



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**FY 2026**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

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*CONTENTS*

<b>PREFACE</b> .....	iii
<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	1
HIGHLIGHTS .....	2
<b>MISSION AREA/AGENCY DETAILS:</b>	
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION:	
FARM SERVICE AGENCY .....	5
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY .....	7
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE .....	8
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER .....	10
TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS:	
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE .....	11
RURAL DEVELOPMENT:	
RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE .....	15
RURAL HOUSING SERVICE .....	17
RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE .....	19
RURAL DEVELOPMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES .....	20
FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES:	
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE .....	22
FOOD SAFETY:	
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE .....	24
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT:	
FOREST SERVICE .....	26
MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS:	
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE .....	30
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE .....	33
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS:	
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE .....	38
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE .....	41
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE .....	43
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE .....	44
DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES:	
DEPARTMENTAL STAFF OFFICES .....	45
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL .....	50

**APPENDIX:**

New Budget Authority .....	51
Available Resources – Discretionary.....	52
Discretionary Outlays by Agency .....	54

**PREFACE**

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Discretionary Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is in regard to the 2026 Discretionary 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 2024, appropriated levels for 2025 and the President’s Budget request for 2026.

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 2025, through the extension of the 2018 Farm Bill in the American Relief, 2025, Public Law 118-158. Amounts shown in 2026 for extended 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 2024 and 2025. The sequestration rate for 2024 and 2025 is 5.7 percent. The 2026 sequestration rate was not released at the time of this publication, however, mandatory funds for 2026 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 Measures:** Indicators, statistics, or metrics used to gauge program performance.

**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.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

The FY 2026 Annual Performance Plan, which provides performance information concerning USDA plans for 2026, 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.OFFICE.OF.THE.DIRECTOR@usda.gov.

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**OVERVIEW****MISSION STATEMENT**

USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.

**2026 FUNDING OVERVIEW**

Under the current law, the 2026 request for discretionary budget authority to fund programs and operating expenses is \$23.0 billion, which is slightly more than a 22.55 percent decrease, or \$6.7 billion, below the 2025 Enacted (CR) levels. The request also includes \$916 million in scorekeeping comprised of negative subsidies, cancellations, and a change in mandatory programs.

Under current law, USDA's total outlays for 2026 are estimated at \$234 billion. Of that, \$42.2 billion, or 18.01 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, other Forest Service activities, and domestic and international marketing assistance.

## **2026 BUDGET SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Since our founding in 1862, the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) -- the "People's Department" -- has been at the forefront of food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and nutrition guided by public policy, the best available science, and effective management. However, for too long, the hardworking Americans who feed, fuel, and clothe the world have been sidelined in this mission. Now is the time to do all we can to make American agriculture great again, ensuring that farmers, ranchers, and producers have a strong voice and a significant role. USDA's commitment is to ensure American agriculture feeds not only America but the world, and to guarantee that American farmers, ranchers, and producers compete on a world stage that is fair, on terms that put America first. USDA is committed to maintaining the trust placed in us to fight disease, feed the needy, make America healthy again, manage our land and forests, and — most of all — support all American agriculture.

USDA is at a pivotal moment where we can safeguard our country from fiscal ruin. Lower federal spending combined with the largest tax cuts in the history of our country, strong deregulatory actions, and tariff and trade realignment will set the stage for the next generation of American greatness. At USDA, we have already begun this return to greatness by eliminating wasteful spending, promoting efficiencies, reprioritizing our services to focus on farmers, cutting regulatory red tape, and shifting our mission towards expanding market opportunities for farmers, rather than promoting programs that cater to special interests of Washington D.C. bureaucrats who have never set foot in a field or pasture.

The 2026 Budget discretionary request totals \$22.1 billion to ensure we meet our mission and fulfill our statutory responsibilities in the most cost-effective manner. Under the leadership of the Trump Administration and Secretary Rollins, USDA will support and protect American farmers, ranchers, and producers, make America prosperous and healthy again, ensure American agriculture is the most competitive in the world, unleash American energy, and optimize USDA's customer service while safeguarding taxpayer interests. With these strategic investments, USDA will uphold President Trump's commitment to balancing the budget while achieving these critical priorities.

Key Investments in the Budget include the following areas:

- The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service continues to protect domestic livestock, poultry, field crops, and specialty crops, collectively valued at nearly \$325 billion in calendar year 2023. The Budget includes \$388 million for Plant Health, with a significant increase to combat exotic fruit fly outbreaks in Texas, California, Guatemala, and Mexico. This funding will address rising costs and heightened risks in the domestic program, especially given the unusually high outbreak numbers in Texas and California. Additionally, the Budget includes \$152 million for Wildlife Services and proposes enhancing the National Rabies Management Program. This initiative aims to control and eliminate rabies virus variants in terrestrial carnivores using oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits, vital given the increased operating costs, depletion of the ORV bait stockpile, and rising rabies cases.
- Supporting the credit needs of American farmers and ranchers is a USDA priority. The Farm Service Agency's Farm Loan Programs are a cornerstone of this support and the FY2026 Budget is projected to support over 35,000 direct and guaranteed loans to

farmers and ranchers by financing operating expenses and providing opportunities to acquire a farm or to maintain or expand 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 \$1.6 billion in direct loans and \$2.0 billion for guaranteed loans, providing about 22,000 loans to farmers and ranchers. For farm ownership loans, the Budget includes funding to support \$2.4 billion in direct loans and \$3.5 billion for guaranteed loans, which will provide about 13,800 loans to farmers and ranchers seeking to either acquire their own farm or expand an existing one.

- In support of trade relationships that benefit the United States, the Foreign Agricultural Service will partner with government agencies, trade associations, and regional and international organizations to increase market access for American agricultural commodities and to facilitate global trade.
- The budget aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of USDA's Rural Development programs and refocus on its core mission. Investments include \$1.7 billion for Rental Assistance and \$493 million in program level for multifamily housing loans, loan guarantees, and grants. The budget also includes investments to further develop infrastructure in rural communities including \$1.4 billion in program level for Water and Waste programs, \$1.9 billion in Community Facilities loan and loan guarantee level, and \$30 million for distance learning and telemedicine grants, which include a set-aside for addressing the nation's opioid epidemic.
- Fully funding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children at a level that will serve all eligible participants who apply, helping fulfill the President's promise to Make America Healthy Again.
- Further, the 2026 Budget increases resource and operational efficiencies by consolidating Federal wildland fire management programs into a new Department of the Interior (DOI) bureau. At the same time, the budget supports the Forest Service's continued work to actively manage national forests and grasslands while supporting local economies through timber production, recreation, energy development, and livestock grazing.

American farmers and ranchers are facing a confluence of circumstances that make their already difficult profession even harder, including a record agricultural trade deficit, increasing costs of production, and the new emerging challenges of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The 2026 Budget strengthens USDA's ability to face these challenges head-on while eliminating wasteful spending, empowering the states, and eliminating duplication in programs, policies, and responsibilities.



## ***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.

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 2024, FSA provided more than 24,500 direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers, totaling nearly \$5.4 billion with beginning farmers representing 60 percent of this total. Throughout 2023 and 2024, 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. In a time of rising Federal budget deficits, this Budget request relies even more on these groups that have a common and vested interest in the local landscape, community, or watersheds. NRCS resources consider where Federal dollars are best able to leverage the work that is being done appropriately by State and local agencies. This facilitates continued collaboration among groups that collectively support farmers and maintaining natural resource quality.

Under this umbrella of agency mission and local cooperation, NRCS employees provide targeted assistance. 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. In calendar year 2023, USDA enrolled nearly 5,300 additional producers in NRCS conservation programs across all 50 states. Throughout 2023, NRCS worked on improvements 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	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FSA Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation) .....	\$1,209	\$1,209	\$950
Transfer from Program Accounts .....	306	306	236
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	1,515	1,515	1,186
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:			
Loan Subsidy .....	54	54	32
Loan Program Expenses .....	20	20	16
Total, ACIF Program Account .....	74	74	48
State Mediation Grants .....	7	7	-
Grassroots Source Water Protection Program .....	7	7	-
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers .....	4	4	-
Total, Ongoing Discretionary Programs .....	1,606	1,606	1,234
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs .....</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,234</b>

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Salaries and Expenses**

The Budget includes \$1.186 billion to support Federal and non-Federal staffing, which includes the \$236 million transfer from the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account. FSA delivers its programs through more than 2,100 USDA Service Centers, 50 State offices, and an area office in Puerto Rico.

**State Mediation Grants**

Funding for State Mediation Grants is not requested in FY 2026.

**Grassroots Source Water Protection Program**

Funding for the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program (GSWPP) not requested in FY 2026.

**Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**

The Budget does not request funding for geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program.

