with distribution systems for locally produced products and the development of new cooperatives. This request also includes \$13 million for the Value-Added Producer Grants Program and \$3 million for the Agriculture Innovation Centers.

**Rural Energy for America Program (Section 9007)**

The Budget requests \$1 billion in this program in addition to the mandatory funding of \$50 million in grants and \$1 billion in loans for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. This program contributes to the implementation of Justice40 by providing up to 40 percent of the funding for distressed and energy communities.

**Healthy Foods Financing Initiative**

The Budget requests \$3 million for loans and grants under the Healthy Foods Financing Initiative, maintaining funding at the 2024 level. This program supports access to healthy foods in underserved areas, helping create and preserve quality jobs and revitalize low-income communities.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

USDA's efforts to enhance customer services with streamlined processes, RD is making strides to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies. At the same time, it is critical that RD has the staff and IT infrastructure to deliver on the promise what RD's programs represent to rural America. The Budget requests \$878.2 million for salaries and expenses, a \$77.1 million increase from the 2024 level, which will support an increase of 71 FTEs. Over the past 20 years, RD staff has declined significantly while program level funding has increased. RD uses productivity data to create a five-year staffing model to estimate the full staffing level required to deliver its authorized permanent programs. In 2023, RD's workforce obligated \$27.15 billion in loans and grants, serviced a portfolio of \$233.82 billion and 1.14 million loans. It is essential that RD continues to increase its staffing levels, especially because of the new, more comprehensive programs being implemented, such as climate-smart building requirements in the housing programs, that require more time to review and evaluate applications and to obligate the funding. Providing additional program funding without building the capacity to deliver on those programs means the full potential for those programs may not be realized.

The Budget continues to provide dedicated funding for IT costs, and requests \$100 million, to remain available until expended, for IT costs. Enhanced IT capabilities allow RD to support a mobile workforce and improve customer interactions. Development, Modernization, and Enhancements of the IT systems will be supported through the Non-Recurring Funds account at the Department level.

RD implemented an Investment Review Board process in 2021 that ensured agency leadership can evaluate and rank IT Development, Modernization and Enhancement (DME) requests and identify those that best support Administration priorities and/or mitigate agency risks. Those rankings, along with other factors, such as critical operational upgrades or IT needs for new programs, are used to make final funding decisions for IT DME projects. Failure to upgrade and modernize the IT infrastructure increases the manual workload on staff, delays funding decisions for program participants, and increases the risk for improper payments or errors. Key IT investments include modernizing the mission systems, including single family housing delegated authority; modernizing the financial system, including the loan accounting platform and the default management service; and improving document management, including enhanced automated mail processing. These IT investments will improve the customer experience, empowering the public to access RD programs remotely, while others would lessen the administrative burden on staff, enabling them to focus on program customer service.

Included in the Budget request is \$10 million to expand the Rural Partners Network initiative, to leverage USDA's extensive network of county-based offices, to help people in high poverty counties, including energy communities. RD will coordinate with other USDA and Federal agencies in an all-of-Government approach to connect rural stakeholders with Federal programs and resources.



*Table RD-5. Rural Development (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Salaries and Expenses:</b>			
Appropriation .....	\$351	\$351	\$428
<b>Transfers:</b>			
Rural Electric and Telecommunications Loan Program .....	33	33	33
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program .....	412	412	412
Rural Development Loan Fund Program .....	4	4	4
Total, Transfers .....	450	450	450
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	801	801	878
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	801	801	878
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Biobased Market Program .....	3	3	3
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	3	3	3
Total, Current Law .....	804	804	881
Total, Rural Development .....	804	804	881

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## ***FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES***

### **MISSION**

The Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area includes programs and funding to provide access to safe, nutritious, and wholesome meals, while promoting a healthy diet.

Within the FNCS mission area, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers USDA's domestic nutrition assistance programs. Working in partnership with State agencies and other cooperating organizations, FNS helps ensure children and low-income individuals have sufficient food to support nutritious diets. Within FNS, the Center for Nutrition and Policy Promotion (CNPP) improves the health of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links the best evidence-based, scientific research to the nutrition needs of Americans. Across America, one in four individuals is served by one of USDA's 16 nutrition assistance programs over the course of year. FNS is committed to continually improving the performance, efficiency, and integrity of these programs.

FNS Federal staff leverage their efforts by working with State and local partners to deliver nutrition assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the newly enacted Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); and several similar programs targeted to specific nutritional needs.

**FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE**

The Budget provides funding for the major nutrition assistance programs, accounting for projected program participation and food cost inflation. It seeks to equitably prevent and reduce food insecurity and improve the nutritional status of recipients by ensuring that those who qualify are able to participate, those who participate get benefits that are meaningful, and those who receive those benefits can use them conveniently and in ways that promote improvements in their health and well-being.

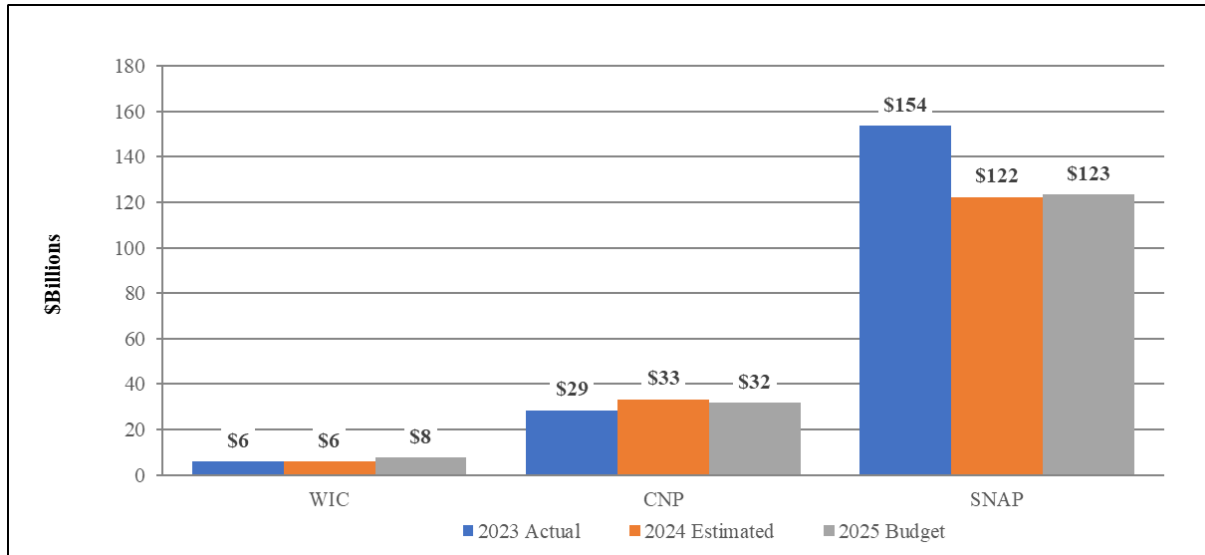
**Table FNS-1. FNS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary Programs:</b>			
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) <sup>a</sup> .....	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$7,697
Emergency Contingency Fund.....	-	-	34
Commodity Assistance Program:			
Commodity Supplemental Food Program .....	339	339	425
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Soup Kitchens, Food Banks .....	92	92	95
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program .....	26	26	15
Pacific Island Assistance and Disaster Assistance.....	1	1	1
Nutrition Services Incentive Program <sup>b</sup> .....	2	2	*
Total, Commodity Assistance Program .....	460	460	536
Nutrition Programs Administration.....	189	189	205
Rescission of Unobligated NPA Funds.....	-	-	-8
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	6,649	6,649	8,464
<b>Mandatory Programs:</b>			
WIC: Universal Product Database .....	1	1	1
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) <sup>c</sup> .....	153,868	122,377	123,325
Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) <sup>c</sup> .....	28,545	33,328	31,800
Permanent Appropriations .....	210	214	218
Farm Bill:			
Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program .....	21	21	21
TEFAP Farm Bill Projects .....	4	4	4
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	182,649	155,944	155,369
<b>Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief:</b>			
<b>American Rescue Plan Act</b>			
P-EBT Benefits .....	30,000	-	-
PEBT Grants to States.....	1,500	-	-
Extension of SNAP Waiver Authority .....	3,000	-	-
<b>Keep Kids Fed Act</b>			
Child Nutrition Reimbursements .....	2,117	-	-
Total, Additional Coronavirus Response and Relief.....	36,617	-	-
Total, Current Law .....	225,915	162,594	163,833
Proposed Legislation.....	-	-	435
Total, FNS .....	225,915	162,594	164,268

<sup>a/</sup> Does not reflect cancelled unobligated balances.

<sup>b/</sup> Funds are transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. Funds for 2025 will be determined at a later date.

<sup>c/</sup> Totals include SNAP and CN discretionary funds.

*Figure FNS-1. FNS Budget Authority*

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

In response to the Nation’s growing economy and recovery from the pandemic, SNAP participation is expected to decline over the 10-year budget period, from 41.9 million participants in 2025 to 38.2 million in 2034. The overall cost of the program is expected to increase slightly due to modest inflationary increases net of participation decline. Relative to 2023, the overall cost of the program in 2025 is expected to decrease significantly due to the eligibility for Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits and SNAP emergency allotment payments ending in 2023.

Requested increases for SNAP include support for farmers market mobile payments, quality control business improvements, information technology infrastructure, and critical staffing to strengthen program integrity, prevent EBT benefit fraud, and expand the breadth and depth of Federal oversight and financial management. The Budget also aims to meet the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ Nutrition Assistance Program funding needs in line with the Secretary’s goal to bring equity to the U.S. territory nutrition programs. As proposed in the 2024 President’s Budget, requested increases also include competitive funding for compelling State and local projects designed to drive system improvements in the SNAP client enrollment and participation experience, testing use of robotic process automation “bots” to strengthen program delivery, increased promotion of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate in SNAP nutrition education, expansion and evaluation of FDPIR self-determination projects, as well as important research on the nutrition security in the U.S. territories, and TEFAP access, coverage, and service models in order to better serve program stakeholders and enhance nutrition security.

Research has shown that participation in SNAP reduces food insecurity and enables families to have healthier diets. SNAP stretches the food budget of eligible low-income people by providing a monthly allotment of benefits on a debit card to purchase healthy food at authorized stores. The SNAP participation rate is estimated annually as the percentage of eligible people in the United States who participate in the program. Participation rates vary widely from State to State with the highest rates at close to 100 percent and the lowest at around 50 percent. Often, the lowest participation rates are among the working poor, i.e., those families with earned income that still qualify for SNAP. Strategies to equitably improve participation rates include efforts to reduce the time, cost, and administrative burdens of States participating in the nutrition assistance programs, so State agencies can spend more time on outreach and application support for SNAP participants.

*Table FNS-2. KPI – Access to Food and Participation in SNAP*

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Target	2025 Target
Percentage of American households with consistent, dependable access to food .....	TBD*	89.5%	89.6%
Annual average monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation rate .....	TBD*	82.3%	82.3%

\* 2023 data expected fall 2024.

FDPIR provides food packages to Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to improve nutrition and provide culturally appropriate sustenance. The Budget requests \$242 million in 2025 to fund FDPIR food and administrative costs, including nutrition education. FDPIR participants are generally able to choose whether they participate in SNAP or FDPIR, but may not participate in both. The Budget anticipates more eligible Tribal members will choose to participate in FDPIR in 2025, returning to pre-pandemic levels by 2026. The requested funds also support FDPIR food packages that better align food offerings with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

### **Child Nutrition Programs**

Through subsidies for meals that meet program standards, Child Nutrition Programs including NSLP, SBP, Summer Food Service Program, CACFP, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and Special Milk Program assist State and local governments and private non-profit organizations in ensuring that meals provided to children in schools and child and adult care programs meet their nutritional needs, foster healthy eating habits, and safeguard their health with a goal of reducing the number of overweight and obese children. Beginning in 2024, the Summer EBT program provides benefits to eligible school children in low-income families to purchase groceries during the summer months, greatly improving equitable access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food.

The Budget funds the Child Nutrition Programs through new appropriations and prior year balances at a level that will support anticipated increases in participation and food costs. The Budget projects serving over 5.0 billion lunches and snacks and 2.7 billion breakfasts in schools, 1.9 billion meals in child and adult care food programs, and 281 million congregate and non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program. It requests the benefit and State administrative funding needed to serve a projected 21.5 million children with summer EBT benefits in Summer 2025.

Requested increases for Child Nutrition Programs include funds to strengthen integrity controls in CACFP, modernize food ordering and inventory management systems, and staffing to enhance FNS's ability to provide critical technical assistance and oversight of child nutrition programs, including the implementation of the Summer EBT program and increased support for Farm to School. The Budget also requests funds for grants to States for improved information systems, as well as for Federal information technology infrastructure and financial management.

The Budget includes two legislative proposals to bolster State and Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) implementation of Summer EBT. The first proposal would waive the 50 percent State administrative funding match requirement in 2025 and 2026 and phase it in over 5 years, allowing time for States and ITOs to develop comprehensive budget plans. This proposal is expected to cost \$126 million in FY 2025 and \$542 million over 10 years. The second proposal would provide \$50 million in new Summer EBT implementation grants each year for three years to encourage early investment in the permanent infrastructure States and ITOs need to operate Summer EBT efficiently and effectively.

**Table FNS-3. KPI – Monthly Summer Meals Served**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Target	2025 Target
Number of Congregate and Non-Congregate Meals Served in Each State’s Peak Summer Month as a Percentage of Free and Reduced Price Meals Served During an Average Month During the Target Year** .....	--	--	20%

\*\* New KPIs for 2025 as a result of changes to the Summer Food Service Program and the establishment of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). Data will first be collected in 2025.

**Table FNS-4. KPI - Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Target	2025 Target
Number of States Participating in the Summer EBT Program** .....	--	27	40
Number of Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) Participating in the Summer EBT Program** .....	--	2	4

\*\* New KPIs for 2025 as a result of changes to the Summer Food Service Program and the establishment of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). Data will first be collected in 2025.

The Budget also includes an important legislative proposal that would advance a pathway to free school meals for an additional 9 million school children through increased take up of the Community Eligibility Provision among schools and States. This proposal is expected to cost \$234 million in 2025 and \$15 billion over 10 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, children had access to free meals resulting from temporary flexibilities provided in Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and now many States are seeking ways to continue offering free school meals for all students. Offering free meals to all children reduces administrative burden, increases equitable access, reduces the stigma associated with school meal participation, and allows school food service professionals to focus on their core mission of providing nutritious meals to children.

**Table FNS-5. KPI - National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Participation**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Target	2025 Target
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in NSLP .....	57%	59%	59%
Annual percentage of eligible children participating in School Breakfast Program .....	29%	31%	31%

### **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)**

WIC helps improve the health and nutritional intake of low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to their fifth birthday. WIC serves nearly half of all babies in the United States. It provides participants with benefits, redeemable at certified WIC retailers, for foods dense in nutrients known to be lacking in the diets of eligible groups. The evidence-based program also provides nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling, and referrals to critical health and social services, helping to address health disparities among the most vulnerable populations.

The Budget includes \$7.7 billion for WIC in 2025, continuing the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all projected participants seeking WIC benefits. WIC participation rose rapidly in 2023 across all eligible categories – women, children and infants – and further growth

is expected in 2025.<sup>1</sup> FNS is continuing to work to modernize the program through outreach, improving the shopping experience, modernizing technology and service delivery, expanding access to farmers' markets, and investing in the workforce. WIC is projected to serve nearly 7 million low-income women, infants, and children each month in 2025, up from 6.6 million in 2023.

The Budget also proposes a new discretionary emergency contingency fund, which would provide additional resources if increases in either participation or food package costs resulted in total program costs exceeding the appropriation level. The fund represents an acknowledgement that these factors can fluctuate from month to month. Funds would ensure that WIC continues the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all eligible participants seeking WIC benefits during periods of unanticipated growth. Using a probabilistic score, the fund is estimated to provide \$33.9 million in 2025.

*Table FNS-6. KPI –Participation in WIC (in millions)*

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Results	2024 Target	2025 Target
Annual average monthly participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.....	6.6**	6.8	7.0

\*\* This number is based on publicly posted preliminary data; actuals for 2023 will be available, at the earliest, in April 2024.

### **Commodity Assistance Program (CAP)**

The Budget requests \$536 million for CAP. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. The Budget includes an \$86 million increase for CSFP to ensure the program can continue to serve the full caseload. It also includes a \$3 million increase for TEFAP administration, bringing the request to \$95 million. The Budget includes a decrease of \$11 million in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in response to the increased NASEM-recommended Cash Value Benefit (CVB) benefits available to all women and children participating in WIC.

The Budget includes a legislative proposal for permanent mandatory funding to support TEFAP infrastructure, particularly in rural, remote, and Tribal areas and U.S. Territories. This proposal would cost \$25 million annually or \$250 million over 10 years.

### **Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA)**

The Budget requests \$205 million for NPA to support Federal management and oversight of USDA's investment in nutrition programs in 2025. This funding level will help ensure oversight, program integrity, and sound fiscal management; improve the programs; and encourage equitable access to a healthy and nutritious diet. FNS will continue efforts to promote healthy eating in part through the use and promotion of MyPlate and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs). CNPP collaborates with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop the DGAs to promote health and prevent chronic disease.