**Table FPAC-2. ACIF Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)**

Item	2024 PL Actual	2024 BA Actual	2025 PL Enacted	2025 BA Enacted	2026 PL Budget	2026 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Farm Ownership Loans:						
Direct.....	\$3,100	-	\$2,579	\$50	\$2,406	\$31
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-
Total, Ownership Loans .....	6,600	-	6,079	50	5,906	31
Farm Operating Loans:						
Direct.....	1,633	28	1,633	-	1,633	-
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	2,118	1	2,118	-	2,000	-
Total, Operating Loans .....	3,751	29	3,751	-	3,633	-
Emergency Loans .....	38	4	30	4	14	1
Indian Land Acquisition Loans .....	20	-	20	-	-	-
Boll Weevil Eradication Loans.....	60	-	-	-	-	-
Conservation Loans .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guaranteed Unsubsidized .....	150	-	150	-	-	-
Total, Conservation Loans.....	150	-	150	-	-	-
Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loans	5	2	-	-	-	-
Heir's Relending Program .....	61	19	-	-	-	-
<b>Total, ACIF.....</b>	<b>10,686</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>9,553</b>	<b>32</b>

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 Budget supports just over \$9.5 billion in farm loans.

Specifically, the Budget is projected to support over 35,000 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 \$1.6 billion in direct loans and \$2.0 billion in guaranteed loans. The requested loan levels for operating loans will serve approximately 22,000 loans to farmers, of which about 17,850 will be direct and 4,200 will be guaranteed loans. For farm ownership loans, the Budget includes funding to support \$2.4 billion in direct loans and \$3.5 billion for guaranteed loans. These loan levels will provide an estimated 13,800 loans to farmers with the opportunity to either acquire their own farm or keep an existing one; an estimated 8,000 will be direct and about 5,800 will be guaranteed loans.

Also, the Budget supports \$14 million for emergency loans. No funding is requested for the remaining programs as the demand has waned in favor of other programs.

**RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

RMA provides agricultural producers with market-based risk management tools, primarily through Federal crop insurance, to strengthen the economic stability of farmers and rural communities. Specifically, they manage the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), which offers various crop insurance products. RMA also works with Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to sell and service these policies.

**Table FPAC-3. RMA Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
RMA Salaries and Expenses Appropriations.....	\$66	\$66	\$60
Transfers from FCIC (Mandatory) .....	7	7	7
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	73	73	67
<b>Total, Discretionary RMA .....</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>67</b>

**Salaries and Expenses**

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.

While Federal crop insurance is delivered to producers through private insurance companies are reimbursed for their delivery expenses and receive underwriting gains through mandatory funding, discretionary funds for Federal crop insurance cover Federal salaries and related expenses to manage program oversight and operations. The Budget includes \$60 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.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance to landowners and managers through Farm Bill programs for the benefit of farm or ranch, watershed and community.

**Table FPAC-4: NRCS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Conservation Operations .....	\$915	\$896	\$112
Watershed Rehabilitation Program .....	1	1	-
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations .....	35	15	-
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production .....	-	-	-
Healthy Forests Reserve Program .....	-	-	-
Water Bank Program .....	-	-	-
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs .....</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>112</b>
Other funding: .....			
Water Bank Program (General Provision) .....	2	2	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking (General Provision) .....	2	2	-
Total, Other Funding .....	4	4	-
<b>Total, NRCS.....</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>112</b>

**Private Lands Conservation Operations (PLCO)**

The proposed discretionary funding for PLCO for 2026 is \$112 million for Soil Survey, Snow Survey, and Plant Materials Centers. Farmers will continue to receive conservation technical assistance from all sources of funding, and with efficiencies that reflect greater reliance on State and local conservation districts. NRCS partners with state conservation agencies, local conservation districts, and third-party private sector entities (known as Technical Service Providers). The Conservation Technical Assistance program will also be realigned to reflect the total salaries and expenses needed to provide technical assistance needed to deliver programs authorized by Congress. Multiple funding sources will contribute to the salaries and expenses needed to fund the NRCS workforce. This model is similar to how salaries and expenses are funded in the RD mission area.

Also, within PLCO, the Soil Survey Program will continue to enhance evaluation of the effects of conservation practices on soil health, soil erosion, 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). The Plant Materials Centers will continue development of information and training for field staff to meet emerging environmental challenges to natural resource conservation associated with changes in weather patterns.

**Table FPAC-5: NRCS Discretionary Technical Assistance (millions of dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Conservation Operations (Technical Assistance): <sup>3</sup> .....			
Conservation Technical Assistance .....	\$796	\$746	-
Soil Surveys .....	87	87	\$87
Snow Surveys .....	15	15	15
Plant Materials .....	11	11	11
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program	7	7	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking .....	1	1	-
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs .....</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>112</b>

**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 2026 Budget provides \$214 million in discretionary funding. Including the mandatory funding transfer from NRCS, the 2026 Budget provides a total of \$285 million for the FPAC BC.

**Table FPAC-11. FPAC Business Center Budget Authority (millions of dollars)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Appropriated Funding:</b>			
FPAC Business Center .....	\$244	\$244	\$214
<b>Discretionary Transfer of Mandatory Funding:</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, Discretionary Transfer of Mandatory Funding: ....	60	60	71
<b>Total, FPAC BC.....</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>285</b>

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**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 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, and bilateral engagement. 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. 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	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
FAS Salaries and Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses (Direct Appropriation).....	\$227	\$227	\$222
Transfer from CCC Export Credit Program Account..	6	6	6
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses.....	233	233	228
Foreign Food Assistance:			
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education      a	240	240	-
Program .....			
P.L. 480 Title II Donations.....	1,619	1,619	-
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	2,092	2,092	228

**Table Footnotes**

<sup>a</sup> \$24 million can be used for local and regional procurement in 2024.

**Salaries and Expenses****Table TFAA-2. FAS Salaries and Expenses (millions of dollars)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimate</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Appropriated Programs .....	\$227	\$227	\$222
Reimbursable Program Activities:			
FAS Computer Facility and Other IRM Costs Funded by CCC.....	19	12	12
USAID and Other Development Assistance .....	16	-	-
Other Reimbursable Agreements .....	30	-	-
Total, Reimbursable Program Activities .....	65	12	12
Total, FAS Salaries and Expenses.....	292	239	234

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. 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.

In 2026, 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. The 2026 Budget request provides an appropriated funding level of \$222 million for FAS activities funded by Salaries & Expenses

***RURAL DEVELOPMENT*****MISSION**

USDA's Rural Development (RD) serves a leading role in facilitating access to rural credit by guaranteeing financing investments in rural utilities and housing. Galvanizing private credit and investments in rural America's infrastructure is critical to create jobs and increase our country's productivity of vital goods and services. 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. Ensuring access to investment will be required to close infrastructure gaps and connect rural residents and businesses to nationwide and global commerce.

RD has a field structure that has historically delivered programs in person; however, RD's mission can increasingly be delivered on-line or in coordination with other USDA or other federal and state agencies. USDA is reviewing its field structure to ensure that RD is delivering its core mission in the most efficient manner.

In recent years the type of assistance offered includes both direct and guaranteed loans, grants, and other payments. RD staff and partners have provided 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. This budget proposes to eliminate the programs that are not part of USDA's core mission, such as business loans and grants that reward a select few, earmarked community facilities, and what have historically been loans that communities, and not general taxpayers, provide.

**RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE****Table RD-1. RUS Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)**

Item	2024 PL Actual	2024 BA Actual	2025 PL Enacted	2025 BA Enacted	2026 PL Budget	2026 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Electric Programs:						
Direct Loans.....	\$5,416	-	\$4,333	-	\$4,333	-
FFB Loans.....	2,709	-	2,167	-	2,667	-
Rural Energy Saving Program.....	20	\$4	18	\$4	-	-
Electric Underwriting .....	900	-	900	-	-	-
Telecommunications Programs:						
Treasury Loans.....	550	6	155	2	-	-
FFB Loans.....	-	-	-	-	200	-
Distance Learning and Telemedicine						
Grants.....	40	40	40	40	30	\$30
Community Project Funding DLT Grants ...	10	10	-	-	-	-
Broadband Programs <sup>a/</sup> :						
ReConnect Direct Loans.....	43	10	-	-	-	-
ReConnect Direct Loans/Grants Combine..	109	10	-	-	-	-
ReConnect Grants .....	70	70	90	90	-	-
Community Project Funding Reconnect ....	10	10	-	-	-	-
Broadband Grants.....	20	20	20	20	-	-
High Energy Costs Grants.....	8	8	8	8	-	-
Water and Waste Disposal Programs <sup>a/</sup> :						
Direct Loans.....	850	71	851	88	1,229	58
Direct 1%.....	10	3	9	3	-	-
Guaranteed Loans.....	50	-	50	-	50	-
Grants.....	515	515	381	381	144	144
Subtotal, Water and Waste .....	1,425	589	1,291	471	1,423	202
Subtotal, RUS Programs .....	11,331	776	9,021	635	8,653	232
Salaries and Expenses.....	33	33	33	33	33	33
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	11,364	809	9,055	668	8,686	266
Total, RUS.....	11,364	809	9,055	668	8,686	266

*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.

**Electric and Telecommunications Programs**

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 supports \$7 billion in electric loans to finance the construction and operation of generating facilities, electric transmission and distribution lines, or system improvements. The Budget requests \$4.3 billion for electric cost-of-money direct loans and \$2.7 billion for guaranteed rural electric loans. Together, these investments will improve electric infrastructure and support additional clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects in rural areas. Funding provided by this account supports the Administration's priorities as described in Executive Order 14154: Unleashing American Energy.