### **Program Indicators**

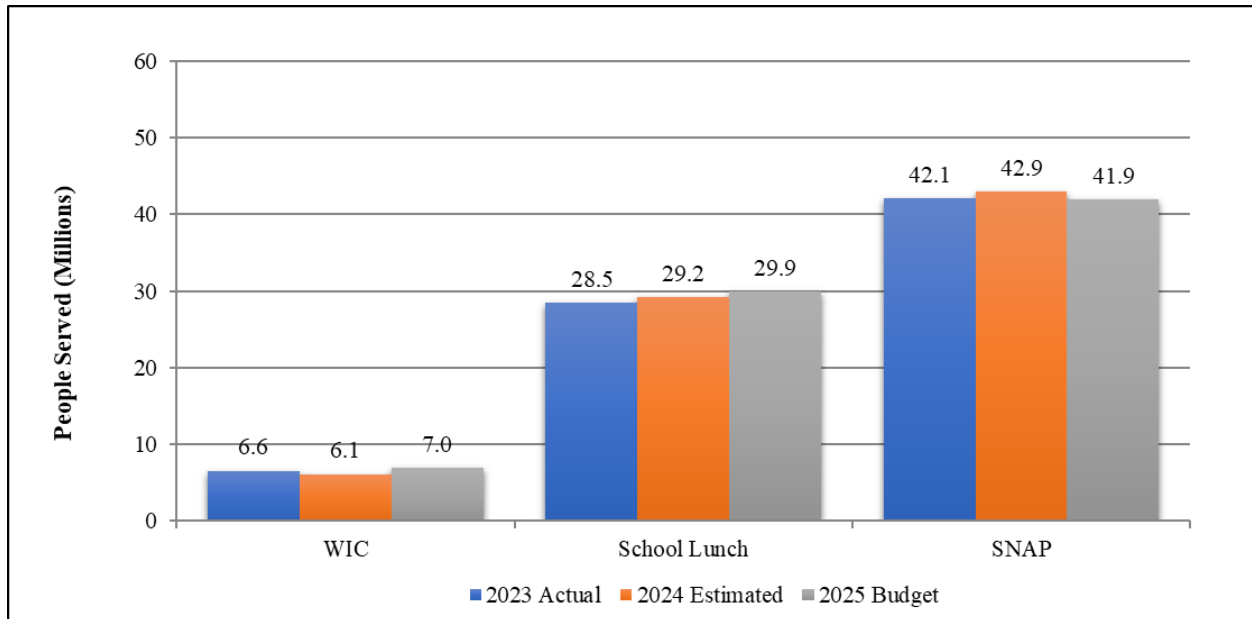
Below is a table summarizing key programmatic indicators of participation and costs for 2025.

<sup>1</sup> The Budget assumes WIC is funded at \$6.0 billion under the Continuing Resolution in 2024. Without an additional \$1.0 billion in funding for fiscal year 2024, participation will decline and WIC will be unable to continue to serve all those who seek its services.

Table FNS-7. FNS Key Indicators

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Average Participation, Millions:</b>			
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (per month) .....	42.1	42.9	41.9
Free School Lunch .....	18.9	19.4	21.0
All School Lunches (per day) .....	28.5	29.2	29.9
Free School Breakfast .....	10.9	12.0	12.0
All School Breakfasts (per day) .....	14.5	15	15
WIC (per month) .....	6.6	6.1	7.0
<b>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):</b>			
Elderly (per month) .....	0.70	0.66	0.76
FDPIR (per month) .....	0.05	0.06	0.08
<b>Average/Person/Month Food Benefit:</b>			
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program .....	\$211.9	\$210.3	\$216.2
WIC <sup>1/</sup> .....	55.95	58.49	59.97
CSFP: Elderly (FNS Funded) .....	39.73	40.41	41.46
FDPIR (FNS Funded) .....	119.09	164.28	169.87
<b>Per Meal Subsidies Including Commodities:</b>			
<b>School Lunch:</b>			
Free .....	\$4.07	\$4.36	\$4.50
Reduced .....	3.66	3.96	4.10
Paid .....	0.46	0.49	0.51
<b>School Breakfast:</b>			
Free .....	2.55	2.72	2.79
Reduced .....	2.22	2.40	2.47
Paid .....	0.35	0.37	0.38

Figure FNS-2. People Served Through Nutrition Assistance Programs (Actual and Projected)





## ***FOOD SAFETY***

### **MISSION**

The Food Safety mission area is responsible for ensuring that the Nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. This oversight includes products produced domestically in Federally-inspected establishments and imported products.

The mission area covers the activities of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), a public health regulatory agency that provides Federal inspection of meat (including Siluriformes fish), poultry and egg products; supports cost-share funding of State meat and poultry inspection programs; implements the Public Health Information System to assign and track science-based, data-driven inspections; and determines international equivalence of foreign food safety systems and verifies that these systems maintain equivalence. FSIS coordinates the development of its policies with other USDA and Federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Environmental Protection Agency, to support an integrated approach to food safety. Each year, FSIS builds on successes from existing partnerships and initiates new relationships with food safety regulators and organizations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of food safety outcomes and help meet its public health goals. Additionally, the Under Secretary for Food Safety chairs the U.S. Codex Policy Committee, which is an interagency partnership providing leadership for U.S. Government participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius to develop the international food standards used by governments and industry to protect consumer health and to ensure fair trade practices.

The Agency's 2023 accomplishments include efforts to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); its initiative to reduce *Salmonella* illnesses linked to poultry; agency-wide contributions to hiring, retention, and employee engagement; and ongoing support to small and very small establishments.

In July, the Agency released the FSIS 2023-2024 Equity Action Plan that describes recent, ongoing, and planned actions to advance equity for those in marginalized and underrepresented communities. The plan outlines four main priorities: provide robust technical assistance and reduce barriers to access for small and very small establishment owners and operators who are often members of underrepresented communities; expand language access for consumers with limited English proficiency; assist Tribal nations in their efforts to build self-sufficiency and grow meat and poultry processing businesses; and increase equity through Federal procurement by expanding opportunities for small, disadvantaged business owners and women-owned small businesses. In the workplace, FSIS continued to carry out its commitment to DEIA through training, accountability, data collection, and analysis.

In 2023, FSIS continued to focus on reducing illness from meat, poultry, and egg products, further enhancing its inspection systems and ensuring industry compliance with food safety regulations. In particular, the Agency focused on developing a new strategy to more effectively reduce *Salmonella* illnesses attributable to poultry. The agency released a draft framework it is considering to target *Salmonella* at different points in slaughter and processing operations; held a public meeting to discuss the framework; convened a technical discussion with small and very small establishments on the initiative; completed a peer-reviewed risk profile to provide information on whether certain serotypes or subtypes of *Salmonella* should be considered as adulterants in specific poultry products; collaborated on peer-reviewed quantitative risk assessments for *Salmonella* in chicken and turkey to evaluate the potential benefit of risk

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management options for controlling *Salmonella* levels and more virulent serotypes; and announced a proposed determination to declare *Salmonella* an adulterant in breaded stuffed raw chicken products if they exceed a certain level of *Salmonella* contamination.

FSIS depends on attracting and retaining a qualified and engaged workforce that represents the diversity across the United States, as well as developing and retaining current employees. Approximately 90 percent of the agency's workforce is dedicated frontline personnel, including those in priority recruitment positions: food inspectors, consumer safety inspectors, and public health veterinarians. In 2023, FSIS continued to scale its efforts to attract top-tier candidates and compete with private industry as an employer of choice, including recruitment and retention incentives. The Agency expanded recruitment by prioritizing diversity, coordinating local hiring events, and implementing process improvements. The result was shorter times to hire, expanded programs to support veterans and professionals with disabilities, and use of new talent-management platforms to advertise open positions and broaden applicant pools. These recruitment strategies are vital to FSIS in accomplishing its mission with agency inspectors working at over 6,900 regulated establishments including slaughter, processing, and import. Additionally, FSIS continues to recruit top-notch headquarters personnel responsible for overseeing the administration of inspection and ensuring that scientific and technological developments are incorporated into inspection procedures, as well as developing policies and guidance documents for the regulated industry. Recruitment and retention for all positions remained a high priority, and FSIS ensured that its employees have the tools and training they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively in a diverse and inclusive environment that is free from discrimination and harassment.

USDA is committed to expanding processing capacity and building a more resilient supply chain by supporting independent small and very small meat and poultry establishments. FSIS has multiple programs in place to provide resources for these smaller plants, such as guidance materials attuned to their unique needs and direct outreach that included monthly calls with leadership, a new monthly newsletter, and four regional roundtables and one national roundtable to promote understanding of food safety regulations and connect small business owners with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and USDA Rural Development for information on grants and funding opportunities. These opportunities foster open communication with these plants and help FSIS identify unique barriers and challenges faced by small establishments.

Over the last year, FSIS has made strides in optimizing its inspection systems, sampling programs, and labeling procedures through science-based approaches to food safety. Not only did it begin inspecting the production of cell-cultured poultry products, but it also proposed new regulatory requirements for the voluntary "Product of USA" claim; initiated a multi-step effort aimed at strengthening the substantiation of animal-raising claims; expanded generic label approval; determined avian leukosis is a trimmable condition; established a uniform time period for filing appeals; expanded testing for Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) to additional raw beef products; and officially replaced the N60 excision sampling method with a cloth method. Collectively, these actions allow for more efficient and effective inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products. FSIS continued to use data to inform decisions, regulations, policies, outreach, and education materials, while prioritizing data sharing and transparency.

**Table FdS-1 Key Performance Indicator Targets by Fiscal Year**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Percent reduction in the proportion of poultry samples with <i>Salmonella</i> serotypes commonly associated with human illness*	+22	-6	-8

\*Targets are a total reduction from a baseline established in 2021. Target will reach 10 percent by 2026.

### **BUDGET**

The Budget proposes discretionary funding of \$1.244 billion, an increase of \$86 million (7 percent) from the 2024 available base appropriation. FSIS spends 80 percent of its funding on salaries and benefits, predominantly for inspection personnel in establishments, and other frontline employees such as investigators and laboratory technicians. Overall, 95 percent of the FSIS appropriation goes toward salaries and benefits, mission-critical travel for inspectors and investigators, State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs, and other fixed costs. The budget includes \$46.7 million for 2024 pay costs, and \$27.5 million for 2025 pay cost increase of 2 percent for a total pay cost increase of \$74.3 million to support the Agency's critical food safety mission.

The Budget also includes an increase of \$5.3 million to support the increased lease costs of the Mid-Western Laboratory. The General Services Administration has decommissioned the existing Goodfellow facility due to environmental issues, resulting in FSIS paying competitive market rates for the new facility. The new facility will better support FSIS' continual efforts to modernize analytical techniques by utilizing a laboratory built specifically for this purpose.

To address the continuing difficulty that FSIS has in recruiting and retaining Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs), the budget includes \$3.0 million for incentives to recruit and retain PHVs. With this funding, FSIS is expected to decrease vacancies, reduce in-plant PHV turnover, and improve employee morale.

FSIS cooperates with state agencies in developing and administering the State MPI and Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) programs. The programs are primarily for small and very small establishments and the state programs aid in the sustainment and expansion of these establishments. With rising costs, and the anticipated entry of additional states and establishments into the programs between 2023 and 2025, the budget requests \$3.4 million to cover the FSIS contribution to the programs (up to 50 percent of the cost of the State MPI programs and 60 percent for the CIS programs). The state MPI and CIS programs' growth are part of USDA's priority to expand meat processing capacity and strengthen the resilience of the supply chain.

*Table FdS-2. FSIS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Federal Food Safety and Inspection .....	\$1,037	\$1,037	\$1,116
State Food Safety and Inspection .....	67	67	71
International Food Safety and Inspection .....	19	19	22
Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure System .....	35	35	35
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,158	1,158	1,244
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
User Fees (Overtime/Holiday Inspection Services) .....	210	238	238
Trust Funds (Voluntary Inspection Services) .....	18	17	17
Goodfellows Mid-Western Laboratory Relocation (Division N) .....	30	-	-
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	258	255	255
<b>Total, FSIS .....</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>1,413</b>	<b>1,499</b>

### **User Fees and Trust Funds**

FSIS estimates it will collect \$255.4 million in 2025 through existing user fee and trust fund activities for providing overtime, holiday, and voluntary inspection services.

### **Proposed Legislation**

In 2025, FSIS will re-propose permanent changes to our governing laws to provide inspection personnel flexible work arrangements.

With these changes, FSIS can provide flexible scheduling for inspectors. This will allow inspectors to request flexible work arrangements, including work schedules for both regular and overtime hours contingent on the availability of options to cover required inspection duties. This change will be cost neutral for industry because industry will still only be charged for the extra services they are requesting.

## ***NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT***

### **MISSION**

The mission of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Mission Area includes the U.S. Forest Service, an agency established under the Transfer Act of February 1, 1905, which transferred the Federal forest reserves and the responsibility for their management from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture.

### **FOREST SERVICE**

***Table NRE-1. FS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)***

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary Appropriations:</b>			
Forest Service Operations.....	\$1,153	\$1,153	\$1,187
Forest and Rangeland Research.....	307	307	316
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry .....	338	338	305
National Forest System.....	1,974	1,974	2,007
Wildland Fire Management.....	2,117	2,117	2,550
Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	158	158	158
Land Acquisition .....	1	1	1
Other Appropriations.....	4	3	5
Total, Discretionary Appropriations .....	6,035	6,036	6,529
<b>Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:</b>			
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund .....	2,210	2,210	2,390
<b>Mandatory Appropriations:</b>			
Permanent Appropriations .....	731	645	646
Trust Funds.....	246	307	307
Total, Mandatory Appropriations .....	977	952	953
<b>Supplemental Appropriations:</b>			
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) .....	-	-	-
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	945	945	945
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-69) .....	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) .....	885	-	-
Total, Supplemental Appropriations.....	1,830	945	945
<b>Total, Forest Service.....</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>10,142</b>	<b>10,817</b>

Table Footnote 1: Differences from the OMB Budget Appendix may be attributed to sequestration corrections, reimbursables, and offsetting collections.

Table Footnote 2: A full-year 2024 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the Budget was prepared; therefore, the Budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Division A of Public Law 118-15, as amended). The amounts included for 2024 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Table Footnote 3: Wildland Fire Management discretionary appropriations include base recurring discretionary funding designated as emergency (i.e., shifted base).

Table Footnote 4: Other Mandatory include Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act), Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act), Land facilities enhancement, and National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF, Great American Outdoors Act). LRF is a transfer from the Department of Interior to the Forest Service.

Table Footnote 5: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) is advance appropriations for 2024 and 2025.

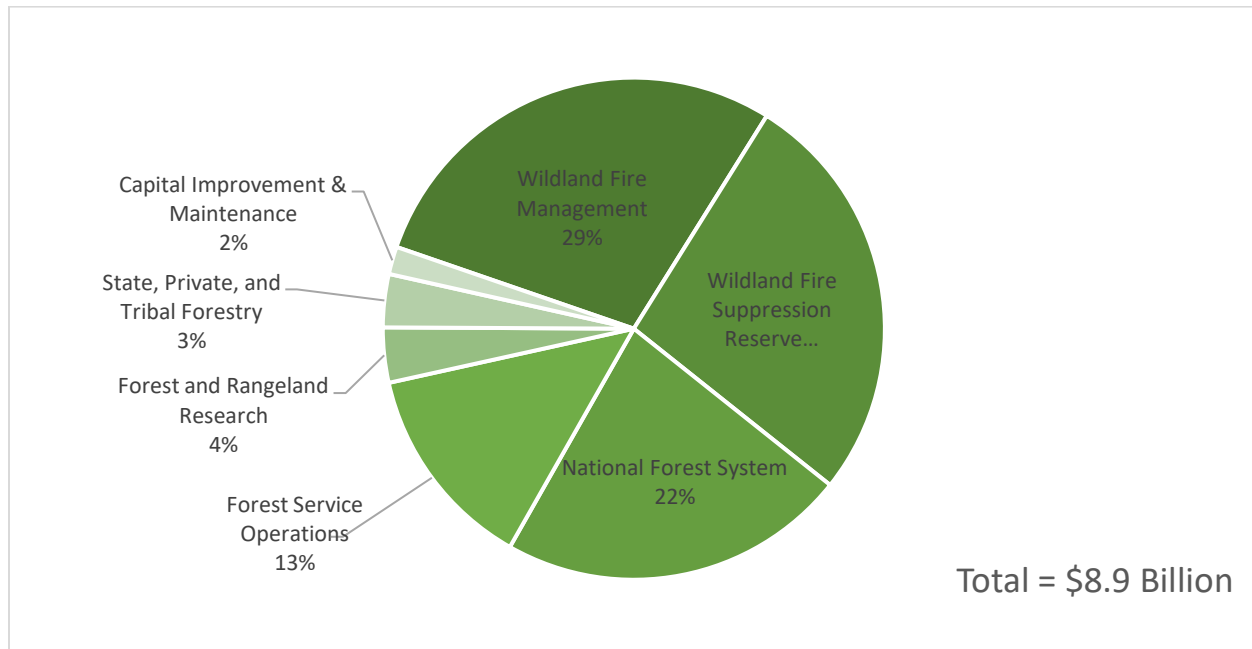
Table Footnote 6: Capital Improvement and Maintenance totals offset \$20M deferral of road and trail fund payment. 2023 and 2024 include the actual and estimated reduction of \$19M for road and trail fund payments.