**Telecommunication Loan Program**

The Budget supports \$200 million in telecommunications Federal Financing Bank loans made pursuant to section 306 of the Rural Electrification Act for the expanded deployment of broadband in rural areas.

**Broadband, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Programs**

The Budget includes \$30 million for Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grants, including \$3 million for grants for health care services in Mississippi. These grants also have a set-aside for addressing the nation's opioid epidemic. This program is designed specifically to assist rural communities that would otherwise be without access to learning and medical services over the Internet. The Budget proposes cancelling \$40 million in unobligated balances from prior year balances from the ReConnect pilot program authorized in General Provision 779, P.L. 115-141. IIJA provided unprecedented funding for rural broadband and the Department is still working to outlay this funding. Future funding needs for this purpose will be provided by other Federal agencies.

**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.

The Budget supports \$1.23 billion in direct loans, \$50 million in guaranteed loans, and \$144 million in grants. The funding will provide \$40 million for grants targeted to Native Americans and Alaskan Native Villages and \$20 million for grants for a Circuit Rider. The Budget is requesting \$75 million in carryover funding to be cancelled. The Water and Waste program supports infrastructure development supporting job development and establishment of industries in rural areas.

Priority for financing is given to communities with low median household income levels. The Water and Waste Direct program provides direct loans to municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, certain Indian Tribes, and non-profit corporations to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas and towns with populations of less than 20,000. The program also guarantees water and waste disposal loans made by banks and other eligible lenders. Grants are authorized to be made to associations, including nonprofit corporations, municipalities, counties, public and quasi-public agencies, and certain Indian tribes. The grants can be used to finance development, storage, treatment, purification, or distribution of water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas and cities or towns with populations of less than 10,000. The amount of any development grant may not exceed 75 percent of the eligible development cost of the project.

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

Item	2024 PL Actual	2024 BA Actual	2025 PL Enacted	2025 BA Enacted	2026 PL Budget	2026 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Single Family Housing (Sec. 502):						
Direct Loans.....	\$880	\$84	\$716	\$84	-	-
Native American Relending Pilot						
Loans .....	6	3	5	2	-	-
Guaranteed Loans .....	25,000	-	25,000	-	\$25,000	-
Multi Family Housing:						
Direct Loans (Sec. 515).....	60	21	47	19	50	\$15
MFH Preservation/Revitalization						
Grants and Loans Program .....	34	34	46	32	24	15
MFH Preservation/Revitalization						
Pilot Grants.....	1	1	1	1	-	-
Guaranteed Loans (Sec. 538) .....	400	-	400	-	400	-
Very Low-Income Repair (Sec. 504):						
Direct Loans.....	24	4	20	4	25	4
Grants.....	25	25	25	25	20	20
Farm Labor Housing Grants (Sec. 516) .....	8	8	6	6	6	6
Farm Labor Housing Loans (Sec. 514) .....	15	5	13	5	11	3
All Other Direct Loans.....	21	1	19	1	10	-
Grants and Payments:						
Rental Assistance (Sec. 521) .....	1,608	1,608	1,642	1,642	1,715	1,715
Multi-Family Housing Voucher .....	48	48	48	48	-	-
Mutual and Self-Help (Sec. 523).....	25	25	25	25	-	-
Rural Housing Preservation.....	10	10	10	10	-	-
Protecting Animals with Shelter Pilot	3	3	3	3	-	-
Community Facilities Programs:						
Direct Loans .....	2,800	-	989	11	1,250	-
Guaranteed Loans.....	650	-	650	-	650	-
Grants .....	18	18	18	18	-	-
Subtotal, RHS Programs .....	31,634	1,898	29,684	1,937	29,161	1,779
Salaries and Expenses .....	412	412	412	412	412	412
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	32,047	2,310	30,096	2,349	29,573	2,191
Total, Current Law .....	32,047	2,310	30,096	2,349	29,573	2,191
Total, RHS .....	32,047	2,310	30,096	2,349	29,573	2,191

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**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 Budget supports a \$25 billion loan level for the Guaranteed SFH program. The Budget requests that loan authority for this program be available for two years, which facilitates the operation of the program during the transition between fiscal years, including during continuing resolutions. The Budget is not requesting funding for the Single Family Housing Direct loan program to reflect the focus and priority on the guarantee program. Accordingly, the Budget is not requesting funding for Mutual and

Self-Help Housing grants, as they are only successful when combined with a Single Family Housing Direct loan.

The Budget continues to support \$10 million in program level for SFH Credit Sales of acquired property for Single Family Housing loans and requests \$25 million for Section 504 very low-income housing repair loans million, and very low-income housing repair grants \$20 million. The Budget is not requesting funding for Housing Preservation grants, reflecting the reliance on the other multifamily housing loan and grant program funding.

### **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 Budget requests \$1.72 billion in budget authority for Rental Assistance (RA) for renewals of existing rental assistance contracts for maintaining a sustainable rental assistance program. 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 2026 Budget does not request funding for Vouchers since there is not expected to be future demand for new vouchers because of the recent authority to continue rental assistance instead of vouchers. The majority of the legacy voucher holders will be able to adjust without the continued assistance, or with alternative local, state and Federal programs.

Specifically, the Budget continues the authority to decouple RA from the Multi-family Housing Direct Loan program, allowing RHS to continue offering RA to certain properties that no longer have an RHS-financed loan. Decoupling these two programs will help ensure low-income rural tenants in USDA financed properties continue to have access to affordable rents when projects reach loan maturity and leave the portfolio. Decoupling will also lead to the preservation of the majority of USDA's project-based assistance, and, thus, decrease the number of tenant-based vouchers needed for USDA financed properties going forward.

The Budget requests \$50 million for Section 515 Multi-family Housing Direct Loans. Additionally, the Budget requests \$15 million for the Multi-family Housing Preservation and Revitalization pilot program, which facilitates preservation loan modifications on post-credit reform Multi-family Housing loans. The Budget also maintains the 2025 level of support for the Section 538 Guaranteed Loans for MFH at \$400 million and continues to include appropriations language that will allow the program to operate without interest subsidy and fee. The 2026 Budget requests \$11 million loan level for Farm Labor Housing Loans and \$6.2 million for grants.

### **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 for direct loans and not more than 50,000 for loan guarantees, with priority given to healthcare, public safety, and education facilities.

The Budget request maintains \$650 million in loan level for Guaranteed Loans and requests a loan level of \$1.25 billion for CF Direct Loans. Community Facility Grants are eliminated as the full funding of \$1.2 billion in CF direct loan level will provide sufficient investment.

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

Item	2024 PL Actual	2024 BA Actual	2025 PL Enacted	2025 BA Enacted	2026 PL Budget	2026 BA Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>						
Business and Industry Guar. Loans....	\$1,663	\$38	\$1,663	\$3	-	-
Rural Business Development Grants ..	29	29	29	29	-	-
Intermediary Relending Program.....	10	3	10	3	-	-
Healthy Food Financing Initiative.....	1	1	1	1	-	-
Rural Economic Development a/:						
Direct Loans .....	50	-	50	-	\$50	-
Grants .....	10		10		10	
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance						
Loans and Grants.....	22	5	15	5	-	-
Rural Cooperative Development						
Grants:						
Rural Cooperative Development						
Grants .....	6	6	6	6	-	-
Appropriate Tech. Transfer to Rural						
Areas.....	3	3	3	3	-	-
Grants to Assist Minority Producers.	3	3	3	3	-	-
Agriculture Innovation Center:.....	2	2	2	2	-	-
Value-Added Producer Grants .....	12	12	12	12	-	-
Rural Energy for America Loans .....	50	-	50	-	-	-
Subtotal, RBS Programs .....	1,857	100	1,852	65	60	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	4	4	4	4	-	-
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,863	104	1,856	70	60	-

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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

**Rural Business Programs**

The Budget eliminates discretionary funding for rural business loans and grants because they are duplicative of programs at the Small Business Administration and Commerce, they are costly to deliver, and are funded at levels too low to have a discernible economic impact. There are also needed improvements to internal controls at the agency as indicated by USDA's OIG in a March 2025 report, which stated that the Rural Business Service did not design and implement an effective internal control system over the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). OIG identified failures in both the pre-award and post-award process.



**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

USDA's efforts to enhance customer services with streamlined processes, RD is making strides to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies. The Budget requests \$710.5 million for salaries and expenses, a \$90.5 million decrease from the 2025 level. The funding will continue supporting the staff necessary for delivering the programs requested in the 2026 Budget. The Budget also requests the necessary funding to support reorganization efforts that will improve program delivery and gain efficiencies.

The Budget continues to provide dedicated funding for IT costs, and requests \$75 million, to remain available until expended, for IT costs.

The Rural Disaster Assistance Fund (RDAF) reflects transferred-in balances from consolidated Rural Development (RD) disaster supplemental funding from specific RD programs that were for previous disasters, but where the original funds are no longer needed for the initial purpose/disaster for which they were provided. The funding in the account allows RD to use its existing programs to address disaster needs quickly and flexibly, as the funding can be immediately applied for disaster response to any RD program. Funding may be directly appropriated to the account, and in 2025 the account received \$363 million in emergency supplemental funding from PL 118-158, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2025 - Division B. No new funding is requested for the RDAF in the 2026 Budget.

***Table RD-4. DAF Program Level (PL) and Budget Authority (BA) (millions of dollars)***

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
Disaster Assistance Fund:			
Appropriation.....	-	\$363	-
Transfers:			
Salaries and Expenses.....	-	-1	-
Total, Transfers .....	-	-1	-
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	-	362	-
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	-	362	-
Total, Rural Development .....	-	362	-

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
Salaries and Expenses:			
Appropriation	\$351	\$351	\$265
Transfers:			
Rural Electric and Telecommunications Loan Program .....	33	33	33
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program .....	412	412	412
Rural Development Loan Fund Program .....	4	4	-
Disaster Assistance Fund .....	-	1	-
Total, Transfers .....	450	451	446
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....	801	802	711
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	801	801	711

***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. 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 articulates the President's vision for FNS discretionary nutrition assistance programs.

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

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary Programs:</b>			
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) <sup>a/</sup> .....	\$7,030	\$7,597	\$7,306
Commodity Assistance Program:			
Commodity Supplemental Food Program.....	389	425	-
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Soup Kitchens, Food Banks.....	80	80	80
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program .....	10	10	10
Pacific Island Assistance and Disaster Assistance.....	1	1	1
Nutrition Services Incentive Program <sup>b/</sup> .....	-	-	-
Total, Commodity Assistance Program .....	480	516	91
Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA) .....	177	177	165
Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) .....	34	34	18
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) .....	7	7	3
<b>Total, Discretionary Funding .....</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>8,331</b>	<b>7,583</b>

<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 2026 will be determined at a later date.

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

**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 program also provides nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling, and referrals to critical health and social services.

The Budget includes \$7.3 billion for WIC in 2026, continuing the longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve all projected participants seeking WIC benefits. WIC is projected to serve nearly 6.8 million low-income women, infants, and children each month in 2026, up from 6.7 million in 2024, about the same average participation as in 2025. The budget request includes a general provision that would return Cash Value Benefit (CVB) to pre-pandemic levels set in the 2014 WIC Food Package, adjusted for inflation. The CVB value would allow the program to expand WIC's reach to allow more women, infants, and children access to the program.

**Commodity Assistance Program (CAP)**

The Budget includes \$10 million for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and \$80 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program administrative costs. The Budget proposes the elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

**Nutrition Programs Administration (NPA)**

The Budget requests \$165 million for NPA to support Federal management and oversight of USDA's investment in nutrition programs in 2026. This funding level will help ensure oversight, program integrity, and sound fiscal management; improve the programs; and encourage greater access to a healthy and nutritious diet.

## 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 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 agency that provides Federal inspection of meat, 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; investigates foodborne disease outbreaks with public health partners; and determines international equivalence of foreign food safety systems, and verifying that these systems maintain equivalence. FSIS coordinates the development of its policies with other USDA and Federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to support an integrated approach to food safety. Each year, FSIS builds on successes from existing partnerships and fosters relationships with food safety organizations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of food safety outcomes and help meet its public health goals.

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

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Federal Food Safety and Inspection .....	\$1,066	\$1,089	\$1,066
State Food Safety and Inspection .....	67	67	83
International Food Safety and Inspection .....	21	22	21
Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure System .....	35	35	35
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs, FSIS .....</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,205</b>

### BUDGET

In pursuit of streamlining workforce efforts, facilities, and other government efficiencies, FSIS has reduced staff from 8,300 to 8,000 due to modernization and other efficiencies. The Budget proposes discretionary funding of \$1.205 billion, reducing base costs by \$24 million and requesting an increase for reimbursement to states of \$15.2 million for their inspection program, resulting in a net decrease of \$8.8 million below the 2025 enacted appropriation. The 2026 budget includes a pay freeze and promotes efforts to demonstrate cost savings. The Budget will also allow FSIS to conduct statutorily required food safety inspections at approximately 7,100 federally-inspected establishments at necessary staffing levels to protect public health and ensure a safe and abundant American food supply while increasing economic growth in rural America; verify truthful and accurate labeling; conduct statutorily required food safety reinspection of imported meat, poultry, and egg products to protect American consumers from unsafe food and protect producers of American livestock and poultry from foreign animal diseases; support deregulatory actions while maintaining food safety, such as removing barriers to increased line speeds in poultry and swine establishments; and enhance IT systems to decrease paperwork and increase efficiency for meat and poultry processors to expand market access domestically and through exports to foreign countries. FSIS will also track and identify the source of foodborne illness outbreaks from contaminants, including pathogens such as *Listeria monocytogenes* in deli meats.

FSIS cooperates with state agencies in developing and administering the Meat & Poultry Inspection and Cooperative Interstate Shipments programs. These programs benefit small

and very small establishments, and FSIS aids in the sustainment and expansion of these programs. Over the past several years, FSIS's ability to reimburse states for participating in the MPI program has declined due to increased costs and static funding. The 2026 budget requests \$15.2 million to restore the State Inspection program reimbursement rate to 50 percent of the cost for the State MPI programs and 60 percent for the CIS programs. If states terminate participation, FSIS would be statutorily obligated to assume inspection duties for thousands of small and very small establishments. This would cost FSIS an additional \$80 million to \$100 million annually, severely straining already overstretched inspection resources. Furthermore, State-run programs are cost effective for taxpayers. These establishments are often located in rural areas, and having states with active programs ensures rapid response while contributing to local economic development.

**User Fees and Trust Funds**

FSIS estimates it will collect \$248 million in 2026 through existing user fee and trust fund activities for providing overtime, holiday, and voluntary inspection services.

**Proposed Legislation**

In 2026, FSIS will re-propose permanent changes to provide inspection personnel flexible work arrangements, thereby increasing retention of these frontline employees. With this change, FSIS can provide flexible scheduling for inspectors rather than requiring them to work all hours and days of plant operations. The program 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)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary Appropriations:</b>			
Forest Service Operations .....	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$759
Forest and Rangeland Research.....	300	300	-
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry .....	303	284	-
National Forest System.....	1,864	1,864	1,297
Wildland Fire Management .....	2,313	2,426	-
Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	156	151	78
Land Acquisition .....	1	1	1
Other Appropriations .....	4	3	2
Total, Discretionary Appropriations .....	6,091	6,179	2,137
<b>Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:</b>			
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund .....	2,230	2,390	-
<b>Mandatory Appropriations:</b>			
Permanent Appropriations .....	655	465	470
Trust Funds .....	242	250	227
Other Mandatory .....	228	224	222
Total, Mandatory Appropriations .....	1,125	939	919
<b>Supplemental Appropriations:</b>			
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 118-158) .....	-	6,350	-
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58).....	945	945	945
Total, Supplemental Appropriations .....	945	7,295	945
<b>Total, Forest Service .....</b>	<b>10,391</b>	<b>16,803</b>	<b>4,001</b>

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

Table Footnote 2: \$175.45 million for hazardous fuels mitigation previously within the National Forest System will be requested by the Department of the Interior to support the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

Table Footnote 3: Wildland Fire Management discretionary appropriations will be transferred to Department of the Interior in 2026 for the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

Table Footnote 4: Other Mandatory includes Land and Water Conservation Accounts (Forest Legacy, Land Acquisition, and Deferred Maintenance), Land Facilities Enhancement, Conveyance of Administrative Sites, and National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF, Great American Outdoors Act). LRF is a transfer from the Department of the Interior to the Forest Service.

Table Footnote 5: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) is advance appropriations for 2024, 2025, 2026.

Table Footnote 6: 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

The Forest Service Budget request of \$2.1 billion in 2026 prioritizes critical investments that will allow the Forest Service to continue to actively manage the national forests and grasslands while also supporting local economies through timber production, recreation, energy development, and livestock grazing.

Livestock grazing on federal lands is integral to ranchers across the United States, especially in the West. This generations-long land management practice not only provides food for the American public, but also serves to keep working landscapes intact, conserving natural resources, and the communities that depend on them. The 2026 budget ensures livestock grazing will continue to achieve many of the Forest Service's multiple-use objectives.