The Forest Service Budget request prioritizes maintaining investments across the agency to combat climate change, protect communities and natural resources from the threat of wildfire, provide economic relief through job creation, advance racial equity, address environmental injustice, and further improve the Forest Service work environment. These investments continue to build on the historic investments provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169). The Forest Service will accomplish its work by investing in its

workforce while also leveraging the capacity of Tribes, States, and partners to improve the resiliency of landscapes and watersheds, reduce wildfire risk, restore infrastructure, support outdoor recreation, establish tree canopy in nature deprived communities, and invest in the reforestation of America's impacted landscapes. The proposed 2025 investments are detailed in Figure NRE-1 and described in further detail in the program areas below.

The 2025 Forest Service Budget continues the President's commitment to ensure equitable, competitive compensation for Federal wildland firefighters by providing pay levels comparable to those attained since 2022 with the pay supplement provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) while recognizing that establishment of a permanent solution to wildland firefighter compensation requires authorization. As such, the 2025 Forest Service Budget provides the funding needed to implement the Administration's 2024 proposed authorization of a new pay table that would raise the base salary of the fire workforce and a new pay premium to compensate firefighters for all hours they are mobilized on an incident.

**Figure NRE-1. FS Discretionary Budget Authority, 2025 Budget Request**



### **Forest Service Operations**

For 2025, \$1.2 billion is requested for Forest Service Operations (FSO) to support staff salaries and expenses, facilities maintenance and leases, information technology, and administrative support for the agency. The 2025 FSO Budget includes investments that prioritize funding in support of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy information technology needs, USDA Information Technology Strategic Plan goals and objectives, and leverage opportunities to implement cost saving and avoidance strategies. The FSO Budget also includes a \$25 million downpayment to address the urgent need for employee housing through necessary maintenance and repairs of Forest Service housing units. Many Forest Service duty stations are in areas where maintaining agency-owned housing in good condition could mitigate significant challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees. These employees perform work necessary for wildfire response and mitigation work, as well as work to provide for a safe and healthy visitor experience at Forest Service facilities across the country.

**Forest and Rangeland Research**

The Forest Service maintains the world's largest forest research organization, with a mission to develop the knowledge and technology needed to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands, especially with respect to the adverse impacts of climate change. For 2025, \$315.6 million is proposed for Forest and Rangeland Research to continue investments in scientific research priorities, including improving the understanding of climate change and identifying adaptation and resiliency strategies. Research efforts will also be focused on further refining tools that will help forest owners and managers better understand carbon sequestration, forest health, and timber harvesting which will provide the necessary data to make well-informed decisions about sustainable forest management. The Budget accelerates efforts related to integrating remote sensing data, in situ observations, science, and advanced modeling to improve the characterization of GHG fluxes from forest ecosystems, consistent with the goals of the *National Strategy to Advance an Integrated U.S. GHG Measurement, Monitoring, and Information System*. The research will also extend beyond forest management decisions into efficient and effective uses of extracted materials. This includes building on recent public-private partnership successes like the Forest Products Lab and forest product industry groups developing processes for converting woody biomass into bio-jet fuel and nanocellulose.

**State, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

For the 2025 Budget, \$305.4 million is requested for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs, which will keep working forests intact, facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships, provide financial support to State and volunteer fire departments, continue the expansion of partnership and co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes, and provide an avenue to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience to climate change by establishing tree canopy in communities that lack it, among other efforts. The Budget includes the proposed 2025 Forest Legacy projects, which further the effort to protect critical forest landscapes threatened by land conversion in partnership with State agencies and private landowners.

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

The Forest Service manages a vast capital asset portfolio that supports an array of land management and recreational activities. Assets include roads which are essential for land management activities, emergency response, and visitor use and enjoyment of National Forest System lands; facilities for fire response, forest research, and developed recreation; over 3,000 dams that provide the municipal water supply to over 60 million people; and almost 163,000 miles of trails, including 10,000 miles associated with six National Scenic and Historic Trails. For 2025, the Budget proposes \$158 million for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure on National Forest System lands. Capital Improvement and Maintenance funding is complemented by the Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152) National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which provides mandatory funding for deferred maintenance projects on public lands. The Budget contains the 2025 National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund projects list, which reduce the deferred maintenance backlog and improve access and quality of the visitor experience.

**National Forest System**

The Forest Service manages over 193 million acres of public land in 43 States and Puerto Rico, collectively known as the National Forest System. The 2025 Budget proposes to fund the National Forest System at \$2 billion, prioritizing recreation service delivery, climate smart land management, and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, while maintaining foundational investments in hazardous fuels treatments to reduce wildfire risk. A primary focus of

agency efforts will be to improve the resiliency of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of wildfires.

National Forest System lands have continued to see an increase in the number of visitors, and the Forest Service is pursuing innovative ways to serve the recreational needs of new and returning visitors while managing the associated social and environmental impacts. The Budget includes increases in both the Recreation and Law Enforcement and Investigations programs to maintain services for the visiting public and be responsive to their safety.

### **Wildland Fire Management**

Through its Wildland Fire Management program, the Forest Service protects life, property, infrastructure, and natural resources on National Forest System lands, other Federal lands, and on an additional 20 million acres of non-Federal lands under interagency and intergovernmental protection agreements. The 2025 Budget proposes \$2.6 billion for Wildland Fire Management activities, investing in firefighter compensation, benefits, mental health, and wellbeing, and supporting the objectives of the agency's 10-year strategy to confront the Nation's wildfire crisis.

Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of catastrophic wildfires. Each year the Forest Service responds to approximately 5,000 to 7,000 fires that are either ignited on or spread to National Forest System lands. Traditional fire seasons of the past now extend well beyond historic summer fire season timeframes, and we now face full fire years. In 2024 and beyond, the agency anticipates and is prepared for, increasingly complex fire years.

The 2025 Budget includes an increase of \$216 million to further build on the base pay supplement in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) through the implementation of permanent, comprehensive pay reform, as initially proposed in the 2024 Budget and accompanying legislative proposal, as well as a \$10 million investment in mental health and wellbeing services for wildland firefighters. In addition, the Budget includes an increase of \$69 million to support the anticipated 2024 and 2025 cost of living adjustments and an increase of \$136 million for additional Federal firefighting capacity. The Forest Service 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy<sup>1</sup> and the National Prescribed Fire Resource Mobilization Strategy<sup>2</sup> articulate the need for an increase in the pace and scale of hazardous fuels treatments commensurate with the rising risk of wildfire. Increasing firefighting capacity will help ensure that the Forest Service can rise to the increasing demands of wildland fire activity and risk mitigation work year-round, while also improving the work-life balance of firefighters.

The Administration is committed to recognizing the serious toll that wildland firefighting takes on firefighters' lives and families and will continue to invest in ways to help prevent employee burnout and cumulative fatigue associated with the higher demands on responders. The ongoing call for investment in firefighting workforce reforms at both the Forest Service and Department of the Interior — including improved compensation by establishing a new pay table and providing premium pay for all incident responders, increased workforce capacity, mental health and wellbeing services, and improved Government housing — will transform interagency Wildland Fire Management.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/Confronting-the-Wildfire-Crisis.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Confronting-the-Wildfire-Crisis.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/Rx-Fire-Strategy.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Rx-Fire-Strategy.pdf)



The Budget proposes \$1 billion for Suppression in the Wildland Fire Management appropriation to fund firefighters and equipment in direct support of wildfire incidents; aviation asset operations; incident support functions; and wildfire management administration. This funding amount was established as a fixed amount for 2020 through 2027 by *Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-141).

The Budget also includes \$204.5 million for Preparedness, to maintain a robust, risk-informed, and effective response capability when wildfires do occur. The Forest Service continues to evolve how firefighting personnel are trained and equipped to ensure they have the best opportunity to operate safely and protect high-valued resources while managing wildfires. The agency will also invest in technologies to improve situational awareness and fire behavior predictive capabilities to better inform operational strategies. While the wildland fire environment is complex and poses increasingly greater risk to both natural and built resources, the Forest Service is committed to improving capabilities to meet current and future demands of wildfire response.

### **Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund**

While risk and frequency of severe wildfire continues to increase, the Forest Service must continue to conduct wildfire suppression operations to protect public safety, property, and natural resources. *Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-141) provided new budget authority to fight wildfires known as the “fire fix”. Beginning in 2020, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have budget authority available when base Suppression funding has been exhausted. This budget authority is \$2.7 billion in 2025 (of which \$2.4 billion is allocated to the Forest Service) and increases by \$100 million each year through 2027. The budget stability enabled by the additional budget authority allows the agency to take a strategic approach to the fiscal planning and execution of both Wildland Fire Management programs and National Forest System management programs.

### **Summary of Performance**

*Table NRE-2. KPI -Terrestrial Condition Assessment*

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Percent of National Forest System landscape ecosystems improved, maintained, or recovering due to management actions, Terrestrial Condition Assessment .....	30	38	39

*Table NRE-3. KPI – Forest Legacy Program*

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Number of private forest acres protected through the Forest Legacy Program .....	46,772	64,000	64,000

**Table NRE-4. KPI – Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Annual acreage treated to reduce or maintain fuel conditions on National Forest System and non-Federal lands (million acres, annually)	4.4	4.2	4.0

**Table NRE-5. KPI – Final Acreage Treatment**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Annual acreage of National Forest System lands where final treatment effectively mitigates wildfire risk (million acres, annually) .....	1.4	1.7	1.6

**Table NRE-6. KPI – Timber Volume**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Timber volume sold (billion board feet) .....	3.1	3.2	3.2

**Table NRE-7. KPI – Research Publications**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Number of Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	1,100	1,100

**Table NRE-8. KPI – Watershed Restoration**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Number of watersheds moved to improved condition class or sustained in Condition Class 1 .....	16	21	25

**Table NRE-9. KPI – National Forest Customer Satisfaction**

Key Performance Indicator	2023 Actual	2024 Target	2025 Target
Percent of customers satisfied with recreation facilities, services, and settings in National Forest <sup>b/</sup> .....	TBD	98	95

<sup>a/</sup> The agency has previously tracked the number of peer-reviewed scholarly publications produced by Forest Service research scientists internally, but it will be elevated to a key performance indicator for the agency beginning in 2024.

<sup>b/</sup> Data collection for 2023 is still on-going and visitor satisfaction levels will be available in spring 2024.

## ***MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS***

### **MISSION**

The Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) mission is to facilitate and expand the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products, to help protect the agricultural sector from animal and plant health threats, and to ensure humane care and treatment of regulated animals. These programs provide the basic infrastructure to improve agricultural market competitiveness for the overall benefit of consumers and producers of American agriculture. U.S. agricultural producers and exporters gained access to potential markets worth nearly \$6.4 billion in 2022, supported by MRP and other mission areas in USDA.

MRP is providing service at export facilities 24 hours a day. MRP also assists producers by providing market trend analysis and business and marketing tools. MRP also helps increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by working to protect the Nation's agriculture from pests and diseases, thereby increasing the efficiency of production.

### **ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE**

*Table MRP-1. APHIS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response:			
Animal Health:			
Animal Health Technical Services.....	\$39	\$39	\$40
Aquatic Animal Health.....	5	5	8
Avian Health .....	65	65	66
Cattle Health.....	112	112	112
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health .....	35	35	23
National Veterinary Stockpile.....	7	7	7
Swine Health .....	26	26	31
Veterinary Biologics .....	21	21	22
Veterinary Diagnostics.....	64	64	64
Zoonotic Disease Management.....	22	22	22
Total, Animal Health.....	396	396	393
Plant Health:			
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated) .....	36	36	41
Cotton Pests.....	15	15	16
Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests.....	15	15	10
Pest Detection.....	29	29	30
Plant Protection Methods Development.....	23	23	23
Specialty Crop Pests.....	216	216	219
Tree and Wood Pests.....	63	63	64
Total, Plant Health.....	396	396	402
Wildlife Services:			
Wildlife Damage Management.....	122	122	124
Wildlife Services Methods Development.....	26	26	27
Total, Wildlife Services .....	148	148	151
Regulatory Services:			
Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement .....	19	19	19
Biotechnology Regulatory Services .....	20	20	24
Total, Regulatory Services.....	38	38	43
Emergency Management:			
Contingency Fund.....	1	1	1
Emergency Preparedness & Response .....	44	44	49

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
Total, Emergency Management.....	45	45	50
Total, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness .....	1,024	1,024	1,038
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export.....	19	19	20
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations.....	26	26	27
Total, Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance .....	45	45	46
Animal Welfare .....	42	42	43
Agency-Wide Activities (including GSA Rent/DHS Security) .....	52	52	48
Congressionally Directed Spending Projects .....	9	9	-
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	1,171	1,171	1,175
Buildings and Facilities.....	3	3	3
Total, Non-Emergency Programs .....	1,174	1,174	1,178
Working Capital Funds.....	-1	-1	-
Commodity Credit Corporation.....	397	213	-
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,570	1,386	1,178
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Fees.....	779	825	844
Trust Funds and User Fees .....	9	9	9
Farm Bill.....	99	106	99
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	887	940	952
<b>Supplemental:</b>			
2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Division N, GP 2102 .....	125	125	-
Total, Supplemental Programs .....	125	125	-
Total, APHIS .....	2,582	2,451	2,130

APHIS works cooperatively with Federal partners, State and local agencies, Tribes, industries, private groups, and foreign counterparts to protect the Nation's agricultural and natural resources. The Budget includes discretionary funding of \$1.175 billion for Salaries and Expenses and \$3.175 million for the Buildings and Facilities account.

As part of the Salaries and Expenses amount, the Budget requests \$1.0 billion to support safeguarding and emergency programs. Animal health and plant health programs protect domestic livestock, poultry, field crop, and specialty crops production annually valued at nearly \$360 billion in calendar year 2022.

To combat any sudden, urgent, and unforeseen pest and disease outbreaks, the Secretary retains authority to transfer funds from any USDA account, although historically have been from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

### ***Animal Health***

The Budget supports a total of \$393 million for Animal Health. The Budget proposes increased funding to establish the Agency's official Swine Health Improvement Plan program, continue implementing national commercial aquaculture health program standards, and prevent the spread of New World Screwworm north from Panama which would threaten U.S. cattle production. At the proposed funding level, APHIS will eliminate Federal contributions for new chronic wasting disease management projects and requests that State partners implement the most promising projects that were recently developed with Federal funding. The Budget also proposes decreases for cattle fever tick activities along the Texas and Mexico border. APHIS will use the remaining funding to focus on the highest priority cattle health disease activities and effective cattle fever tick eradication strategies. The Budget proposes a one-time recission to unobligated balances related to avian influenza (Avian Health line item), the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

(Veterinary Diagnostics line item), and the Antimicrobial Resistance Dashboard (Zoonotic Disease Management line item).

### ***Plant Health***

The Budget includes \$402 million for Plant Health. The Budget proposes an increase for predeparture inspection activities to staff expanded airport terminals in Hawaii, mitigating the risk of pest and disease movement while accommodating travel and interstate shipping, and to continued enhanced African swine fever prevention activities in Puerto Rico. The Budget also proposes an increase to expand the National Seed Health Accreditation Program, which mitigates against certain pathogens in imported seeds, to include additional crops and develop procedures for domestically produced seed as well as imported seed. APHIS is proposing to reduce Federal funding for European grapevine moth and *Phytophthora Ramorum* surveillance while continuing to monitor for these pests and diseases. Additionally, APHIS is proposing to eliminate Federal funding for cogongrass and roseau cane to focus on pests that align with the Agency's core mission and are known to cause crop damage.

### ***Wildlife Services***

The Budget includes a total of \$151 million for Wildlife Services. The Budget maintains funding to resolve human/wildlife conflicts and protect agriculture, human health and safety, personal property, and natural resources from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases in the United States, including the management of rabies and other zoonotic diseases caused by various wildlife species.

### ***Regulatory Services***

The Budget includes \$43 million for Regulatory Services. The Budget maintains funding for the Agency's investigative and enforcement services. The Budget proposes an increase to establish technical and scientific services necessary to support the oversight of certain animals intended for agricultural purposes that are modified or developed using genetic engineering.

### ***Emergency Management***

The Budget includes \$50 million for Emergency Management. The Budget proposes an increase to establish the Ready Response Corps to bolster the Agency's ability to address animal disease threats while continuing to achieve its mission. For the last decade, APHIS has had approximately 700 veterinarians on staff to support ongoing work; however, there is not enough personnel to respond to large animal health outbreaks. APHIS began a pilot of the Ready Response Corps in 2023 and this funding will allow the Agency to hire a cadre of animal health professionals that would be strategically located in areas of high livestock and poultry density as well as in locations where APHIS is likely to send employees on emergency deployment.