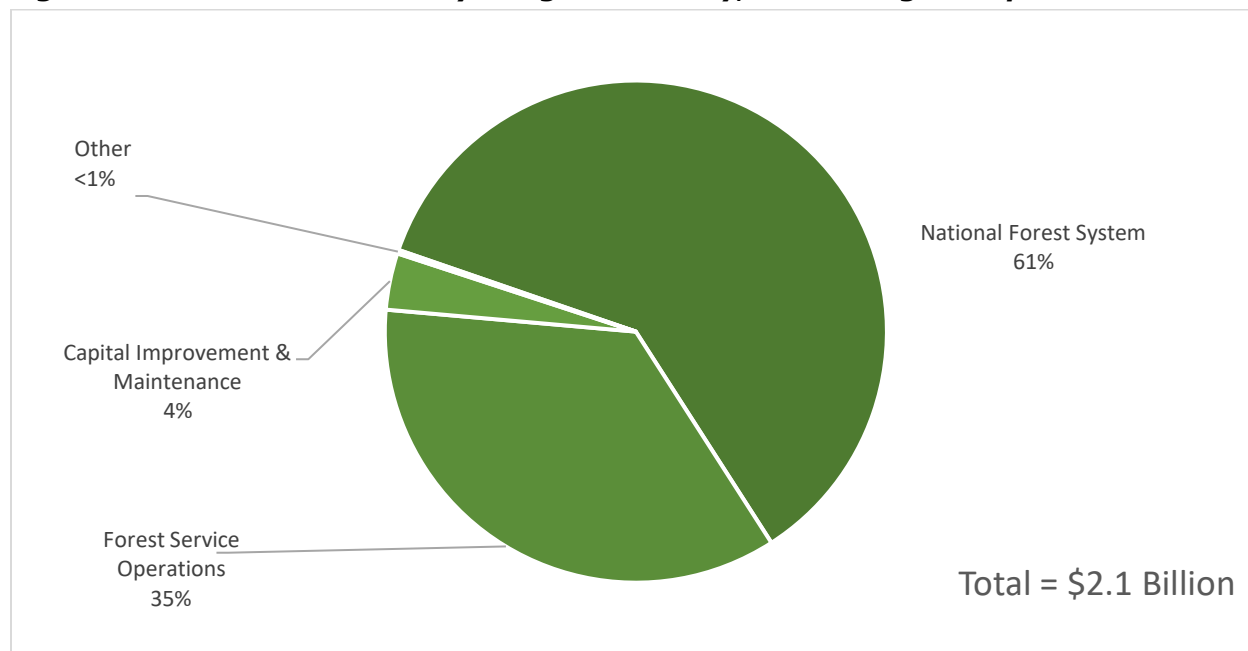
The production of timber, lumber, paper, bioenergy, and other wood products (timber production) are critical to our Nation's well-being. Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production* highlights the importance of timber production and how forest management and wildfire risk reduction projects can save American lives and communities. As such, the 2026 budget request supports the implementation of Executive Order 14225 by sustaining the Forest Products program at 2025 levels.

To ensure domestic production of critical minerals and to contribute to a stable supply of energy for current and future generations while continuing to sustain long-term ecosystem health and productivity, the Forest Service works together with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management to manage leasable minerals on National Forest System lands. The 2026 budget continues to prioritize the Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management program to facilitate these activities.

To support efficiency with taxpayer funds and federal response, the 2026 budget eliminates the duplication within the current approach to Federal Wildland Fire Management by consolidating the federal suppression response apparatus into a new Department of the Interior (DOI) bureau. The new U.S. Wildland Fire Service will consolidate logistical and support functions such as dispatching, training, information technology, reporting, financial management, and contracting. This new organization would provide initial attack, large fire response, and facilitate hazardous fuels mitigation for all Federal land management agencies to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal wildfire response capacity through a unified approach to wildland fire fighting.

The proposed 2026 investments are detailed in Figure NRE-1 and described in further detail in the program areas below.

**Figure NRE-1. FS Discretionary Budget Authority, 2026 Budget Request**



### Forest Service Operations

For 2026, \$759 million is requested for Forest Service Operations (FSO) to support administrative staff salaries and expenses, facilities maintenance and leases, information technology, and administrative support for the agency. The 2026 FSO Budget prioritizes funding for base support functions, facilities, and IT services commensurate with the changing size of the workforce. Management decisions to more efficiently use space with the goal of downsizing both the leased and owned facility footprint will be critical in 2026.



**Forest and Rangeland Research**

The 2026 Budget eliminates funding for the Forest and Rangeland Research account. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close these programs.

**State, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

The 2026 Budget eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close these programs.

**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; 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. The Forest Service currently estimates that deferred maintenance across all asset types is approximately \$10.8 billion. For 2026, the Budget proposes \$78 million for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure on National Forest System lands. The discretionary budget request is complemented by the Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152) National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF), which provides mandatory funding for deferred maintenance projects on public lands. The Budget proposes to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund in 2026, which helps reduce the deferred maintenance backlog and improve access and quality of the visitor experience. The Budget also proposes an additional \$110.9 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund – Priority Deferred Maintenance mandatory resources for high-priority deferred maintenance objectives; predominantly roads, bridges, and facilities, including those that are critical to housing employees and ensuring visitor safety.

**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 (NFS). The 2026 Budget proposes \$1.297 billion to fund the National Forest System focusing support on field-based operations, which are essential for meeting high-priority agency objectives. With this level of funding the Forest Service will prioritize activities related to timber sales, law enforcement, recreation, environmental analyses, critical minerals permitting, and grazing allotment management. This prioritization will ensure public safety on NFS lands, timber production and range management activities critical for restoration of NFS lands and increased domestic production of critical minerals to support national defense and electrification needs. Additionally, the Forest Inventory and Analysis program previously within the Forest and Rangeland Research account and the Nation's foremost comprehensive forest census covering all 50 states and territories, is requested in the NFS account for 2026 to ensure alignment with the practical needs of forest management for timber production. \$175 million previously within the NFS account for hazardous fuels mitigation will be requested by DOI in support of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service to perform and or facilitate mechanical and prescribed fire operations on NFS lands.

**Wildland Fire Management**

The 2026 request will transfer the Forest Service Wildland Fire Management appropriations to DOI for the creation of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service. This new DOI bureau will absorb the Forest Service Wildland Fire Management response program, including over 11,000 firefighters, 3,000 operational fire support personnel and leadership, and nearly 450 business support personnel. In addition, the Joint Fire Science program previously within the Forest and Rangeland Research account will be transferred to DOI to support the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

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***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 provides services at export facilities 24 hours a day. MRP also assists producers by providing market trend analysis and business and marketing tools and 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)**

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response:			
Animal Health:			
Animal Health Technical Services .....	\$40	\$40	\$40
Aquatic Animal Health.....	5	5	5
Avian Health .....	65	65	65
Cattle Health.....	111	111	111
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health .....	35	35	28
National Veterinary Stockpile .....	6	6	6
Swine Health.....	27	27	27
Veterinary Biologics.....	21	21	21
Veterinary Diagnostics .....	63	63	63
Zoonotic Disease Management .....	21	21	21
Total, Animal Health .....	394	394	387
Plant Health:			
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated) .....	36	36	36
Cotton Pests.....	16	16	16
Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests .....	12	12	9
Pest Detection .....	29	29	29
Plant Protection Methods Development .....	22	22	22
Specialty Crop Pests .....	215	215	217
Tree and Wood Pests .....	59	59	59
Total, Plant Health.....	389	389	388
Wildlife Services:			
Wildlife Damage Management.....	123	123	126
Wildlife Services Methods Development .....	26	26	26
Total, Wildlife Services.....	149	149	152
Regulatory Services:			
Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement .....	19	19	19
Biotechnology Regulatory Services.....	20	20	20
Total, Regulatory Services.....	39	39	39
Emergency Management:			
Contingency Fund .....	0	0	0
Emergency Preparedness & Response.....	45	45	44
Total, Emergency Management .....	45	45	44
Total, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness....	1,016	1,016	1,010
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export .....	19	19	19
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations .....	26	26	26
Total, Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance ..	45	45	45
Animal Welfare .....	41	41	41
Agency-Wide Activities (including GSA Rent / DHS Security) .....	52	52	57
Congressionally Directed Spending Projects.....	14	-	-
Total, Salaries and Expenses.....	1,168	1,154	1,153
Buildings and Facilities .....	1	1	1
Total, Non-Emergency Programs.....	1,169	1,155	1,154
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	1,142	692	-
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	2,311	1,847	1,154

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 \$1.154 billion for Salaries and Expenses and \$1 million for the Buildings and Facilities account.

As part of the Salaries and Expenses amount, the Budget requests \$1.010 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 \$325 billion in calendar year 2023.

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 \$387 million for Animal Health. At the proposed funding level, APHIS will decrease Federal contributions for chronic wasting disease management projects while maintaining funding for the highest priority proposals that address CWD research, management and response activities in farmed and wild cervids. The Budget also proposes to decrease funding for northeastern States for Eastern Equine Encephalitis surveillance, testing, prevention, and research. In recent years, States have struggled to fully spend the funding provided due to a variety of factors including lack of interest and participation from industry and a discrepancy in regulatory authority from the State departments of agriculture. At the proposed funding level, States would be responsible for fully funding these activities.

### ***Plant Health***

The Budget includes \$388 million for Plant Health. The Budget proposes an increase to address the unprecedented exotic fruit fly outbreaks in Texas, California, and internationally in Guatemala and Mexico. This large program continues to face both cost increases and heightened risks. This funding will support these increasing costs and activities in the domestic program, including addressing higher risks that led to the unusually large number of outbreaks in Texas and California. The Budget also proposes to decrease a small amount of funding for emerald ash borer to allow States to assume the release of biological control agents, lower frequency of spongy moth surveys and pest identification support; reduce funding for state cooperative agreements for imported fire ants; and reduce the rate of surveys and control activities to address witchweed infestations. 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 \$152 million for Wildlife Services. The Budget proposes to increase available funding for the National Rabies Management Program, which controls and eliminates rabies virus variants in terrestrial carnivore populations using oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits. APHIS is experiencing increased operating costs (e.g., bait, aircraft, fuel), depletion of the ORV bait stockpile, and greater occurrences of rabies cases making it difficult to operate at the current funding level. APHIS will also redirect funding related to invasive catfish in the Chesapeake Bay for higher priority activities.

### ***Regulatory Services***

The Budget includes \$39 million for Regulatory Services. The Budget maintains funding for the Agency's investigative and enforcement services and the oversight of certain organisms developed using genetic engineering to ensure they do not pose a pest risk to plants when released into the environment.

### ***Emergency Management***

The Budget includes \$44 million for Emergency Management. The budget includes a small reduction to the Emergency Preparedness and Response line item to eliminate funding for the

AgDiscovery program, a partnership with universities to provide secondary school students with educational opportunities to explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness.

**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.

**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 \$57 million for Agency Management, including GSA rent and DHS security costs, physical and operational security, and information technology infrastructure. The Budget proposes an increase of \$5 million to build on initial investments addressing challenges with outdated technology at laboratories and other facilities by continuing to install a shared high-performance computing environment to manage laboratory data and have quicker results from animal and plant diagnostics to prevent the spread of diseases; and initiate the implementation of artificial intelligence technology within APHIS.

**Buildings and Facilities**

The Budget includes \$1 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 final rule in the *Federal Register* updating the user fee rates for this program on May 7, 2024. The new rates became effective on October 1, 2024, providing increased revenue to cover the costs of carrying out the inspection and other safeguarding activities that protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Marketing Services:			
Market News.....	\$35	\$35	\$35
Shell Egg Surveillance .....	3	3	3
Standardization .....	5	5	5
Federal Seed Act .....	2	2	2
Country of Origin Labeling .....	5	5	5
Pesticide Data Program.....	15	15	15
National Organic Standards .....	23	23	23
National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard .....	2	2	2
Transportation and Market Development.....	10	10	6
Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program .....	7	7	-
Acer Access and Development .....	6	6	-
Packers and Stockyards .....	33	33	24
Hemp Production .....	15	15	15
Grain Regulatory .....	19	19	19
US Warehouse Activities .....	11	11	11
Appropriated GSA Rent and DHS Security .....	4	4	4
International Food Procurement Program .....	9	9	-
Micro-Grants for Food Security .....	5	5	-
Cattle Contract Library.....	1	1	1
Dairy Business Innovation .....	12	12	-
<b>Total, Marketing Services.....</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Payments to States and Possessions.....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>General Provisions:</b>			
Bison and Production Marketing Grant Program	2	2	-
Cancellation of Unobligated Balances			-20
<b>Total, Discretionary Programs.....</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>151</b>

AMS' mission is to facilitate the strategic marketing of agricultural products, while ensuring fair trading practices and promoting a competitive and efficient marketplace to the benefit of producers, traders, and consumers of U.S. food and fiber 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 \$171 million and also includes a cancellation of unobligated balances of \$20 million for a net total of \$151 million for 2026.

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. This request also reflects the reduction or elimination of several programs as a result of improved efficiencies and realigning funds to support mission critical functions.

**Market News**

The Budget proposes \$35 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 \$3 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 \$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.

**Federal Seed Act Program**

The Budget provides \$2 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.

**Country of Origin Labeling**

The Budget provides \$5 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.

**Pesticide Data Program**

The Budget provides \$15 million for the Pesticide Data Program (PDP), which is the main supplier of data regarding actual levels of pesticide residues on commodities. PDP develops and communicates comprehensive, statistically reliable information on pesticide residues in food to improve Government dietary risk assessments, enhance the competitiveness of farm economies by supporting the use of safer crop protection methods, and support marketing by providing information that can be used to reassure consumers concerned about pesticides.

**National Organic Standards**

The Budget provides \$23 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 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 \$6 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.

**Packers and Stockyards**

The Budget includes \$24 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 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 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. U.S. Warehouse Activities

The Budget requests \$11 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.

**Cattle Contract Library**

The Budget includes \$1 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.

**Payments to States and Possessions**

Decreases of \$1 million for Payments to State and Possession are a result of eliminating redundant programs and realigning funds to support mission critical functions.

**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.

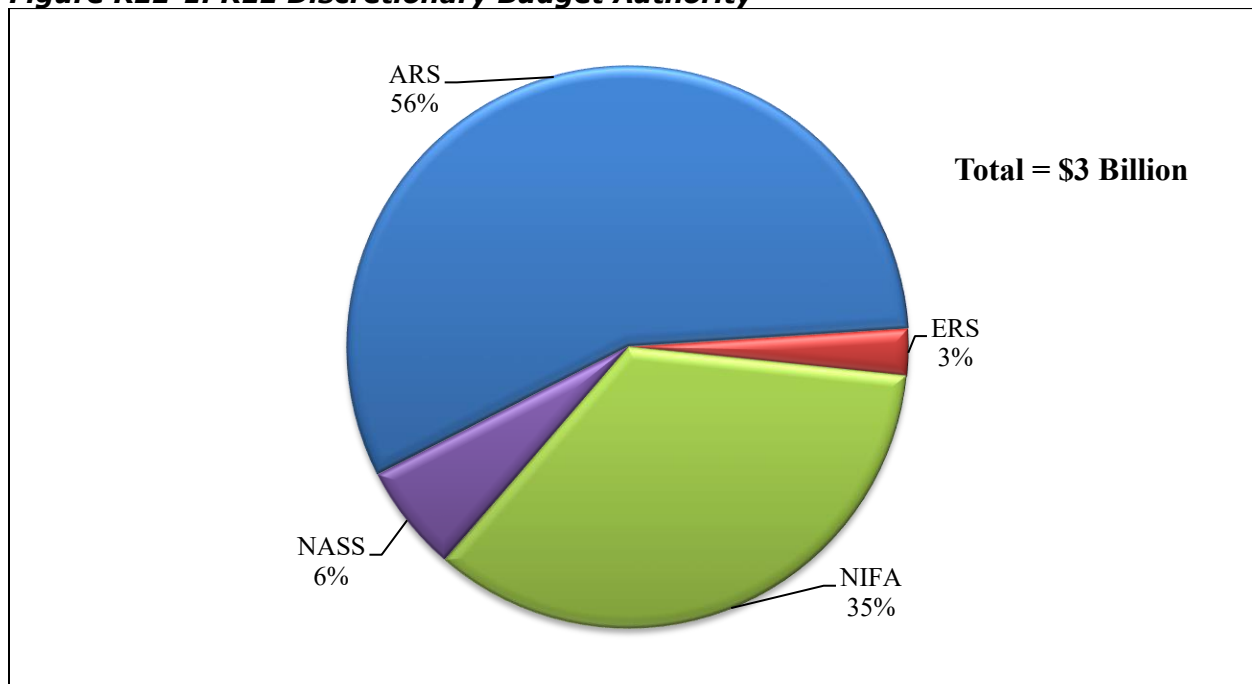
The Grain Inspection and Weighing user fees provide for the mandatory inspection and weighing of grain at export ports and the inspection and weighing of grain at domestic locations. AMS is required to conduct or delegate inspection and weighing, and to supervise such activities.

**RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS****MISSION**

The Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area focuses on addressing various agricultural challenges through research, educational programs, extension activities, and economic research and statistics. By integrating research across biological, physical, and social sciences, REE fosters innovation and knowledge essential to ensuring the continued strength and global competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.

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.

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



## **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 carries out approximately 600 research projects at over 90 research locations throughout the Nation. ARS includes the National Arboretum and the National Agricultural Library, which is the Nation's major information resource on food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.

The Budget includes discretionary funding of \$1.7 billion to support ARS research, including increases of \$22 million in support of agricultural innovation for rural prosperity, \$19 million to better protect U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and diseases, and \$10 million to support essential research at the U.S. National Poultry Research Center.

The ARS Budget also includes an increase of \$6 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.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Product Quality/Value Added .....	\$137	\$137	\$139
Livestock Production .....	146	146	141
Crop Production .....	358	358	354
Food Safety .....	134	134	139
Livestock Protection .....	154	154	153
Crop Protection .....	252	252	248
Human Nutrition .....	131	131	125
Environmental Stewardship .....	303	303	220
Total, Research Programs .....	1,615	1,615	1,519
National Agricultural Library .....	30	30	30
Repair and Maintenance .....	23	23	23
Buildings and Facilities .....	57	-	-
NBAF Operations and Maintenance .....	122	122	128
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	1,847	1,790	1,700
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Trust Funds .....	21	21	17
Total, ARS .....	1,847	1,790	1,700

### **Product Quality/Value Added**

The Budget includes \$139 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 \$141 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 \$354 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 safe for consumers, and compatible with viable 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 the selection of varieties and/or germplasm with significantly improved traits.

**Food Safety**

The Budget includes \$139 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 \$153 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 an emphasis on methods and procedures to control animal diseases.