### ***Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance***

The Budget provides \$46 million for Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance activities. APHIS maintains a robust overseas presence which allows the Agency to facilitate safe U.S. agricultural trade. The Budget requests additional funding to cover increased costs of operating overseas, including support costs charged by the U.S. Department of State and compensation for locally employed staff salaries and benefits.

***Animal Welfare***

The Budget for Animal Welfare activities is \$43 million. APHIS will continue to support activities related to the protection of animal species covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

***Agency Management***

The Budget includes \$48 million for Agency Management, including GSA rent and DHS security costs, physical and operational security, and information technology infrastructure. The Budget proposes a decrease of \$4 million from consolidating space in the Riverdale, Maryland headquarters building in 2024. APHIS will free up space for GSA to rent the remaining vacated floors to another tenant resulting in annual rent cost savings.

***Buildings and Facilities***

The Budget includes \$3 million in funding for general facility improvement projects. The program will continue to centrally coordinate and prioritize facility improvement projects using available funds.

***User Fees***

In addition to discretionary funding, APHIS collects mandatory user fees to cover costs related to agricultural quarantine and inspection activities that occur at ports of entry. A portion of these collections are provided to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to conduct front line inspections at points of entry. With user fee funding, APHIS supports international trade by assessing the plant and animal health risks associated with such trade. APHIS also develops regulations to protect agricultural health; inspects and quarantines imported plant materials intended for planting; trains agricultural inspectors and detector dog teams; and provides the scientific support necessary to carry out these activities as well as those carried out by CBP. APHIS published a proposal to update the user fee rates on August 11, 2023, based on APHIS and CBP evaluations of changing costs and operations for the program.

**AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE***Table MRP-2. AMS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Marketing Services:			
Market News .....	\$35	\$35	\$36
Shell Egg Surveillance.....	3	3	3
Standardization .....	5	5	6
Market Protection and Promotion .....	45	45	46
National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard.....	2	2	2
Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program.....	7	7	7
Transportation and Market Development.....	10	10	12
Acer Access and Development.....	8	8	8
Dairy Business Innovation.....	25	25	10
Packers and Stockyards .....	30	30	31
Hemp Production.....	15	15	15
Grain Regulatory .....	19	19	20
US Warehouse Activities .....	11	11	11
Appropriated GSA Rent and DHS Security.....	4	4	4
International Food Procurement Program .....	9	9	9
Micro-Grants for Food Security.....	8	8	7
Cattle Contract Library .....	1	1	2
Local and Regional Commodity Procurement .....	0	0	2
Farmer Seed Liaison .....	0	0	2
Global Climates Solutions Act .....	0	0	1
Total, Marketing Services.....	238	238	235
Payments to States and Possessions .....	1	1	2
General Provisions:			
Cotton Classing.....	4	4	0
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	243	243	237
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Funds for Stre. Mark., Income, and Supply (Section 32):			
Commodity Program Expenses .....	1,454	1,459	1,364
Section 32 Administrative Funds:			
Marketing Orders and Agreements.....	17	22	23
Commodity Purchase Services .....	36	37	38
Total, Section 32 Administrative Funds .....	53	59	60
Total, Section 32 Funds .....	1,507	1,518	1,424
User Fees:			
Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.....	11	11	11
Commodity Grading Services .....	206	206	206
Inspection and Weighing Services.....	36	55	60
Total, User Fee Funded Programs.....	253	272	277
Farm Bill:			
Wool Research, Development and Promotion.....	2	2	2
Specialty Crop Block Grants .....	85	85	85
Local Agriculture Market Program.....	31	31	31
Milk Donation Program .....	5	5	5
Total, Farm Bill Programs.....	123	123	123
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	1,883	1,913	1,824
Total, AMS .....	2,126	2,156	2,050

*Table MRP-3. AMS KPI – Grader’s Time Livestock and Poultry*

<b>Key Performance Measure</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Recover 87 percent of graders’ time through customer billing (poultry) .....	95	87	87
Recover 87 percent of graders’ time through customer billing (meat livestock) ...	96	87	87

AMS’ mission is to facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products in domestic and international markets, while ensuring fair trading practices. AMS programs aid producers in meeting the changing demands of consumers and domestic and international marketing practices. The Budget proposes discretionary funding of \$236.4 million.

AMS administers a variety of programs that enhance the marketing and distribution of agricultural products. Activities include, but are not limited to: the collection, analysis, and dissemination of market information; surveillance of shell egg handling operations; development of commodity grade standards; protection of producers from unfair marketing practices; statistical sampling and analysis of commodities for pesticide residues; development and enforcement of organic standards; facilitating hemp production; enforcing labeling standards; and research and technical assistance aimed at improving efficiency of food marketing and distribution.

***Market News***

The Budget proposes \$36.3 million for Market News to support data collection and reporting of commodity information. The information provided by Market News assists producers and other marketers of farm products, as well as those in related industries in making critical daily decisions.

***Shell Egg Surveillance***

The Budget funds Shell Egg Surveillance at \$2.7 million. The Shell Egg Surveillance Program inspects registered shell egg facilities and monitors the disposition of restricted eggs to limit the number of restricted eggs in consumer channels. The program prevents eggs not meeting minimum U.S. standards from entering the consumer marketplace.

***Standardization***

The Budget funds Standardization at \$6.5 million. This program develops, reviews, and maintains agricultural commodity standards that describe a product’s attributes for trade purposes. The Budget requests additional funding to enable the program to be responsive to industry requests in developing and implementing technology for offsite grading for small facilities.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Federal Seed Act Program***

The Budget provides \$2.5 million for the Federal Seed Act Program. This program promotes fair competition in the seed trade by ensuring seed is accurately labeled, among other requirements.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Country of Origin Labeling***

The Budget provides \$4.9 million for the Country of Origin Labeling program. The program requires retailers to notify their customers of the country of origin of covered commodities, and that the method of production for fish and shellfish be noted at the final point of sale.

***Market Protection and Promotion - Pesticide Data Program***

The Budget provides \$15.3 million for the Pesticide Data Program, which is the main supplier of data regarding actual levels of pesticide residues on commodities. The program works



collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to target residue data collection related to high-risk commodities and vulnerable populations.

#### ***Market Protection and Promotion - National Organic Standards***

The Budget provides \$23.2 million for the National Organic Program, which works to meet consumer demand for organically-produced goods by supporting the development, maintenance, and enforcement of national standards governing the production and handling of organic agricultural products.

#### ***National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard***

The Budget requests \$2.1 million to maintain the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard efforts. The Standard requires food manufacturers, importers, and certain retailers to ensure bioengineered foods are appropriately disclosed.

#### ***Transportation and Market Development***

The Budget requests \$12.3 million for Transportation and Market Development, which conducts research and outreach related to grain shipping and supply chains. The program connects agricultural producers with high value market opportunities through its national market directories. The Budget request additional funding to support the Local and Regional Supply Chain Development initiative.

#### ***Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program***

The Budget requests funding for this program at \$7.3 million. The program executes competitive grants through the Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program to develop, coordinate, and expand local food markets in the U.S, to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. This funding is used in concert with funding provided by Section 10102 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

#### ***Acer Access and Development***

The Budget requests \$7.5 million for Acer Access and Development to support market development and promotion projects that improve consumer, producer, and landowner awareness, as well as understanding of the American maple syrup and maple-sap industry and related products and production.

#### ***Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives***

The Budget requests \$10.3 million for these initiatives, which support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing and distribution of dairy products. These initiatives provide direct technical assistance and grants to dairy businesses, including niche dairy products such as specialty cheese, or dairy products derived from the milk of a dairy animal, including cow, sheep, and goat milk. The Budget requests a reduction in funding for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, consistent with the trajectory of reductions seen in published Appropriation Bills.

#### ***Packers and Stockyards***

The Budget includes \$30.9 million for the Packers and Stockyards program, which regulates and monitors the activities of livestock, meat, and poultry market participants to support fair practices. Increased funding is requested to strengthen oversight of livestock and poultry markets and minimize IT security vulnerabilities.

***Hemp Production***

The Budget includes \$15.1 million for the Hemp Production program, which regulates the commercial production of industrial hemp as authorized by Section 10113 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

***Grain Regulatory Program***

The Budget includes \$19.9 million for the Federal Grain Inspection Service. The program establishes the official U.S. standards and quality assessment methods for grain and related products and regulates handling practices to ensure compliance with the United States Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This funding is used in combination with user-fee funded field activities.

***U.S. Warehouse Activities***

The Budget requests \$11.1 million for U.S. Warehouse Activities. This program supports the efficient use of commercial facilities in the storage of Commodity Credit Corporation-owned commodities. The program administers a nationwide warehousing system, establishes posted county prices for major farm program commodities, and manages CCC commodity inventories. The United States Warehouse Act (USWA) authorizes the licensing of operators who store agricultural products and a separate licensing for qualified persons to sample, inspect, weigh, and grade agricultural products. The USWA authorizes the application of user fees to cover the costs of administering the Act, including unannounced warehouse examinations to encourage compliance. Warehouses engaged in export food aid operations are required to be licensed.

***International Food Procurement***

The Budget requests \$8.7 million for International Food Aid Commodity Procurement. Through this program, AMS purchases and delivers U.S.-produced food aid commodities for international food aid programs for overseas use to meet USDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development program requirements, assisting vulnerable populations around the world.

***Micro-Grants for Food Security***

The Budget includes \$7.0 million for this program to assist agricultural agencies or departments in eligible states and territories to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food insecure communities through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations by competitively distributing subawards to eligible entities. The Budget seeks to right-size this program as many entities that are eligible have not been applying for the program.

***Cattle Contract Library***

The Budget includes \$2.0 million to facilitate the Cattle Contract Library to increase market transparency for cattle producers. The final rule went into effect on January 6, 2023, which ensures complete reporting of contractual information and volumes purchased against the contracts, including: supplemental information on cattle requirements; associated schedules of premiums and discounts; delivery and transportation terms and payments; appendices and agreements of financing, risk-sharing, profit sharing; or other financial arrangements associated with such contracts, whenever new contracts are offered, or existing contracts are updated. The Budget requests additional funding to support maintenance and enhancements to the interactive dashboard.

***Local and Regional Commodity Procurement***

The Budget includes \$2.0 million for AMS to purchase and deliver nutritious food products to serve customers, amid the struggles faced by emergency food organizations to meet demand. AMS will continue to work to strengthen and diversify the suppliers that provide healthy, nutritious, and

local foods to schools and nutrition assistance programs by assisting small and underserved farmers and businesses to become vendors for school meals. AMS will also continue to explore modernized ordering and distribution methods to support schools and emergency food organizations, improve their experience, and help address their supply chain challenges.

### ***Farmer Seed Liaison Program***

The Budget requests \$2.0 million for Farmer Seed Liaison Program. The Liaison enhances transparency, reduces confusion, and otherwise helps farmers, small and mid-sized seed businesses and plant breeders successfully navigate a complex seed system, grounded in the authorities and policy priorities as set forth in the Agricultural Marketing Act, the Plant Variety Protection Act, the Federal Seed Act, Executive Order 14036 “Promoting Competition in America’s Economy” and Executive Order 14017 “America’s Supply Chains.”

### ***Global Climate Solutions Act***

The Budget requests \$1.0 million for the Global Climate Solutions Act. The program receives and reviews covered entities that provide third-party verification and technical assistance in voluntary carbon markets.

### **Payments to States and Possessions**

The Budget requests \$1.5 million for the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP). The Budget requests additional funding to further support underrepresented groups.

### **Mandatory**

Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, authorizes the appropriation for each fiscal year of an amount equal to 30 percent of the gross receipts from duties collected under customs laws of the United States during the preceding calendar year. These funds are used to encourage domestic consumption of perishable commodities that are not eligible for price support from USDA and encourage the export of agricultural products. This includes purchases of commodities and removal of surplus commodities from the marketplace for distribution to Federal nutrition assistance programs such as the National School Lunch Program and diversion programs that bring production in line with demand. Section 32 funds are also used to finance the administrative costs associated with the purchase of commodities and developing the specifications used for food procurement throughout the Federal government.

Federal expenses for administration and oversight of Marketing Orders and Agreements are also funded from Section 32.

Marketing Orders and Agreements help stabilize market prices and the supply of milk and certain specialty crops. The Orders are administered locally by marketing order committees and market administrators. Local activities are funded through assessments on regulated handlers.

### **User Fees**

AMS operates select programs through license fees and user fees. The Commodity Grading Services program provides voluntary commodity grading and classing services for dairy products, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products, poultry, eggs, tobacco, and cotton. AMS also offers certification services to verify contract specifications on quantity and quality, acceptance and condition inspection services for all agricultural commodities upon request, and export certification services for a number of commodities. AMS’ audit verification services review production and quality control systems and verify industry marketing claims. The

Warehouse Examinations license fee provides for unannounced examinations to encourage compliance with licensing terms under the USWA.

In addition, AMS enforces the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act which prohibits unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing of perishable agricultural commodities by regulating shippers, distributors, and retailers. Full and prompt payment for fresh fruits and vegetables is a key objective of the program.

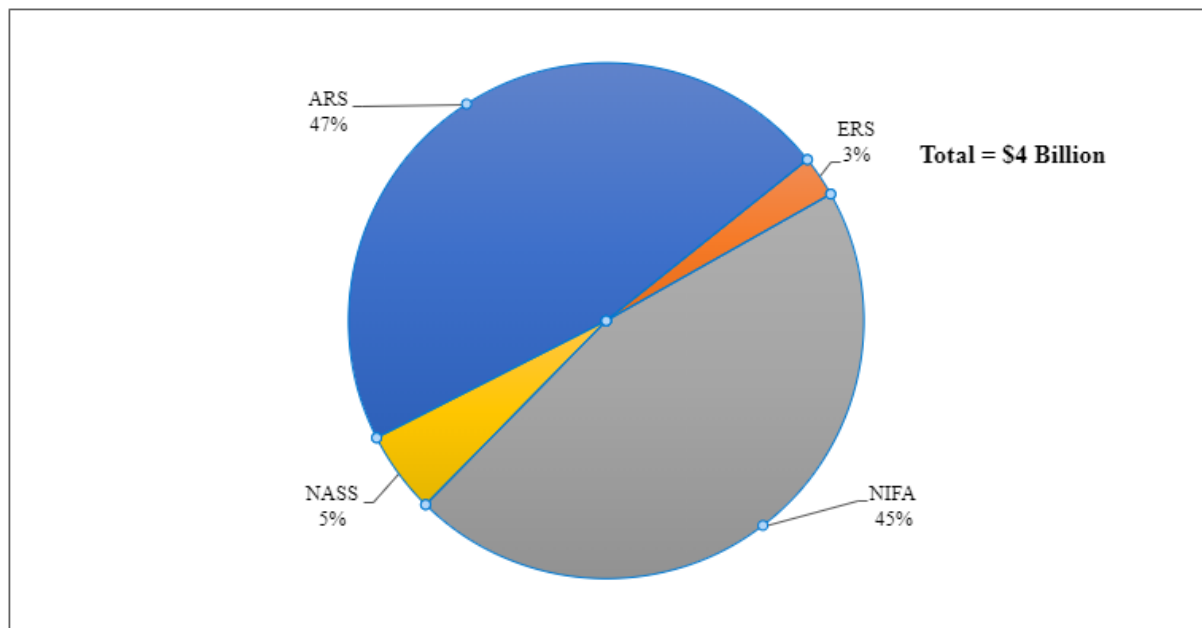
The Grain Inspection and Weighing user fees provide for the mandatory inspection and weighing of grain at export ports and the inspection and weighing of grain at domestic locations. AMS is required to conduct or delegate inspection and weighing, and to supervise such activities. The Budget seeks to increase the obligation cap for this account.

## ***RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS***

### **MISSION**

USDA and its *Science and Research Strategy, 2023-2026: Cultivating Scientific Innovation* supports a variety of agricultural research topics to address complex challenges that require multifaceted approaches through in-house research and in partnership with land-grant institutions, non-profits, and the private sector. USDA brings together expertise from a wide range of scientific disciplines to address sustainable agricultural growth and food security. The research strategy's five Key Priorities include: Accelerating Innovative Technologies & Practices, Driving Climate-Smart Solutions, Bolstering Nutrition Security & Health, Cultivating Resilient Ecosystems, and Translating Research into Action. These priorities, among others, will ensure that the U.S. can do its part to meet present and future food, feed, fiber, and fuel needs both at home and abroad as the world population is expected to grow to nearly 10 billion people by 2050.