**Crop Protection**

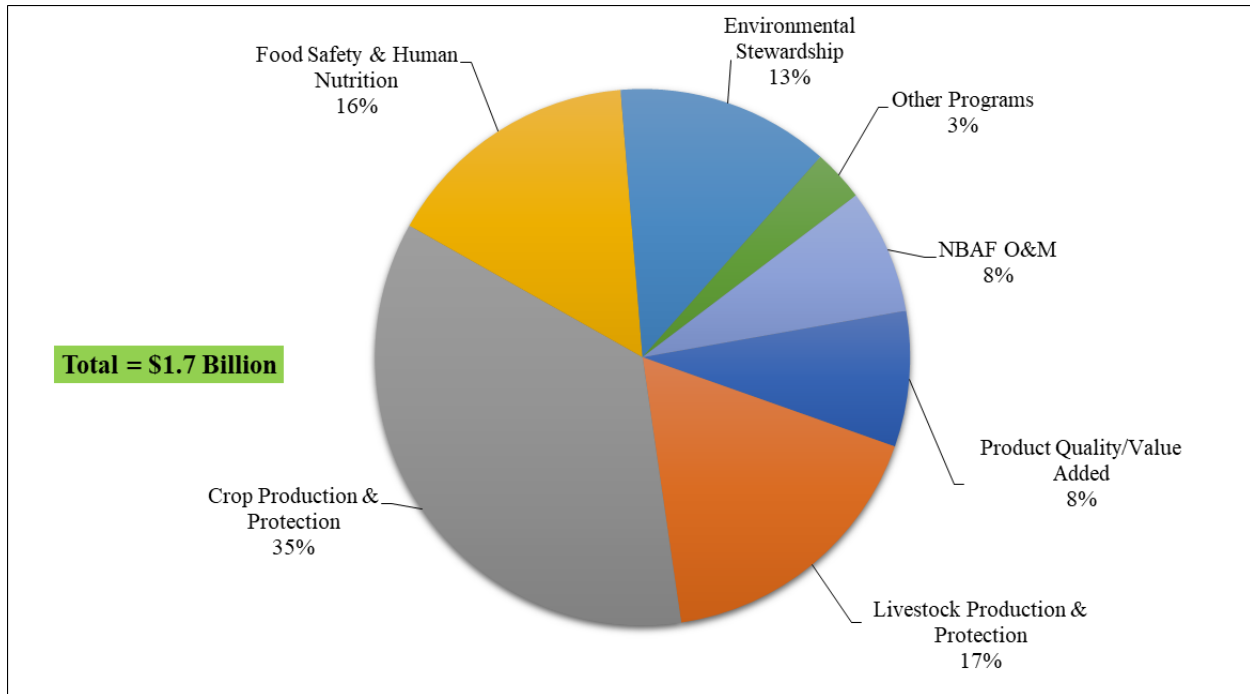
The Budget includes \$248 million to support these activities. ARS research on crop protection is directed at understanding pest and disease transmission mechanisms and identifying and applying new technologies that increase understanding of virulence factors and host defense mechanisms.

**Human Nutrition**

The Budget includes \$125 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 the prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations. 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 \$220 million for this program. ARS research programs in environmental stewardship emphasize developing technologies and systems that support profitable production and enhance the Nation's natural resource base. ARS is currently developing the scientific knowledge and technologies needed to meet challenges and opportunities in: water availability and watershed management, soil health and productivity, agricultural and industrial byproducts, agricultural system competitiveness and sustainability, and conservation.

**Figure REE-3. ARS Research Programs**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides linkages between Federal, State, and Tribal institutions in a nationwide system of agricultural research, education, and extension program planning and coordination. NIFA funds projects, using statutory formula funding and competitive grants, 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 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.

It is NIFA's mission to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve challenges related to food and agriculture. Awarded projects propel cutting-edge discoveries from research laboratories to farms, classrooms, communities, and beyond, with the help of Cooperative Extension.

The Budget includes \$1 billion in discretionary funding for NIFA, including \$405 million for AFRI, while eliminating lower-priority programs. The Department aims to sufficiently fund 1890 and 1994 Land-grant programs, protect funding youth and K-12 programs such as 4-H, and continue highly competitive merit-based grant programs that advance the competitiveness of American agriculture and prepare future generations of farmers.

**Formula (Capacity) Programs**

The Budget includes \$384 million for formula (capacity) programs. NIFA manages capacity grant programs that distribute funding to the States using statutory formulas and provide long-term, sustainable support needed to grow the capacity for agricultural research, education, and extension activities at Land-grant Universities and State Agricultural Experiment Stations. These programs include Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c), 1890 and 1994 Land-grant Colleges and Universities, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry, and other grant programs. Compared to the total public agricultural R&D investment, NIFA's formula grant funding is a relatively small contribution when compared to state, private, and other federal investments.

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

The Budget includes \$405 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. Investments made through AFRI occur in the three major complementary components: 1) Sustainable Agricultural Systems, 2) Foundational and Applied Science, and 3) Education and Workforce Development. Innovations in U.S. agriculture are needed to promote agriculture production that enhances nutrition research, opportunities for economic growth, and both formal and non-formal agricultural education. NIFA will continue to support USDA's agriculture research enhancement awards program, projects addressing plant and animal health, emerging pest and disease issues, food safety, plant and animal breeding, improved productivity, precision agriculture, biosecurity, and workforce development.

**1890 Land-Grants, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions**

The Budget includes \$256 million 1890 Land-Grants, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. These programs support capacity building initiatives, education, and pathways to employment for students and faculty and help develop a strong pipeline of talented individuals. NIFA administers programs dedicated to strengthening research and extension capacity at these institutions and these programs support their ability to continue their effective programming. These include research, extension, teaching, and facilities programs at the 1890 Land-grant Universities; 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, and Grants for Insular Areas.

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

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Formula Grants:			
Smith-Lever 3 (b) and (c) .....	\$325	\$325	\$175
Hatch Act .....	265	265	-
1890 Research and Extension.....	161	161	112
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry .....	38	38	20
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program .....	70	70	48
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) .....	4	4	-
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions .....	22	22	20
Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program .....	7	7	7
Animal Health and Disease Research .....	4	4	2
Total, Formula Grants.....	896	896	384
1890 Capacity Building Grants (Research) .....	30	30	30
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.....	445	445	405
Integrated Activities - Section 406 Organic Transition .....	8	8	-
Crop Protection and Pest Management Activities .....	21	21	-
Sustainable Agriculture Research/Education and Extension .....	48	48	40
IR-4 Minor Crop Pest Management.....	15	15	15
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions.....	10	10	10
Native American Endowment Fund Interest.....	7	8	8
Other Higher Education Programs.....	49	49	38
Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program .....	4	4	4
Food Safety Outreach Program.....	10	10	7
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions .....	11	11	11
Federal Administration .....	19	19	19
Grants Management System .....	7	7	7
Food and Ag. Defense Initiative (Reg. Diagnostic Network) .....	8	8	-
Veterinary Medical Services Act.....	10	10	9
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk .....	8	8	8
Research Facilities Act.....	1	1	1
Other Research, Extension and Integrated Programs.....	80	80	49
Total, Discretionary Programs.....	1,685	1,687	1,045
<b>Mandatory:</b>			
Native American Endowment Fund.....	13	12	12
Total, Mandatory Programs.....	13	12	12
Total, NIFA.....	1,698	1,699	1,057

\*This table does not reflect \$37 million rescission.

**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 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 farms and rural America, agribusiness concentration, farm business and household income, farm program participation and risk management, farm and retail food prices, foodborne illnesses, nutrition, food assistance programs, drought resilience, conservation, technology adoption, rural employment, global agricultural market conditions, and trade restrictions. 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 \$80 million in program funding. ERS continuously responds and develops its research portfolio to address Administration priorities, including the farm economy and rural prosperity, agricultural markets and trade, disaster assistance and programs, and food assistance, as well as additional emerging issues.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Economic Research Service .....	\$90,612	\$90,612	\$80,000
Total, ERS .....	90,612	90,612	80,000



**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 150 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 is 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 \$185 million in program funding, of which \$46 million is for the Census of Agriculture.

***Table REE-6. NASS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)***

<b>Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Enacted</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Agricultural Estimates .....	\$140,663	\$140,663	\$139,000
Census of Agriculture .....	46,850	46,850	46,000
Total, NASS .....	<u>187,513</u>	<u>187,513</u>	<u>185,000</u>

## 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	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	\$44	\$43	\$22
Office of Tribal Relations .....	5	5	5
Office of Homeland Security .....	2	2	2
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement .....	8	8	3
Departmental Administration .....	24	24	17
Office of Communications .....	7	7	5
Total, Office of the Secretary .....	89	89	54
<b>Executive Operations:</b>			
Office of the Chief Economist .....	31	31	20
Office of Hearings and Appeals .....	17	17	13
Office of Budget and Program Analysis .....	15	15	14
Office of the Chief Information Officer .....	91	91	91
Office of the Chief Financial Officer .....	7	7	6
Office of Civil Rights .....	37	37	20
Office of the General Counsel .....	61	61	58
Office of Ethics .....	5	5	5
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	23	23	35
Hazardous Materials Management .....	3	3	3
Office of Safety, Security and Protection .....	21	21	19
Total, Executive Operations .....	307	309	282
Total, Discretionary Programs .....	396	398	336

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

### 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 staff. 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 \$22 million.