Research, Education, and Economics (REE) responsibilities are carried out by four agencies and a staff office: (1) the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts intramural research in natural and biological sciences; (2) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) partners with land-grant and non-land grant colleges and universities in carrying out extramural research, higher education, and extension activities; (3) the Economic Research Service (ERS) performs intramural economic and social science research and market analysis, and produces indicators of agricultural and rural economic performance, and of food security; (4) the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Census of Agriculture and provides the official, current statistics on agricultural production and indicators for the economic and environmental health of the farm sector; and (5) the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) provides strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities. In 2023, ARS conducted retrospective reviews of its Veterinary, Medical and Urban Entomology; Aquaculture; and Crop Production Program. Overall, the programs were found to have had high impact (i.e., significant benefit or influence) based on the quality of the research leading to actual impact, or progress toward anticipated benefits. In 2023, NIFA invested \$90 million of Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) appropriations to climate change projects including the development and adoption of climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices, reducing agricultural and food system emissions, and clean energy production. Two new AFRI programs were launched to (1) reduce food loss and waste and (2) advance understanding of environmental justice and use of traditional ecological knowledge. In 2023, NASS served as co-lead (with ERS) of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Quantification Action Area (AA) # 6 team, also known as the Conservation Practices Data Team. This team is comprised of staff from NASS, ERS, ARS and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The team's objective is to improve the temporal and spatial coverage of national conservation activity data for official USDA GHG Inventory reporting and modeling for the Agriculture and Forestry sector. The research conducted by this team is in response to a top USDA strategic priority to "Combat Climate Change to Support America's Working Lands, Natural Resources, and Communities". In 2023 ERS published "[USDA ERS - Irrigation Organizations: Groundwater Management](#)" and "[USDA ERS - Irrigation Organizations: Water Inflows and Outflows](#)" which describe key elements of the institutions that manage agricultural surface and groundwater use. Both reports use data from USDA's Survey of Irrigation Organizations and provide insights into how the unique institutions managing agricultural water use are responding to increased water scarcity caused by climate change.

**Figure REE-1. REE Discretionary Budget Authority**

REE strategic performance, evaluation, evidence, and risk management efforts are coordinated and led by the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) on behalf of the Mission Area. REE and OCS activities contribute to the success of USDA's mission to provide effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues with a commitment to deliver equitable and climate-smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive. In 2023, the Office of the Chief Scientist led the USDA Science community in the development and release of the Agency's first Department-wide Science and Research strategy aimed to foster collaboration and reduce duplication across the USDA Science Community.

Additionally, the REE/OCS Mission Area:

- coordinates efforts to develop and manage USDA's science strategy,
- leads efforts to articulate, measure and communicate the impact of USDA Science (through the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)),
- coordinates and leads USDA Science initiatives in support of The Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (P.L. 115-435),
- and other Department-wide efforts to coordinate the integrity and impact of USDA science.

The Mission Area is responsible for achieving and measuring results with respect to the following 2022 – 2026 Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure America's Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous Waterways

- Objective 2.3: Foster Agricultural Innovation

Strategic Goal 6: Attract, Inspire, and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that's Proud to Represent USDA

- Objective 6.2: Establish a Customer-Centric, Inclusive, High-Performing Workforce that is Representative of America and the Communities We Serve

*Table REE-1. KPI – Agriculture Innovation / Science Impact / Science Workforce Development*

<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Target</b>	<b>2025 Target</b>
Technology Transfer Percentage (Number of USDA Patents Licensed / Number of USDA Patents Issued) (Percentage) .....	100	35	35
Citations of REE Reports (Number of Citations) .....	70	134	N/A <sup>1</sup>
Agriculture Workforce Development (Number of AFRI-supported undergraduate/graduate/post-doctoral students) .....	7,811	4,392 <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>
ARS Peer-Reviewed Publications .....	N/A	N/A	4,000 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This KPI is being retired in 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Targets for 2024 have been previously communicated as 5,951 (in 2024 Explanatory Notes).

<sup>3</sup> This KPI is being retired in 2025.

<sup>4</sup> This KPI is being introduced in 2025.

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

ARS is the USDA's chief scientific, in-house research agency. ARS conducts research to solve technical problems of broad scope and high national priority and provides access to scientific information. ARS's research covers a wide range of critical problems affecting American agriculture and the Nation as a whole, ranging from animal and crop protection and production to human nutrition, food safety, and natural resources conservation. ARS employs over 6,000 employees and carries out approximately 690 research projects at 90 research locations throughout the Nation and in several foreign countries. ARS includes the National Arboretum and the National Agricultural Library, the Nation's major information resource on food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.

The Budget includes discretionary funding of \$1.8 billion to support ARS research, including increases of \$17 million in support of the Cancer Moonshot, \$13 million for climate science and greenhouse gas monitoring research, and \$17 million for additional high priority investments.

The ARS Budget also includes an increase of \$13 million for operational support at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a state-of-the-art biocontainment facility for the study of foreign, emerging, and zoonotic animal diseases that pose a threat to U.S. animal agriculture and public health, which will replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The Budget also provides \$28 million for infrastructure improvements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Maryland and capital improvement at NBAF.

*Table REE-2. ARS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Product Quality/Value Added.....	\$135	\$135	\$132
Livestock Production .....	144	144	136
Crop Production .....	350	350	355
Food Safety .....	135	135	136
Livestock Protection.....	155	155	154
Crop Protection .....	253	253	232
Human Nutrition .....	111	111	126
Environmental Stewardship .....	292	292	302
Total, Research Programs .....	1,575	1,575	1,573
National Agricultural Library .....	30	30	30
Repair and Maintenance.....	27	27	27
Buildings and Facilities.....	132	132	28
NBAF Operations and Maintenance .....	113	113	126
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,877	1,877	1,784
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Trust Funds.....	18	17	17
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	18	17	17
Total, ARS.....	1,895	1,894	1,801

**Product Quality/Value Added**

The Budget includes \$132 million for this program. ARS has active research programs directed toward: (1) improving the efficiency and reducing the cost for the conversion of agricultural products into biobased products and biofuels; (2) developing new and improved products for domestic and foreign markets; and (3) providing higher quality, healthy foods that satisfy consumer needs in the U.S. and abroad.



**Livestock Production**

The Budget includes \$136 million for this program. ARS' livestock production program is directed toward: (1) safeguarding and utilizing animal genetic resources, associated genetic and genomic databases, and bioinformatic tools; (2) developing a basic understanding of the physiology of livestock and poultry; and (3) developing information, tools, and technologies that can be used to improve animal production systems. The research is heavily focused on the development and application of genomics technologies to increase the efficiency and product quality of beef, dairy, swine, poultry, aquaculture, and sheep systems.

**Crop Production**

The Budget includes \$355 million for this program. ARS' crop production program focuses on developing and improving ways to reduce crop losses while protecting and ensuring a safe and affordable food supply. The research program concentrates on effective production strategies that are environmentally friendly, safe to consumers, and compatible with sustainable and profitable crop production systems. Research activities are directed at safeguarding and utilizing plant genetic resources and their associated genetic, genomic, and bioinformatic databases that facilitate selection of varieties and/or germplasm with significantly improved traits.

**Food Safety**

The Budget includes \$136 million for this program. Ensuring that the U.S. has the highest levels of affordable, safe food requires that the food system be protected at each stage from production through processing and consumption from pathogens, toxins, and chemical contaminants that cause diseases in humans. ARS' current food safety research is designed to yield science-based knowledge on the safe production, storage, processing, and handling of plant and animal products; and on the detection and control of toxin producing and/or pathogenic bacteria and fungi, parasites, chemical contaminants, and plant toxins.

**Livestock Protection**

The Budget includes a total of \$154 million for this program. ARS' animal health program is directed at protecting and ensuring the safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply through improved disease detection, prevention, control, and treatment. Basic and applied research approaches are used to solve animal health problems, with emphasis on methods and procedures to control animal diseases.

**Crop Protection**

The Budget includes \$232 million to support these activities. ARS research on crop protection is directed to understand pest and disease transmission mechanisms and identify and apply new technologies that increase understanding of virulence factors and host defense mechanisms.

**Human Nutrition**

The Budget includes \$126 million for this program. As excessive consumption replaces diseases related to malnutrition as a primary public health concern in the U.S., the ARS human nutrition research program has increasingly focused on research studying the maintenance of health throughout the lifespan along with prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations. ARS will support the Cancer Moonshot initiative with funding for the Precision Nutrition program. Using this funding, ARS will research dietary compounds (particularly those in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) that are protective against the initiation or promotion of chronic diseases, the factors that influence their accumulation in foods, and factors that promote/inhibit the inclusion of these foods in the diet.

### Environmental Stewardship

The Budget includes \$302 million for this program. ARS research programs in environmental stewardship emphasize developing technologies and systems that support profitable production and enhance the Nation's vast renewable natural resource base. ARS is currently developing the scientific knowledge and technologies needed to meet challenges and opportunities in: water availability and watershed management, changes in climate, gaseous and particulate matter emissions, soil health and productivity, agricultural and industrial byproducts, agricultural system competitiveness and sustainability, and conservation and restoration of range lands, pasture ecosystems, and agroecosystems.

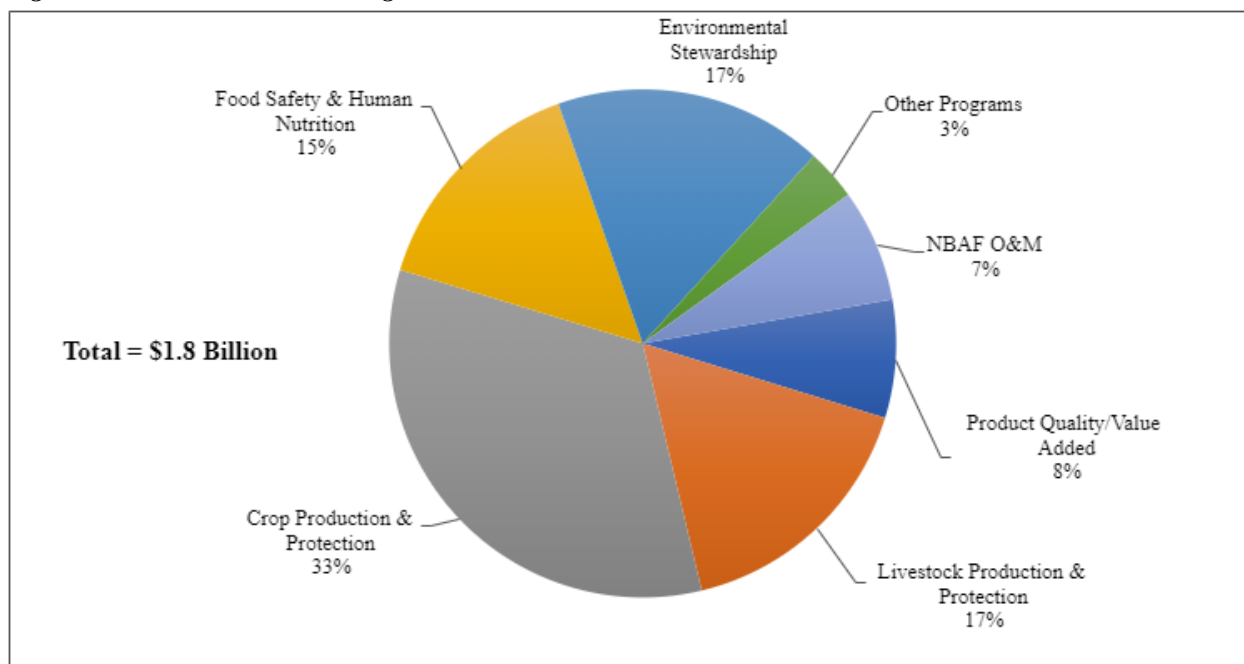
### National Agricultural Library (NAL)

The Budget includes \$30 million for NAL. NAL is the primary agricultural information resource of the U.S. NAL is the premier library for collecting, managing, and disseminating agricultural knowledge. It provides services directly to the staff of USDA and to the public, primarily via the NAL web site, [www.nal.usda.gov](http://www.nal.usda.gov). NAL provides library and information services that delivers agricultural information to the public through Agricultural Online Access (AGRICOLA); conserves rare and at-risk items; and works in partnership with other USDA and Federal agencies to broadly disseminate information.

### Repair and Maintenance

The Budget includes \$27 million to address repair and maintenance needs. ARS allocates funding for the repair and maintenance of existing ARS facilities and infrastructure. Performing regular repair and maintenance on ARS infrastructure can extend the life span of research laboratories and facilities, provide opportunities for longer term savings, and ensure Federal scientists' capacity to conduct safe, quality research. Funding will support specific projects such as the replacement of air handling units, boilers, and chillers that have reached the end of their service lives.

**Figure REE-2. ARS Research Programs**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

NIFA provides linkages between the Federal and State components of a national agricultural research, extension, and education system. NIFA funds projects conducted in partnership with State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Cooperative Extension System, the Land-grant University System, colleges of agriculture, community colleges, and other institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and small businesses. NIFA programs propel cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to farms, classrooms, communities, and beyond, with the help of Cooperative Extension. Federal funds are distributed to enhance capacity at universities and institutions by statutory formula funding and competitive grants. NIFA administers the Nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which supports research with strong potential to contribute to major breakthroughs in the food, agricultural, natural resource, and human sciences. NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education and extension to solve societal challenges related to food and agriculture.

The Budget includes \$1.7 billion in discretionary funding for NIFA, including \$475 million for AFRI. The Department continues to support capacity funds and competitive grants to generate science-based solutions to the Nation's critical food and agriculture problems and to proactively identify and address emerging needs and opportunities using a grassroots model that serves every community in the Nation.

**Formula (Capacity) Programs**

The Budget includes \$934 million for formula (capacity) programs. NIFA manages programs that provide grants to the States using statutory formulas. These formula grants provide long-term, sustainable support needed to grow the capacity for agricultural research, education, and extension activities at land-grant institutions and State Agricultural Experiment Stations. These programs include Hatch Act, Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c), 1890 Land-grant Institutions, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry, and other grants. In 2025, to support agricultural research at 1862 Land-grant Universities (LGUs) and State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), NIFA will invest \$265 million in Hatch Act programs. Hatch Act funded scientists undertake critical research on the national, regional, and local challenges to agricultural systems. Funding totaling \$36 million will be invested in the McIntire-Stennis Research Program, to support research in the following topic areas: understanding the impacts of new stressors and developing management solutions; adaptation to climate change environmental factors and utilization of forest ecosystems to mitigate climate change; utilization of wood and new applications for forest products; and increasing the use of agroforestry by landowners and communities, with a priority on underserved and minority audiences. Increases of \$24 million are provided to Extension capacity programs for increasing services and ensuring equity in access and opportunities to minority, historically underserved, or Tribal communities with special emphasis on climate change, workforce, nutrition and health promotion education, and support for youth through 4-H programming.

**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**

The Budget includes \$475 million for AFRI. AFRI is the Nation's premier competitive, peer-reviewed research program for fundamental and applied sciences in agriculture. It is broad in scope with programs ranging from fundamental science to farm management and community issues. NIFA will also include a broad emphasis on climate-smart agriculture, nutrition security, and the application of clean energy. Focused investments in these topics will be made in the three major complementary components of AFRI: 1) Sustainable Agricultural Systems, 2) Foundational and Applied Science, and 3) Education and Workforce Development. Transformative innovations in

U.S. agriculture are needed to address climate change, promote innovations in nutrition research, and enhance economic growth and agricultural education, especially in historically underserved communities. Through this investment, NIFA will contribute to a whole-of-government approach to climate change by supporting research, extension and education projects that advance the achievement of economy-wide, net-zero emissions, by 2050. These investments address the President's priorities to combat climate change, lay the foundation for economic growth and creation of good-paying jobs, and ensure that benefits accrue to marginalized and underserved communities. A total of \$20 million is included in the AFRI budget proposal to support the Cancer Moonshot efforts. NIFA will also invest \$10 million in integrated projects on Precision Nutrition. The AFRI budget proposal also includes \$59 million for innovations, development and application of clean energy and emissions mitigation technologies for food and agricultural systems, \$76 million for adaptation and resilience, and \$35 million for climate science and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

### **Minority-Serving Institution Programs**

The Budget includes \$365 million for Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) programs, with at least \$326 in support of Justice40 covered programs. Partnerships with MSI programs support capacity building initiatives, education, and pathways to employment for students and faculty and help develop a strong pipeline of talented individuals for USDA and USDA partner jobs. NIFA administers programs dedicated to strengthening research and extension capacity at MSIs and the ability of these institutions to continue their effective programming. These include research, extension, teaching, and facilities programs at the 1890 Land-grant institutions; research, education and extension grants for Tribal colleges (including the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program) and Hispanic-serving institutions; and education grants for Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; New Beginning for Tribal Students, Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions, Institution Challenge, Multicultural Scholars, and Graduate Fellowships, Grants for Insular Areas, and Women and Minorities in STEM. Evans-Allen capacity funds support agricultural research activities at 1890 LGUs. The 2025 funding totaling \$98 million, which is an increase of \$9 million above 2024, is distributed to Historically Black LGUs and is leveraged with matching funding from non-federal sources. This program supports many of the Administration's budget priorities, including ensuring the benefits accrue to marginalized and overburdened communities.

The Budget proposes an increase of \$20 million for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to address the disparity of program funding between the 1862 and the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions. EFNEP is the Nation's first nutrition education program for low-income populations and remains at the forefront of education efforts to tackle food and nutrition insecurity. EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health, and well-being. The budget supports proposed legislation to adjust the calculation of these formula funds, necessary actions that support parity of funding between the 1862 and 1890 Institutions.

The Budget includes increases totaling \$18 million, to increase resources within the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program and Extension Services to 1994 Institutions. These programs support teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences as well as extension offices, who work with reservation communities to build programs that target local needs. With 35 eligible Institutions, an increase in annual appropriations will expand participation of eligible entities, and the number of students they could educate by bringing on more faculty and needed resources. The increase supports extension offices to expand their efforts within reservation communities to build programs that target local needs including traditional foods, food

sovereignty, agriculture, traditional ecological knowledge, health and wellness, and youth leadership development.

The Budget includes \$2 million for the Research Facilities Act to help address the backlog of facility needs at land-grant universities. Funds will be used to support competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities. A focus of the program will be to prioritize facilities that are located at or primarily benefit minority serving institutions.

**Table REE 3. NIFA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Formula Grants:			
Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) .....	\$325	\$325	\$325
Hatch Act .....	265	265	265
1890 Research and Extension .....	161	161	174
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry.....	38	38	36
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.....	70	70	90
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) .....	4	4	4
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions .....	22	22	25
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program .....	7	7	15
Animal Health and Disease Research .....	4	4	-
Total, Formula Grants .....	896	896	934
1890 Capacity Building Grants (Research) .....	30	30	30
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative .....	455	455	475
Integrated Activities - Section 406 Organic Transition .....	8	8	4
Crop Protection and Pest Management Activities .....	21	21	3
Sustainable Agriculture Research/Education and Extension .....	50	50	50
IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management.....	15	15	15
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions .....	10	10	10
Native American Endowment Fund Interest.....	4	5	5
Other Higher Education Programs.....	50	50	50
Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program .....	4	4	8
Food Safety Outreach Program.....	10	10	10
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions .....	11	11	21
Federal Administration .....	22	22	23
Electronic Grants Administration System .....	8	8	8
Food and Ag. Defense Initiative (Reg. Diagnostic Network).....	8	8	8
Veterinary Medical Services Act .....	10	10	10
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk .....	8	8	8
Research Facilities Act .....	2	2	2
Bioproduct Pilot Program .....	5	-	-
Other Research, Extension, and Integrated Programs .....	91	91	63
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,717	1,711	1,737
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Native American Endowment Fund.....	12	12	12
Farm Bill:			
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program/Gus Schumacher Nutrition .....	53	53	53
Agricultural Risk Management Education Program.....	9	9	9
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program .....	24	24	24
Specialty Crop Research Initiative.....	75	75	75
Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program .....	25	25	-
Organic Agriculture Research and Education Initiative .....	47	47	47
Urban, Indoor & Other Emerging Ag Production .....	-	2	-

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<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Scholarships for 1890 Students.....	-	10	-
Total, Farm Bill Programs .....	233	245	208
Suppl-COVID .....	-	-	-
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	245	257	220
Total, NIFA.....	1,963	1,971	1,957

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**ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE**

ERS' mission is to inform and enhance public and private decision making by anticipating emerging issues and conducting sound, peer-reviewed economic research on policy-relevant issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. ERS is also the primary source of statistical indicators that, provide a wide variety of information to gauge the health of the farm sector (including farm income estimates and projections), assess the current and expected performance of the agricultural sector (including trade), provide measures of food security in the U.S. and abroad, and more. The Agency's intramural research is conducted by a highly trained staff of economists and social scientists through an integrated program of research, market outlook, analysis, and data development addressing a broad range of topics, including but not limited to global agricultural market conditions, trade restrictions, agribusiness concentration, farm business and household income, farm program participation and risk management, farm and retail food prices, foodborne illnesses, food labeling, local and organic products and markets, nutrition, food assistance programs, drought resilience, conservation, technology adoption, and rural employment. Key clientele includes White House and USDA policy officials, program administrators/managers, the U.S. Congress, other Federal agencies, State and local government officials, and organizations including farm and industry groups interested in public policy issues. ERS develops its research program in coordination with other USDA research agencies, USDA-program agencies, and other external collaborators.

The budget includes \$98 million in program funding, including investments for the development of a greenhouse gas GHG data series and investments in natural capital accounting. The investments in natural capital accounting will support the Interagency Policy Working Group on Natural Capital and Environmental-Economic Statistics jointly led by OMB, the Office of Science Technology and Policy, and the Department of Commerce. ERS is the lead agency for the soils account in the natural capital accounting work and is developing a pilot and prototype data to prepare the account for inclusion in the core statistical series. ERS continuously responds and develops its research portfolio to address Administration priorities, including climate change, open and competitive markets, nutrition security, and racial and social equity, as well as emerging issues.

*Table REE-4. ERS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Economic Research Service.....	\$93	\$93	\$98
Total, ERS.....	93	93	98

### **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

NASS's mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. Each year, NASS conducts over 450 surveys on 200 different commodities. These data illustrate the changing nature and needs of agriculture and provide accurate and up-to-date information necessary for decision-making by producers, agribusinesses, farm organizations, commodity groups, public officials, and others. NASS data also keep agricultural markets stable, efficient, and fair by ensuring accessible and objective data are available to both commodity market buyers and sellers. NASS also conducts the quinquennial Census of Agriculture (Ag Census), a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Ag Census surveys farmers and ranchers on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics.

The Budget includes \$196 million in program funding, including \$1 million to help measure climate science research. The funding is for contributions/collaboration between the NASS geospatial program and the NASA GHG Center, such as collaborating on the development of cover crop and tillage intensity maps as well as other geospatial data layers that are useful for informing climate models and analyses.

*Table REE-5. NASS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Agricultural Estimates.....	\$145	\$145	\$148
Census of Agriculture .....	66	66	48
Total, NASS .....	211	211	196

### **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST**

The mission of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) is to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies, and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture, related landscapes, and communities. The OCS was established in accordance with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide strategic coordination of the science that informs the Department's and the Federal government's decisions, policies and regulations that impact all aspects of U.S. food and agriculture and related landscapes and communities.

OCS advises USDA's Chief Scientist and the Secretary of Agriculture in the following areas of science:

- Agricultural Systems and Technology
- Animal Health and Production, and Animal Products
- Plant Health and Production, and Plant Products
- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
- Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities

The OCS supports larger goals of scientific prioritization and coordination across the entire Department through which federal agencies provide Senior Advisors to serve in a detail capacity within OCS. The OCS identifies, prioritizes and evaluates Department-wide agricultural research, education, and extension needs. In addition, the Office of the Chief Scientist regularly convenes a [USDA Science Council](#) to further facilitate cross-Departmental scientific coordination and collaboration.



**DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES****MISSION**

Departmental staff offices provide essential support to Departmental agencies and programs, ensuring that all agencies can carry out their duties and lead the Department's efforts to improve customer service to the public. Their functions include legal counsel, promoting civil rights, economic analysis, communications coordination, financial management, budget and policy support, and program appeal hearings for the Department's program activities. The Budget proposes funding to ensure that these offices can support staffing levels needed to provide leadership, oversight, and coordination.

**Table DA-1. Departmental Activities Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	\$32	\$32	\$48
Office of Tribal Relations .....	5	5	7
Office of Homeland Security .....	1	1	3
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	9	9	9
Departmental Administration.....	27	27	45
Office of Communications .....	9	9	12
Total, Office of the Secretary.....	83	83	124
<b>Executive Operations:</b>			
Office of the Chief Economist .....	28	28	32
Office of Hearings and Appeals.....	17	17	17
Office of Budget and Program Analysis .....	15	15	17
Office of the Chief Information Officer.....	92	92	96
Office of the Chief Financial Officer .....	7	7	8
Office of Civil Rights.....	38	38	38
Office of the General Counsel.....	60	61	67
Office of Ethics .....	6	6	7
<b>Departmental Management:</b>			
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	41	41	55
Hazardous Materials Management.....	8	8	8
Office of Safety, Security and Protection .....	22	22	22
Total, Executive Operations.....	334	335	367
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	417	418	491
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
<b>Transfers from CCC:</b>			
Food Aid.....	1,000	-	-
Regional Agricultural Trade Promotion.....	1,300	-	-
Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers .....	24	24	24
Total, Mandatory Programs .....	2,324	24	24
<b>Supplemental Funding:</b>			
Disaster Assistance.....	3,742	-	-
Dairy Margin Coverage.....	41	9	-
CAA 2023 Support for Cotton Merchandisers.....	100	-	-
Total, Supplemental Funding .....	3,883	9	-
Total, Departmental Staff Offices .....	6,623	450	515

Note: Table DA-1 Departmental Activities Budget Authority does not include any rescissions, sequestrations nor transfers that are executed after receipt of appropriations.

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**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF OFFICES****Office of the Secretary (OSEC)**

The Office of the Secretary is led by the Secretary of Agriculture and includes the Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, the Executive Secretariat, and members of their immediate staffs. The Office of the Secretary includes the principal leadership for the Department who administer and oversee the work of the organization. This involves formulating and providing policy direction for all areas of the Department's responsibilities including research, rural development, nutrition, conservation and farm programs, forestry, and international agriculture. It also involves maintaining relationships with organizations and others in the development of programs and maintaining a liaison with the Executive Office of the President and members of Congress on all matters pertaining to Departmental policy. The Office of the Secretary also oversees special projects that are conducted at the behest of Congress and the Administration. These projects include short-term studies, investigations, and research on matters affecting agriculture or the agricultural community. Project results are reported to the appropriate Congressional Committees. The Budget for OSEC provides \$48 million which includes \$3 million for the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Office, and an additional \$1.3 million for the Office of the Chief Scientist. The Budget provides \$10 million for the Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Initiative for testing soil, water, or agricultural products for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances at the request of an agricultural producer and conducting research on mitigating the impacts from such contamination of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products.

**Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)**

The Budget provides \$6.6 million for OTR to serve as a single point of contact for Tribal issues and works to ensure that relevant programs and policies are efficient, easy to understand, accessible, and developed in consultation with the American Indians and Alaska Native constituents they impact. The Budget includes an increase of \$1.4 million to support the Tribal Relations Colleges and Universities program to be realigned from the Office of Partnership and Public Engagement to OTR.

**Office of Homeland Security (OHS)**

The Budget provides \$3.2 million for OHS to lead and coordinate programs in the Department for preparation and response to major natural and terrorist emergencies and threats. The Budget includes an increase of \$1.7 million for OHS to expand capacities in the oversight of National biodefense and security support for the food and agriculture sector, including expanded efforts to engage in the Council on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The global geopolitical situation and threats to agriculture are ever evolving. OHS coordinates with mission areas/agencies for policy formulation, response plans, reporting, and action assignments to meet acute and major threats to the food and agriculture system and key USDA assets. The key assets include the safety, security, and training for the use of radiological sources at laboratories, research stations, and airports. OHS provides leadership and coordination throughout the interagency and USDA on major initiatives such as National Security Memorandum 15: National Biodefense, National Security Memorandum 16: Strengthening the Security and Resilience of United States Food and Agriculture, as well as serving as the coordinator for the Food and Agriculture Sector – one of the sixteen Critical Infrastructure Sectors. Additionally OHS leads the Counterintelligence, Insider Threat, OPSEC, Intelligence and CFIUS efforts throughout the Department.

**Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE)**

The Secretary established the OPPE to rapidly expand outreach to America's agricultural community and facilitate greater access to USDA programs. Additionally, OPPE serves as the lead agent for USDA partnership and outreach activities, with tasking and reporting authority to direct, coordinate, and control all target programs. The Budget provides \$9.3 million for OPPE outreach activities in support of underserved groups including veterans, women, and youth.

**Departmental Administration (DA)**

DA was established to ensure that the USDA administrative programs and policies meet the needs of USDA program organizations and are consistent with laws and mandates. DA provides leadership to ensure the timely and effective delivery of high quality and cost-effective mission support services across the Department and coordinates human resources, procurement, property management, emergency preparedness and response activities, and programs for small and disadvantaged business utilization. The Budget provides \$45.2 million for DA which includes targeted, strategic investments needed to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Department. These increases include: \$2 million for the Office of Customer Experience to coordinate USDA's actions to address customer challenges and to improve the overall customer experience; \$12 million for the purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging and fueling infrastructure; \$0.3 million in the Office of Contracting and Procurement to support implementation of the Build America, Buy America Act; and \$3.6 million for the Office of Human Resource Management to increase the training and development for all USDA employees and to increase the oversight and accountability for Departmental human resources and personnel operations.

**Office of Communications (OC)**

OC provides leadership and coordination for the development of communication strategies for the Department and plays a critical role in disseminating information about USDA's programs to the general public. The Budget provides \$11.6 million for OC to improve communications strategies that increase the visibility and the transparency of USDA programs. The Budget will support \$2 million to address barriers to communication through expanded resources to support Limited English Proficiency (LEP) customers and \$0.6 million to facilitate the creation of the Analysis and Evaluation Division, which would fundamentally increase the effectiveness of USDA's communications to farmers, foresters, producers, and ranchers and provide the data necessary for USDA to make real-time informed decisions on responding to a changing communications landscape.

**Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)**

OCE serves as the focal point for the Department's economic intelligence, analysis and review and is responsible for advising the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic prospects in agricultural markets and the economic implications of policies, programs and legislation affecting U.S. agriculture and rural communities; ensuring the public has consistent, reliable and objective commodity market forecasts and projections; coordinating climate change research and policy analysis; coordinating USDA risk assessment activities; coordinating energy issues and policy analysis; coordinating sustainable development activities; coordinating agricultural labor issues; and promoting effective and efficient rules governing USDA programs. The Budget provides

\$31.5 million for OCE's analytical capabilities, including \$3 million for climate-focused analyses and leadership of Department-wide climate related assessments and reporting.

#### **Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA)**

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) includes: the National Appeals Division (NAD), the Office of the Administrative Law Judges (OALJ), and the Office of the Judicial Officer (OJO). The mission of OHA is to plan, coordinate, and provide administrative support for NAD, OALJ, and OJO. OHA promotes fairness, transparency, and consistency in NAD, OALJ, and OJO proceedings through the planning, coordination, and administration of office-wide activities and initiatives. The Budget includes \$17.1 million to support the mission of OHA to promote fairness, transparency, and consistency of USDA hearings and appeal services; coordinate administrative and legal activities for the National Appeals Division, the Office of the Administrative Law Judges, and the Office of the Judicial Officer; provide leadership, direction, coordination, and assistance in the areas of Administrative and Legal support for Office-wide mission and operational activities; and coordinate the preparation of all administrative service support, strategic plans, and reports for Office-wide activities and initiatives.

#### **Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA)**

OBPA ensures that USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity by incorporating performance, evidence and risk into decision making. OBPA advocates for the necessary resources required and executes the budget to ensure the USDA can effectively and efficiently accomplish its mission for the benefit of the American people. OBPA leads USDA's strategic planning; enterprise risk management; performance management and reporting; budget analysis, justification, and control; and legislative and regulatory actions. The Budget requests \$17.3 million for OBPA which includes: \$2 million to support the Department's Evidence Act Deliverables and lead the design, direction, and oversight of evidence building activities, developing, and implementing evaluation policy and procedures, and enhancing performance management throughout the Department. The additional funding will enable OBPA to conduct program evaluations and other evidence-building assessments of critical Departmental programs that will support more informed decision-making by Departmental leadership and a more thorough understanding of the results of Departmental programs by USDA's stakeholders.

#### **Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)**

OCIO provides policy guidance, leadership and coordination for the Department's information management, technology investment and cyber security activities in support of USDA program delivery. The Budget requests \$95.9 million for OCIO to fund ongoing activities and increase efforts for cybersecurity enhancements, including \$77.4 million to enhance the Department's cyber security profile through the acquisition and implementation of relevant tools and services. The Budget also includes an increase of \$1.4 million to support Artificial Intelligence Executive Order 14110 and \$1.5 million to support the U.S. Digital Service's efforts to deliver services and products across the Government.

#### **Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)**

OCFO provides overall direction and leadership in the development of financial management policies and systems and produces the Department's consolidated financial statements. OCFO also oversees the provision of administrative accounting, payroll, and related systems for USDA and

other agencies through the operation of the National Finance Center. The Budget requests \$8.2 million for OCFO which includes an increase of \$0.7 million to support implementation of the Build America, Buy America Act. OCFO is responsible for the financial leadership of a Department that has nearly 100,000 employees, 14,000 offices and field locations, and over \$200 billion in assets. The Budget resources will enable OCFO to better meet the needs of its customers and remain in compliance with USDA's Department policies and Federal laws and regulations.

#### **Agriculture Buildings and Facilities (Ag B&F)**

The Agriculture Building and Facilities account finances the repair, improvement, maintenance, physical security, sustainability and energy conservation activities at the USDA Headquarters Complex and the George Washington Carver Center (GWCC), including the administrative costs for the building management and support staff. Since 1984, USDA has been delegated the responsibility for managing, operating, maintaining, repairing, improving, and securing the Headquarters Complex, which encompasses 14.1 acres of grounds and 2 buildings containing approximately 2.5 million gross square feet of space, as well as the USDA-owned GWCC that comprises 350,000 gross square feet, located on 73 acres in Beltsville, MD. The 2023 appropriation reduced the overall Ag B&F funding amount to an unsustainable level that is insufficient for sustaining all operations and maintenance costs. The Budget requests \$54.9 million, which includes an increase of \$14 million over the 2023 appropriation to re-base line the account.