**Office of Tribal Relations (OTR)**

The Budget provides \$5 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. OTR is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal programs, services, and actions affecting rural areas oversees the Tribal Advisory Committee and provides administrative support to the Tribal Colleges Programs.

**Office of Homeland Security (OHS)**

The global geopolitical situation and threats to agriculture are evolving. The Budget provides \$1.9 million for OHS to lead and coordinate programs in the Department for preparation and response to major natural and terrorist emergencies and threats, including efforts to engage in the Council on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). 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. OHS also ensures 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, including oversight of procedures related to national and homeland security, coordination with the National Security Council on issues including resilience, response, continuity, and biodefense, 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 manages the Committee for Foreign Investment in the United States (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 \$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 \$17 million for DA.

**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 public. The Budget provides \$5 million for OC to improve communications strategies that increase the visibility and the transparency of USDA programs.

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

The Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic situation in agricultural markets and the economic implications of policies and programs affecting American agriculture and rural communities. The Office is a focal point for USDA's economic and agricultural market intelligence and analysis and aims to inform public and private decision makers by providing unbiased and rapid-response information and data-driven analyses of current and emerging issues impacting agriculture and rural America. OCE is also responsible for coordinating and reviewing all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within USDA; coordinating development of USDA projections related to agricultural commodity markets; reviewing risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic food and agriculture; supporting development of agricultural policies and coordinating activities within USDA related to pesticides, pest management tools, and ag biotechnology; coordination of energy-related activities; efforts that facilitate participation of farmers and ranchers in emerging environmental markets; and analysis and coordination of Department efforts related to extreme weather events. The 2026 Budget requests \$19.8 million.

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

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) was established to consolidate three previously separate entities: the National Appeals Division (NAD), the Office of the Administrative Law Judges (OALJ), and the Office of the Judicial Officer (OJO). The reorganization consolidated administrative support for the three USDA entities that adjudicate first and second-level hearings and appeals. After consolidation, NAD, OALJ and OJO continue to conduct proceedings under their respective legal authorities. The Budget requests \$13 million to support the mission of OHA to promote fairness, transparency, and consistency in NAD, OALJ, and OJO proceedings through the planning, coordination, and administration of office-wide activities and initiatives. Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA).

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

OBPA ensures that USDA programs are delivered efficiently and effectively. OBPA helps to ensure that the necessary resources are executed for USDA to effectively and efficiently accomplish its mission. OBPA leads USDA's strategic planning; enterprise risk management; performance management and reporting; evidence and evaluation; budget analysis, justification, and budget controls. The Budget requests \$14 million for OBPA. Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

**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 \$91 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 a reprioritization of \$3 million to establish an Artificial Intelligence Program, \$1.5 million for modernization of governance management and oversight processes and systems, and \$0.5 million for modernization of the USDA Digital Service.

**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. The Budget requests \$6 million for OCFO, which is responsible for the financial leadership of the 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 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 Budget requests \$35 million.

**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 \$19.1 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 policy, guidance, 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 that impact USDA facilities. The Budget includes \$2.5 million for the HMM program which will support targeted investments in mitigation, enforcement, 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 \$20 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. The Budget provides \$57.6 million to ensure that resources are available for OGC to carry out its full range of legal services and responsibilities, maintain the Office of Information Affairs, responsively serve legal needs, and support all activities of the

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Department. OGC's work is integral to the protection and recovery of governmental assets, through litigation and other means. OGC will continue to assist the Secretary and USDA agencies by providing legal advice, preparing transactional documents, representing the Department in administrative proceedings, and assisting the Department of Justice in litigation involving USDA. OGC offers legal assistance in areas that include but are not limited to farm programs, nutrition, food safety, and rural development.

**Office of Ethics**

The Budget provides \$4.5 million for the Office of Ethics, which reports to the General Counsel, to administer USDA's statutorily required ethics program, providing ethics services to the Secretary of Agriculture and employees at all levels of USDA concerning advice, training, and guidance about compliance with conflict-of-interest statutes and impartiality rules.

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

Item	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Budget
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Office of Inspector General.....	\$112	\$112	\$100
Total, Office of Inspector General.....	112	112	100

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 implementing such corrective action. 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 conduct, 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 \$100 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)**

<b>Mission Area / Agency</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency* .....	\$1,606	\$1,606	\$1,234
Risk Management Agency .....	73	73	67
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	955	916	112
FPAC Business Center.....	304	304	285
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service * .....	473	473	228
P.L. 480 .....	1,619	1,619	-
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT *</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	104	70	-
Rural Housing Service .....	2,627	2,517	3,711
Rural Utilities Service .....	1,436	1,171	1,040
Rural Development .....	-	363	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	351	351	265
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	7,728	8,331	7,583
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,190	1,214	1,205
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service **.....	10,391	16,803	4,001
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service.....	226	226	151
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	2,311	1,847	1,154
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service.....	1,847	1,790	1,700
Economic Research Service .....	91	91	80
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	188	188	185
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	1,698	1,699	1,057
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary.....	89	89	54
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities .....	23	23	35
Executive Operations.....	284	286	247
Office of Inspector General .....	112	120	100
<b>Total, USDA.....</b>	<b>35,726</b>	<b>42,169</b>	<b>24,494</b>

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

\*\* 2026 Budget includes resources that will be requested by DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.



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

<b>Mission Area / Agency</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency			
DISC .....	\$1,608	\$2,792	\$1,234
Commodity Credit Corporation			
DISC .....	6	6	6
Risk Management Agency			
DISC .....	73	66	60
Natural Resources Conservation Service			
DISC .....	922	1,806	41
FPAC Business Center			
DISC .....	244	244	285
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service			
DISC .....	476	467	222
P.L. 480			
DISC .....	1,610	1,619	-
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service			
DISC .....	99	69	-
Rural Housing Service			
DISC .....	2,247	2,336	2,191
Rural Utilities Service			
DISC .....	754	638	150
Rural Development Disaster Assistance Fund			
DISC .....	-	362	-
Salaries and Expenses			
DISC .....	351	352	265
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service			
DISC .....	7,716	8,352	7,583
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service			
DISC .....	1,191	1,214	1,205
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service *			
DISC .....	9,315	15,850	7,999
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service			
DISC .....	226	226	151
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service			
DISC .....	2,300	1,836	1,149
Section 32			
DISC .....	1,362	1,370	1,504

<b>Mission Area / Agency</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service	1,846	1,831	1,700
DISC .....	21	21	17
Economic Research Service	91	91	80
DISC .....			
National Agricultural Statistics Service	188	188	185
DISC .....			
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,648	1,649	1,045
DISC .....	247	209	208
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary			
DISC .....	89	31,089	54
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities			
DISC .....	23	23	35
Executive Operations			
DISC .....	286	286	248
Office of Inspector General			
DISC .....	117	125	105
Working Capital Fund			
DISC .....	-78	-46	0
<b>Offsetting Receipts</b>			
Department of Agriculture			
DISC .....	-359	-359	-359
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>32,977</b>	<b>73,101</b>	<b>25,624</b>

\* 2026 Budget includes resources that will be requested by DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Table APP-3. Discretionary Outlays (millions of dollars)**

<b>Mission Area / Agency</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION</b>			
Farm Service Agency .....	\$1,777	\$1,811	\$1,722
Commodity Credit Corporation .....	9	7	6
Risk Management Agency .....	77	58	61
Natural Resources Conservation Service .....	1,152	1,656	1,428
FPAC Business Center .....	258	267	277
<b>TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS</b>			
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	482	749	281
P.L. 480 .....	955	1,537	980
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Rural Business-Cooperative Service .....	118	124	92
Rural Housing Service .....	1,849	2,514	2,660
Rural Utilities Service .....	991	2,206	2,295
Salaries and Expenses .....	358	392	229
<b>FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>			
Food and Nutrition Service .....	7,944	8,599	7,921
<b>FOOD SAFETY</b>			
Food Safety and Inspection Service .....	1,227	1,178	1,209
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Forest Service * .....	9,707	9,073	9,381
<b>MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS</b>			
Agricultural Marketing Service .....	240	138	156
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service .....	1,939	2,362	1,670
<b>RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	1,891	1,764	1,695
Economic Research Service .....	97	97	87
National Agricultural Statistics Service .....	195	222	207
National Institute of Food and Agriculture .....	1,638	1,646	1,579
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>			
Office of the Secretary .....	4,004	10,704	7,894
Agricultural Buildings and Facilities .....	76	95	69
Executive Operations .....	842	586	413
Office of Inspector General .....	117	118	117
Working Capital Fund .....	-17	515	151
<b>Subtotal, USDA .....</b>	<b>37,926</b>	<b>48,418</b>	<b>42,580</b>
Offsetting Receipts, Rescissions & Other Adjustments .....	-359	-359	-359
<b>Total, U.S. Department of Agriculture .....</b>	<b>37,567</b>	<b>48,059</b>	<b>42,221</b>

\*2026 Budget includes resources that will be requested by DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.



**United States Department of Agriculture**