#### **Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)**

OSSP improves facility emergency management and response. OSSP provides Department-wide leadership, policy, and management in the safeguarding of property and personnel. OSSP is committed to identifying and addressing security risks that may affect USDA personnel, infrastructure, and facilities. The Budget provides \$22 million for OSSP to continue to deliver on its security-focused mission to support the protection of USDA employees, customers, and assets.

#### **Hazardous Materials Management (HMM)**

HMM provides for the efficient management and cleanup of hazardous materials on facilities and lands under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Department, and the prevention of releases of hazardous substances from USDA facilities. The Budget includes \$7.6 million for the HMM program which will support limited, targeted investments in mitigation and remediation activities across the Department's real property portfolio.

#### **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)**

OCR provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination and training, and complaint adjudication and processing for the Department and its agencies. OCR's mission is to provide leadership and direction for the fair and equitable treatment of all USDA customers and employees while ensuring the delivery of quality programs and enforcement of civil rights. The Budget provides \$38.4 million for OCR for enhancing business processes for employment and program complaints of discrimination, improving civil rights enforcement and accountability, and ensuring individuals with limited English proficiency receive meaningful access to USDA's federally conducted and federally assisted programs and activities.

**Office of the General Counsel (OGC)**

OGC provides legal oversight, counsel, and support to the Department's agencies and offices. OGC's budget request will support additional legal services resulting from increased programmatic activities and legal challenges in addition to legal assistance needed to support the implementation of the upcoming Farm Bill, including providing technical assistance to Congress during the development of the legislation. OGC's budget request includes conducting administrative enforcement and defensive litigation and supporting the DOJ in defending the Department against increased litigation. The Budget provides \$66.6 million to ensure that resources are available for OGC to carry out its full range of legal services and responsibilities and support USDA program delivery which includes a \$2.9 million increase to continue the rebuilding of legal service capabilities in OGC. In addition, the Budget provides \$1.8 million to support the USDA's Departmental Freedom of Information Act and Records Management programs.

**Office of Ethics**

The Budget provides \$7.2 million for the Office of Ethics, which reports to the General Counsel, to administer ethics regulations and statutes governing employee conduct; carry out public confidential financial disclosure reporting programs; develop and implement supplemental ethics policies, provide advice and assistance to USDA employees; and train employees on all ethics statutes, regulations, and policies. This includes an increase of \$1.6 million to address the demand for ethics services and historic reduction in ethics staffing at USDA.

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL****Table OIG-1. OIG Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of Inspector General.....	\$112	\$112	\$114

The Office of Inspector General's (OIG) duty is to keep the Secretary and Congress fully and currently informed about problems, mismanagement, and deficiencies in Department programs and operations. The OIG ensures the economy, efficiency, and integrity of operations by combatting fraud, waste, and abuse through audits, investigations, inspections, data analytics, and reviews. The OIG conducts critical oversight of the full range of USDA's programs and operations, including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, crop insurance indemnity payments, grants, and loans to ensure entitlements and benefits are distributed based on eligibility and used for their intended purpose. The OIG recommends corrective action, and reports on the progress made in correcting the problems. The OIG reviews existing and proposed legislation and regulations and makes recommendations to the Secretary and Congress regarding the impact these laws have on the Department's programs and the prevention and detection of fraud and mismanagement in such programs. The OIG provides policy direction and conducts, supervises, and coordinates all audits and investigations. The OIG supervises and coordinates other activities in the Department and between the Department and other Federal, State, and local government agencies whose purposes are to: (a) promote economy and efficiency; (b) prevent and detect fraud and mismanagement; and (c) identify and prosecute those involved in fraud or mismanagement. The Budget provides discretionary funding of \$114 million to provide critical oversight for USDA programs, ensuring the proper distribution and use of funds.

Note: Appendix tables do not include proposed legislation but do include reestimates, offsetting collections, and other accounts which are not displayed in other tables within the Budget Summary.

**Table APP-1. New Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency * .....	\$1,811	\$1,599	\$1,637
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	7,738	7,671	5,245
Risk Management Agency .....	15,435	15,639	14,824
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	6,591	7,899	10,495
FPAC Business Center .....	309	309	317
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service * .....	975	1,048	1,050
P.L. 480 .....	1,800	1,800	1,800
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	424	424	375
Rural Housing Service .....	2,627	2,517	3,711
Rural Utilities Service .....	1,436	1,171	1,040
Salaries and Expenses .....	354	354	431
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	225,915	162,594	164,268
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,420	1,413	1,499
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	11,070	10,158	10,817
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	607	626	626
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2,582	2,451	2,130
Section 32 Funds .....	1,507	1,518	1,424
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,895	1,894	1,801
Economic Research Service .....	93	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service .....	211	211	196
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	1,963	1,971	1,957
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	83	83	124
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	41	41	55
Executive Operations .....	293	294	312
Office of Inspector General .....	112	112	114
Farm Bill Programs .....	2,324	24	24
Supplemental Funding Programs .....	3,883	9	-
<b>Subtotal, USDA .....</b>	<b>293,497</b>	<b>223,922</b>	<b>226,371</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-3,562	-5,294	-2,045
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>289,935</b>	<b>218,628</b>	<b>224,326</b>

Note: \* FSA, RD, and FAS Salaries and Expenses transfers for these agencies are shown in the agencies in which funds are initially appropriated.



*Table APP-2. Available Resources Discretionary / Mandatory (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency			
DISC .....	\$1,561	\$1,599	\$1,638
MAND .....	246	402	35
Commodity Credit Corporation			
DISC .....	6	6	6
MAND .....	7,767	7,677	5,249
Risk Management Agency			
DISC .....	74	92	66
MAND .....	15,362	15,473	14,699
Natural Resources Conservation Service			
DISC .....	1,968	983	1,003
MAND .....	4,622	6,915	9,490
FPAC Business Center			
DISC .....	248	309	317
MAND <sup>a/</sup> .....	60	0	0
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service			
DISC .....	486	486	488
MAND .....	-16	-35	-40
P.L. 480			
DISC .....	1,800	1,800	1,800
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service			
DISC .....	131	132	96
MAND .....	352	192	263
Rural Housing Service			
DISC .....	2,615	2,517	2,591
MAND .....	136	309	-307
Rural Utilities Service			
DISC .....	1,432	1,171	1,040
MAND .....	1,437	586	-23
Salaries and Expenses			
DISC .....	351	351	428
MAND .....	-3	3	3
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service			
DISC .....	6,856	6,686	8,526
MAND .....	219,865	155,824	155,282
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service			
DISC .....	1,188	1,188	1,244
MAND .....	-38	17	17
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service			
DISC .....	10,077	9,182	9,859
MAND .....	1,422	1,376	1,390
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service			

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
DISC .....	243	243	237
MAND .....	890	335	334
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service			
DISC .....	1,570	1,512	1,161
MAND .....	540	266	360
Section 32			
DISC .....	-	-90	-
MAND .....	1,290	1,379	1,420
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service			
DISC .....	1,877	1,876	1,784
MAND .....	18	17	17
Economic Research Service			
DISC .....	93	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service			
DISC .....	211	211	196
National Institute of Food and Agriculture			
DISC .....	1,717	1,713	1737
DISC .....	236	247	208
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary			
DISC .....	3,823	108	124
MAND .....	1,722	24	24
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities			
DISC .....	41	41	55
Executive Operations			
DISC .....	137	264	312
Office of Inspector General			
DISC .....	117	117	119
Working Capital Fund			
DISC .....	28	-	-
<b>Offsetting Receipts</b>			
Department of Agriculture			
DISC .....	-806	-514	-587
MAND .....	-2,748	-4,774	-1,452
NET .....	-8	-6	-6
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>290,996</b>	<b>218,303</b>	<b>221,301</b>

<sup>a/</sup> The funding in 2024 and 2025 is displayed in the Budget as Discretionary but when the funds are enacted they are Mandatory.

Table APP-3. Program Level (millions of dollars)

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency	\$12,463	\$25,841	\$10,692
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	6,872	8,966	7,899
Risk Management Agency .....	15,435	15,639	14,824
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	6,591	7,899	10,495
FPAC Business Center .....	309	309	317
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	975	1,048	1,050
P.L. 480 .....	1,800	1,800	1,800
Export Credit Guarantee .....	3,085	5,500	5,500
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	3,333	3,159	4,730
Rural Housing Service .....	37,803	36,864	37,217
Rural Utilities Service .....	11,266	10,495	9,271
Salaries and Expenses .....	354	354	431
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	225,915	162,594	164,268
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,420	1,413	1,499
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	11,070	10,158	10,817
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	607	626	626
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2,582	2,451	2,130
Section 32 Funds .....	1,507	1,518	1,424
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,895	1,894	1,801
Economic Research Service .....	93	93	98
National Agricultural Statistics Service .....	211	211	196
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	1,963	1,971	1,957
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	83	83	124
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	41	41	55
Executive Operations .....	293	294	312
Office of Inspector General .....	112	112	114
Farm Bill Programs .....	2,324	24	24
Supplemental Funding Programs .....	3,883	9	-
<b>Subtotal, USDA .....</b>	<b>354,284</b>	<b>301,365</b>	<b>289,671</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-3,562	-5,294	-2,045
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>350,722</b>	<b>296,071</b>	<b>287,626</b>

*Table APP-4. Discretionary Outlays (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency.....	\$1,632	\$1,771	\$1,732
Commodity Credit Corporation.....	6	6	8
Risk Management Agency.....	70	64	91
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	1,217	1,998	1,776
FPAC Business Center.....	245	295	312
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service.....	452	788	632
P.L. 480.....	1,779	1,514	1,325
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	126	155	129
Rural Housing Service.....	2,084	2,330	3,004
Rural Utilities Service.....	839	2,151	2,452
Salaries and Expenses.....	342	344	371
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service.....	7,537	5,794	7,613
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	1,181	1,246	1,227
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service.....	8,053	11,081	11,655
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service.....	228	312	262
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.....	1,463	1,853	1,639
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	1,750	2,118	2,107
Economic Research Service.....	104	101	105
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	197	261	195
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	1,512	1,850	1,919
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	800	2,889	2,619
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities.....	47	77	95
Executive Operations.....	286	425	378
Office of Inspector General.....	113	119	133
Working Capital Fund.....	-77	592	193
<b>Subtotal, USDA.....</b>	<b>31,986</b>	<b>40,134</b>	<b>41,972</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments.....	-806	-514	-587
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>31,180</b>	<b>39,620</b>	<b>41,385</b>

Table APP-5. Outlays (millions of dollars)

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency *.....	\$3,775	\$3,479	\$1,892
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	7,318	7,768	5,571
Risk Management Agency.....	16,561	15,241	14,950
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	4,685	8,899	8,114
FPAC Business Center.....	305	304	315
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service.....	429	755	594
P.L. 480 .....	1,797	1,514	1,325
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	349	1,075	1,276
Rural Housing Service .....	2,227	2,864	2,767
Rural Utilities Service.....	2,524	3,085	4,261
Salaries and Expenses .....	362	351	374
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	171,395	166,343	160,488
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	1,209	1,264	1,261
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service.....	9,044	12,702	14,404
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	1,056	1,549	1,266
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	1,840	2,185	2,073
Section 32.....	1,265	1,552	1,437
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,774	2,135	2,124
Economic Research Service.....	104	101	105
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	197	261	195
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	1,752	2,024	2,175
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	2,105	6,945	5,306
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities .....	47	77	95
Executive Operations .....	286	425	378
Office of Inspector General .....	113	119	133
Working Capital Fund.....	-77	592	193
<b>Subtotal, USDA .....</b>	<b>232,442</b>	<b>243,609</b>	<b>233,072</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-3,562	-5,294	-2,045
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>228,880</b>	<b>238,315</b>	<b>231,027</b>

\* FSA and RD mandatory funding includes reestimates.

Table APP-6. FTEs

Mission Area / Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimated	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	3,000	3,157	3,157
Risk Management Agency .....	399	410	418
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	10,259	14,150	14,147
FPAC Business Center.....	1,625	1,625	1,608
<b>Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs:</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service.....	800	813	815
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Development .....	4,617	4,600	4,671
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	1,738	1,905	2,113
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service.....	8,478	8,183	8,599
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service.....	33,380	33,284	33,851
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	7,824	8,460	8,486
Agricultural Marketing Service.....	3,367	3,463	3,517
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	6,219	6,219	6,357
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	416	418	422
Economic Research Service.....	310	329	329
National Agricultural Statistics Service .....	839	839	850
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries .....	472	161	163
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination .....	48	55	60
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	39	48	48
Departmental Administration.....	301	315	341
Office of Communications.....	47	51	57
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	63	65	65
Office of Security, Safety and Protection .....	58	58	58
Hazardous Materials Management.....	4	4	4
Office of the Chief Economist .....	65	65	68
Office of Hearings and Appeals.....	74	75	75
Office of Budget and Program Analysis.....	57	58	58
Office of Chief Information Officer.....	1,507	1,654	1,599
Office of Chief Financial Officer .....	1,014	1,017	1,019
Office of the General Counsel.....	243	268	287
Office of Ethics .....	23	26	32
Office of Civil Rights.....	135	135	135
Office of Inspector General.....	425	430	430
<b>Subtotal, USDA Federal Staffing.....</b>	<b>87,846</b>	<b>92,340</b>	<b>93,839</b>
FSA, Non-Federal Staffing .....	7,395	7,368	7,368
<b>TOTAL, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE STAFFING .....</b>	<b>95,241</b>	<b>99,708</b>	<b>101,207</b>

*Table APP-7. User Fee Proposals (millions of dollars)*

<b>Mission Area</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>2025 BA</b>	<b>2025 Outlays</b>
<b>Food Safety</b>	Food Safety and Inspection Service	FSIS proposes a change to provide flexibility for work schedules for in plant inspection personnel. Currently the plants are billed for services provided outside of their eight approved hours of inspection only when the inspector is also in an overtime status. This prevents FSIS from employing part-time employees or providing flexible schedules to employees while still collecting fees for services provided as requested by the plant .....	-	-

*Table APP-8. Budget Related Proposals (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area	Agency	Proposal	2025 BA	2025 Outlays
<b>Farm Production and Conservation:</b>				
	Risk Management Agency:	This proposal would make the pandemic funded cover crop incentive program permanent. Cover cropping systems benefit the environment and improve climate resilience for agriculture by reducing soil erosion and compaction, increasing soil organic matter, and limiting nutrient runoff.....	\$60	-
	Farm Service Agency:	The Budget includes several farm loan proposals: 1) Direct Farm Ownership and Direct Farm Operating loan programs: Eliminate the cap on the number of times a borrower can get a Direct Operating or Direct Farm Ownership loan; 2) Emergency loan program: Remove Emergency Loan program requirements for written credit denial and adjust the production loss percent threshold from 30 percent to an amount to be determined by the Secretary; 3) Direct Farm Ownership loan program: (a) Reduce the Direct Farm Ownership loan requirements to require an applicant have one year of farming experience (not three) or that the applicant have an established relationship with a mentor approved by the Secretary, or is a veteran who has been honorably discharged; (b) Increase down payment loan limit to match the Direct Farm Ownership loan limit; (c) Increase the microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000; (d) Authorize refinancing of debt as a direct Farm Ownership loan program purpose; 4) All farm loan programs: (a) Revise beginning farmer definition to require individuals of an entity to be beginning farmers without regard to relationship; (b) Revise beginning farmer lending targets required to the extent practicable; (c) Remove prohibition of new loans for applicants that have received debt forgiveness when at least seven years have passed since receiving debt forgiveness; 5) Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating loan programs: Increase the lifetime limitation on debt forgiveness per borrower from \$300,000 to \$600,000; 6) Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loan program and Direct Farm Operating loan program: Modify the statutory language describing the interest rate requirements for limited resource loans, microloans to beginning farmers and veteran farmers, and Indian Tribal Land Acquisition loans, including the establishment of an interest rate ceiling; 7) Guaranteed Farm Ownership loan program and Guaranteed Farm Operating loan program: Remove the authority of preferred certified lenders to initiate liquidation without Farm Service Agency concurrence. Similar to last year’s Budget, these legislative changes are budget neutral, but there will be an effect on the subsidy rate from the proposals that make the lending more lenient for the borrower. ....	-	-



Mission Area	Agency	Proposal	2025 BA	2025 Outlays
<b>Research, Education, and Economics:</b>				
	National Institute of Food and Agriculture:			
		The budget proposes an increase to \$90 million in 2025, with the funding distributed by adjusting the formula to include: (1) baseline for the 1890s equivalent to the respective 1862s baseline for 1981, (2) 4 percent off the top for Federal Administration, and (3) \$150k for a beginning baseline for DC and Insular Areas (excluding PR which already has an established baseline). This is a 2-year proposal, with a proposal to fund EFNEP at the full authorized level of \$90 million in 2025 and to increase the authorization level to \$106 million starting in fiscal year 2026. After two years this option sees the 1890s equal dollar for dollar with the 1862s. Funding would need to be maintained at \$106 million per year to continue to ensure distributions to the 1890s equal distributions to the 1862s. ....	20,000	-3,800
<b>Rural Development:</b>				
	Rural Housing Service:			
		The ending of the existing low-income borrower penalty that requires individuals to repay subsidy costs, known as “recapture” in Section 502 SFH Direct loans is included in the RHIF language to impact loans retroactively and prospectively. ....	1,120	1,120
<b>Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services:</b>				
	Food and Nutrition Service:			
		Expand children’s access to free school meals by changing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) threshold and multiplier to make CEP a financially viable option for schools and allowing for a Statewide CEP using a statewide identified student percentage (ISP). Estimated costs over 10 years is \$15 billion. ....	-	-

**Table APP-9. Covid Weekly Report as of February 2, 2024 (millions of dollars)**

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance	
2020	CARES	Office of the Secretary	COVID-19 CARES Act CFAP payments (4920, 4927 - CFA/CFA).....	\$7,877	-	-	
			Office of the Secretary.....	-	\$1	\$1	
			CARES Act CFAP 2.0 Tobacco Payments (OSEC) .....	-	0	0	
			CFAP Administrative Costs (OSEC).....	-	0	0	
		Agricultural Marketing Service	Agriculture Marketing Service: Commodity Grading and Inspections .....	45	45	-	
			Farmers to Families Food Box Program.....	-	485	0	
			Farmers to Families Food Box Program (OSEC).....	-	-	-	
			Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (Dairy).....	-	340	1	
			State food bank networks: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) .....	-	397	0	
			Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Agriculture inspections at airports and ports of entry.....	55	55	-
				Farm Service Agency	CARES Act CFAP 2.0 Tobacco Payments (4921 - CFB/CFB) .....	-	112
		CFAP Administrative Costs (CFAP IT Administrative 2020/2021).....			-	3	0
		COVID-19 CARES Act CFAP payments (4920 and 4927 - CFA/CFA).....			-	5,590	4
		Farm Service Agency: staff for farm programs, including loans and payments .....			3	3	-
		Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (8291 - PAS/OTP).....			-	3	0
		Pandemic Assistance Block Grants (8288 - PAB/PAB).....			-	15	-
		Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (8292 - PAS/SMH).....			-	66	0
		Food and Nutrition Service	Build Back Better: The Emergency Food Assistance Program Administrative funding .....		-	98	-
			Child Nutrition Programs: Additional Funding for School Meals (COVID-19 Waivers).....	8,800	8,800	-	
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Commodities, Equipment Upgrades, and Facility Improvements .....	100	100	-	
			SNAP Block Grants: Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa) .....	200	200	-	
			SNAP CARES Contingency Reserve: Increased Food Costs and Participation.....	15,510	15,510	-	
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks.....	450	450	-	
			Food Safety and Inspection Service	Inspections at processing and slaughter plants .....	33	33	-
				Foreign Agricultural Service	Foreign Agricultural Service: relocate foreign service officers back to the U.S. ....	4	4
		Office of Inspector General			Office of Inspector General: audits and investigations.....	1	1
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	Biofuels.....	-	766	0	
			CARES Act: Biofuels Administrative Costs .....	-	0	-	
			Rural Business-Cooperative Service: guarantee up to \$848 million in business and industry loans .....	21	21	-	
		Rural Development	CARES Telemedicine -administrative expenses .....	-	1	-	
		Rural Utilities Service	ReConnect broadband grants .....	100	100	-	
			Rural Utilities Service: Telemedicine and distance learning grants .....	24	24	1	
		Agricultural Marketing Service	COVID-19 Food Box Distribution Program .....	-	4,000	-	
			Food and Nutrition Service	SNAP Block Grants: Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa) .....	100	100	-

2025 USDA BUDGET SUMMARY

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
			SNAP: PEBT .....	-	12,800	-
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks.....	400	400	-
			WIC Benefits .....	500	500	-
2021	ARPA	Office of the Secretary	Administrative expenses- Food Processing Supply Chain Loan Guarantees Program (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			Assistance and support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Land Owners and Operators, and Groups.....	81	81	-
			Composting and Food Waste Reduction - Plus up FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 (OSEC) .....	-	0	0
			Farm to School State Formula Grants (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			Food Bank Network (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction (OSEC) .....	-	0	0
			Food Processing Supply Chain Loan Guarantees (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			Meat & Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			OSEC: Food Supply Chain and Pandemic Response .....	2,270	-	-
			Pandemic Program Administrative Fund.....	43	43	2
			People's Garden Initiative (OSEC) .....	-	0	0
			Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production - FY 2022 (OSEC).....	-	0	0
		Agricultural Marketing Service	Agricultural Competition Challenge.....	-	15	-
			Dairy Business Innovation Program .....	-	79	-
			Infant Formula Procurement - FEMA's Disaster Preparedness .....	-	0	0
			LFPP and RFSP Grant funds for Farm to Institution .....	-	42	-
			Local Meat Capacity Grant (MCAp) .....	-	74	-
			Local, Regional and SDA Procurement for Cooperative Agreements (Food Bank).....	-	389	-
			Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity - Technical Assistance .....	-	24	-
			Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program .....	-	419	0
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance.....	284	284	4
		Farm Service Agency	Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program.....	-	65	-
			Urban and Innovative Agriculture Community-Based Organization Fund....	-	40	-
		Food and Nutrition Service	American Samoa.....	-	10	-
			CAP: Commodity Supplemental Assistance Program .....	37	37	-
			Farm to School State Formula Grants .....	-	59	-
			National School Lunch Equipment Grant.....	-	50	-
			Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.....	-	50	-
			SNAP Block Grants: Additional Food Assistance for Territories (PR, CNMI, American Samoa).....	1,000	1,000	-
			SNAP: Additional Assistance for Online Purchasing and Technology Improvements .....	25	25	17
			SNAP: Administrative Expenses .....	7	7	-
			SNAP: Administrative Funding - Grants to Each State Agency .....	1,135	1,135	-
			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Healthy Incentives Project (eHIP).....	-	25	-
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program .....	-	98	0
			WIC: Cash Value Vouchers.....	490	490	-
			WIC: Innovation Funds .....	390	390	10
		Food Safety and Inspection Service	Overtime Fees for inspection activities .....	44	44	-
		Foreign Agricultural Service	Food for Peace Title II Grants .....	800	800	-
		National Institute of Food and Agriculture	Agricultural Workforce Training - Meat and Poultry Processing Workforce Training.....	-	5	-
			ARME FY 2022 Grants .....	-	3	-
			Center of Excellence for Meat and Poultry Processing and Food Safety Research and Innovation.....	-	5	-
			Community Foods Projects Competitive Grant Program FY2022			
			Meritorious Grants.....	-	10	-

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
			Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction .....	-	25	-
			GusNIP Produce Prescription FY 2022 Grants .....	-	27	1
			GusNIP Produce Prescription Project Enhancements .....	-	6	-
			GusNIP Produce Prescription Project FY 2021 Meritorious Grants .....	-	8	1
			Meat and Poultry Processing Research and Innovation .....	-	15	-
			Meat and Poultry Processing Workforce Development Centers for Excellence.....	-	15	-
			SARE FY 2022 Grants .....	-	3	-
		Natural Resources				
		Conservation Services	Composting and Food Waste Reduction - Plus up FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 .....	-	30	-
			Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production .....	-	20	0
			Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).....	-	0	-
			People's Garden Initiative .....	-	5	-
			Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production - FY 2022.....	-	10	0
		Office of Chief Financial Officer	Operation Fly Formula .....	-	42	-
		Office of Inspector General	Oversight of COVID-19 Related Programs.....	3	3	-
		Office of the Chief Economist	Food Loss and Waste Programming Strategic Coordination and Implementation .....	-	2	-
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	Administrative expenses- Food Processing Supply Chain Loan Guarantees Program.....	-	1	-
			Administrative expenses- Multiple RBCS Programs .....	-	2	-
			Food Processing Supply Chain Loan Guarantees.....	-	56	-
			Healthy Foods Financing Initiative (HFFI).....	-	155	-
			Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Program .....	-	48	-
			Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Program--Admin expenses.....	-	1	-
			Meat & Poultry Processing Expansion Program .....	-	337	0
			Meat & Poultry Processing Expansion Program: Administrative Expenses ..	-	1	-
			Pandemic Program Administration – Administrative.....	-	6	0
		Rural Development	CF Emergency Rural HC/ Admin.....	-	4	-
			CF Emergency Rural HC/ Tech Assistance.....	-	3	-
			Direct Loan Admin (Sec. 502/504 SFH ARPA) .....	-	1	-
		Rural Housing Service	Community Facility Grant Emergency Pilot Program .....	488	488	-
			Section 502 Direct and Section 504 Direct Program .....	32	32	-
			Section 521 Rental Assistance Program .....	100	100	-
CAA		Office of the Secretary Agricultural Marketing Service	OSEC: Dairy Margin Coverage Supplemental Program .....	-	96	-
			Dairy Donation Program.....	10	10	-
			Meat and Poultry Facilities to Allow for Interstate Shipment Grants .....	59	59	0
			Specialty Crop Block Grant.....	100	100	-
		Agricultural Research Service	Salaries and Expenses.....	20	20	-
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	To offset losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic on quarantine and inspection fees .....	635	635	-
		Economic Research Service	Meat and Poultry Study and Report.....	2	2	-
		Food and Nutrition Service	Child Nutrition Programs: CACFP: Local PEBT Administrative Expenses.	-	1,800	-
			Commodity Assistance Program: Commodity Supplemental Food Program	13	13	-
			SNAP Online Purchasing and Technology Improvements .....	5	5	-

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount		Unobligated Balance
				Enacted	Allocated	
			SNAP Waiver Authority (includes CR Funding) .....	3,600	3,600	-
			SNAP: Increased Benefits .....	-	11,452	-
			SNAP: Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and American Samoa .....	614	614	-
			SNAP: PEBT .....	-	44,000	-
			SNAP: State Administrative Expenses .....	100	100	-
			SNAP: PEBT Grants to States .....	-	1,100	-
			The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Food Assistance and Administrative Costs for Food Banks.....	400	400	-
		National Institute of Food and Agriculture	Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.....	37	37	0
			Support for Farm Stress Programs.....	28	28	0
			The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.....	75	75	-
CAA Sec. 751		Office of the Secretary	COVID-19 CFAP Payments (OSEC).....	-	0	0
			Office of the Secretary: assistance for specialty crops producers, local market systems, livestock/dairy.....	10,376	-	-
		Agricultural Marketing Service	Farm and Food Worker Relief (FFWR) Grant Program .....	-	19	-
			Farmers to Families Food Box Program.....	-	1,414	-
			Farmworker and Meatpacking Worker Grant Program.....	-	693	-
			Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program .....	-	178	1
			Regional Food Business Center.....	-	399	0
			Transition to Organic Partnership Program.....	-	97	0
			Tribal Seafood .....	-	1	0
		Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Animal Disease Prevention and Response .....	-	20	0
		Farm Service Agency	Acre Based Top Up (4924 - CF3/TUP).....	-	4,951	7
			Contract Growers (4922 - CFC/CFC).....	-	280	-
			Disaster Set Aside - Loan Repayment .....	-	58	-
			Livestock Top Up (4923 - CF3/LTU) .....	-	1,195	0
			Pandemic Assistance for Timber Haulers and Harvesters (8286 - PAS/THH) .....	-	195	0
			Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (8290 - PAS/PAR) .....	-	232	-
			Pandemic Livestock Indemnity Program (8287 - PAS/PLI) .....	-	47	0
			Upland Cotton Program.....	-	80	-
		Food and Nutrition Service	CNP Healthy Meals Incentive .....	-	97	-
		Natural Resources Conservation Services	Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) – Regional Organic Coordinators.....	-	5	-
		Risk Management Agency	Pandemic Cover Crop Program.....	-	113	1
			Transitional and Organic Grower Assistance (TOGA) .....	-	25	0
		Rural Development	CAA Administrative Expenses .....	-	1	-
			Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program.....	-	75	-
			Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program Phase 1 .....	-	200	-
CAA Sec. 753		Agricultural Marketing Service	LAMP .....	62	62	-
		Rural Business Cooperative Service	Rural Cooperative Development Grants LAMP.....	34	34	0
		Rural Development	COVID LAMP - administrative expenses.....	-	1	-
CAA Sec. 754		Office of Partnership and Public Engagement	Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.....	37	37	0

Year	Public Law	Agency Name	Program Name	Amount Enacted	Allocated	Unobligated Balance
2022	ARPA	Food and Nutrition Service	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Benefits) .....	-	25,000	-
			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Grants to States) .....	-	700	-
		Agricultural Research Service	Salaries and Expenses .....	20	20	-
2023	ARPA	Food and Nutrition Service	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Benefits) .....	-	30,000	-
			Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic-EBT (Grants to States) .....	-	1,500	-
	CAA	Food and Nutrition Service	SNAP Waiver Authority .....	-	3,000	-
<b>USDA, Total</b>				<b>57,681</b>	<b>193,144</b>	<b>54</b>

\* Such sums are not reflected the Amount Enacted Column.

Table APP-10. Climate Change Related Funding Crosscut (millions of dollars)

Mission Area/Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Agricultural Research Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	\$213	\$214	\$227
<b>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	3	3	3
<b>Buildings and Facilities</b>			
Discretionary .....	-	-	-
<b>Economic Research Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	8	13	8
<b>Farm Service Agency</b>			
Discretionary .....	2	3	4
Mandatory Other .....	1,903	1,939	1,939
<b>Foreign Agricultural Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	2	2	4
Mandatory Other .....	68	-	68
<b>Forest Service</b>			
BIL/IIJA .....	1,444	608	608
Discretionary .....	2,997	3,009	3,438
IRA .....	1,289	-	-
Mandatory Other .....	382	506	593
Supplemental Other .....	169	-	-
<b>National Agricultural Statistics Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	3	2	3
<b>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</b>			
BIL/IIJA .....	5	-	-
Discretionary .....	214	206	201
Mandatory Other .....	9	15	15
<b>Natural Resources Conservation Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	799	1,043	1,074
Mandatory Other .....	1,497	2,358	1,858
<b>Office of the Chief Economist</b>			
Discretionary .....	3	3	6
IRA .....	3	-	-
<b>Office of the Secretary</b>			
Discretionary .....	-	-	12
<b>Risk Management Agency</b>			
Discretionary .....	2	2	2
<b>Rural Business Cooperative Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	25	36	1
IRA .....	796	200	200
Mandatory Other .....	40	54	44
<b>Rural Housing Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	114	299	221
<b>Rural Utilities Service</b>			
Discretionary .....	655	917	807
<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Total.....</b>	<b>12,642</b>	<b>11,430</b>	<b>11,336</b>
<b>Discretionary, Subtotal .....</b>	<b>5,039</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>6,011</b>
<b>BIL/IIJA, Subtotal .....</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>608</b>
<b>IRA, Subtotal .....</b>	<b>2,088</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Mandatory, Subtotal .....</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>4,518</b>
<b>Supplemental, Subtotal .....</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

*Table APP-11. Minority Serving Funding Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area/Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>Funding combined Appropriated:</b>			
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$7	\$16	\$4
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	98	51	51
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Center .....	21	59	57
Rural Housing Service .....	14	12	14
Rural Utilities Service .....	61	70	66
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	5,929	6,201	6,436
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	2	2	2
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	17	17	16
Agricultural Marketing Service.....	29	29	29
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	25	22	0
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	275	311	367
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of Advocacy and Outreach.....	31	-	-
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	34	34	32
Office of Tribal Relations .....	5	5	7
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>6,547</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>7,081</b>



*Table APP-12. Supply Chain Funding Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area/Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Development .....	\$1,132	\$3	\$3
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	1,789	84	70
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service.....	67	77	75
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	104	104	104
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.....	128	132	131
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>384</b>

*Table APP-13. Urban Agriculture Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Agency/Mission Area	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$2	\$3	\$4
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	9	9	15
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business -- Cooperative Service .....	6	31	31
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	20	25	27
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service .....	0	32	1
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	14	14	14
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	22	24	31
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>121</b>

*Table APP-14. Nutrition Security Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area/Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CUSTOMER SERVICE</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	\$159,588	\$151,855	\$152,658
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	7	7	21
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	314	314	339
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>159,909</b>	<b>152,177</b>	<b>153,018</b>

*Table APP-15. Native American Crosscut (millions of dollars)*

Mission Area/Agency	2023 Actual	2024 Estimate	2025 Budget
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	\$44	\$63	\$68
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	1	1	1
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service.....	4	5	5
Rural Housing Service .....	15	15	19
Rural Utilities Service.....	91	111	76
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	3,086	3,263	3,445
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service.....	58	79	38
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	4	4	4
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	40	43	64
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary/Office of Tribal Relations.....	5	5	7
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture.....</b>	<b>3,349</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>3,725</b>



**United States Department of Agriculture**